

An Interview with  
**Judy Harris**

at *The Historical Society of Missouri* St. Louis  
Research Center, St. Louis, Missouri

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**Oral History Program**

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## PREFACE

The interview was taped on a placed on a tripod. There are periodic background sounds but the recording is of generally high quality.

The following transcript represents a rendering of the oral history interview. Stylistic alterations have been made as part of a general transcription policy. The interviewee offered clarifications and suggestions, which the following transcript reflects. Any use of brackets [ ] indicates editorial insertions not found on the original audio recordings. Physical gestures, certain vocal inflections such as imitation, and/or pauses are designated by a combination of italics and brackets [ ]. Any use of parentheses ( ) indicates a spoken aside evident from the speaker's intonation, or laughter. Quotation marks ["" ] identify speech depicting dialogue, speech patterns, or the initial use of nicknames. Em dashes [—] are used as a stylistic method to show a meaningful pause or an attempt to capture nuances of dialogue or speech patterns. Words are *italicized* when emphasized in speech or when indicating a court case title. Particularly animated speech is identified with **bold** lettering. Underlining [   ] indicates a proper title of a publication. The use of underlining and double question marks in parentheses [   (??) ] denotes unintelligible phrases. Although substantial care has been taken to render this transcript as accurately as possible, any remaining errors are the responsibility of the editor, Josephine Sporleder.

Judy Harris: My name is Judy Harris.

Blanche Touhill: Would you talk about who in your family...how was it to grow up in your family? Did you have a mother, father, siblings, cousins, friends in the neighborhood? How did you play? Did you play freely, like, you got on your bike and rode all over the neighborhood or did you have dancing on Monday and piano on Tuesday, whatever it is, and who in your family really urged you to be what you wanted to be?

Judy Harris: Well, there's no question, it was my father. My father was a Methodist minister and so where I was born, we were there for a very short time and then he was moved to another place and it was a small town, very small town, terrible school, terrible school. My brother had kindergarten at the other place. So there I was and I didn't have kindergarten and then he was moved in the fall of my 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, to a city and here I was, way behind. The other kids had had pre-school, kindergarten, and I had not. So I had a wonderful teacher. Her name was Mrs. Goldberg and she took me under her wing and she said, "Don't worry," and she just caught me up in no time. She just kept me after school and just caught me right up and I felt so indebted to her. She was a wonderful teacher. But anyway, back to my father, he was a remarkable man. He was bright, he was extroverted, he was sincere, he was...a wonderful thing...handsome man, the whole thing and I was his little girl and it was really wonderful and I never felt that I couldn't do anything. He made me feel like I was...to express myself and everything. So as I grew up, yeah, we were out and we played in the neighborhood and rode bikes and did all that sort of thing.

Blanche Touhill: Did you have siblings?

Judy Harris: I have one brother that passed away last year.

Blanche Touhill: Was he older or younger?

Judy Harris: Yes, four years older.

Blanche Touhill: And did your father do the same thing for him?

Judy Harris: Not as much. My mother did more for him. That's kind of, I guess, normal. But anyway, so as we grew up, things were wonderful and then he got cancer at a young age and he passed away at age 44 and I was 13

and left my mother a widow at 42. That was quite earth-shaking, that changed our lives really.

Blanche Touhill: Because you probably lived in a house owned by the church.

Judy Harris: We did.

Blanche Touhill: So you had to move?

Judy Harris: Yes, we did.

Blanche Touhill: Which I would think would be very traumatic.

Judy Harris: It wasn't. Thank goodness he had some insurance and things and my brother was then leaving for college so it was just my mother and me. At that point, I had kind of relied on him as my mentor, as my guy and so I decided to be very independent and I was. I got into high school and did everything I wanted to do and it was most things my mother didn't want me to do but I'd do them anyway because it was great. I got very involved in music and in drama and did all kinds of things like that.

Blanche Touhill: Are you a singer?

Judy Harris: Oh, no, no, not at all, just acting and didn't have...

Blanche Touhill: Did you play an instrument?

Judy Harris: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: What did you play?

Judy Harris: I played two instruments: I played flute and piccolo in the band, and I played cello in the orchestra.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, you were talented then?

Judy Harris: Well, not really.

Blanche Touhill: But you were a multi-tasker.

Judy Harris: Yeah. I thought, well, I can do anything I want and I ended up first chair in both. It's just the way I did things. I was just bound and determined. So then my drama coach said, "Well, the Civic Theater is looking for a teenager for a part in their big plays." He said, "I'd like for you to audition, just get the practice."

Blanche Touhill: This is high school?

Judy Harris: This is high school, and I went down, I auditioned and I got the part. Then I was in several of their productions and just thoroughly enjoyed it.

Blanche Touhill: And were you able to manage your school work?

Judy Harris: Yeah.

Blanche Touhill: And your music activity?

Judy Harris: Yeah, and I was in all kinds of activities.

Blanche Touhill: Was your mother proud of you?

Judy Harris: I'm not sure. She was kind of a closed person and so I'm not sure whether she could say things openly or not. I think she was but she couldn't demonstrate it.

Blanche Touhill: Was your brother proud of you?

Judy Harris: Yes, but he was away. He went four years of college, then he went to Europe for a year and studied and then he came back and went to graduate school. So he was gone. Now, he and I became close all these years and, like I say, he passed away last year and so I was there to see him a lot in the last few years, after he retired.

Blanche Touhill: What was your favorite part to play in the Civic Theater or in the high school?

Judy Harris: I was in *The Desperate Hours* which was a movie. I was the teenager in that and I think that was the most fun.

Blanche Touhill: Why was it the most fun?

Judy Harris: Well, I got to kiss my boyfriend in the play and that was pretty exciting, right on stage, and that was kind of fun.

Blanche Touhill: Was there an electricity between you?

Judy Harris: No, no. But it was just sort of fun to do.

Blanche Touhill: What town was that?

Judy Harris: Fort Wayne, Indiana.

- Blanche Touhill: Oh, that's way up north.
- Judy Harris: Yes, it's closer to Chicago, mm-hmm. So we had those cold winters like Chicago. So anyway, my life progressed.
- Blanche Touhill: Where did you go to college?
- Judy Harris: Depaul University [inaudible 06:08].
- Blanche Touhill: And that has a Church of Christ affiliation?
- Judy Harris: No, Methodist, and I went there because I got a scholarship because of my father.
- Blanche Touhill: Well, they should have done something.
- Judy Harris: Yes.
- Blanche Touhill: I shouldn't say that but I mean, it was sort of a "thank you" to the family for the dedication of the father.
- Judy Harris: Yes, right. So then, after college, I...
- Blanche Touhill: What did you major in?
- Judy Harris: Well, I just majored in, like, general, whatever. It was just, I didn't finish. I was not there my senior year. I got married and came to St. Louis because my husband was going to start law school at Wash U. So I went to work and I got into the executive training program at Stix Baer & Fuller and that was quite exciting because I had worked in stores since I was 16, always, and always with older ladies and all and I got to be friends with them and I felt mature. I did not feel the age difference at all so one of them asked me then...she was asked to come to another store and be hired. She asked me to come and work for her and all that. She was going to train me. Well, I got this job at Stix Baer & Fuller and that was kind of an exciting time because it was in the early '60s and back then, the training program was for men and women.
- Blanche Touhill: Was that new?
- Judy Harris: No, it was not new but the training program was for both men and women and back then, it was always taken for granted that men would

get the promotions first because they had to support a family and we women didn't have to.

