

TEMPE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Tempe Historical Museum

3500 S. Rural Road

Tempe, Arizona 85282

May--October, 1987

Project Director: Kristina Minister, Ph.D.

Narrator: WILLIAM H. WINDES

Interviewer: JULIE CHRISTINE

Date of Interview: June 10, 1987

BIOGRAPHY

William H. Windes, son of Frank M. Windes and Maggie Vera Young Windes was born in Tempe on September 20, 1909. He graduated from Tempe Union High School in 1927 and from Arizona State Teachers College at Tempe in 1929. He worked for the state quarantine stations and for the federal immigration inspection for 18 years before returning to Tempe in 1947 to work for 28 years as an insurance adjuster.

Windes's great aunt, Magdalene Ann Windes, was the first published woman poet in Arizona, a founder of the Tempe Public Library, and an active feminist and prohibitionist. His great uncle, Reverend Romulus Adolphus Windes, founded seven Baptist churches in Arizona and was the assistant minister at First Baptist church, Tempe.

William Windes is a prolific essayist and poet. His books include: Don't Marry That Bug Guy, Poems, Mostly About Boys, and Growing Up in Tempe, 1909-1929.

FIELD NOTES

I joined the Tempe Oral History Project for two reasons. I have a desire to learn oral history methodology and techniques, and I have an interest in the history of Tempe.

I was born in Kansas in 1957, but moved to Tempe before my first birthday. I have a BFA from Arizona State University and am pursuing an MA in anthropology from ASU. With three years experience working in museums, I plan to continue museum work with an emphasis in exhibit design.

The interview took place in the living room at Mr. Windes' home. His wife and grandchildren were home but did not interrupt us. (You might hear the washer or dryer in the background, also a clock.) The only interruption to the interview was when the video equipment blew a fuse, and all the lights went out.

Mr. Windes has a slight tremor which became more pronounced as the interview progressed. I stopped the project when I felt that Mr. Windes was tired. We started at 10:00 a.m. and ended at approximately 11:30 a.m.

The only frustration I felt was that there was not enough time to cover all the topics planned. There were times when I did not feel I responded quickly enough when he gave me a quick response. I also asked too many questions that could be answered yes or no. There is additional information to be obtained from Mr. Windes, and he is receptive to a second interview.

Julie Christine
June 10, 1987

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BEGIN SIDE ONE

CHRISTINE: Good morning, this is Julie Christine, and I'm interviewing Bill Windes for the City of Tempe Oral History Project. Bill, I understand that you were born here in Tempe.

WINDES: That's right.

CHRISTINE: Is that right? Where were you, where were you born?

WINDES: At ten seventeen Van Ness Avenue.

CHRISTINE: That's the home that you, a, lived in as a child too?

WINDES: Oh, yes, I grew up there. Um hum.

CHRISTINE: When did your parents come to Tempe?

WINDES: A, nineteen five. Either that or six, but I think it was five.

CHRISTINE: Where did they come from?

WINDES: Well they came directly from Indian Territory, but they were originally from Alabama.

CHRISTINE: Where was the Indian Territory at that time?

WINDES: Well that was Oklahoma, of course. Um hum. That was before it became a state, Oklahoma became a state.

CHRISTINE: Did you live at the house on Van Ness the whole time you were living in Tempe?

WINDES: Yes, all the time I was living in Tempe.

CHRISTINE: When you were going to school, you lived there?

WINDES: Yes, that's right.

CHRISTINE: What school did you go to as an elementary school student?

WINDES: Tempe Grammar School.

CHRISTINE: Tell me a little bit about the teachers at that time.

WINDES: Well at first, a, had Miss Flora Thew who taught for so many years here. And my second grade teacher was Miss Perigo. My third grade

teacher was [clears throat] Mrs. Dudley Hope Windes, a relative by marriage. And a, then we moved over to Glendale, Arizona for two years. And a, I don't know whether you want me to tell those teachers or not.

CHRISTINE: Sure.

WINDES: And Miss Foster taught me in the third and fourth grade over there, finished up the third grade and then the fourth grade. And then a Miss Brewster in the fifth grade. And then moved back to Tempe and a, then I had Mrs. Windes again in the sixth grade. I had her for two years. And a, then Miss Cosner in the seventh grade and Mr. and Mrs. Persons in the eighth grade. He was the principal at that time, and his wife was a teacher, but they both taught.

CHRISTINE: Who was your favorite in all those years?

WINDES: Well I'd say _____ two favorites: Mrs. (Hope Windes?) and Miss Cosner. But, of course, _____ was wonderful, too.

CHRISTINE: What was it about the two of them that made them special from the rest of them?

WINDES: Well Miss Cosner, of course was very much respected here in Tempe 'cause she was an excellent teacher and had such good discipline. And of course, I was prejudiced for Hope Windes because she was married to my cousin, the judge. And a, she was full of fun and was a great teacher also.

