



DAVID COLVILL LINCOLN  
1925 – 2018

Honored as Historymakers 2014  
Philanthropist & Civic Leader



The following is an oral history interview with David Lincoln (**DL**) conducted by Pam Stevenson (**PS**) for Historical League, Inc. and video-graphed by Laurie-Sue Retts (**LR**) on December 6, 2013 in Phoenix.

*Transcripts for website edited by members of Historical League, Inc.  
Original tapes are in the collection of the Arizona Heritage Center Archives, an Historical Society Museum, Tempe, Arizona.*

**PS** Today is Friday, December the 6<sup>th</sup>, of 2013. And we're here in Phoenix to do an oral history interview for the Historymakers. I'm Pam Stevenson doing the interview, and Laurie Sue Retts is running the camera. And I'd like for you to give me your full name.

**DL** I'm David Lincoln. David Colvill Lincoln.

**PS** Can you tell me when and where you were born?

**DL** Born in Cleveland, Ohio in November 10<sup>th</sup>, 1925.

**PS** And, how did you come to Arizona?

**DL** I came here, our family moved here the first time in 1931. For health reasons.

Mother had tuberculosis and my sister had some health problems. We were in Cleveland then. Apparently, the decision was, do we go to Florida or do we go to Arizona? And the decision was made to come to Arizona. So, I think it was the right decision.

**PS** And what did you think of Arizona when you came here?

**DL** Well, I guess it was all right. Except, I missed the trees for a couple of years. I do remember that.



I was six years old when we got here. Everything else was fine, but there, there weren't any trees there. (laughs)

**PS** And, how many siblings did you have?

**DL** I guess one and a half brothers and one and a half sisters. (laughs)

My father had a former family. And his first wife died. And, he had a son and daughter by that wife. And so, that's my half-brother and half-sister. And then I had a full brother and a full sister.

**PS** And where were you in the family?

**DL** I was the last one. (laughs)

**PS** So, that was a big group that came to Arizona.

**DL** Well, the half-brother and half-sister were a generation older than I was. Dad was twenty-five years older than Mother.

And so, she had a step-daughter and a step-son almost exactly her age. And Mother handled it very well. That could have been a real sticky situation. But Mother handled that very, very well.

**PS** And what did your family do when they came here?

**DL** Well, Dad had been much involved in Lincoln Electric Company in Cleveland. And, still was. But he got involved in a number of things here.

The Bagdad Mine was probably the biggest thing that we got involved in.

But he also was a backer of Camelback Inn. So, he was a developer of Camelback Inn.

And then he had a number of other businesses in Arizona that he got involved in.

One of which was the Vulture Mine which people know of, the Vulture Mine. And the family owned the Vulture Mine for a while until the World War II shut it down.

**PS** And where did you live when you moved here?

**DL** The first year we stayed at Jokake Inn. The next three years we rented in the Arcadia area. And then we bought the house at the corner of (can't understand) Road and McDonald Drive which is



where really, I grew up.

**PS** And what was that like at that time?

**DL** From our house there was a house across the street, one down the street about a half a mile, quarter mile. And Judson School. And that was it.

And, at that time you'd go hunting in the back yard with a rifle, and nobody would have any qualms about it. Today that would be frowned on.

**PS** Yes. (laughter) You were really out in the desert.

**DL** That's right.

**PS** And, what about your mom's health? How did she do when she came here?

**DL** She did very well. In 1929, the doctor said if you stay in Cleveland you've got two or three years to live. And she died, what, sixty or seventy years later. So. (laughs) Arizona was good for her.

**PS** So, where did you go to school?

**DL** Went to grade school at Judson School. Which was out near where we lived. About a mile from where we lived.

And I went to high school at North High, which was called North Phoenix High at that time.

And then I went to college at California Institute of Technology, through Master's degree.

**PS** And why did you go over there?

**DL** Well, I was interested in engineering. And I got accepted both at Caltech and MIT, and decided on Caltech.

**PS** Seems like so many people I talk to your age went to Stanford. (**DL** laughs) That seems to be the place, or the University of Arizona. (laughter) You didn't. (laughter) And so, you studied engineering.

**DL** Yes.

**PS** And why did you want to be an engineer?



**DL** Well, I was interested in, in that kind of thing. My father was an engineer. But he was a developer of the Lincoln Electric Company. And he had a lot of patents and inventions that he had made. And so, I was exposed to that kind of environment, I guess.

And, I liked science and I liked math and things of that sort. I seemed to do okay at it, so it was fun. (laughs)

**PS** And were you a good student?

**DL** Well, I suppose. I don't know what you mean by good student. My grades were always pretty good.

**PS** And, then, did you serve in the military?

**DL** No. Didn't get there.

**PS** You were kind of between the wars.

**DL** Well, I had a speech impediment as you can probably tell in talking to you. But that was bad enough then that they deferred me.

