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Bridges that Carried Us Over Project

Interview Summary

Interviewee:

Clyde Tyrone Alexander

Interviewer:

Ratibu Jacocks

Interview Date:

April 6, 2015

Interview Location:

Rialto, CA

Length:

00:55:07

Interview Summary completed by:

Aubrie Kendall.

Description:

Clyde Tyrone Alexander talks about his father, Clyde Alexander, and his impact in San Bernardino housing construction and westside development from the 1950s through the 90s. He details the racism in the construction unions, banking and development and how Black construction workers worked to support each other, to challenge those barriers, and to create pathways for more Black workers from the westside to profit from building new developments. He explains the path his father took into becoming a developer, even working to buy a bank, with the support of a few white developers he worked closely with. Tyrone Alexander explains his father's role in key developments like Orangewood Estates and City Hall. He explains why his father was against building concentrated low-income housing in black communities and recounts the successes of his father, and the impact he had on him and the community of San Bernardino.

Subject Topic:

- San Bernardino (Calif.)
- San Bernardino housing

- San Bernardino construction
- Masons
- Norm Wilson
- W.R. Buster
- Eddie Lee Alexander
- City Hall
- San Bernardino planning commission
- Low-income housing
- Operation Second Chance
- West Side
- Enterprise Zone
- Northwest Redevelopment
- Warner Hogdon

Spatial Coverage:

General Location/Address	Name of Site (if relevant)
San Bernardino, California	West Side
300 N D St, San Bernardino, CA 92418	San Bernardino City Hall
Bounded by F, G, 5th, and 6th Street	Conrad School
555 N G St #3233, San Bernardino, CA 92410	Pioneer Park Plaza Senior Housing
Corner 5th and Alabama	W.R. Buster's Office: Crestview Development Co. of San Bernardino and W.R. Buster Construction Company
Second St.	Second Chance
Club: 19494 Country Club Dr, Rialto, CA 92377, United States Tract: North off of Riverside ave.	El Rancho Verde Country Club and Housing Tract
Between California Ave to Muscott and Highland to Baseline	Orangewood Estates (Housing tract)

Temporal Coverage:

San Bernardino housing, construction, and black carpenter unions in the 1950's. San Bernardino development in the 1970s.

Key Events:

- The building of low-income housing in predominantly black communities in San Bernardino.

Key Organizations:

- Northwest Re-Development
- City Hall
- Enterprise Zone
- Operation Second Chance
- Northgate Corporation
- Bellgate

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Digital Video	[00:03:27]	Norm Wilson's important role in securing African-Americans jobs within the construction business in San Bernardino in the 1950's.
Digital Video	[00:05:04]	Racism and how it affected the development of San Bernardino housing contracts.
Digital Video	[00:06:09]	Bill Jones, a Mason, role is supporting black construction business.
Digital Video	[00:07:30]	How Clyde Alexander network of developers and investors formed: Jerry Van Asdale, Petits, W.R. Buster, Mathan Weissman, and the Rothschilds.

Digital Video	[00:09:40]	Clyde Alexander experiences racism in land development conversations.
Digital Video	[00:12:35]	Clyde Alexander's role in hiring community members for piecework construction.
Digital Video	[00:15:30]	Racism in how constructions were paid piecework vs. hourly.
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Digital Video	[00:31:28]	Clyde Alexander's role in build San Bernardino's City Hall and the racism he encountered
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Digital Video	[00:35:18]	Clyde Alexander's role in promoting black business by hiring black workers

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Digital Video	[00:42:15]	Clyde Tyrone Alexander's experience in construction during his formative childhood years.
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Digital Video	[00:44:21]	Clyde Alexander's participation in the San Bernardino City Hall and the San Bernardino planning commission.
Digital Video	[00:44:52]	Interaction with politicians, city managers, etc. -- Norris Gregory, John Harbaugh, Tom Bradley, Marv Dimonle, Alan Cranston, George Brown, Willie Brown.
Digital Video	[00:46:34]	The friendship and interactions of the head of State Assembly, Willie Brown, and Clyde Alexander.
Digital Video	[00:47:52]	The relationship between John Dukes and Clyde Alexander. The reluctance of Clyde Alexander to build low-income housing as a result of racially charged housing projects.
Digital Video	[00:49:05]	Operation Second Chance in San Bernardino.
Digital Video	[00:50:30]	Clyde Tyrone Alexander discusses the incentives that state governments have to build low-income communities to attempt to foster

		communal growth and the inherent backlash that these projects receive.
Digital Video	[00:52:22]	Northwest Re-Development, the West Side, and the Enterprise Zone.
Digital Video	[00:53:12]	The goals and basic premises of Northwest Re-Development.

Full interview transcript can be found below.

Interview Transcript

Start of Interview:

[00:00:00]

Tyrone Alexander [00:00:01] I just remember JD, he was older than all of them, and he came out of the military, like everybody else in the Norton's, and he was like. He was like the godfather for them, he was teaching them all about business, politics. I don't know where he came from.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:00:17] And his name was what? JD. That's all you will remember. JD's Barbecue. You remember where he lived?