CHRISTINE: Did you go to the Tempe Normal School?

WINDES: Well it was Tempe State Teachers college when I went there. I went there for two years.

CHRISTINE: I understand there was farms around the normal school at that time.

WINDES: Yes, there was a farm right where we're sitting now. I used to pick cotton right on the same field where we're sitting right now. This

belonged to E. W. Hudson, I think. He had farms all over the area, and this was one of his, I believe.

CHRISTINE: Did the school itself have a farm?

WINDES: Well of course, the university did.

CHRISTINE: Um hum.

WINDES: And they had a farm right down where, just a, just south of, of where the a, main campus is now, right there, right by the, that a, church edifice there. That's where the, the main school ended. It is on Tenth--it was on Orange Street. Orange Street south was the college farm. And a, and then a, west of what is now College Avenue, and it had another name before that. It was a farm where I studied agriculture when I was in school and, of course, where I used to play so much when I was a kid. Used to hunt doves. And even when I was younger I used to hunt birds with my sling shot on that farm.

CHRISTINE: On the university's farm?

WINDES: On the university farm. Of course it was College Farm then and Normal Farm when I was a child.

CHRISTINE: You studied agriculture?

WINDES: Well that was a requirement for all that were taking the teachers' course. It was just one, I didn't, a, major in that. It was just a requirement for all those who were taking the teachers' course.

CHRISTINE: Um hum. You worked on other farms in the, in the Tempe area?

WINDES: I think this was the only farm that I picked cotton in. When we were living in Glendale I worked, and that is during World War One during the flu epidemic, and the schools were all let out while I worked on various farms over there picking cotton.

CHRISTINE: You didn't get the flu?

WINDES: I got the flu like everybody else. Everybody in the family.

CHRISTINE: Your whole family?

WINDES: Um hum.

CHRISTINE: How many brothers and sisters do you have?

WINDES: Well I had three brothers and a sister.

CHRISTINE: Um hum.

CHRISTINE: What are their names?

WINDES: The oldest was Leldon. And my sister Nora. And then came Harold who was always called Monk. And then myself. And then Marvin, the youngest. Frank Marvin Junior what, he was junior to my father.

CHRISTINE: I read in your book that your father worked at the Pacific Creamery.

WINDES: That's right.

CHRISTINE: Can you tell me about the, the creamery at that time?

WINDES: Well it was quite an institution in Tempe. One of the biggest creameries in the West. And I worked there myself, a, two summers. And a, the farmers brought all their, all over the Valley here, brought their milk to the creamery. And a, there it was unloaded and evaporated. Evaporated by cooking and then put into cans, and then the cans were put into a sterilizer. I worked on the sterilizer for the two summers I worked there. And a, after it was taken out of the sterilizer, sterilizer, it was taken to a label room where it was labeled. And a, put in boxes, and of course it was sold all over the country.

CHRISTINE: Outside of Arizona?

WINDES: Oh, yes, yes. Was sold all over. I imagine all the states as far as that's concerned, but I don't know just how many states.

CHRISTINE: Um hum. What would you do when you worked at, on the

sterilizer?

WINDES: Well a, the sterilizer was a great, big cylinder lying horizontal. And a, it had, we had cages that we kicked when the milk came off the filler as the bottles were, after the cans were filled, they were put in steel cages, or steel, a, kind of steel trays, I should say. And then the trays were put in cages, long cages and shoved into the sterilizer where the milk was cooked for as I remember about thirty minutes. And the steam in that sterilizer got us to kill all the germs which might be in the milk. And then they were taken out of the sterilizer, pulled the cages out and took the trays out of the cages and flopped them into wooden crates. And then were wheeled off into the label room where they were labeled.

CHRISTINE: Um hum. So there wasn't any cattle at the creamery. People brought their milk in?

WINDES: That's right. From all over the Valley here. They were first brought in [by] wagons and so on. Big wagons and then in trucks as trucks became available. I worked for one summer for about a month in the receiving room where there were big ten gallon cans of milk where loaded off the trucks onto racks onto a track. And then track went down to where I was, and the milk was dumped. And then I washed those big cans with a, hot water and steam. And, a, I worked on that about a month, and then I went back into the sterilizer room.

CHRISTINE: Was that welcome relief from washing the cans?

WINDES: It was, I should say I liked the, I liked the receiving room better than I did the sterilizer. The sterilizer was in the room where it was the hottest part of the creamery. And a, there was water all over the floor, and your feet, you're walking about an inch of water all the time, and your feet would get wrinkled up in the water. And it was, by the time you got off

work in the evening you were just pure sweat and a, dirt for that matter.

CHRISTINE: Um hum. What did your father do at the creamery?

WINDES: Well for the most part he was a chemist. He was a milk tester. He would test to see if the milk had the proper percentage of butterfat before it was bottled and so on. He worked at the creamery for most of his working life.