**PS** Oh. Okay. And so, what was your first job?

**DL** Out of college, I went to work for Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Company called Convair near San Diego for a couple of years. And that was in aerospace.

And then I went from there to Sperry Gyroscope Company in Long Island, New York for another six, six or seven years. And that was also in aerospace.

And then moved to Cleveland and got involved in a number of family businesses.

**PS** Had you ever worked before for your dad or anything - like in high school? Any jobs then?

**DL** No. During school I worked at Lincoln Electric Company a couple of summers. Summer jobs. But that was all.

**PS** So, how did your family get involved with all the health care?

**DL** Well, Mother had tuberculosis. We went to the First Presbyterian Church in downtown Phoenix



at that time, is where we went to church.

And one of the missions of the church was the Desert Mission in Sunnyslope. And Desert Mission was a tuberculosis center mission. And so, there was an attraction there.

So, the family got involved. Well, Mother I guess more than Dad. But the family got involved then assisting with the Desert Mission Project.

And if you have a project of that sort, that caters to sick people, you need a nurse, and if you need a nurse, eventually you need a, a place for a nurse to sit. And then if you need a nurse, you need a doctor. And if you need a doctor, you need some more stuff. And so, it just gradually grew.

The Desert Mission just gradually grew, and gave birth to the hospital.

And then the hospital grew, and now, the Desert Mission is a child of the hospital instead of vice versa. Which is what is happening with people. We bring up our kids, and then, when they get older, our kids take care of us. (laughs)

**PS** So, your parents didn't have any health experience or professionally they weren't in health care.

**DL** No, Mother's father was a doctor, an M.D. My father's mother was a doctor. As close to that ... there was exposure to medical things with both parents. But neither of them was ... Dad was an engineer and Mother taught school when she got out of school, out of college.

**PS** So, what was their involvement then? Was it just mostly as a volunteer or financial or what?

**DL** Both volunteer and financial. And, Mother was on the board for years and years and years of the hospital. I don't know if she ... She was probably chair of the board for some time.

**PS** And how did it come to be named John C. Lincoln Hospital?

**DL** You'd have to ask Mother that cause she's the one (laughs), that I assume proposed that name. Cause, I think she and Dad were a very significant backer of the project financially.

**PS** And then, you've been very involved also, haven't you?

**DL** We moved back here. And after we were married, my wife moved back here in 1965. And I was on the board from then, for about thirty-five years until I got too old to be on the board. They



have an age, age limit.

**PS** Oh, really? (**DL** laughs) I didn't know that. So from what I've read, you've been on a lot of different boards that you've been involved with.

**DL** I've been in quite a few boards, yeah.

**PS** So, but all connected to the John C. Lincoln Hospital and Foundation...

**DL** There was the Lincoln Foundation. I'm on the board of Thunderbird. And I was on the Dean's Business Council, at ASU and still am. I was on the ASU Foundation for a number of years.

**PS** And, how did you get involved with Thunderbird?

**DL** Thunderbird was a, was here in Phoenix as you may know. And, my father was one of the founding board members. Frank Snell was very active in Thunderbird. Frank got me, said I should be interested too. So, I got on the Thunderbird Board through the interest of Frank Snell.

**PS** I know Barbara Barrett was a Historymaker a few years ago. (**DL** – Yeah.) And I know she's been very involved with that.

**DL** Yeah. She's been very involved. In fact, she was president of the school for a short time.

**PS** All right. Um. You've been involved, it looks like, with ASU quite a bit. You didn't go to ASU. How did you get (**DL** – No.) involved with ASU?

**DL** Well, when we had the Bagdad Mine, one of the things that we did was give scholarships to the students. I gave scholarships to the students at Bagdad Mine. They could go to ASU, UofA, Northern Arizona or Prescott College. And they sort of had their choice. And that sort of was what I guess my original involvement was through that.

And that was before we moved here in 1965. That was in the 1950s when we did that.

**PS** Even before it was a university. (laughs)

**DL** I forget when it was a...

**PS** 58 I think it was.

**DL** 58. (**PS** – Yeah.)



Well, it was probably about that time.

And then my wife got her MFA from ASU. In ceramics.

**PS** After you moved here. Yeah. So, tell me about your wife and her ceramics. How did she get involved in doing ceramics?

**DL** She was as much involved in ceramics since she was just a kid. She did ceramics in grade school, and then high school. She just liked to work with clay.

And then that was her major in college at Scripps. She went to Scripps College. And that was her major there. And then she kept it up afterwards. Then she got her MFA in ceramics from ASU, and has been involved in it ever since.

