

## Retiring to Utah

Interviewer: Kate Foutz (granddaughter), 3/22/24

Kate

just talked about your career. Let's talk about your retirement. So what, so how long after you retired did you guys stay in California? Because when did you retire?

John C. Elsey

I retired January 31st, 1998. And we were... Mavis' parents were living with us, and he, Grandpa Larkin, passed away on March 8th or some ... or early March of that same year. And we lived there, went to Nauvoo on our mission, but we'd visit your family up here in Utah all the time and liked the area, and like Utah, I grew up here, and particularly liked Utah County, and had this lot in mind right from the start with the view.

So I'd walk down from your house and stand there and drool over this lot, which we didn't think was available because we thought the Kirtland people wanted it. But we inquired, and eventually it became available... I think there was some falling out in the family, and they put the lot up for sale, and we bought it.

Somebody said, you could probably dicker on the price, and I said, I don't want to take a chance, I just want the lot. So we paid the \$75 ,000 to get this lot. And then contracted with Joe Carrick, who was in the area, in the neighborhood, and he designed us a house, which they did while we were in Nauvoo on our mission, and then it was built when we got off our mission.

So we always kind of liked Utah and the area, and your family was here, so we moved up.

Kate

was it hard to leave california or was it like because i know you were excited to be up here but was it still great yeah

John C. Elsey

No - it was not hard to leave California. It was kind of interesting. We lived in that house for 38 years on Adams Avenue, raised our kids there, you guys visited, had a lot of memories. But we cleaned it out and just walked away.

And I did not have any regrets. I was often wondered about that, you know, in the turn of this time. But it was okay. All this stuff was loaded in the van. Everything we owned was in this van out and parked at the curb and away we went.

Kate

Don't even miss the orange trees.

John C. Elsey

No, I really haven't missed California.

Kate

That's just one of my core memories is the smell of the orange trees, so whenever I think of your California house, it smells like orange.

John C. Elsey

The smell of the orange trees....

Kate

I know it was so great. So one of the questions is how has it been? How's Lindon?

John C. Elsey

We love Lindon. We love living in Utah County. We've traveled around the world a lot, well, around the world literally, and we've visited lots of countries and served missions in Nauvoo and China and Bulgaria.

To me, there's no better place in the world than Utah Valley. We've got really a nice area and we've got, I was thinking, suppose you lived in a very small town, just a few hundred or a few thousand. We did that in Nauvoo and that was interesting, 1100 people in that town.

But you don't have the medical facilities, or a lot of the entertainment, or the foods, or restaurants. Here in Utah Valley, you've got all that. You've got great medical care, hospitals, entertainment, BYU, a lot of stuff going on, restaurants.

Utah Valley is, to me, the best place in the world to live.

Kate

I love it. Are there any like, I mean you've been here for what, 20 years?

John C. Elsey

Yes.

Kate

So it's kind of hard to be like, what are some of your standout experiences? Cause you've had a lot of things here, but are there any that immediately popped to mind being in Lindon?

John C. Elsey

Well, one thing we really like being here is the church and our ward. Everybody, almost everybody in the Kirtland Estates is a member of the church and attends. And we know our neighbors, we know a hundred people that live here.

We go to church with them, we know something about them. In California, we knew our neighbors on each side of us across the street, and that was about it in a way. We knew the ward members, but they were scattered all over the cities.

But here, all our neighbors we know, and all the people in the church we know, I really like that. I think it's great, good people, we live among them.

Kate

Yeah.

John C. Elsey

Grateful for them

Kate

And they all love you. They tell me. They tell me all the time how great you guys are.

John C. Elsey

I don't know what's gotten into them, but they need to be checked out a bit, I think.

Kate

Apparently I don't know either, because I believe them. So who knows?

I don't have much else to ask on Lindon besides anything else you want to add, because it's just kind of your experience as being here in this house.

And I don't know.

John C. Elsey

I might just comment. We had had some dealings with people... there's been phone up and talked to the receptionist. And people always seemed nice, just nicer in Utah than they were... not that they were bad in California, but there just wasn't the niceness.

And I thought, you're just being very subjective. You're a member of the church, and you like Utah, you're born here. Very, very subjective. But I read an article in the paper some years ago about a man who bought the Provo baseball company, or team, and he was from California.

And he made the comment in the article about, well, of course the people in Utah are a lot nicer than those in California. He made that comment. I said, ah, I'm not entirely subjective here. Someone else has that same feeling.

You want to turn that off?

Kate

Oh, are you all done?

John C. Elsey

Yup. Unless you got more questions.

Kate

I'm sure I could think of some, but...

John C. Elsey

Grandma was making a comment there.

Kate

Okay, well Yeah, it's been I love having you guys down the street It's been a really great part of my life. So Thank you