CHRISTINE: Um hum. How many people worked there? Was there hundreds of people or

WINDES: Well I just never had a, considered just how many, but a, I would say perhaps there were a hundred working there at one time. 'course they, they made ice there, too, and ice was sold all over Tempe and I guess Mesa, too, at that time, from the ice that was manufactured there at the creamery.

CHRISTINE: What kind of operation was it to manufacture the ice?

WINDES: Well I a, I didn't work in the ice part, but a, they a, ice was made into three hundred pound blocks, a, in the refrigeration room. And a, as I say, I never did work where pulling the ice out of those big places where the ice was made. I, that was quite a job to get those three hundred pound cakes of ice out of the things where they were frozen.

CHRISTINE: Um hum. Did they produce anything else besides milk?

WINDES: A, no. And they made only the a, regular condensed milk, and a The last company that owned the creamery was the Borden company. And they also produced a, a, Eagle Brand Milk that was almost half sugar that was used much for babies. But Tempe creamery didn't produce that. They just produced the regular, regular canned milk which you, people used and still are using for that matter. But the creamery changed ownership and on a number of occasions. And the first a, milk they produced was called Lily Milk. It was Lily, Lily Milk Creamery. And then the Maricopa Creamery and

the Hassayampa Creamery. And a, the Borden Creamery. Every time it changed ownership would get new labels to the milk. But they still, still put labels from all the different companies for, that ever produced milk here.

CHRISTINE: Did you work on another Jersey farm or a

WINDES: Yes, I worked for two years at the Wildermuth Jersey Ranch. A, not at the ranch most of the time. Most of the time I was just delivering the milk. _____ We delivered milk in Tempe morning and evening from that Jersey ranch. It was a very, very, very fine ranch and has registered Jersey cattle. And a, most of the time I was the delivery boy that ran into the houses delivering the milk. But my last job there was in the summer just before my senior year of high school. And I drove the truck then. It was a Maxwell truck, and we, I had Dick Payne, Richard Payne, the brother of Doctor Bill Payne, as my delivery boy. He ran into the houses at that time. And a, when I went into senior year in high school I quit working for them. I was making fifty dollars a month that, that summer working morning and evening. I would ride my bicycle from my home about four miles out to the ranch, load the truck, and a, then drive into town. And we'd make the deliveries, I would . . . and then I'd drive back out to the ranch. And then in the afternoon I would ride my bike out again and load the truck and make the deliveries again. And, and a, go back and unload the truck. And I kept all the books that summer and sent out all the bills and collected all the money. Fifty dollars a month.

CHRISTINE: You must have had a pretty good idea of what was going on in Tempe if you were driving around town morning and night.

WINDES: Oh yes, I know every nook and cranny of Tempe. And a, of course what was going on, too. Delivered milk at all the stores that sold milk. And I knew all the people that worked in those stores.

CHRISTINE: Tell me about the stores that you delivered to.

WINDES: Well a, Mattley's store on a, on Eighth Street was one of them. I believe they were still in business when I was working for them. But a, they haven't been there for many years. And we delivered to Pay and Takeit it was called in those days. And a, to both of the drug stores, and a, there was another store down, downtown there at the corner of Fifth and Mill. I've forgotten the name. And also we delivered to the Vienna Bakery. And a, practically everybody that was in business in Tempe had a need for milk, and we would deliver to those places as well as to all the people in their homes.

CHRISTINE: Um hum. So you also know who paid their bills and who didn't.

WINDES: Well we didn't have much trouble. We a, we had a, when we put out the bill the first of the month, we'd have a little stamp on there that said if you didn't pay your bill by the tenth of the month, well it would add a penny a quart to each, to the cost of each bottle. And a, that seemed to do the trick for the most part. If you didn't pay by the tenth, well it'd cost them a little bit more. I don't know whether that was strictly legal, but that's what we did.

CHRISTINE: How much did it cost to have milk delivered then?

WINDES: Fifteen cents a quart.

CHRISTINE: What other stores were up and down on Mill and Eighth at that time that maybe you didn't deliver to but were there?

WINDES: Well of course there were the furniture stores and a, the hardware stores, Tempe Hardware. And a, the clothing stores, like a **Heider** store. And oh, a, a jewelry store. And a, the undertakers, of course.

CHRISTINE: When you were growing up did your family shop in Tempe?

WINDES: Yes, but we did a lot of shopping in Phoenix. A, my mother was

one who, who loved to shop. And a, she would go over to Phoenix every chance she got, every _____ time any of her friends would take her over there. My dad very seldom had a chance because he was working, most of the time, seven days a week. But she would a, ride over with Mrs. Ostrander, one of the professor's wives who loved to shop, too. And they'd go over there maybe once a week and shop over at Korrick's and a, Diamond's and various stores in Phoenix. They didn't always buy very much, but they just loved to shop. And, and I used to do most of my shopping over there, too, for my clothes because you'd have better selection over there. But of course, we sometimes shopped down at **Ducker's** clothing store in Tempe for clothes.