**PS** And then you're also involved with the ASU Ceramic Research Center? What is that?

**DL** Well, that Ceramic Research Center is part of the ASU Art Museum. It's a, branch of the art museum. And then, the ceramics part of it. And, we give a donation each year to the School of Art, but for the Ceramics Program.

The Ceramics Research Center is about to move from its present location on campus to a new location on Mill Avenue in downtown Tempe.

**PS** Okay. What other ways are you involved with ASU?

**DL** Well, Joan and I have sponsored the Lincoln Center for Applied Ethics for a number of years. And that seems to be going well.

And, in the last few years, Michael Crowe has designated a three-pillar approach to the culture of ASU at sustainability, entrepreneurship and ethics. To be the three pillars.

And, Lincoln Center of Ethics then has the opportunity to be the ethics part of that pillar. And, so we're trying to plan. And, what that pillar should consist of. And nobody knows. And, if we can come up with a good plan, we'll be the pillar. If we can't, then somebody else will be the pillar. (laughter)

**PS** How did, why did you form it?

**DL** What's that?



**PS** Why did you form the Center for Ethics?

**DL** Well, I felt for some time that good ethics is good business. And if people behaved ethically, things work better. Everybody's better off.

As I tell the students, if you're ethical during your career, when you die, you'll have a larger estate than if you weren't ethical. (laughs) So there's an economic motivation, I think, to be ethical over a long period of time.

The temptation to be unethical are usually short term. And you say, well, I'll take this shortcut just this once then because it'll make me a lot of money. Then I'll get on and I'll be ethical after that. But, that, that doesn't work.

Because once people find, discover, that you're willing to not be ethical for whatever reason, it's sort of hard to trust them. (laughs)

**PS** Well, it seems like you've lived that as an example, of being ethical. And also, of giving a lot of money to the non-profits. Why do you donate so much of your money?

**DL** Well, you're getting it for ASU is this ethics...and, at Thunderbird we've, my wife and I, have sponsored the Ethics Center there.

But the big one we're working on now is a new university in Claremont, California, the Claremont-Lincoln University. And it's a multi-religious university with the theology being the Golden Rule. Which essentially is ethics.

I say the Golden Rule is the ethics in the religious environment. Ethics is the ethics in the secular environment. But to me they're both pretty much the same thing.

And I still believe that if we could get religions and the people that practice religions working together, understanding each other and cooperating instead of fighting, then everybody would be better off.

**PS** And what is the Golden Rule?

**DL** It's treating others like you would like to be treated. And the Golden Rule is a tenant of all the world's religions. And as near as I can tell, it's the only tenant that's common to all the world's religions.



So, you don't have to not practice your religion if you want to follow the Golden Rule. You just have to practice what your religion says you should be doing. (laughs)

**PS** And so, you're also giving to Claremont (**DL** – Yeah.) ...

**DL** That's the, the major one.

**PS** Sounds like you live by the philosophy of not keeping your money or passing it on, but giving it away which is...

**DL** Well, giving it away or passing it on to the ... My kids will get a good chunk of it. (laughs) And Uncle Sam gets a good chunk.

**PS** But you're giving away as much as you can while you're still alive. (laughs) What about volunteer work? What sort of things have you done other than serving on all these boards? Other things that you've done as a volunteer?

**DL** Well, those are the, the boards I sit on ... I was also on the YMCA board. And we, helped the Y with the modernization of downtown. So, we've now called that the Lincoln Family YMCA because the family's been involved in the Y for many, many years. Started when I was a kid. So, there's been quite an involvement in the Y.

But my volunteerism has been more on the board kind of activity rather than pushing a cart around the hospital or something of that sort.

**PS** And, how many children do you have?

**DL** Three. Excuse me. Four. I, there are three in my family, so... We had four children. Two daughters and two sons.

**PS** And are you passing on the tradition of service to them?

**DL** Oh, I think so. My son is on the board of the Desert Mission and has been on that board for quite some time.

Daughter is on the board of the hospital. And, she's also the chair of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, which is something that my father started and the family's worked in.

And then, she's also on the board of Claremont-Lincoln University. So, she's getting involved in that.



**PS** and I think I saw that some of them are involved with the ASU Ethics...

**DL** Now, what is that?

**PS** the ASU Ethics...

**DL** Yeah, both my son and daughter are on that board.

**PS** Well, over the years you've received a lot of awards. And I was just wondering, which awards that you've received are you proudest of?

**DL** I'd, I'd have to think about that. I, I don't know. (laughs)

**PS** Some awards always mean more than others. (laughs) Um. Well, and, and your wife, Joan Lincoln, has been involved with, um, the, uh, City of Para, of Paradise Valley. Tell me about that a little bit.

**DL** Well, she was on the council for ten, ten years. And, uh, for two of those ten, she was mayor and another two she was vice mayor. So, she was, uh...

