

ROBERTA KILPATRICK & HER 2 SONS BILL AND DENNIS  
NOVEMBER 12, 2021

Catherine: I am here with Roberta Kilpatrick and her two sons, Bill and Dennis Kilpatrick. Do I have your permission to quote you in part or in all our conversation today?

Roberta: Yes

Bill: Yes

Dennis: Yes

Catherine: After this interview has been edited by you, it will be available on the Town website as a public record.

Roberta: Would you like a lemon bar?

Dennis: These are mom's famous lemon bars.

Catherine: Did you make them?

Roberta: Oh yes, I make everything. I like to bake. I keep Denny supplied in cookies. I made the chocolate chip cookies and the pretzels too. Well, I didn't make the pretzels, but I make a seasoning and put it on top of them.

Catherine: What is your recipe for seasoning the pretzels?

Roberta: I use Orville Redenbacher Popcorn Oil and a package of salad seasoning dressing.

Dennis: It's the Orville Redenbacher Popcorn Oil that makes it. If you substitute the oil, it doesn't taste anywhere near the same.

Catherine: These are delicious. Thank you. Now tell me where you grew up?

Roberta: I was born in Aberdeen, South Dakota in 1923 and lived in nearby Cresbard until 1934. I was 11 when we moved to Minnesota – in the Dust Bowl days. The dust storms were so bad that it was just like night outside. Mother would put towels under all of the windowsills because the dust would just go through every crack. It was just terrible. We had a lovely 3-story home but lost it. We had all kinds of friends and neighbors. It was a very small community. There were only about 20 kids in my school and five of them were from my family. Like us, so many people had to leave because the farms were failing. The one farmer that was able to stay bought everybody's property and he came out a multimillionaire. In South Dakota, we were

ROBERTA KILPATRICK & HER 2 SONS BILL AND DENNIS  
NOVEMBER 12, 2021

farming a lot of wheat. But in Minnesota, farming was completely different – different crops and everything. A lot of soybeans, corn, and hay.



Roberta's house in Cresbard, South Dakota

Dennis: Mom is one of 5 children. There were two others who died in infancy. She is one of twins. Her twin brother died when they were 6 weeks old – Robert Allan and Roberta Ellen Hairsine.

Roberta: I'll be 98 in December (2021). I have one sister who's still alive and she will be 101 in February (2022). She lives in Minnesota. My mother lived to be 103. My sister, Sarah, died in her 50s from cancer. Another sister, Glenna, was 98 when she died and my brother, Carl, was in his late 80s.



Roberta (age 7) is the smallest of the Hairsine children in front of the school bus

ROBERTA KILPATRICK & HER 2 SONS BILL AND DENNIS  
NOVEMBER 12, 2021

Catherine: Do you recall your move from South Dakota to Minnesota?

Roberta: We must have taken a truck. I just don't remember, but our stuff had to get there somehow. I don't know if we took the farm equipment, and I don't recall how we got the horses to Minnesota. I do remember when we were driving to Minnesota, we stopped in Clear Lake, South Dakota for supper at a little café. Years later, I found out it was right across the street from where my husband, Bill, grew up. He would have been 14 at the time. I always thought that was so funny. When he took me to his home for the first time to meet his family, we stopped out front and I said, "Oh my gosh, I remember that café." It was still there. He used to be over there all of the time.

Catherine: What are some of your memories growing up in Minnesota?

Roberta: We lived in the little town of Kasson near Rochester. Everybody loved my dad. His name was Thomas Glen Hairsine, but he went by Glen. He was always the umpire at these little league ball games. You could hear him from a mile away. Mother would get so disgusted. I also remember they would have these little parades in our town. One year my mother was queen on a float in the parade for her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. I still have the little tiara she wore.

Catherine: How did you meet your husband?

Roberta: He was a medical intern at Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis, and I was a medical secretary working in the Medical Arts Building in Minneapolis. At that time, interns got paid nothing, so they moonlighted in doctors' offices. He would come to our office to do pre-op physical exams for the surgeon. He worked quite a few afternoons to get very little money – like \$50. Some of us would occasionally go out for happy hour after work. We didn't call it happy hour back then. He would always want to come along, and he was a wonderful dancer. I liked to dance too. That's when they had the big ball rooms. We danced all of the time. That's how we got to know each other.