END SIDE ONE

BEGIN SIDE TWO

CHRISTINE: We were just talking a minute ago about Van Ness?

WINDES: Um hum.

CHRISTINE: What were the houses like that were up and down Van Ness at the time you were a young man?

WINDES: Well those were the frame houses a, and a, nearly every one of them had a sleeping porch covering a part of the house, and some of them, I don't know, one or two had _____ sleeping porch all the way around the house. And a, there were a few old adobe houses like Professor Felton's house was adobe. And a, there may have been one or two more. But nearly all of them were frame houses. And of course, we didn't have any air conditioning then. And a, everybody slept on the screened porches or outside in the yard during the summertime. But none of them on Van Ness were very expensive. They weren't any rich people living on Van Ness at that time.

CHRISTINE: Why would someone have had an adobe house then?

WINDES: Well of course, adobe even to this day is probably the best type of house to, to have because it's so cool. And a, it's during the daytime during the summer it's pretty comfortable in an adobe house all day. At night, of course, it's little different because it's, the heat that builds up during the day remains at night. And a, it gets pretty warm sleeping in an adobe house. But in the daytime it's coolest time, coolest time to have. And they had walls of two or more feet thick. And a, 'course, that kind of insulation, well it was a very cool house.

CHRISTINE: Did, did people have animals like chickens and gardens?

WINDES: Practically everyone in our neighborhood and all over Tempe had a chicken pen. We'd had always until I grew up, of course but then they began to fade out after people got older. But practically everyone had a chicken pen. Lots of them had rabbit hutches. And about one in three in our neighborhood had a cow. And a, people across the alley had hogs. There weren't too many of them had hogs, but they did. And a, not all the people were too happy about that because you know how hogs draw flies. But a, some of them had hogs right in, in their back yards in Tempe at that time. But a, about half of them would have a garden. In our home we had all kinds of fruit trees and a, grape arbor and a, blackberry patch out in back. And a big rose garden which is more or less typical of how people were in those days. And there were more fig trees. And a, the Payne house right across the road, Professor Payne, had two big fig trees out in front. And the Feltons, they had several fig trees as well as they had some apple trees, too as well as peach and a, plum, apricot. And most everybody saved a good deal of money by having those gardens and trees in those days. And of course, everybody did canning in the summertime at the proper season. So it

was very helpful. Not many people bought eggs; had their own chickens. Raised their rabbits and a, butchered their own rabbits, and of course, butchered the chickens, too.

CHRISTINE: Did you have rabbits?

WINDES: Yes we had rabbits for a time, not always, but for a time we did.

CHRISTINE: Well that must have big, caused some excitement when people's chickens got out or people's dogs were after the rabbits or

WINDES: Well they usually kept the chicken yards in pretty good shape. I don't remember chickens getting out very much. We a, had a good high fence around _____. And a, 'course most people just like nowadays had dogs. But a, not too often did you hear of any dogs killing the chickens.

CHRISTINE: No, I remember reading in your book about driving the cattle, some cattle were out?

WINDES: Yes, that's right. A, naturally when you had cows, the cow went dry at a certain time, and a, you had to have another cow to substitute for it. And a, Professor Felton, they always had a cow in the vacant field just across the road from us right next to Professor Payne's. And we would a, I would sometimes go with the Felton boys out to their ranch about where the Motorola plant is now. And a, I remember one occasion when we went out there, well went out there in the evening and tried to sleep 'til early in the morning and then we got the cow and then started driving it into town. On that particular occasion we got into town just about daybreak. And swimming pool was there at that time. And Connie Felton and I, we slipped off our clothes and went in swimming naked in the swimming pool. And then we drove the cow on into this pasture right there on Van Ness Avenue.

CHRISTINE: You also talked about driving them to the pound or the pond?

WINDES: Yes, a, there was a pound in those days. If the animals would get

loose, _____ was seeing a stray horse or a stray donkey or sometime a stay cow. And a, they would pay you so much for each one that you would drive into the pound. Seems to me it was six cents for each, each animal that you would drive in. I don't, I didn't ever drive one in, but, as I mentioned in my book, I got caught one time driving, trying to drive some in from outside the city limits and got in trouble.

CHRISTINE: If they were outside the city limits then they were...

WINDES: Yeah.

CHRISTINE: ...free to...

WINDES: So I guess that wasn't strictly legal to drive an animal into town from outside the city limits. City limits at that time was just, was the railroad track, the west city limits was the railroad tracks. And a, those animals that time were along the road just on Fifth Street just west of the tracks.

CHRISTINE: When you made these trips into Phoenix or out to someone's farm did you; how did you get there?