Blanche Touhill: That's right. That was the attitude there as well.

Judy Harris: Just openly.

Blanche Touhill: You gave raises on the basis of if you were married and how many children you had, or how far were you from retirement or something.

Judy Harris: Exactly. But I decided...my will that I had...I still have, that I wasn't going to be passed over and I worked so hard and I did long hours and I just really worked and worked and I got promoted right along with the men. I was really tickled. I was very pleased with that.

Blanche Touhill: And that was before the Civil Rights Act of '64 that made us a protected class.

Judy Harris: That's right.

Blanche Touhill: So you worked for people that were willing to recognize ability?

Judy Harris: Well, I think they did because then the old Scruggs, Bamberg and Barney was still there and they recruited me from Stix and asked me to be the assistant buyer in the designer department which was a big deal. So I went over there and then Cubby Baer called me to his office and said, "You can't do this. You can't leave" and I said, "Well, I have to because of the money. I'm putting my husband through law school" so I did.

Blanche Touhill: Did you part friends?

Judy Harris: Yes, definitely, yeah. No, there was no...

Blanche Touhill: Because they weren't going to raise the salary?

Judy Harris: Well, I think they might have but I had already committed to the other and I don't go back on commitments. Then I started a family.

Blanche Touhill: While you were the assistant buyer?

Judy Harris: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: And your husband was still in law school?

Judy Harris: He was in his last year so it all worked out. So anyway, I had my children.



Blanche Touhill: How many children did you have?

Judy Harris: Two and I stayed home, I was a stay-at-home mom.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, so you quit Scruggs?

Judy Harris: I quit, yeah. I stayed home with the children.

Blanche Touhill: How long did you work as assistant buyer?

Judy Harris: Probably a couple years.

Blanche Touhill: So your first child you were still working?

Judy Harris: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: What did you do with the child while you were working?

Judy Harris: Oh, no, I quit as soon as I...while I was pregnant I still worked but then once I...

Blanche Touhill: Yes, okay.

Judy Harris: Mm-hmm. So anyway, I had my children, I stayed home with them and did all those kid things with them and I really enjoyed that.

Blanche Touhill: Did they go to good schools?

Judy Harris: Oh, yes.

Blanche Touhill: You made certain?

Judy Harris: Made certain and I made sure that they had pre-schools and the whole thing, and they both were very successful. So anyway, I kind of did that until they were in school full-time and then I started to go into the retail business.

Blanche Touhill: Did your husband get a job then, when he graduated?

Judy Harris: Oh, yeah, right away. Back then it was easier.

Blanche Touhill: When my husband went to law school, in the graduating class there were only 35 and he went to Washington U. He said to me he thought there were 50 when they started, or thereabouts.

Judy Harris: Yeah, they always drop out.

Blanche Touhill: But he said they drop in the first semester, they drop right away the first year.

Judy Harris: Right.

Blanche Touhill: And then he said by the time of the graduation, it was about 35.

Judy Harris: Right.

Blanche Touhill: So it was much easier to get a job than if you're in a class of 300.

Judy Harris: Exactly. So I stayed home and then I started this little retail business.

Blanche Touhill: Now, what was the retail business?

Judy Harris: Well, it was...and at that time, I ended up getting a divorce.

Blanche Touhill: And you had two children?

Judy Harris: I had two children.

Blanche Touhill: And how old were the children?

Judy Harris: They were in grade school.

Blanche Touhill: So they were, like, eight and six or something?

Judy Harris: No, a little older than that.

Blanche Touhill: Seven and ten or something.

Judy Harris: Yeah. So I started this little business and it turned out kind of fun and I had my retail background so I knew just what to do and I had pro shops in country clubs and in fitness centers and indoor tennis clubs and once I got two or three, then all of them called me, "Do mine; please take ours," do this.

Blanche Touhill: Was that a new idea, to put the shop in the golf course?

Judy Harris: No, they all had them but they were doing so poorly because they didn't know how to run it and I had the advantage because they all called then and said, "Take ours," then I could rotate them.

Blanche Touhill: How did you get the idea first to do it?

- Judy Harris: I don't know. I played a lot of tennis and so I was in tennis places where I saw this dinky pro shop and I thought, boy, they could use some help. It just kind of happened.
- Blanche Touhill: Did you first approach the one that you belonged to?
- Judy Harris: I think they approached me because they knew I had a retail background. It's been a long time ago so I'm trying to think, but I think they did. I think they said, "There's a buying show and maybe you could go, if we paid your way and look around and see," and I said, "Sure, I can do that." So that's how it started, I can remember now.
- Blanche Touhill: So you sort of stumbled into it but you had the expertise to make it...
- Judy Harris: ...better, yeah.
- Blanche Touhill: Weren't you lucky.
- Judy Harris: Yeah, and I had all these locations so I would take merchandise from one and then take it to the next one in about two weeks so it was fresh and new. I took the stuff around and all of that so it worked out really well. I did that for quite a number of years and it kept growing and growing and growing. I ended up with, like, 30-some employees.
- Blanche Touhill: Did you man the shops?
- Judy Harris: I manned some of them and the clubs manned some of them. It was a combination.
- Blanche Touhill: You know, I never thought about it before but I shouldn't have used they "manned" the shops. I should have used, that they had salespersons or something. You know, that's funny about how words change depending on the era in which you were (going?).
- Judy Harris: That's right. So anyway, I did that and then tennis started declining, generally and so...
- Blanche Touhill: Do you know why that was?
- Judy Harris: No, I don't know for sure. There were a lot of things, I think, happened.
- Blanche Touhill: Do you think golf grew for women and it took them away from tennis?
- Judy Harris: Not necessarily because an awful lot of women played both.

Blanche Touhill: Even in those early days?

Judy Harris: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: But they didn't play at the same time as the men unless they played with the men?

Judy Harris: And that's still true a lot of places.

Blanche Touhill: Is it?

Judy Harris: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: They have to play later in the day?

Judy Harris: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: Because the men go through faster or something?