And she was quite involved in the town, and, en, enjoyed that.

**PS** But, you never got involved in politics?

**DL** No. (laughs)

**PS** And, and some of her art is there also?

**DL** Well, she, uh, designed and built the, fountain right outside the, uh, Town Hall there.

Then she, she did a lot of the ceramics, uh, for, uh, some of the banks in town and things of that sort also.

**PS** Is she still doing any of her art?

**DL** Oh, not very much anymore. She, she does, uh...

In the summertime we go to a place called Surtoquin (sp?), New York. Which has a very, uh, a very large ceramics, uh, studio. And, in fact, it's called the Joan Lincoln Ceramics Studio. So,



she's up there in the summertime quite a bit.

But in the wintertime, she has a studio here and she has a wheel and other things here, but she doesn't get out there very much.

**PS** I was wondering if we might get some pictures of her doing ceramics. (laughs)

**DL** Well, you, you could, I'm sure you could, you could do that.

**PS** Sounds like you have your name on a lot of things. (laughter) Of course, Lincoln is a big name in this country anyway. (laughs) Are you related to Abraham Lincoln?

**DL** Don't know. I think we can trace back to Lincolnshire and Abe can trace back to Lincolnshire, but as far as I've heard we, we haven't found the common ancestor yet.

My dad also looked a great deal like Abe. Tall and thin, and, uh, had the same fa, kind of facial features as Abe. So that there, likely there's a connection there, but don't know.

**PS** Well, how do you want to be remembered?

**DL** Well, as I, having, having probably made a difference in the world along the lines that we were speaking of. Getting people working together. Getting the ethics, uh, getting people to be ethical. Getting, uh, re, religions to practice what they preach. (laughs)

And, uh, that's, that's, that's probably the, the biggest thing to try and be remembered for. Which is, I'm bringing, if you do that then you've done a lot to bring peace in the world. And make the world a more productive, better place than a place where there's a lot of squabbling going on.

That is, not necessary squabbling, I think.

**PS** Yeah. That's quite a challenge. (laughs) Bring peace to the world is a challenge. (laughter)

**DL** That's right.

**PS** Well, how do you see, you've, you've been in Arizona and seen a lot of growth here. Uh. Tell me about...how have you seen Arizona change?

**DL** Well, it's, uh, it's not the com, the, you know, the quiet place it was in the 1930s when we were here. But, uh, when people speak of the good old days, remember the good old days in the 1970s...there was no air conditioning. (laughter)



So, the good old days maybe were nicer in January and February, but not so nice in July and August. (laughs)

**PS** What about the, the growth here in the Valley?

**DL** Oh, it's been, it's been, uh, outstanding. But, again, the growth is because of air conditioning.

Without air conditioning the Sun Belt would probably be, uh, I guess, I would guess a tenth of the population that it is, is now.

**PS** So, uh, when did you really see air conditioning come, come in and become common?

**DL** We had a swamp air, uh, swamper at the house, uh, in the World War II kind of time, time frame. But then, in, uh, in, it came in after... World War II and after.

You need to remember that the resorts in the 20s and 30s...all closed. They were open from about early January through early April. And that was, that was it. Just because of air, air conditioning.

**PS** And, of course, the, the issue of water here in the desert, too. Were you involved with any of the water issues?

**DL** No. But it's a, it's a big issue, and will continue to be a...I think it's, that's an issue for, forever, I think.

Cause the, uh, the number of people is increasing world-wide, but the amount of water is, is not. So, we have to learn how to, uh, use it better, and, uh, how to, uh, how to use salt water better, too, probably. How to, how to grow vegetables in the sea. (laughter)

**PS** Well, I don't know about that. I think...

**DL** Well, that's going to happen.

**PS** But you were here...the Central Arizona Project. I've done a lot of oral histories with them. (**DL** – Yeah.) And you were here with...that was in the 40s that they had the idea, (**DL** – Yeah.) to build a canal from the Colorado River, which I think some people thought was kind of a crazy idea. What did, what did you think of that? (laughs)

**DL** Well, I...it would have been better if the people had gathered in the, along the river than, than



here. But they tended to gather in, in Phoenix. And, and Tucson.

**PS** We did have a river here though.

**DL** Because, uh, Phoenix, because of the Salt River. And, uh, Phoenix was, uh, one of the things they did in the early days as you may know, is it was the source of food for the Vulture Mine. And, uh, they couldn't grow a lot of food in the, in the Wickenburg area, so that Phoenix grew a lot of food, that fed the people at the Vulture Mine.