Dennis: Then WWII occurred. As soon as a doctor finished his training, they got drafted. Mom and Dad met near the end of the war. When he got called up by the Army in 1945, they wanted to get married before he left.

Roberta: At the wedding rehearsal, he showed up in his Army uniform. But before we actually got married, the Navy contacted him and asked if he would like to transfer to the Navy? He said, "Heck yes!" So, when we got married a couple of days later, he showed up in a Navy uniform instead. The minister was thinking, "Who's this guy and what's his real story!" He thought I was being taken advantage.

ROBERTA KILPATRICK & HER 2 SONS BILL AND DENNIS  
NOVEMBER 12, 2021

Catherine: Did he get deployed?

Roberta: Gosh he had an awful time. They assigned him to a ship in San Diego, so he took a train to California. When he reported for duty at the ship, they told him it was being decommissioned. I don't know how long he spent in San Diego, but the same thing happened like 3 or 4 times. Every ship was being decommissioned. I was back in Minnesota because I thought he was going to be shipped out. Then they sent him to Iceland. That was a shocker! He was one of the doctors at a Navy base in Iceland when our son, Billy, was born.

Roberta: Dennis and Bonnie were born in St. Louis while Bill was an ophthalmology resident at Washington University there. After he finished his training in 1953, we went to South Dakota to start his ophthalmology practice.

Dennis: Dad got what sounded like a pretty good offer to go back to South Dakota. Not in the small town where he grew up, but in the bigger city of Huron – which was like 14,000 people. He practiced there for 18 years. At the time he left to move to Arizona, he was one of only 7 ophthalmologists in the whole state of South Dakota. An ophthalmologist was a rare bird there.

Bill: Dad had a friend here – Don Mathieson - who was a radiologist in Phoenix. Mom and Dad would come to visit them from time to time. That's what really sparked the idea of moving to Arizona.

Catherine: When did you come to Arizona and specifically to the Town of Paradise Valley?

Roberta: Bill left for Arizona in early 1971. He was just sick and tired of cold weather and the clinic where he was working. He started completely over at age 50 with 2 kids still in college. That first six months of 1971, I stayed back in South Dakota because our daughter, Bonnie, was graduating from high school. Dennis was already in college and son Bill was finishing medical school in St. Louis. In Scottsdale, we rented a townhouse on Chaparral Road, but didn't live there very long. We purchased our Paradise Valley home at 6036 N. Mockingbird Lane in 1972.

Bill: Dad took over an ophthalmology practice in Scottsdale from Dr. Sikowski. We never really knew the man. The practice was in the Wells Fargo building in downtown Scottsdale - right across the street - north of the hospital. I came in 1977. In 1984, we moved the practice to a building on the corner of Miller and 2<sup>nd</sup> St. near OLPH. Dennis joined us in 1985 and still practices ophthalmology in that building.

Bill: I had just graduated from medical school when they moved to Arizona. I started at the University of South Dakota but received my MD degree at Washington University in St. Louis and then went to UCLA for my internship. I did a two-year stint as a family doctor for the Public

ROBERTA KILPATRICK & HER 2 SONS BILL AND DENNIS  
NOVEMBER 12, 2021

Health Service in a little town in Oklahoma and then I went back to UCLA for my ophthalmology training for 3 years.

Dennis: I was in college in Nebraska when my folks moved to Arizona, so I transferred to the University of Arizona in Tucson. I went to undergraduate and medical school there. Then I went over to Dallas at the University of Texas, Southwestern for my internship and ophthalmology residency. I returned to join Bill and Dad in the ophthalmology practice in 1985.

Catherine: I understand your practice did all of the ophthalmology work for the Judson School kids. What was your practice's relationship with Judson or the Wicks?

Roberta: I don't know how it came to be, but the school nurse always sent the students to our office. Some of these kids were interesting children from all over the world.

Roberta: I was working at the office early on and felt so sorry for some of those little kids – they'd come to the office and no parents. I remember this one kid – probably 10 years old – all the time he was waiting, he stood at the front desk and talked to me. I finally asked him if he wanted to come around behind the desk to be closer – it was like he was craving a mother.