Judy Harris: Well, they don't but they think they do and they want the club all to themselves. That's the way it goes.

Blanche Touhill: What makes a difference between those clubs that haven't moved with the modern world and those who have?

Judy Harris: I think the clubs that have not is just dug in tradition and they just really don't want to change.

Blanche Touhill: Have they been able to survive economically?

Judy Harris: Yes, some of the biggest clubs are like that still. So anyway, I was looking around for maybe something new to do and I fell into a company that wanted me and it was a small company but it was out of Germany and world-wide they have 300 stores and that's a small company.

Blanche Touhill: How did they find you?

Judy Harris: Well, I was recruited somehow but I don't know how that happened. Anyway, they asked me to come to work for them and we had a store here at Plaza Frontenac and it was called Mondy, is the same of the store. It's no longer.

Blanche Touhill: M-o-n-d-e...

Judy Harris: d-i.

Blanche Touhill: M-o-n-d-i.

Judy Harris: Mm-hmm and it was ladies higher-end clothing. So I went to work for them at Plaza Frontenac and I was there, like, three months and they asked me to move...by this time, I was single and my children were grown...

Blanche Touhill: Okay. And you were able to support your children with child support and make a comfortable living?

Judy Harris: Mm-hmm.

Blanche Touhill: And send your children to schools they wanted to go to?

Judy Harris: Mm-hmm.

Blanche Touhill: Well, you were remarkable.

Judy Harris: It was fun.

Blanche Touhill: Yeah, but go on.

Judy Harris: So then I went to work for Mondy at Plaza Frontenac for about three months.

Blanche Touhill: Did you keep your other business going?

Judy Harris: No, I phased that out.

Blanche Touhill: Did you sell it?

Judy Harris: Well, I sold parts of it and phased out some. So anyway, they asked me then to move to Palm Beach...

Blanche Touhill: ...in Florida.

Judy Harris: ...Florida and to man their...I used the word...

Blanche Touhill: To manage.

Judy Harris: ...to manage one of their largest stores and it's right on Worth Avenue, very high class, the whole thing. So I talked to my children and they said, "Well, yeah, we're fine. We're on our own and, yeah, go." So they moved me. I moved to Palm Beach and I was there and really enjoyed it and we did great business. So they said, "Well, now, how do you do this great

business?” and I said, “Well, it’s all really customer service and it’s really a friendly atmosphere.” They said, “Well, would you go out all over the country for us in the slow season, which is summer, and do a shopper in all our stores and just see. They won’t know who you are and just see what kind of service we’re getting from our people.” So I did that and I came back and...

Blanche Touhill: And you traveled all over the United States?

Judy Harris: The whole country.

Blanche Touhill: And how long did it take?

Judy Harris: It took the summer. There were 50 stores.

Blanche Touhill: How wonderful. So you went all over?

Judy Harris: All over, and so I came back and I wrote it all up and some were better than others and they said, “Okay, here’s what you do. We want you to write a manual and then I want you to take it and go do training in all these stores.” So I did them by districts. I didn’t go to every store to do this. I mean, they’d have five or six managers at a meeting and I’d do that.

Blanche Touhill: Did you do follow-up to see if they carried out the manual instructions?

Judy Harris: Well, I had a little trouble with some of the managers not wanting to take what I said.

Blanche Touhill: Because you were a woman or because you...

Judy Harris: No, it was all women. It wasn’t that but they just thought, “Hum, she just came in here and now she’s telling everybody what to do.” Well, the head person of our company in the United States was a woman and she stepped in and said, “Now, listen, you’re going to listen” and so they kind of went along. It was fine then.

Blanche Touhill: Did their business go up?

Judy Harris: I think some of them did. I didn’t see the sales results for all those stores after that because we were very busy then, it was our season...

Blanche Touhill: So then you went back to the Palm Springs store?

Judy Harris: Yeah, Palm Beach. So anyway, we went back there and I had my staff and two assistants and I said, "Now listen, after all this training, we've got to really do it; we've got to do it."

Blanche Touhill: Yourselves?

Judy Harris: Yes, so we worked and I worked...well, my kids weren't there so I was able to work. I had to work seven days a week and they were closed on Sunday so I'd come in and do all of my managing stuff on Sunday and paperwork and this and that and then I was on the floor all the time, all the time, just making sure that my staff is doing it.

Blanche Touhill: I think that's what it takes.

Judy Harris: It does. We ended up being the number one store in the company and I was the number one salesperson and both of my assistants were second and it was very satisfying.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, of course it was. And you know what? You were right because if you were teaching other people, then you had to carry out those same principles where you were.

Judy Harris: That's right. So then they decided...

Blanche Touhill: Did you play chess as a child?

Judy Harris: No, I didn't.

Blanche Touhill: Because you're thinking ahead.

Judy Harris: Oh, yes.

Blanche Touhill: And I thought, how did you get that training?

Judy Harris: Oh, boy, planning an organization is so important on everything.

Blanche Touhill: To you?

Judy Harris: Oh, yes.

Blanche Touhill: But did that come out of your childhood family setting?

Judy Harris: I don't know where it came from.

Blanche Touhill: Or was it your personality?

Judy Harris: I think it was part of my personality because I was very independent and very...thinking about, okay, now, what am I going to do next? Oh, isn't that heaven. So then they decided to move me to Chicago and they wanted me to take regional supervisor of the Eastern stores, everything including St. Louis, east of the Mississippi. So I did that.

Blanche Touhill: And you traveled once again?

Judy Harris: I traveled and traveled. I traveled about 21 days a month.

Blanche Touhill: And what did you do when you got to the store?

Judy Harris: Well, I would really spend time with the manager and her staff and I'd almost always take her to lunch and then just say, "Tell me what's going on and how things are going?" It was to the point then that I had to fire some of them because I would explain what they had to do and I'd say, "Well, now, I'll be back and I want to see if you're able to do these things" and I had it in writing and I came back and some did and some didn't. I'd write it up again and then the third time, I'd have to say to them, "I'm going to let you go" but I never had a lawsuit because I had it so documented.

Blanche Touhill: How did you appoint the next person?

Judy Harris: I recruited.

Blanche Touhill: Not from the staff within?

Judy Harris: Once in a while.

Blanche Touhill: Okay. There was somebody there who you could sense really wanted to cooperate?

Judy Harris: Yes, and I think that's something that's always been inside me, is that I really read people. I can spot it if it's good or not or if it's going to be successful, and my husband now says, "My goodness, you read people."

Blanche Touhill: You know, I worked for Marguerite Ross Barnett who was the chancellor here and she could read people. I can't do that. If I'm interviewing somebody for a job, I honestly can't tell you whether they're going to do it or not but there are some people...she could come in a room, she could have a conversation and she would say to me...