**PS** Well, and it was the farmers who started the Salt River Project.

**DL** Yeah. Yeah.

**PS** the River Water Users Association.

**DL** Yeah.

**PS** So that was really the farmers that, that did all that. Um. So how do you see the future of Arizona?

**DL** I think, uh, I think it's, it's, it's good. Uh. A good future at the, uh.

I think it'll, it'll, it'll grow, probably, uh, grow at a rate, uh, beyond the, uh, of the national growth rate.

But we need to, uh, manage water. And, uh, we also have to realize that, uh, what? Three quarters of the state is not available for habitation by us. (laughs)

It's either forest service or, or Indian Re, Reservation or state land.

**PS** Had you been involved with any of the Indian communities?

**DL** No. Not, uh, not, not...

I've driven on the reservations from time to time, but... (laughs)

**PS** Well, you're quite involved with the various universities and colleges. What advice do you have for young people today that are trying to decide what to do with their lives?

**DL** Oh... That's an interesting question.



Cause it's, it's a, I think it's a lot more difficult to be long-term motivated today than it was when I was a kid. Cause there's, cause there's so many things going on around you that, uh, that I didn't, that I wasn't exposed to.

But, you need to, uh, you, you need to focus. And if you figure out, uh, earlier, earlier than, rather than later, what you'd like to do, and then, go out and make it happen.

**PS** Well, your father was quite an engineer. I saw he had like fifty patents.

**DL** He had fifty or fifty-three or, patents, or so, yeah.

**PS** And did you get involved directly with engineering then or more just running the companies?

**DL** No, I don't, I don't have any patents. So, uh, (laughs)

I've been involved in, in, in, uh, managing the companies. And, and, and starting some comp, companies. But, uh, I've never, I didn't get any patents either when I was in aerospace or, or afterwards.

**PS** But you're still working today.

**DL** Yeah. I'm still in the office five, five days a week all day.

**PS** That's...you don't really have to be, do you?

**DL** No. (**PS** laughs)

But, uh, why quit doing what you're having fun at? (laughter)

**PS** So you like to work.

**DL** Yeah. It's fun.

**PS** Is there anything else that I should have asked you that I didn't?

**DL** Well, another, another thing that the family, uh, my sister's involved in. Who...my sister...there's the other person that comes in on, on Friday.

My sister has a, uh, television station in San Francisco. (swallows) And, uh, she started up, uh, to



serve the (can't understand). Principally the Chinese community in San Francisco. Her, her motto was, serve the underserved...with the television station.

So, it's probably, uh, in the, uh, arena of, of, uh, catering or broadcasting to, uh, the, the Asian kind of population. She's probably the major station in the country for that now.

And that's, uh, that's been sort of fun.

And I'm on that board. And, uh, that's been sort of interesting to see that go.

**PS** So you're still going to a lot of board meetings, I guess.

**DL** Yeah. (laughter)

**PS** And, uh, the ASU Center for Applied Ethics. What do you do, what is that board do?

**DL** Well, the, uh, it's, uh, the ethics program that AS, ASU is run through, it's part of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

And the, the board is just an advisory board. It's, it's not a, it's not a governing board in the sense that it, uh, it can dictate.

The, uh, the school runs the program. And the, uh, director of the center is the one that, uh, that sees that things happen the way they're supposed to happen.

But the board is advising the director of the center. And, uh, he, he then will call in the board for advice and, uh, uh, bounce ideas off of us. And say, is this something we should do, or how should we modify it? And that's what, that's what that board does.

So, it's been a pretty successful, uh, board. Organized by Peter French (sp??). Peter was the, uh, or the, uh, sort of the founding director of the Lincoln Center, and was the director for twelve or so, or so years. And then he's, he retired a, uh, a year or so ago.

And then, uh, Jason Robaire (??) who is now the, the director. He's been interim director. Title. But I think as of today his title is going to change to director, not interim director. So, he's, uh, got, got that pro, promotion. I think that is official today.

**PS** And so you, you get the students involved with ethics? Or, can they major in ethics?

**DL** Well, there, there are, uh, courses in ethics. And, the degree's (?) in ethics. Uh. And, the, the



present initiative, uh, (clears throat) is to determine ways for the student on the university in total, can be more involved in ethics.

And so, that the university has a reputation out there in the world as being a place where, uh, ethics is, is important. And, uh, uh, hopefully then that, uh, we can have, have the reputation and the result that our students tend to be more ethical than others.

And, uh, if they tend to be more ethical than others, I'm pretty sure that they will be in more demand out there in the job market than others.

**PS** Because you see ethics as going beyond the university and into the business world.

**DL** It's a way of life. Yeah. Not only in the business world, but how do you live?

**PS** Okay. I think, um, I think I've asked most of the questions. Did you have anything you thought of, Laurie, that I should ask?