Dennis: I used to drive some of them back to Judson after their appointment if it was the end of the day.

Catherine: How did you find your house in Paradise Valley?

Roberta: I worked at the office when Bill first started practicing. During our lunch breaks, we would drive around the area looking at houses for sale. We found our house one day while driving down Mockingbird Lane when we spotted a For Sale by Owner sign. We stopped and rang the doorbell. Both the husband and wife were home. I can't remember their names, but they were so friendly and nice. He traveled a lot and she didn't like living there by herself when he was gone. We felt that it met our needs at that time and purchased it.

Roberta: After purchasing the home, we walked in the door and found they had left half of their furniture, even including artwork. They left a dining room table and chairs, which I still use, and a bedroom set that I used for years. She even had slippers and robes set out in the bathroom for us! We paid \$75,000 – furnished and with a pool! I lived there for 34 years – until 2006. It was a 3-bedroom one-story home. I loved the view of Camelback Mountain out my kitchen window. I had an excellent view of the Praying Monk. I always knew when there was trouble on the mountain because I could see the helicopters hovering around.

ROBERTA KILPATRICK & HER 2 SONS BILL AND DENNIS  
NOVEMBER 12, 2021

Catherine: Do either of you 2 brothers live in Paradise Valley?

Bill: When I came here in 1977, my wife and I lived in Scottsdale. Then in 1991, we bought a house on Stallion Road in Paradise Valley where we live now.

Dennis: First, we lived in Scottsdale and then in 1991, we moved to Paradise Valley.

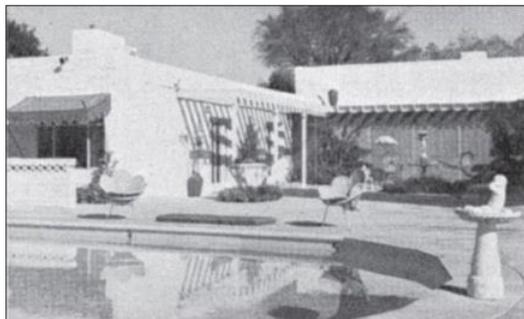
Catherine: Did your daughter grow up in the Mockingbird house at all?

Roberta: After she graduated from high school in South Dakota, she went to college in Lincoln, Nebraska and then to law school in Denver. Bonnie got married here in 1978 at the round Glass and Garden Community Church on McDonald Dr. She now she lives in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Catherine: What are some of your memories living on Mockingbird Lane?

Bill: There was the Casa Verde Guest Ranch behind mom and dad's house which was owned by Nancy and Doug Walton. It was supposedly once owned by the Hayden family. Mom and dad would sometimes get invited over there because, in the "guest season," they had little cocktail parties. They would just walk down the little dirt lane south of their home and go in through the back entrance of Doug and Nancy's place.

Roberta: Yes, we were over there a lot. They had guests for quite a few years. Usually the same guests came back every year, so we got to know them, too.



**CASA VERDE GUEST LODGE.** The lodge at 6730 East McDonald Drive provided a swimming pool and sun-drenched patios, with a golf course and saddle horses nearby. Individual guesthouses included a kitchen and lodge, hosted by the Haydens. (Author's collection.)

(Picture from *Paradise Valley Architecture* by Douglas B. Syndor)

ROBERTA KILPATRICK & HER 2 SONS BILL AND DENNIS  
NOVEMBER 12, 2021

Dennis: I think Nancy ended up being the cleaning crew and cook and Doug would restore his classic cars out in back. When I'd come home from college, I'd go over and see what Doug was working on because he was a car aficionado.

Bill: There would be a transmission on the dining room table. He was quite a character.

Roberta: Speaking of cars – this brings me way back to when Barrett-Jackson first started years ago – in the early 1970's they used to hold their auction at the Safari Hotel on Scottsdale Road. I remember Doug and Nancy Walton were always there – they always brought a car to sell, usually with the top down. Nancy was the one who would drive through the auction area. We used to go every year. Can you imagine it being down at the Safari now?