Judy Harris: ..."They're good," mm-hmm.

Blanche Touhill: Mm-hmm, "They're good" or "Stay away from them" and I always marveled at people that had that sense. You don't know why you have it?

Judy Harris: I don't know for sure.

Blanche Touhill: No, I don't think she knew either. She had experience but it was more than experience. It's a wonderful thing to be able to have.

Judy Harris: Right. So then I met Harvey.

Blanche Touhill: Well, how did you meet Harvey?

Judy Harris: Well, our paths had crossed over the years a lot.

Blanche Touhill: In St. Louis?

Judy Harris: In St. Louis, yeah.

Blanche Touhill: And then, did you come to St. Louis and you got together when he came?

Judy Harris: Well, he called me when I was in Florida, just out of the clear blue and he said, "Are you going to be in St. Louis any time soon?" and I said...because he was getting divorced too and I was already single and I said, "Well, I'm going to be there for my son's wedding coming up" and he said, "Well, would you have dinner with me?" I said, "Okay." And so that's how it started and he chased me around all over the country, three years, and then he finally said, "Well, we ought to get married" and I said, "Well, I don't know." I didn't know whether I wanted to do that again.

Blanche Touhill: Well, because you'd come back to St. Louis then, wouldn't you?

Judy Harris: Yes. So anyway, the company said I could headquarter out of St. Louis. So we got married and I worked for about another 10 months. I was gone 21 days a month and he said, "Why don't you retire?"

Blanche Touhill: Yes, and you had worked a long time by then.

Judy Harris: Yeah. I said, "Well, okay." So after that, then he got very worried. He thought, "I only know her as a business woman. I won't what she's going to do?"

Blanche Touhill: "How will she occupy her time?"

Judy Harris: But I did, I started with my charity work...

Blanche Touhill: Let's stop for a moment. Who supported you...really, I'm talking about intellectually? You said your father; you said the school teacher, Mrs. Goldberg?

Judy Harris: Mm-hmm, Goldberg.

Blanche Touhill: Who else?

Judy Harris: I got very independent and very self-driven. I really think...

Blanche Touhill: ...it was within you?

Judy Harris: ...within me. It was just there. I was always pushing forward and I was determined. I think that's a perfect word for me, I was determined.

Blanche Touhill: Did you have trouble as a woman in the business world?

Judy Harris: No, I did not.

Blanche Touhill: Is that because retailing is...but it's male controlled, isn't it?

Judy Harris: It is. The owner of the company was a man but he wasn't around much. He lived in Germany and so this woman that was head of our company in the United States...and I got along just fine with her, just everything was hunky-dory. She kept promoting me.

Blanche Touhill: Did you have trouble with any of the women that worked for you?

Judy Harris: No, we got along great. We really did.

Blanche Touhill: When I first went into an administrative appointment, I walked into the office the first day and the secretary said, "I won't work for a woman," and she said, "so I want you to know, at the end of this day, I've been to personnel and they're moving me and they're moving somebody else in to replace me." But I never had anybody else in all the after years say something to me like that.

Judy Harris: No.

Blanche Touhill: And I thought, I wonder what happened to her in the future? Did she just demand that she would only work for men? It was a, you know,

“Welcome to the office; I’m quitting” because I won’t work for a woman.”

Judy Harris: That’s right.

Blanche Touhill: But you didn’t have that?

Judy Harris: I didn’t, I really didn’t have that ever.

Blanche Touhill: Was it a big decision to quit the company?

Judy Harris: Kind of but I was okay with it.

Blanche Touhill: You were ready?

Judy Harris: And I worked a long time and I was tired of traveling, I was really tired of traveling. I mean, I’d wake up in some hotel and they were very good with me and with the company, stay in nice places and eat out nicely and it was nice travel, and travel then was easier than it is now.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, but did you have a credit card?

Judy Harris: No, but I had an expense account that was unlimited practically.

Blanche Touhill: So you charged it to the expense account?

Judy Harris: I charged it to my card, wrote it all out at the end...

Blanche Touhill: But you had a card, a credit card?

Judy Harris: Oh, yeah.

Blanche Touhill: Because I used to travel before the credit cards.

Judy Harris: Oh, no, I had credit cards.

Blanche Touhill: No, I didn’t have a credit card so I used American Express.

Judy Harris: Mm-hmm. And then I’d just fill out a form at the end of the month, send it in and they’d send me a check. It was real simple. Well, for one thing, after I quit work, we have a big old house that Harvey hadn’t done anything to for a long time...

Blanche Touhill: Is it in U City?

Judy Harris: No, it’s on Westmoreland Place.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, yes. Those are beautiful homes.

Judy Harris: Oh, and he had done nothing. So I went to work on that and that was fun.

Blanche Touhill: And you know the retail industry.

Judy Harris: Yeah.

Blanche Touhill: You know where the buy things?

Judy Harris: Yeah. So I did that and worked on that for a while.

Blanche Touhill: Were you the interior decorator or did you hire people?

Judy Harris: I did my own. I've always done my own, even when I had my own home and everything, I did everything. So anyway, I started with volunteering and charity work.

Blanche Touhill: How did you choose which charity?

Judy Harris: The first one was a board member from COCA.

Blanche Touhill: How did you get in with COCA?

Judy Harris: Well, Harvey had been there and he says, "I know somebody that would be great on your board," and told about me and so that's how I got on.

Blanche Touhill: And they were new at that time?

Judy Harris: Not completely new. They were about maybe 10 years old.

Blanche Touhill: Okay, because what are they now, 25, 30?

Judy Harris: Yeah, it would have been 35 or more, yes. And they've grown. They've done a good job.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, yeah.

Judy Harris: Then I got on the Red Cross board and the St. Louis chapter is wonderful. I had a little disaster there because I was development chair when 9/11 happened and the money just poured in, all directed for New York and our poor chapter was really hurting. I mean, it all just went straight through us and into New York. So the chapter had a couple of really rough years but now they've, of course, recovered. They're wonderful and they do all their great things. But that was kind of an experience.

Blanche Touhill: What if people wanted to give blood, did that blood go to New York?

Judy Harris: Blood and the other are totally separate. We're disaster, we were disaster. Disaster is different. We go to the fires, we go to all of those things.

Blanche Touhill: Tell me something: I know people volunteer for that, to go to these other towns...

Judy Harris: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: How do you get people to do that?

Judy Harris: Well, they really want to and they go through a very strict training program. You don't just get somebody in and just say, "Okay, you can go." It's really a big training program.

Blanche Touhill: And how do they handle their jobs when they go?

Judy Harris: Well, a lot of them don't. I mean, a lot of them are retired or they work that are at home or things like that because they're gone for a long time sometimes.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, because they work the people to fill out the formers, don't they?