(camera off)

**DL** The driver then is at the middle of the road.

**PS** Right.

**DL** And, just off on this other side are a, probably a several-hundred-foot drop off. (**PS** – Yes, I know.) So, if you drive on the wrong side of the road, the driver is right next to that ledge and can see not, not to get over the edge.

**PS** It was very interesting...

**DL** So the, there's a safety reason. (**PS** talking over him)

**PS** When I had our crew there, we were doing a Celebrate Arizona live from there, so we had about twenty people, and I had to find food for them in Bagdad. (laughs) I don't think the Mexican restaurant had ever done twenty take-out lunches. (laughter) And then I had to...

**DL** There's, there's...you can probably find...there's a nice store there. And there's a, there's one or two restaurants...

**PS** ...driving in there. So, I have been to Bagdad.



Or I would ask the question. Does, uh, were you in and around the mines a great deal?

**DL** Was what?

**LR** Were you in and around the mines a great deal? And, what you remember...

**DL** Well, I was, I was president of Bagdad for quite a number of years.

**LR** as a, as a child, were you?

**DL** As a, as a kid, when Dad was president, I, I was, uh, there some. Was there when it was an underground mine. So, I was, uh, had the opportunity to go under, under, underground. But it developed into an open pit mine in the late 40s.

We did a number of inno, of innovative things at Bagdad. Uh. That was, that was probably, that main one there, uh, the electrowinning, uh, solvent extraction electrowinning concept ap, ap, applied to copper. (**PS**—Uh, huh.)

We were the, uh, we were the second of those plants on stream in the world. And we did a lot of the research on it. And, uh, now it's a process that everybody uses.

**PS** I actually did something for Phelps Dodge about that once. So, I do know what you're talking about. (laughs) And, I noticed, I saw, one of the businesses that you started, that you were going to be making jigsaw puzzles?

**DL** Well, it was the La, Lincoln Laser Company.

**PS** Yeah. Tell us about that.

**DL** We started out, uh, (clears throat) ...jigsaw puzzles was a hobby of mine. And I liked to put jigsaw puzzles together, for whatever reason.

And, uh, the main prob, uh, puzzle you can buy now is a die-cut cardboard. And those are not real good puzzles. They lack the individually cut wooden pieces for the, uh, uh, for the jigsaw puzzles.

And I said to a friend of mine, uh, I, uh, would be nice if we could cut these, uh, puzzles more easily than we so we could have wood, wooden puzzles instead of cardboard puzzles. And he said, why don't you cut them with a laser?



And that started the, uh, a line of thought.

(camera off)

And that started a line of thought about, uh, if you could cut them with a laser. Cut the puzzles with a laser. (stumbles) What...how, how you would do it and what the result would be. And we did a little bit of market analysis on that, uh, but, uh, it turned out then that we didn't make puzzles at Lincoln Laser Company. We made laser scanners. Uh. Like the fat, uh, kind you'd find in a laser printer or a barcode reader.

And then the, the technology that's developed from that. And that's still a company that's now program...going well. That's located here in, in Phoenix. And, uh, and doing well.

**PS** So, did you really think you could make a business of making jigsaw puzzles? (laughs)

**DL** Well, uh, a lot of people have. Uh. But, uh, then...see we were going to cut them with, uh, a laser instead of cutting them however they're cut now. And we were wondering, we asked ourselves, is that enough of it (can't understand) manufacturing advantage to give us a, uh, an advantage in the market. And, uh, the answer to that was maybe not. (laughter)

**PS** and I still don't see any wooden jigsaw puzzles.

**DL** What's that?

**PS** I don't see any wooden jigsaw puzzles.

**DL** I've got several hundred at home.

**PS** Oh, really?

**DL** Yeah. (laughs)

**LR** Children's, children's jigsaw puzzles are often... (**DL** – What's that?) I said, young children's jigsaw puzzles are often wood. Made out of wood.

**DL** Well, it, it, you can buy them at a drugstore now, but, uh, those, those are the die-cut. And the die-cut ones you buy for, what? Fifteen dollars. The wooden ones you buy for a-hundred-and-fifty to, to two-hundred dollars.

**PS** I think I have a couple hundred of my mother's jigsaw puzzles going back through the years.



But...

**DL** Those are wooden?

**PS** No, they're not wooden.

**DL** Okay. (laughs)

**PS** And, uh, I notice another one of your hobbies is hiking.

**DL** Yeah.

**PS** Where do you like to hike?

**DL** Well, my favorite place to hike is the Grand, Grand Canyon. And I've been in the Grand Canyon many, many, many times.

I'm getting a little old for that now. (laughs)

**PS** When, when did you first go to the Grand Canyon?

**DL** Well, our first trip was, uh, (clears throat) ...the, the family went to the Grand Canyon as a, as a family. And, uh, (clears throat) uh, the, the, the two daughters rode, uh, rode horses down. Or rode mules down. And they went to Indian Gardens and then back out.