WINDES: Well a lot of the time we hitchhiked. That is, if we were boys. Hitchhiking was the way to get around in those days. And sometimes we'd ride the bicycles. I rode my bike a whole lot to Phoenix to shop, but there was some danger, of course, of getting your bike stolen. And of course, we usually lock our bikes. But a, we'd hitchhike a lot. I remember hitchhiking to Phoenix on a number of occasions when I was a kid. And we never had much trouble catching a ride because people weren't afraid of hitchhikers in those days. But of course, we rode in cars, too. And Mother, of course, always rode in cars. But the kids, we usually hitchhiked or rode our bicycles.

CHRISTINE: If you were going to ride your bike to Phoenix how would you go?

WINDES: Well we went down a, the main highway, that is Van Buren at that time. That was before the road went through on, on Washington Street we always went on Van Buren. Went on into Phoenix.

CHRISTINE: You'd go across the bridge?

WINDES: Oh yes, um hum. I've forgotten just when this present bridge was built, but a, in the old days we used to cross the old bridge there that's still extant west of the main bridge.

CHRISTINE: Was that the only bridge then?

WINDES: Yes, that's right, um hum. Far as I know there were only two, I recall wagon bridges across the river. That was the one there and the one on Central Avenue in Phoenix.

CHRISTINE: I know people swam down around in the river there. Did they let you jump off the bridge?

WINDES: Yes, I used to do that a, quite a bit. A, there was a big, big hole right under the bridge there at Tempe. And a, it was a favorite place to swim and fish. And we would get up off of that, on the railing of that bridge and jump off. It was, I imagine it was forty feet into the, before you hit the water. And it was quite a thrill.

CHRISTINE: Did you, a, you fished in the river?

WINDES: Yes, that was one of my main pastimes when I was a boy, was fishing in the river. One of my favorite places in addition to the one right under the bridge was a, what they called the point, the point of rocks which is behind the Tempe Butte. There was a outcropping of rock there that caused the river to make a bend and it dug out a big hole. And that was a good place to swim and, and to fish and to hunt, too. I used to hunt ducks all up and down the river at that time. So that was one of my favorite pastimes was hunting ducks, hunting quail and, of course, swimming. I nearly

drowned in the river once. And that was farther down two or three miles west of the railroad bridge down--there used to be a diversion dam down there. We called it Jointhead Dam. It hadn't been there many years. That a, a, diverted the water into various canals. And a, there were various places along there you used to swim. I nearly drowned there one day. And I was saved by a big boy.

CHRISTINE: You were down by the dam?

WINDES: This side a ways, probably a half mile this side of Jointhead Dam. But it was in deep water. I was just learning to swim. I was probably about twelve years old at that time. And wasn't a very good swimmer and started swimming across the river. I didn't make it. I went under and Ray Spangler, a big fellow who was an expert swimmer swam out and asked me to crawl on his back. And I crawled on his back, and he swam out with me. I guess he saved my life.

CHRISTINE: What kind a fish did you catch in the, in the river?

WINDES: Well one of my favorite fish was carp. 'Course we still have lots of carp. But other fishes that you don't have nowadays, what we called Verde trout or bony tail trout which is really what, really isn't a trout at all. I think they call it a chub. And also the a humpbacked sucker. I don't remember seeing very many of the suckers we see nowadays. Those humpbacked suckers were very common. And I used to catch them mostly down under the bridge where there was such a great, big hole. And a, we would a, put three pronged big, three pronged hooks on our lines which were top string lines, cords, 'bout five or six hooks at about every foot interval. And a, we would throw our lines out into the stream. And we'd get a boy up on the bridge and would tell us when a school of those humpbacked suckers was swimming across our lines. And then we would big,

give a big jerk and sometimes you'd catch two or three of those suckers at one time. Or maybe a Verde trout. And we'd go home with a big string of fish.

CHRISTINE: Did you sell the fish or just take them home for...

WINDES: Oh no, we never sold any. We always ate them. All those fish except the catfish were bony, but a, we ate them anyway.

CHRISTINE: Would they fish in the canals?

WINDES: We didn't do so much fishing in canals in those days 'cause the river was so much better place to fish than the canals that that's where we fished.

CHRISTINE: What were the big canals then that existed when you were a kid? The canals, what were the names of them?

WINDES: Oh, there's the Tempe canal here in Tempe, but I just don't remember all, of those I do recall there was a Grand Canal. But a, the canal that we used to swim in most was, went right down along side of Eighth Street. Went right past the flour mill there. And a, then the one that went right on down behind the mill. And we used to swim in that a great deal. Before they had any swimming pool we swam in the irrigation ditches or the canals.

CHRISTINE: Were there canals running up and down every major street?

WINDES: Well not canals, but ditches, a, big ditches. And a, then a, and every yard a, had a ditch running into the yard. And a, we had head gates at every house. And when there was water in the big ditch, well we'd a, put in the head gates and run it into our yard and flood the whole yard. In fact, everybody in town irrigated then. And a, I know we did.