Judy Harris: Well, they do everything. They go in with the cots and blankets and everything. It's really a major thing for them to do.

Blanche Touhill: And do they come from all over the United States to do this?

Judy Harris: Well, each chapter has a volunteer process so it's pretty interesting. So when there's a major disaster...

Blanche Touhill: Let's say New Orleans.

Judy Harris: Yeah, well, quite a few from St. Louis went there, mm-hmm.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, and then they work under the New Orleans leadership?

Judy Harris: Well, they work under somebody from Red Cross that's way up high that comes in and they're the captain, like, yeah, because I ran into a lady in California who has been doing it for 20 years and she just loves it.

Blanche Touhill: How do they put those people up?

Judy Harris: They have places they put them, like, mobile homes and all kinds of things. They have all kinds of different...it's different for every catastrophe depending on what it is.

Blanche Touhill: Yes. But that last one in New Orleans must have been horrendous.

Judy Harris: Yeah, and so widespread.

Blanche Touhill: Yes. So you enjoyed that?

Judy Harris: Yeah.

Blanche Touhill: Now, how did you raise money for them? Do you have benefits?

Judy Harris: We did. I chaired two of the benefits for them but it's hard. It's really word-of-mouth or the Red Cross, and there was the Clara Barton Society which is...and all of that.

Blanche Touhill: What is the Clara Barton Society?

Judy Harris: That's anyone who's a thousand dollars a year.

Blanche Touhill: And then you cultivate those people?

Judy Harris: Yes. Most of the organizations have that kind of thing.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, of course they do, yes.

Judy Harris: Because I'm currently on the board at the Library Central.

Blanche Touhill: Let me go back to the Red Cross. Do you then report into the board and the board person talks to the head of the Red Cross? How does that work?

Judy Harris: Well, yes, I was on the board.

Blanche Touhill: Are you the fiduciary board though for the Red Cross chapter here?

Judy Harris: Well, it's part of my duty to raise money, yes, and we have a committee and we have people, volunteers for that too.

Blanche Touhill: I guess what I'm trying to ask is, does the director sit on the board of the Red Cross here?

Judy Harris: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: That's what I'm asking.

Judy Harris: But there is a chair that runs the board.

Blanche Touhill: And they raise money...

Judy Harris: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: And then they say where this money should go...

Judy Harris: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: ...but the director of the Red Cross can say, "I'd rather you have it over here"?

Judy Harris: Exactly.

Blanche Touhill: Okay. How much money did you raise for them?

Judy Harris: I can't remember.

Blanche Touhill: But it was a lot? It was enough to keep them going?

Judy Harris: No, we had to lay off a few people even in those couple of years.

Blanche Touhill: Go on.

Judy Harris: Then I went on the board of the St. Louis Zoo and I did a couple of terms there and while I was on the board, I chaired Zoofari which is a huge job.

Blanche Touhill: That's wonderful. Can you describe what Zoofari is?

Judy Harris: Well, Zoofari is...every other year, it's an event to raise money but it's also a fun event and it's multi-faceted because there's so many things going on. They always have a big band in from out of town. We have three satellite bands, we have 65 restaurants that set up booths and give away food for us. It's just a huge undertaking. So naturally my year was 2009 when we were in not such good times for people and I thought, oh, boy, I'm going to take this and I'm going to make a million dollars because nobody's ever done it. I'm going to do it. Well, by March before it, I thought, oh, my goodness, what are we going to do? I mean, the money just was tight. But we ended up well over eight hundred thousand so I felt very successful.

Blanche Touhill: And that was the recession?

Judy Harris: That was during the recession.

Blanche Touhill: In the early years.

Judy Harris: Mm-hmm. That was 2009, yeah.

Blanche Touhill: And I'll bet everybody was cutting back.

Judy Harris: Oh, everything, everything: I mean, corporate giving; people, individuals...

Blanche Touhill: What I like about it is you arrive and it's still sort of light and you walk around and you listen to bands and you eat the food and you look at the animals...

Judy Harris: Absolutely.

Blanche Touhill: ...and then it slowly gets dark and the lights come on. It's a wonderful...

Judy Harris: It really is, it's a tradition in St. Louis.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, it is.

Judy Harris: And we always say it's the biggest party in town.

Blanche Touhill: It is the biggest party in town.

Judy Harris: Mm-hmm.

Blanche Touhill: So what else did you serve on?

Judy Harris: Oh, my goodness. Well, I told you about the library.

Blanche Touhill: Talk about the library. You were down in the Carnegie Library?

Judy Harris: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: Talk about the Carnegie Library.

Judy Harris: Well, I went on the board before we had our major renovation and it was a seventy million dollar renovation, which is pretty big, and I was concerned, I thought...I went on several hard hat tours and when I saw what all they were doing, I thought, wait a minute, how are they doing it all for seventy million? It's just so unbelievable, what they were doing, the architects and the...I mean, it was really something. So anyway, it was finished and during this time, I was chair of the Tennessee Williams



Society which is the upper level giving for that and we increased our membership nicely during that time, even with the capital campaign because the foundation, the board that I was on, we raised twenty million towards the renovation so that's pretty good.

Blanche Touhill: Over how many years, five or something?

Judy Harris: At least, yeah. So anyway, I'm still on their board and enjoying it and it's completed and it's just magnificent. If you haven't been there, you have to go see it.

Blanche Touhill: No, I have gone.

Judy Harris: You have?

Blanche Touhill: I'm a native St. Louisan and so, as a child, I have great memories of going to the St. Louis Public Library, the main branch, into the children's room and so I've always treasured...who was the original architect? It wasn't Cass Gilbert or somebody, was it?

Judy Harris: Yes, the same one that did the art museum, mm-hmm.

Blanche Touhill: So it is Cass?

Judy Harris: Yes, I just couldn't spit it out.

Blanche Touhill: And it was, Carnegie put up the building but the city had to provide the books and the help?

Judy Harris: Yeah. He put up fifty million and then the rest was up to us to raise and to complete and so we did.

Blanche Touhill: And what year was that, before World War I or after?

Judy Harris: Yes, it's almost 100 years, I think.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, I think it is, too. So it was before World War I?

Judy Harris: Yeah.

Blanche Touhill: It was probably the turn of the century when Carnegie was giving his money away.

Judy Harris: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: And there are a number of libraries, I think, in the St. Louis City library system that are also Carnegie buildings.

Judy Harris: I don't think any Carnegie buildings but some magnificent ones.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, some magnificent ones.

Judy Harris: Yes. There are 15 branches.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, and there's one on Jefferson, near Highway...I guess it's 55.

Judy Harris: I'm trying to think because we had meetings at a lot of them. We didn't go to all of them.