Dennis: Now 300,000 people show up.

Catherine: What got you guys interested in cars?

Bill: We always paid attention to cars. Dad bought a new one every year.

Dennis: I had several in high school, even an MG roadster in wintery South Dakota.

Bill: That's true you did – we knew more about muscle cars and that kind of stuff, though.

Dennis: I got my first car back– the first car I bought with my own money – it's a 1937 Plymouth Coupe. I sold it when I left South Dakota to attend college in 1970 and I bought the same car back 35 years later.

Dennis: Mom, do you remember when your laundry room caught on fire? Mockingbird was a problem because it winds all around the town. The fire truck had a hard time finding your house.

Roberta: Oh yes. Well, they kept going right by my house heading north. I was out in the driveway and saw all of the firetrucks whizzing right on by. I lived on North Mockingbird, but they went *way* north!

Bill: There was the story about Avis Read who lived behind you. She kept moving her back fence. Mom and dad had only walled in about half of their lot around the pool. The rest of the property was just open space. Avis Read had a barbed wire fence – like a single strand or something – but she kept moving it encroaching on their acre and taking a little more every time she moved the fence.

ROBERTA KILPATRICK & HER 2 SONS BILL AND DENNIS  
NOVEMBER 12, 2021

Roberta: I don't know how dad discovered that. He was so mad at her. He went tearing over there to complain.

Dennis: Dad finally got a surveyor out there and solved the problem. Avis was quite a character. She died in her 90s around 2004.

Dennis: Mom – do you remember the Stable Gallery on Cattle Track?

Roberta: That's been there forever.

Dennis: That was Avis Read's place. She not only started the gallery but that used to be her home before she moved behind your house on Mockingbird Lane. She converted her family's "Big Moose Ranch" into the Stable Gallery. Avis Read was affiliated with Philip Curtis and the whole Cattle Track gang. She was an artist and one of the founders of the Phoenix Art Museum. She was also one of the founders of Paradise Valley.

Roberta: It was the Linderman's that moved into her home behind us after Avis Read left.

Bill: Didn't she have like 2 weird animals in her back yard?

Roberta: They had two very large black Great Danes. Gosh, I remember early one morning I was taking our little Yorkie, Micky Finn, out in the back. I was probably still in my robe. All of the sudden, her dogs jumped the fence – both of them. I grabbed Micky and started running. They chased me all the way into my garage and didn't stop until I got to the back door. They could have killed both of us. They were just huge dogs.

Bill: Here's another story – one of our neighbors in South Dakota was a doctor at the same clinic dad had been in – Fred Lee. He loved coming down here in the winter. Dad would always heat the pool – you could heat the pool to 90 degrees back then for about \$75 a month on natural gas. Fred would come down here in the winter and he'd be out on the diving board – diving in and out of the pool – he'd stand on the board and the steam would just be coming off. He was this big red-headed hairy guy and he would look like some kind of creature. Dad would be sitting in a nearby lawn chair with a fur coat and fur hat on.

Dennis: Did you hear about the big floods in 1972? Mom and dad couldn't get home.

Bill: My wife's parents were visiting and staying with you guys. You went out for dinner and could hardly get back home. It had to be late spring or early summer of 1972.

Roberta: About that same time when I was working at the office it rained so much, we had trouble getting home. We still had a little dog at home. We tried several different routes, and

ROBERTA KILPATRICK & HER 2 SONS BILL AND DENNIS  
NOVEMBER 12, 2021

you just couldn't get through. There was just water all over. I remember Indian Bend down where that golf course is between Scottsdale Road and Hayden was all flooded. It was really scary. That area was just flooded terribly. Finally, there was one road we probably shouldn't have gone through, but we did, and we finally got home.

Dennis: None of that flood control system was there in 1972 – the Indian Bend wash and that whole system. Scottsdale Road often flooded where it was crossed by the Wash even into the 1990's.

Catherine: It was in 1974 that the Town widened and deepened the Berneil Ditch in order to handle large amounts of flood water which ran into the Indian Bend Wash.

Bill: Your house near McDonald and Mockingbird Lane was never threatened?

Roberta: No – we didn't have any trouble in the house.