CHRISTINE: Whose job was it to get the water in the big ditch and then onto the smaller ditches?

WINDES: Ditch bosses, but a, most of the people in those days did their own. Ditch boss would turn it into the main canals, the main ditches. But a, then the, home owners would turn it into their own ditches.

CHRISTINE: Were they operated by the city?

WINDES: Well I just don't recall. I guess the city had something to do with it, but, 'course the Salt River Water Users furnished the water, and I suppose there was this city ditch boss. But a, I just don't know how much the city had to do with it at that time. There was usually a big ditch alongside of each main street. I know there was on Van Ness Avenue. One in front of our house and one across the road in front of the other houses, the Payne house. We used to float our little homemade boats in those ditches as well as play in them and have a lot fun in them.

CHRISTINE: Um hum. Did you swim in the pool at Tempe Beach?

WINDES: Yes, I think I swam in that pool the first day it had water in it. And a, we were so anxious for that pool to be there, and when it was completed there was such a thrill to us kids that a, that a, I'm sure the first day it had water in it I waited 'til it got about half full, and I dove off into the pool, and I think I probably [was] the first person ever to dive into the Tempe swimming pool.

CHRISTINE: Was there a fence around the pool?

WINDES: Well there was a fence around the whole premises there, not around the pool proper as I recall. I think there was one added later round the pool proper. But, at a, around Tempe Beach, the whole thing, there was a fence around it. And then later on I'm sure they built a fence around the pool proper.

CHRISTINE: Did they charge you to go swimming there?

WINDES: Oh yes, they charged. I think it was probably fifteen cents for

anybody who wanted to swim at that time.

CHRISTINE: Did you go to the theatre at the pool?

WINDES: Theatre at the pool? No, I don't recall a theatre there. It must have been there after I left. I left in nineteen twenty-nine and must have been there after that.

CHRISTINE: Oh. There were other theatres in town though, weren't there?

WINDES: Oh yes, yes. A, I was a nut about going to the movies, always was. And even when I was a small child I'd go to the Airdome, the open air theatre on a, east Fifth Street. And then they, other theatre across the road. I bet I went to a hundred, hundred movies there, maybe more than that. I went nearly every night when I was in my teens. They only cost about twenty or twenty-five cents to go. That was one of those things we'd do. We'd go to the pool and swim awhile then we'd go to the movies.

CHRISTINE: In the evening?

WINDES: Yeah, um hum.

CHRISTINE: The pool was open then, at night?

WINDES: Oh yeah, um hum. Yeah, the pool was open at night.

CHRISTINE: What, what else did you do for fun especially in the summer?

WINDES: Well I mentioned that I worked a whole lot during the summer. But a, we played baseball a whole lot. Had teams organized in different parts of town. Usually the Mexicans played the whites, as we called it in those days. And they'd do that, and , and even sometimes we played a little football. And a, even had own neighborhood track meets an so on. But a, there were so many things we did. And of course, at night we played the games that kids do like Kick the Can and Hide and Go Seek and Run Sheep Run. And 'course we played the German Ball in those days a lot, too. That was a ball that you would throw up and hit yourself and then run for the base down

the field. And they would grab the ball and throw it at you. If it hit you, you were out. But a, we played that, too. Any number of things. We kept busy.

CHRISTINE: Did the Mexicans and the whites not play on the same team for a reason?

WINDES: Well of course a, times were different in those days. A, it wasn't quite so much intermingling with the Mexicans and the whites, as we called them, then as there are now. 'Course there was certain families that were, in Tempe, that were always highly respected, Mexican people, and a, mix with the white people all the time. Some of them used to call the _____ in Mexican town. Well they didn't a, mix too much with the whites. 'Course in those days you know they had separate Mexican school when I was growing up. And a, 'course some Mexicans sometimes went to the Training School [run by Tempe State Teachers College]. Then even in the upper grades went to the grammar school. But they had a separate Mexican school there for many years down on Eighth Street. That, there was quite a little discrimination. Mexicans weren't allowed in the swimming pool. I don't know as they weren't allowed, but I never saw them in there. I don't, I guess they felt they weren't welcome. And I remembered that in the theatres they would sit in a certain section. They didn't sit where the rest of the people did. There was a certain amount of discrimination.

END SIDE TWO

BEGIN SIDE THREE

CHRISTINE: I read a poem in one of your books about a buggy sitting on top of the butte.

WINDES: Yes, I, that was a poem about Halloween I wrote, I think,

_____ in the sixth grade. Nearly every Halloween the nigger boys would put a buggy up on the very top of Tempe Butte. And a, 'course they made a lot of other things in those days, too. But nearly every, every Halloween they put one up there. And I think that one verse, it was "In Tempe after Halloween,/ A buggy on the butte is seen."

CHRISTINE: So you've been writing for a long time?