Blanche Touhill: I only went in once or twice in my life but I thought, this is a gorgeous building.

Judy Harris: Yeah, and what they did to it was so high tech.

Blanche Touhill: Downtown?

Judy Harris: Downtown.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, yeah, they did.

Judy Harris: Everything in the walls is high tech and they restored the things that happened to the building in the '60s. They had ripped out some of those beautiful ceilings and put in florescent lights and things but they restored all that so it was marvelous.

Blanche Touhill: And the art work was still there, the colored glass?

Judy Harris: Oh, yeah, it's all still there.

Blanche Touhill: It was hidden or they stored it away?

Judy Harris: No, it was there. It just had to be cleaned.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, okay, so it was covered over and then they took out those ceilings and there it was?

Judy Harris: Yeah.

- Blanche Touhill: Oh, how wonderful. I took the tour. They give tours and when it first opened, I wait a couple of weeks and then I went down. It is a magnificent structure.
- Judy Harris: Right.
- Blanche Touhill: And aren't you proud you helped restore it?
- Judy Harris: Oh, it's just marvelous. I'm taking some people there Monday afternoon for a tour. It's a younger couple that I think I can get them involved.
- Blanche Touhill: Yes. They don't have a restaurant, do they, or a coffee shop?
- Judy Harris: They have a little café now.
- Blanche Touhill: Today, good, because even our college library now has a little coffee shop.
- Judy Harris: Right.
- Blanche Touhill: What other groups were you on?
- Judy Harris: I was on the Arts & Education Council, chaired two of their events. They have the big event where they honor people. I chaired two of those. I was chair of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Repertory Theater.
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, yes, that's another new institution in St. Louis. Well, it's probably now 50 years old or something.
- Judy Harris: It is. This is the 50<sup>th</sup> year now.
- Blanche Touhill: It's made wonderful contributions. What else?
- Judy Harris: Black Cat Theater. I was chairing an event for the St. Louis Science Center.
- Blanche Touhill: And that's another new institution.
- Judy Harris: Mm-hmm.
- Blanche Touhill: Well, it's always been here but it wasn't as publicly...
- Judy Harris: Right.
- Blanche Touhill: It didn't have that outreach to the public that the new group brought.

- Judy Harris: And that was an interesting year because they had had a circus theme that year and they had brought in the Wallendas and had it all in the Explorer Dome. Do you...
- Blanche Touhill: Yes, I do remember the Explorer...
- Judy Harris: Well, so they came to me and wanted me to chair the event and so Doug King, he came to me and he says, "We have a problem." He said, "The Explorer Dome is going to be used for Titanic Exhibit and so we can't use that so I don't know what we're going to do for the gala." He says, "It's going to make so much money and we can't pass it up." I said, "I'll tell you what we ought to do: if it's going to make that much money, we'll have ours in a tent like a circus theme and they can pay for it," and he said, "Oh, I think we can do that." So we had it in a huge tent adjoining the Explorer Dome and had a circus theme and we got the Wallendas to come back and as people came in, they were performing over the dance floor and all and it was real exciting.
- Blanche Touhill: Could you go through then the Explorer Dome to look at the exhibits at the same time you were...no?
- Judy Harris: No.
- Blanche Touhill: It was closed?
- Judy Harris: We had cocktails in the Explorer Dome.
- Blanche Touhill: That's what I'm asking. I think I went to that one.
- Judy Harris: Mm-hmm and then there was a little pathway, covered pathway out...
- Blanche Touhill: Yes, that's right, yes.
- Judy Harris: So that took a little planning but it came off great.
- Blanche Touhill: Yes. The Wallendas didn't have any...
- Judy Harris: ...nets. They hardly ever do.
- Blanche Touhill: Or any wires. Well, let me change the subject just a bit: If you had been born 50 years earlier, what would your life have been like?
- Judy Harris: I can't imagine because I think the world has changed so fast. Fifty years before...because I'm almost 78 and 50 years before when I was born, I

don't know where or what I would have done because I don't know how...

Blanche Touhill: What year would that approximately or what decade?

Judy Harris: Well, I was born in '39 so it would have been...

Blanche Touhill: ...1880 or something.

Judy Harris: Yeah.

Blanche Touhill: Or 1890.

Judy Harris: And I can't even imagine what my life would be like then.

Blanche Touhill: Well, you might have been a salesperson in a department store.

Judy Harris: But that's all the further you'd ever get.

Blanche Touhill: But that's all the further you would ever get, that's right. You might do the work as a supervisor but you wouldn't get the pay and you wouldn't get the title.

Judy Harris: That's exactly right.

Blanche Touhill: And your salary wouldn't go up very much over the years.

Judy Harris: Mm-hmm. And so now...

Blanche Touhill: And you would have quit when you had children?

Judy Harris: Yes, oh, definitely.

Blanche Touhill: And never gone back.

Judy Harris: And never gone back, right, but now, Harvey and I have done some things together which is fun and we've chaired some things.

Blanche Touhill: I want to go to that but let me go to the next question: What's the theme of your life?

Judy Harris: The theme of my life, determination, I think, always looking for something else to do. I took up golf when I was 60.

Blanche Touhill: Did you take lessons?

Judy Harris: I've taken some. I'm not real good but it's fun and that's something we can do together.

Blanche Touhill: Yeah. And what award or awards are you particularly proud of?

Judy Harris: Well, Woman of Achievement, I think that's a lovely thing and then Harvey and I were awarded...one of them was Sisterhood and Brotherhood Award and another one was Nine Network because he's been very active with that and then I'm always with him with all the things there.

Blanche Touhill: Does he give legal advice? Is he a pro bono legal or is he...

Judy Harris: He is now that he's retired.

Blanche Touhill: No, but I'm just saying before?

Judy Harris: Well, he's been on the board for so long, yeah.

Blanche Touhill: But was he on the board as the lawyer or was he on the board as Harvey?

Judy Harris: He was on the board as Harvey and, of course, they'd pick his brain.

Blanche Touhill: You took his name, didn't you?

Judy Harris: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: Did you think about...

Judy Harris: It was easy.

Blanche Touhill: No, it was easy. So you had a professional world name and then you had a social name?

Judy Harris: Yeah.

Blanche Touhill: Did you do that with your first husband as well?

Judy Harris: Mm-hmm. Well, back in those days...

Blanche Touhill: You just took the husband's name?

Judy Harris: Yeah, you didn't think about it, but this time...and he wanted me to be Mrs. Harris and I was happy with that.

Blanche Touhill: Talk about today, what are you and Harvey up to?

Judy Harris: Well, we're still involved with a lot of things, not as much as we were 10 years ago but a lot. Then we leave in the winter for a while. We're leaving in a few weeks and we go to Palm Desert this time.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, do you, in California?