Roberta: Bill and I saw the first houses built in McCormick Ranch, in Gainey Ranch, and the first house built in Fountain Hills.

Catherine: Did you belong to any social or civic groups?

Roberta: I was part of the Scottsdale Med-Wives Club in the 1970's and 80's. We were all doctor's wives from Scottsdale Memorial Hospital (Osborn). We used to meet in individual homes for lunches once a month. Eventually it started getting out of hand – it was getting so large that we couldn't do it anymore.

Bill: The Med-Wife's would put on these shows – Broadway shows – like Starlight Express, Cats – I can't even think of them all – huge productions – the costumes were great. The women would be the actors and sometimes the doctors acted as well.

Bill: The doctors had their own social club called Roadrunners. There were so few doctors in the early 1970's. They used to leave their offices early on Friday afternoons and would have a Happy Hour Party at Pink Pony.

Bill: So, you didn't want to get sick on Friday's.

Roberta: The Pink Pony was a very popular place. They didn't have dancing, but it was just a fun place to go.

Catherine: I know that you mentioned that you and your husband liked to dance. Where did you go dancing?

ROBERTA KILPATRICK & HER 2 SONS BILL AND DENNIS  
NOVEMBER 12, 2021

Roberta: We went to Mountain Shadows all of the time for dinner. They had this lovely large ballroom where we would dance to Dick and Libby Halleman. They just played our kind of music. We went so often they knew us well. In fact, we became friends. It was so much fun. They played all over the Phoenix area – the Royal Palms, the Safari Hotel. We danced everywhere they went. When you went out, everybody dressed up. Ladies wore long dresses or long skirts.

Dennis: The music that they loved was sort of the Big Band era. And those were the days you wouldn't dream of going out without a tie and coat on. But dad did kind of adopt the turquoise and string tie thing – bola tie. He'd wear cowboy boots sometimes later on.

Roberta: We would go to Lulu Belles in downtown Scottsdale. They also had music for dancing. We ate at Dale Anderson's The Other Place. Dale Anderson's had one restaurant downtown, then he moved to The Other Place on Lincoln.

Bill: I remember The Other Place had entertainers in the bar area. You would come in the front door and go left to the dining room and right to the bar. It was hopping back in the day and always packed. They always had live entertainment in the bar and a nice back patio. They had this outside back room where they used to have weddings. I think that building was actually part of Smoke Tree Resort.

Roberta: We always loved Handlebar J. It's still up on Shea Blvd. I haven't been there for so long. We'd often go on Sunday evenings. The Herndon Brothers band played western music there. We knew their parents and owners, Brick and Gwen Herndon, quite well. At that time, they were grinding their own hamburger – and they would also sell it to go. Really good sirloin. So, we always came home with ground sirloin.

Roberta: In the early 1970's, there was nothing much past Shea on Scottsdale Rd. The first store I remember was that mattress store – it's still there. This is when Scottsdale Road was just a little two-lane road. I remember the sheep and cattle all along the road all the way up to Carefree. My mother would come to visit and always liked to read the little signs along Scottsdale Road telling you the name of each cactus. Of course, all along the road, it was loaded with cacti.

Bill: One of your other favorite restaurants was Étienne's. Étienne Gluck, who owned the place, lived across the street from mom and dad – across from the Temple on McDonald Drive. His restaurant was on the corner of Tatum and Lincoln where Montelucia is now. It was in the La Posada. He would always kiss the lady's hand when they came in. The food was excellent.

Roberta: Oh my – that was a wonderful place. We knew him very well. When my mother would come to visit from Minnesota, we would always have to take her to Étienne's because she loved

ROBERTA KILPATRICK & HER 2 SONS BILL AND DENNIS  
NOVEMBER 12, 2021

to get her hand kissed. My mother also loved to see Liberace when he came to town. He played at the Celebrity Theater. The one in the round on 32<sup>nd</sup> Street.

Dennis: There was one restaurant mom and I were recently trying to remember the name of with the guy who played the organ. It was a fun place. You would walk in there at 7:30 and leave at 11pm – and that man seemed to never get up from his organ to take a break even though he drank one giant beer one after the other. It was on Scottsdale Rd. just east of where Fashion Square is now. Somewhere near the Safari Hotel.