And, my, uh, older son and I walked down to the bottom and then, and then back out. And, uh, my young son was too, too young to do that. So, he and, he and my wife were left at the, at the rim.

They then went and took an airplane ride. And that was in the days when the airplanes could go be, below the rim. So, they got to see all the side falls, and all the side canyons, uh, you know, looking straight out. Not looking down on them. And, uh, they probably had a better view of the canyon than the other four of us did. (laughs)

**PS** I love, I love the Grand Canyon, too. (**DL** – Yeah.) Is there any place else that, in Arizona, or anyplace, that you like to hike?

**DL** Well, I did a tremendous amount of hiking right here in the Phoenix area. Uh. The North Mountain and South Mountain parks have a lot of hiking. Superstitions have a lot of hiking in them, too. There's a lot of great hiking in the, in the Superstitions Mountain Range.



Never found the Lost Dutchman's Gold Mine, but I've been in the Superstitions many times.  
(laughs)

**PS** Have you looked for it? (laughs)

**DL** No. There's a, uh, (audio glitch) possibility that my brother, uh, proposed, and maybe others also, that the gold from the Dutchman's Mine came from the Vulture Mine.

There was, he, he high-graded the Vulture, the Vulture Mine, and then, uh, stored, stored it some place in the Superstitions. And when he needed some money he'd go to his cache in the Superstitions and bring out money and say, it was from his mine in the Superstitions.

**PS** There aren't really any mines in the Superstitions.

**DL** Well, there's a, there's a, there's a lot of old gold workings on the east, on the west end of it. There, there, there are tunnels there, and mine shafts that you can go see now.

There's a place called the town, little town called, called Goldfield. You may have, may have been, as you're going to the Grand Canyon (can't understand), you go through Goldfield. That's where the, the Spanish were, were doing that.

**PS** So, you've hiked a lot of Arizona then.

**DL** Yeah. Quite, quite a bit of Arizona. I've been, uh, been a lot of hikes in lots of places in Arizona.

**LR** How about Piestewa Peak right outside your door here>

**DL** Well, it's a, it's, it's still Squaw Peak to me. (laughs) And I've been, uh, many, many, many times.

I don't in there, hike in that area, I usually don't do the peak because it's too crowded, but there are many, many other trails you can go on. You can get the same elevation change, but, uh, without all the people around.

**PS** And I know I've, I've interviewed John Driggs and Maxine Lakin who were involved...

**DL** Who?

**PS** Maxine Lakin (**DL** – Oh, yeah.) who's involved with, uh, saving the mountain preserves. Uh.



And, were you involved at all with that?

**DL** Not, I was, I was here at the time, and, uh, symp, sympathetic to it. But I don't know if I helped any or not. But, uh, I think that was, that was a good move.

The South Mountain Preserve was saved, saved years and years ago. And I think the South Mountain Park is the largest municipal park in the country.

**PS** So I've heard. Yeah. And if they hadn't, we probably would have houses on all these...(laughter) Because there are great views.

**DL** Yeah. There're some nice, nice, nice views.

And I don't object to houses on mountains like a lot of people do. (laughter)

**PS** So, you're not hiking anymore?

**DL** Well, I still hike some, but I don't get out as much as I used to. I'm...my hiking time was Sunday after, afternoon. And, uh, that meant leaving the house. And my wife has Alzheimer's, and, uh, I don't like to leave her for the two or three hours that you do for hiking. I can leave for half or three-quarters of an hour to go to a store or something, but I don't like to leave her two or three hours, so I don't get out as much as I used to.

**PS** Did she ever hike with you?

**DL** No, she's not a hiker. She's a ceramist. (laughs) Uh. Also, she has a, an artificial hip. So, she, she's not, uh, doesn't, doesn't do a lot of that kind of hiking.

**PS** Okay. Well, I think we've pretty much covered everything here. Um. Is there anything else that you wanted to talk about that we should have talked about?

**DL** No. I appreciate this, and I'm humbled and flattered that, uh, we're going to be a History Maker. (laughs)

**PS** (can't understand) really are. In fact, we should have made your father a History Maker, but to be a History Maker you have to still be alive.

**DL** Well, there's one this year that's going to be a History Maker that's not alive.

**PS** I know.



**DL** He died, died in the process.

**PS** Yes. Two of them actually.

**DL** Was it two?

**PS** Chuck Lakin, um (**DL** – Okay.) and also Bill Owen.

**DL** Yeah.

**PS** Did you know either of them?

**DL** I probably met them. I can't put a face to the name, but...

**LR** I was curious about (can't understand) this here. And, are you able to explain (**DL** – Huh?) the electrowinning cathode?