WINDES: Oh yes, I always like to write. I wrote poetry starting in high school. Used to think I was a poet. When I got up much older and read more poetry and realized I wasn't, wasn't too much of a poet after all. Then I quit writing it.

CHRISTINE: You talk, you had a, you kept a dairy, a shorthand kind?

WINDES: Yes, I did. I kept that in high school. I took two years of shorthand in high school and then my diary was all in shorthand. And I still have those shorthand books, and I recently transcribed that diary and have that in a book. But of course, most of that is pretty personal.

CHRISTINE: Um hum.

WINDES: About my girlfriends and so on.

CHRISTINE: Was there someone, a relative or friend, that encouraged you to write? Or did you just enjoy it?

WINDES: Well I don't know. Possibly I had the influence of my aunt Maggie, we called her Aunt Maggie Doll Windes, the wife of the old preacher who founded the first churches in Arizona. Used to visit her a good deal. And a, she wrote a book about her experiences and so on which I have here. And of course, her husband wrote a book, too, but his autobiography as a preacher who came here as a miss--, missionary in Arizona in eighteen seventy-nine.

CHRISTINE: Was she a poet, your aunt?

WINDES: She was, yes. She was a better poet than I. She, she was perhaps the first woman who ever had poetry published in Arizona. From what I've been able to read, she was the first one who ever had poetry published.

CHRISTINE: She was involved with the library, too, wasn't she?

WINDES: Yes, she was a, actually the, the founder of the library. She and a, two or three other women got together and founded that because they wanted to kind of keep the men out of the saloons as much as possible. She and Mrs. Brock and Mrs. Hardwick and a, I think, a Mrs. Schmidt [spelling of the three previous names was not verified] got together and a, founded that library. That was 'course not owned by the city at that time; it was many years before the city took it over. But a, she was a very remarkable woman that a, that woman. When she came to Arizona in that little, old wagon in nineteen, in eighteen seventy-nine she had two tiny babies. One was about a year old. And, and a, one was maybe two years old. And she was big pregnant. And just as soon as she got to Prescott she had another baby. But, 'course the reason they came here was for her health. 'Course she lived to be in her late eighties before she passed away. Her husband, my uncle Doll, we called him R. A. Windes and she [he] died a few years before she did.

CHRISTINE: Was she a teacher?

WINDES: No, no she didn't teach. She just helped him and his ministry. They traveled all over Arizona a, founding churches. They founded the first church in Arizona which was in Prescott. And a, then they rode down in their wagon to Phoenix and founded the first church, the first Baptist church in Phoenix. And then a year or two later that, they traveled on terrible roads up to Globe in wagons and founded the first Baptist church in Globe. And later they went back to the Verde Valley where they founded the

first Baptist churches in Clarkdale and a, Verde Valley and Cottonwood and Jerome. And a, then they moved back here to Tempe. And about nineteen hundred when he resigned from the ministry. And from then on he was a real estate and insurance man. Had a office down on Fifth Street.

CHRISTINE: Did you go to the church where he preached?

WINDES: No, it was an interesting thing. A, he was a Baptist, and a, my grandfather [William H. Windes, I] belonged to the Christian Church, Campbellite. He went away from the Baptist church and I think was a Cambellite preacher. A, so we always went to the Christian Church in Tempe. 'Course we'd go to the Baptist once in a while, but our family were all, all members of the Christian Church.

CHRISTINE: Hum. Where was the library when your aunt was founding it? Where was it located?

WINDES: Well the only library I ever remember, the first one's down on east Fifth Street, east of the, there was a house east of the city hall down there. I used to get books out of that. But, 'course I left Tempe when I was nineteen. I don't remember getting books out of the library before I left Tempe, and I didn't come back here until sixteen and a half years later.

CHRISTINE: Um hum. Um hum. Was it a popular place, the library?

WINDES: Library? I don't remember it being so.

CHRISTINE: Do, do you remember the Free Reading Room?

WINDES: Free reading room? No, I can't say that I do.

CHRISTINE: It was kind of before the library.

WINDES: No, I don't think I ever went there.

CHRISTINE: When you left Tempe when you were nineteen where did you go?

WINDES: Well I went to work to Salome, Arizona where she danced. At the

inspection station there, called an inspection station.

CHRISTINE: What, did you, what kind of work did you do?

WINDES: Well we stopped all cars to inspect them for fruits or plants or anything that might be infested with an insect pests or plant diseases harmful to agriculture in Arizona. I worked at those stations for twelve and a half years.

CHRISTINE: Did you find a lot of things?

WINDES: Oh yes, yes. Seemed like the most important things we would find were citrus fruit pests, the various scale insects that would infest citrus. And of course, we, we looked for various cotton pests, the pink boll weevil, and a, and, and pink boll worm, I should say and the, the boll weevil and all kinds of other fruit and plant pests.

CHRISTINE: Is it, was it a lot different , the kinds of things they looked for then then it is now?