Judy Harris: Yeah, mm-hmm.

Blanche Touhill: And do you own a place or rent a place or what?

Judy Harris: We lease a place because we've got enough of a house here for me to manage. I'd rather walk out and lock it up and not have to worry.

Blanche Touhill: And where do you go in that area?

Judy Harris: We go to Rancho Mirage and we enjoy it a lot. The weather is just marvelous and he has three children in California so that makes a difference. And they come and visit and then we visit with them and that sort of thing. So it's wonderful.

Blanche Touhill: Wonderful. Are you active out there in something?

Judy Harris: No.

Blanche Touhill: It's a time to relax?

Judy Harris: It is and you can't get involved. I don't like to get involved in something that I can't commit to for long-term because I don't think you should join something and then say, "Well, I'll be out of town and I can't be at those meetings." I want to be at things that I'm involved with now that I can call in and be in a meeting. You can't just say, "Well, I'm going to be gone for three-and-a-half months but I'll be on it still." I resigned from one particular thing because I couldn't get to the meetings. I said, I'm not going to be on this and not be here and not be part of it.

Blanche Touhill: Yes.

Judy Harris: I just don't think that's appropriate.

Blanche Touhill: Are your children volunteers?

Judy Harris: Somewhat, not as much as I was. They're still busy with their families.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, that's true.

Judy Harris: And that makes a difference.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, it does make a difference.

Judy Harris: But, between Harvey and me, we have 14 grandchildren and so they're now growing up and we have three out of college and four in college and five or six in high school. It's just busy but they're fun, they're wonderful.

Blanche Touhill: That's wonderful. Are any in St. Louis?

Judy Harris: Well, we have one family in Belleville and then we have one granddaughter from California at Wash U.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, how nice. And what's she studying?

Judy Harris: She's thinking pretty hard about pre-med.

Blanche Touhill: Is she in that special program they have?

Judy Harris: She's not yet. She's just...

Blanche Touhill: No, she's just starting.

Judy Harris: Yeah.

Blanche Touhill: Or she's in the undergraduate?

Judy Harris: Oh, yes, she's a sophomore, yeah.

Blanche Touhill: And she's doing well?

Judy Harris: She did really well her first year, all A's and one A- so that's good.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, how wonderful. Well then, she probably will get into medical school. Isn't that wonderful.

Judy Harris: But we have several of our grandchildren who have done really, really well.

Blanche Touhill: Like what?

Judy Harris: Well, I have a grandson in Belleville that was in a large class. Bellville East is a huge school, 600-some or something and he was 13<sup>th</sup> in his class so I think that's pretty good.

Blanche Touhill: That is wonderful.



Judy Harris: And he was an eagle scout too.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, how wonderful.

Judy Harris: Mm-hmm.

Blanche Touhill: Was Harvey an eagle scout?

Judy Harris: No.

Blanche Touhill: Was your son an eagle scout?

Judy Harris: No, but my son was scout leader and helped him through all of that.

Blanche Touhill: Yeah, he encouraged the boy to do that?

Judy Harris: Very much so, helped him through it all.

Blanche Touhill: Yeah. Do you have close friends from your childhood?

Judy Harris: No, because I grew up in...

Blanche Touhill: You moved?

Judy Harris: Yeah, I moved away. Now, I went back for my high school 50<sup>th</sup> reunion and had a ball. It was really good. Now, I still see some of them on Facebook but as far as in contact, everybody's scattered and particularly one that I was close to, is in Seattle and one is in New York so I just...

Blanche Touhill: Yeah, those are distant places.

Judy Harris: Yeah.

Blanche Touhill: And what about from college?

Judy Harris: Not as much.

Blanche Touhill: Okay.

Judy Harris: Well, like I say, I left and got married and my life just went boom then.

Blanche Touhill: Did you have friends from your working world?

Judy Harris: Yes, for a while but everybody's getting older.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, that's right and they don't want to travel as much?

Judy Harris: No, because, see, I retired 25 years ago.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, yes.

Judy Harris: So it's been a while.

Blanche Touhill: So your friends are really St. Louis and particularly from the volunteer activities?

Judy Harris: Exactly, I've made lots of friends with my volunteer activities and Harvey's friends from his and so it's pretty widespread.

Blanche Touhill: Did Harvey go to Wash U Law School?

Judy Harris: No, he went to Harvard undergrad and Harvard grad.

Blanche Touhill: Did he?

Judy Harris: Mm-hmm.

Blanche Touhill: How did he decide to do that?

Judy Harris: He had a teacher in high school that encouraged him and so he did. He did well, Phi Beta Kappa.

Blanche Touhill: I meet a lot of people whose teachers, at some level...and you had Mrs. Goldberg, but teachers do encourage you.

Judy Harris: Mm-hmm.

Blanche Touhill: How about your mother, did she ever say, "I'm proud of you?"

Judy Harris: Not a lot. I mean, she was a very closed person. My father was the extrovert, yeah.

Blanche Touhill: But, I meant at the end of her life?

Judy Harris: She wanted me to come and help take care of her.

Blanche Touhill: Of course.

Judy Harris: Yeah, and she had remarried after my father died because she was younger, 42 and so then she married a man that my father and mother had as friends and his wife died and my father died and then they ended up getting together several years later.

Blanche Touhill: I think that's more common than you'd think.

Judy Harris: It is because they have all the same friends, interests and everything so it worked out.

Blanche Touhill: And they knew each other a long time?

Judy Harris: Oh, yeah, and he was the only grandfather my kids knew so it was wonderful.

Blanche Touhill: Of all your volunteer activities, name one or two that are especially...

Judy Harris: Don't make me pick.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, well, I won't if you don't want to.

Judy Harris: Well, they all were special in their own particular way because they are all very different so I think that it's like children, how do you pick?

Blanche Touhill: That's right, they're all equal.

Judy Harris: Mm-hmm.

Blanche Touhill: What are your plans for the next five or ten years?

Judy Harris: Well, I'll just keep doing what I'm doing and I'm going to do it as long as I can.

Blanche Touhill: There must be some things that you and Harvey do together and there's some things that you don't.

Judy Harris: Well, he has his boards and things and I have my things that I do and he has men friends and I have women friends and then we have couples friends. So we do play golf together and that's great because we go out there and we don't know other people but where we live out there, they're very friendly and we've met a lot of couples there and so that's all good stuff.

Blanche Touhill: Do you go to the Mission Hills or where do you go to play golf?

Judy Harris: We're in a golf community, yeah, gated community with its own course, which is really nice, and then they have parties and...

Blanche Touhill: Yes, of course.

Judy Harris: ...social things. It's a lot of fun.

Blanche Touhill: Did you have a daughter?

Judy Harris: Mm-hmm.