Dennis: Mom and I were talking music and reminiscing about Nadine Jansen. She played the flugelhorn at J. Chew & Co. – “Chewy’s,” in Scottsdale and also at the Valley Ho. She was a very popular musician around here in the 1970’s.

Roberta: Do you remember Diamond Jim? The jeweler? My husband often bought things from him. He had a little shop in Old Town Scottsdale where he made a lot of his own jewelry. It was beautiful jewelry.

Dennis: He also made clocks. He made that clock on the wall. It’s shaped like a diamond. Mom has a bunch of things around here made by Diamond Jim. He was right on Scottsdale Road near Main St. – about where The American Fine Art Gallery is now located on the west side of the road.

Roberta: One of my favorite dress shops was the Quail Dress Shop. It was in Old Town Scottsdale - across from where Scottsdale Center for the Arts is now. There used to be little shops in there.

Catherine: When you sold your property in Paradise Valley – what was the reason – did you want to downsize?

Roberta: Yes, my husband had passed away in 1999 and I had been living there alone for a few years. Someone called and wanted to buy my house. So that prompted the whole thing. I got my boys involved. This was in 2006. I really hated to leave Paradise Valley.

Dennis: She really didn’t want to sell – even though the house needed work. She had low popcorn ceilings and the pool needed to be bombed out. This guy made offers – and we kept saying it wasn’t enough.

Roberta: He finally offered a price that I couldn’t resist.

ROBERTA KILPATRICK & HER 2 SONS BILL AND DENNIS  
NOVEMBER 12, 2021

Dennis: She sold it and they quickly tore it down. Her old address of 6036 N. Mockingbird Ln. no longer exists. They changed the property address to 6738 E Rovey Ave. She wouldn't drive by there for a long time after they tore it down.

Bill: I think this guy was from California and he was moving back to Arizona to build out a 9-acre gated development called Rancho Valencia. He'd been associated with Arizona before. Nice enough guy. He was trying to convince everybody in the neighborhood to sell. Do you remember he had that meeting at Kiva School with all of the neighbors? They were calling him out – didn't want some development here. He said, it's not a development. He only wanted to put 7 homes on 9 acres.

Dennis: The developer already owned the vacant land just to the south of mom's house, the Walton's Casa Verde Guest Ranch property off McDonald, and Avis Read's old house behind mom. He needed mom's house to make the development work. He paid an awful lot of money for her property and then started putting up his own house on the old Casa Verde Guest Ranch site.

Bill: The O'Brien's who lived just north of mom, never sold to him. And the neighbor across the street was so mad that he put up a big berm in front of his house. It's a little old ranch house and there's a big dirt berm in front because they were going to have head lights coming and going all night long where the gate is for that new development. Next time you drive past there, you'll notice the berm. The original little dirt road Mom and Dad used to walk down to get to the Casa Verde Guest Ranch became Rovey Ave.

Bill: Then in 2008 real estate crashed. It was just really bad timing for him. The development languished for years.



6036 N Mockingbird Lane in 1972

ROBERTA KILPATRICK & HER 2 SONS BILL AND DENNIS  
NOVEMBER 12, 2021

Catherine: When did you move to your current home in Scottsdale?

Roberta: I moved here in 2006.

Catherine: Is this an adult community?

Roberta: No, there are some children in here but not many. My cul-de-sac here has changed so much through the years. The only people I really see is the neighbor across the street who's lived here a long time. He and his girlfriend and I often get together for happy hour.

Roberta: I like living here. It's so close to everything I've known about for so many years.

Dennis: She still drives.

Catherine: You checked out her eyes?

Bill: She can see well.

Roberta: I've had a very nice life in Arizona. Paradise Valley was very good to me.

Catherine: Roberta, I have truly enjoyed listening to your story. Thank you for your interview.



Roberta and Bill Kilpatrick

ROBERTA KILPATRICK & HER 2 SONS BILL AND DENNIS  
NOVEMBER 12, 2021



Dennis, Bill Jr. and Roberta Kilpatrick



Roberta made this for her mother's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday from their old costume jewelry