**PS** Is that a process?

**DL** Yeah. That, uh, that was what I mentioned earlier that the liquid, actually the liquid ion exchange.

**LR** Okay.

**DL** The liquid ion exchange, electrowinning process was, uh, one that, uh, that Bagdad Mine was, uh, much involved in. As I said, we had the second plant. We had the first good plant in the world on that.

The first plant was, uh, Maxie Anderson's plant at the Bluebird Mine up near Globe. And he had a scotch tape and baling wire plant.

And, uh, whether he made more money than we did or not, he got his plant on stream as the copper market was going up. And we got ours on stream just as the copper market had gone off its peak and, and, and turned down.

Now his plant only lasted five or six years. Uh. The plant that we put up thirty or forty years ago is still going strong.

But that's the process now, that every copper company in the world has adopted it. And it's a



major, major part of the copper industry.

**PS** How did your father get involved with copper?

**DL** In the 1930s and 40s, uh, the Bagdad Copper Company was controlled by a group in Cleveland. And, uh, so Dad's financial advisors in, in Cleveland knew of this, and, uh, and got, got, uh, Dad in, in, involved in investing in that stock. And then we accumulated enough so that the family had a majority of the stock.

And, uh, that was nice because when I had a, a, a, uh, something to do, I could make four phone calls and get a majority of the stock to say that they were in agreement with what I wanted to do. (laughs)

**PS** Do you know how, how it got to be named Bagdad? People are always curious about that.

**DL** Never, never knew. Don't know that. Uh. That's, you know, it's not spelled the same way that Baghdad in (can't understand) (**PS** – Right.) And interesting enough, there's an old town in California also B-A-G-D-A-D. And it's, uh, over, uh, west of, uh, west of Needles out of the desert.

Now, whether that was named after this Bagdad, don't know.

**PS** Maybe they just that that (audio glitch) similar to the desert and (laughs...can't understand)

**DL** Yeah.

My, my thought is it's some, some relationship to, uh, the prospectors dreaming of harems and things in the Bagdad area, and, uh, and, uh, so, called it Bagdad and didn't know how to, how to spell it. (**PS** laughing)

But, uh, don't know.

**LR** Well, an interesting connection with the Lincoln, possible connection with the, uh, Lincoln family, the copper penny with Mr. Lincoln. (**DL** laughs)

**DL** Well, I think that pre, pre-dated this. (laughter)

**PS** Well, I...

**DL** But it's not, it's not a copper penny. It looks like it's copper, but the penny has little copper in it.



**PS** Why, was it ever full copper?

**DL** My guess is, when they were first minted, uh, a hundred years ago, they were probably, uh, oh, probably copper. But then as copper got more expensive, they made it, uh, less and less of an alloy. And, uh, then, during World War Two it, uh, there was not, no copper at all. It was a, it was a metal. It was an iron...

**PS** Yes. Those are black.

**DL** Or sort of grey. (**PS** – Yeah.) And, uh, ah, I should have saved more of those because they're probably a collector's item now.

**LR** and what do you think about the, um, current, uh, I guess some people are advocating the elimination of the copper penny. That it's too expensive to produce. The, the alloy penny. (laughs) Uh. That it's too expensive to produce. And people don't like to carry it around in their pocket. What do you think about that?

**DL** Well, (clears throat) uh, when you look at it, the (clears throat) the value of a penny now (swallows) is probably a twentieth or a thirtieth or a fortieth of what it was when I was a kid.

If I was a kid, instead of having pennies, you'd have had coins with a tenth of a penny and a twentieth of a penny, which didn't make much sense back, back then.

So, I think, to me it makes a lot of sense to eliminate, uh, both pennies and nickels because then, then the dime would be worth close to what a, a penny was worth when, when pennies were the lowest in de, de, denomination coins.

**PS** Well, and some people say we won't even have real paper or, or, or metal money. It'll all be digital. (laughs)

**DL** Well, I, I don't know. I'm not in favor of digital money because that, uh, my, my feeling is that if it's on the internet, it's in the public domain. Nothing on the internet is secure, in my mind.

So, if you put your money on the internet, anybody has access to it.

Now what they do, they want to do away with coins entirely and have it all paper. Or, uh, excuse me. (can't understand)

They want to do away with the dollar bill and have it to be a, have it be a coin. Uh. And those,



those are pretty heavy. (laughs)

**PS** Yeah. I have a few of those. (laughter) Okay. Well, it's been very interesting talking with you. And I do hope we can find some time to get together with your wife. And, maybe...

**DL** Well, tel...have you called her?

**PS** I haven't. I've, since I talked to you before, my mother passed away.

**DL** Oh, sorry.

showing plaque for electrowinning cathode...different angles