Blanche Touhill: Did your daughter go into a professional life or did she stay home with the kids?

Judy Harris: She stayed home with the kids but she's married to an attorney but when she was a teenager, she was an outstanding tennis player. She was just marvelous and we sent her all over and she played and she was ranked nationally.

Blanche Touhill: Do her children play tennis?

Judy Harris: A couple of them but not to that degree.

Blanche Touhill: Is the tennis world friendly to girls?

Judy Harris: Yes. Well, the tennis world girls is totally separate from the guys.

Blanche Touhill: I'm sure.

Judy Harris: It's just like the pros, there's really not much connection.

Blanche Touhill: Yes and the strength is different?

Judy Harris: Oh, definitely.

Blanche Touhill: Yeah, because the upper body strength of the women is not...

Judy Harris: Yeah, they couldn't play together. They'd play mixed doubles, is all. But it's been a very interesting life and I've enjoyed every part of it. It's all been different and has had lots of segments to it which is good.

Blanche Touhill: What's interesting is, when your father died who was your major support, you became more independent and then when you got your divorce, that independence came back, didn't it?

Judy Harris: Oh, I don't think it ever left. I was very independent and I've always been and I'm independent with Harvey in the way that, if I disagree with him, I'll say, "I don't agree with that and here's why. Here's my opinion." It's not, "Well, we think..." ...it's not one of those things: "We think this; we think that." I see couples do that.

- Blanche Touhill: So is your marriage...how would you describe it then? It's not a traditional one?
- Judy Harris: I think it's pretty traditional.
- Blanche Touhill: Traditional?
- Judy Harris: Uh-huh.
- Blanche Touhill: But you do have your own life?
- Judy Harris: Our own lives and independence.
- Blanche Touhill: So is it a partnership?
- Judy Harris: Definitely.
- Blanche Touhill: In what way?
- Judy Harris: I think we really count on each other and particularly the older we get, it's sort of like, "Okay, we're in it and our family members are gone..." ...I mean the older generation and it's sort of like, "Okay, it's us," and kind of in for the haul.
- Blanche Touhill: What would you say to your grandchildren? What advice would you give your grandchildren?
- Judy Harris: I would tell them to be independent and to be strong and think for themselves.
- Blanche Touhill: Would you talk about Evelyn Newman. I know that you were a friend of hers and that you were a colleague of hers.
- Judy Harris: Yes, well Evelyn was one of a kind, absolutely, and she did so much for St. Louis. She just started everything. She had ideas that nobody else had and I looked at her as somebody I could really look up to. She was unbelievable and she started things and then finished them off. She started the Scholar Shops and then she started the Magic House and everything she did...she enforced Park Forever and it just went on and on.
- Blanche Touhill: Talk about the Butterfly House.
- Judy Harris: The Butterfly House was interesting because I had been to a butterfly house in Australia and we came home and I heard that she was going to

try to get that together and build one. So I went to her and I said, "I want to be in on that" and so I was one of the founding members of that committee to make that happen and it was very exciting.

Blanche Touhill: Talk about what it is.

Judy Harris: Well, it's a research lab, actually.

Blanche Touhill: But it doesn't look it.

Judy Harris: Oh, no, butterflies fly free and you just can walk in there and they'll land on you, particularly if you have a bright color and you can see them and you can see them eat and their little things and then there's the whole case where it shows them coming out of their (sillbi?)...I may have said that wrong, but anyway, it's just fascinating and they really, really study them. It's a research lab and it's wonderful for the community. So we've taken all our grandchildren there and they love it and we bought a brick for each one of them, 14 of them.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, how wonderful.

Judy Harris: Yeah, with their birth date on it.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, how wonderful. So when one is born, you get another brick?

Judy Harris: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, what a clever idea.

Judy Harris: So it's been really...but I go back to Evelyn and she was so good for St. Louis because of her thought process and her ability to carry it off. She really did. I looked up to her and I thought, boy, I'll be like her someday, I hope.

Blanche Touhill: Well, you are, you are.

Judy Harris: But she was just really something. I was chair of a luncheon that she wanted and it was called...it's been a long time ago...The Old Bag or something but anyway, people brought in their old handbags that were in wonderful condition and we had a sale of them at this luncheon and we had...I got a decorator friend of mine to design how it looked on the tables and people could walk through and bid on them and it was very successful. It was fun. People had fun. People still talk about that bag

luncheon. I think the Humane Society is doing something like that now but this was before them. It was her idea.

Blanche Touhill: When you called her and said, "I want to be involved in the founding of the Butterfly House," what did she say?

Judy Harris: "Wonderful."

Blanche Touhill: And did you have a committee then?

Judy Harris: Yes, uh-huh. I think there must have been about maybe a dozen of us.

Blanche Touhill: And how much did you raise for that, do you remember?

Judy Harris: No, I don't but I remember that we each gave something to be on that committee. We just said, "Okay, if I'm going to be on..." ...

Blanche Touhill: So when you asked people, it was understood you had given?

Judy Harris: Yeah, that's right.

Blanche Touhill: And who did you get to do the architectural and bring the butterflies in?

Judy Harris: I don't remember that part. It's part of, like...it's not the Zoo Aquarium Association but it's something like that. It has to be professionally done.

Blanche Touhill: Yes.

Judy Harris: I mean, it's not somebody just gets some butterflies...

Blanche Touhill: Oh, no. Well, I know it's now affiliated with the Missouri Botanical Garden but initially it was really the foundation or this group of women...was it all women?

Judy Harris: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: Group of women.

Judy Harris: It was actually couples because we all put our husband's name on it too but the committee was women.

Blanche Touhill: Yes. You know, isn't that interesting. Somebody should make a study someday of volunteer activity and what they have...you could have a picture book for one year...

Judy Harris: Mm-hmm.

Blanche Touhill: ...and what these various foundations have done for their organization.

Judy Harris: Right.

Blanche Touhill: And I'll bet you would find it was mainly led by women.

Judy Harris: Mm-hmm. Well, women are pretty worker bees.

Blanche Touhill: They are pretty worker bees.

Judy Harris: Mm-hmm.

Blanche Touhill: And your self-determination and your work ethic and your ability to think ahead in planning it fits into that kind of a contribution.

Judy Harris: But it's funny, one thing my mother always said to me, "Now, don't go talk about yourself," and so today was hard for me, to talk about myself.

Blanche Touhill: I know, but you're doing it for posterity.

Judy Harris: Okay.

Blanche Touhill: So with that, thank you very much.

Judy Harris: Thank you for having me.

Blanche Touhill: It was a wonderful conversation. It's a trip down Memory Lane.

Judy Harris: Yes, it is.

Blanche Touhill: Thank you.

Judy Harris: Thank you.