WINDES: Well I think they were, in those days, we were required to open all their baggage and their boxes and their, go through their cotton sacks and tear their cotton sacks apart and everything. We don't do that in those, in these days; there's too many cars and you couldn't get away with that. People wouldn't stand for, for having all their cars gone through nowadays like they were in those days. But a, we really kept pests out of the state for a long time. And of course a, we would even a, went to the various post offices and a, freight depots, and a, and inspected plants and trees that came in then for any kind of pests they had on them. I did that while I was working in Globe for, for eight years I was in Globe.

CHRISTINE: At an inspection station?

WINDES: Yes, they had an inspection station there that I was in charge of.

CHRISTINE: Did people get angry?

WINDES: Sometimes. Sometimes they did. The things that they hated to lose the most was honey. We had to take honey away from people because of _____ disease of bees. And they just couldn't stand to have their honey taken away from them. They didn't usually didn't mind too much take a few oranges or, or nuts, or other things, but they didn't like to take honey away from them. I remember one time there in Globe a man took a gallon of honey and broke it in front of the station. The honey spilled all over the ground. And I had a shovel and made him clean it all up.

CHRISTINE: How, how many years did you work at the inspection stations?

WINDES: Sixteen and a half years, no, twelve and a half years, pardon me. Then I went to work for the immigration service down on the border.

CHRISTINE: What did you do there?

WINDES: Well I was an immigrant inspector, inspecting all the people who entered Ar--, entered the United States from Mexico. Inspecting their crossing cards and admitting them. Some of them were permanent residents. Some of them were temporary residents. 'Course some of them who lived here illegal we'd take statements from them and had them deported.

[interruption] . . . for three years. Oh pardon me, two years. And then I went to work at the El Paso station in the investigation section. And, and at that time I didn't work on the port of entry. We did all kinds of various investigations both on the American side of the line and in Mexico. We'd go over there and investigate in Mexico, too. Worked at that, at that for three years.

CHRISTINE: You came back to Tempe after that?

WINDES: Yes, just for two or three months. After immigration work I worked as special agent for the War Assets Administration. At the time they were disposing of all the war assets after World War Two. But I resigned

that job and thought I would go into photography in Tempe. And a, we moved from El Paso to Tempe, but I got cold feet and I didn't go into photography. I got another job. I got a job as, as an insurance adjuster for Arizona Adjustment Agency in Phoenix. And I worked at that for twenty-eight years until I retired.

CHRISTINE: Oh, and that was in Phoenix?

WINDES: Yes. We had a office in Tempe, too the last few years that I worked when I was in charge of that office.

CHRISTINE: So you must have known what was going on in Tempe if you were working for the insurance adjusters.

WINDES: Yes, that's true. I investigated literally thousands of accidents and other types of insurance claims, burglaries and fires and whatever that might be covered by insurance I investigated and settled claims.

CHRISTINE: Did you work with the Tempe law enforcement?

WINDES: No, I never worked for the city of Tempe.

CHRISTINE: Did you work with them when you were doing your insurance work?

WINDES: Well of course, we would always a, anytime you investigated an accident you'd go to, to the city of Tempe and a, and get their police reports of the accidents. And of course, also the county sheriff's office and the highway patrol. We would a, always cooperate with them. And sometimes we would go out with the officers, and they would show me the scenes of accidents where I would draw diagrams and so on. Police and the sheriff's officers and the highway patrol were always very helpful that way.

CHRISTINE: Um hum. Was there insurance fraud going on in Tempe?

WINDES: Well there was always a certain amount of fraud. People wanted as

much as they could get, and of course, the insurance company didn't want to pay any more than they had to.

CHRISTINE: Um hum.

WINDES: But a, I don't think there was all that much fraud.

CHRISTINE: What were the kinds of claims, the most kinds of claims that you got at that time?

WINDES: Most of the claims we'd handle, I'd say ninety percent, were automobile claims. Automobile accidents, automobile fires, or anything that could happen to an automobile.

CHRISTINE: Hum. More than any businesses or homes?

WINDES: That's true. I had burglaries, too. And fires and homes and businesses. I personally preferred a, automobile claims. I didn't care too much for fire work. Fire, wind storm and so on.

CHRISTINE: Um hum.

WINDES: I was supervisor most of that time. Most of that twenty-eight years I was supervisor. 'Course I handled claims, too, but I supervised several other men most of the time.

CHRISTINE: Um hum. Well I think we probably got all we're going to do today. Is that all right with you?

WINDES: That's fine.

CHRISTINE: OK.

WINDES: Very glad to have helped you if I did help you any.

[reference to interview]

CHRISTINE: A, thank you very much, Mr. Windes. It was a pleasure to meet you.

WINDES: Well it was a pleasure very much to meet you and to the man behind the cameras.

CHRISTINE: Thank you.

WINDES: You betcha. Come back any time.

CHRISTINE: OK. I think we probably will. [reference to interview]

END SIDE THREE