Tyrone Alexander [00:00:23] He lived. He actually was good before he left for most black people who first came to the Westside. Yeah, they lived down below Fifth Street on the side of the train. Right in that area. All of everybody pretty much lived there, over there by Valley college in those areas.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:00:40] And you remember what church he went to? Do you remember

Tyrone Alexander [00:00:43] Everybody went to New Hope you know, when New Hope used to be over there over near Fifth Street and Sixth Street actually New Hope was on 7th Street? Yeah, it was 7th Street and

Ratibu Jacocks [00:00:50] Temple was over there.

Tyrone Alexander [00:00:51] Temple was over there too.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:00:52] St. Paul.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:00:53] OK, let me just begin by saying today is April 6, 2015. My name is Ratibu Jacocks, and I'm interviewing Tyrone Alexander for the archive and Black History Project in the Inland area. Will you please spell pronounce your full name and spell your name for me?

Tyrone Alexander [00:01:17] Clyde, C L Y D E, Tyrone T Y R O N E Alexander A L E X A N D E R

Ratibu Jacocks [00:01:26] and we are conducting this interview at the home of Ratibu and Amina in the city of Rialto. Thank you so much for this interview Clyde. May I call you Clyde or Tyrone, what you would rather I call you.

Tyrone Alexander [00:01:42] Tyrone.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:01:43] Tyrone.

Tyrone Alexander [00:01:43] Friends call me Tyrone.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:01:43] That how I know that you is Tyrone. Tyrone, let me ask you this. We're talking about your father, Clyde Alexander and Clyde, as Alexander was an important figure in San Bernardino and housing development and maybe some other thing. What can you just briefly tell me about Clyde Alexander? Your father?

Tyrone Alexander [00:02:11] He was a down to earth leader, I mean, he was he seemed to approach. Everything with the attitude of it's got to be something good in it, and it's got to work for everybody.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:02:24] How do you remember the first project he was involved with? Did he work for someone else and then did this how they land out building homes on the west side?

Tyrone Alexander [00:02:36] Well, originally he worked with Norm Wilson and Norm Wilson in himself. They were the first blacks in the carpenters union and the only ones that were hired in the 50s and during the fifties on projects. They wouldn't let anyone else work on the projects and all of them had brothers and relatives, they're trying to get in. And so what they ended up doing was Norman and him decided one of them had to become a contractor, and Norm was the first contractor. Fortunately for him, he became a contractor where he didn't have to deal with the union, although at that time everything was very union, you know, heavily union in construction, which was designed to keep Blacks from being carpenters. I know this because they talked about it all the time when we were younger and we're grown up and try to learn how to do the industry. As time went on, Norm would always have my father and his brothers and Richard Cole in that group when they were younger. Well, the white workers would not come and work for Norm, so these guys were skilled and they would come to work for Norm Wilson. There were other gentlemen in the community. There were masons like there were black masons who did brickwork and people that did a stucco in housing lathing and generally with the unions, they would pick them last so they would go on jobs, maybe work four or five hours a day, but they would spend the rest of the day supporting Norm. And that's

how they made the difference of their money. As Norm became more successful, then they started branching out and getting more opportunities because there was a lot of, of the way it started, it was, there was a lot of going back and forth as to why is this black contractor doing this work? And we're not getting white union workers on it. So the give and take was, well, if you start letting us start work here, then Norm will start then some of you guys come on there. So he played a critical role in giving everybody an opportunity to start working in construction physically.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:04:40] And this was in the 50s.

Tyrone Alexander [00:04:42] Well, it started in the 50s, but I was like, I think four or five years old and they used to be out our house plotting of all this stuff all the time. You would have the brothers. We got Richard and Bobby Cole and my uncles, Joe and Jimmy and Norm had a few relatives. God, I can't think of everybody, but there was a big. It was a gentleman named Russell was a concrete guy, and all of these guys would come over our house and they were skilled laborers and they would stand in our back yard and they would talk for hours about how they would get on jobs and how they would bring family in and get on jobs. And if they once they got on the job and there was enough money there that would slow the job down until we let more members come in because white workers would walk off the job when they would show up. So that's how we would get family members on the construction sites.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:05:28] So, so racism did played an important role in developing some of these contracts.

Tyrone Alexander [00:05:38] Absolutely.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:05:38] But if they had gone to been able to work in the union with the Whites, do you think they still would have been as successful? Do you think it helped in a negative way?

Tyrone Alexander [00:05:54] I think with what I know about them as individuals, it wouldn't have made a difference.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:05:57] It wouldn't have made a difference?

Tyrone Alexander [00:06:00] No, they were, they were driven. We always talked about business. I think of Bill Jones is another name, probably. I don't know if you're familiar with it.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:06:09] No, I'm not.

Tyrone Alexander [00:06:09] Bill was actually he lived around the corner. He was my godfather. He was one of the members of the Masons, and he had a lot of money. And one of the contributors to blacks being involved in this business they would go see Bill Jones. And Bill Jones, when you got your contractor's license, you could build on Bill Jones House so you could get a track record. The one guy built the swimming pool in his backyard and I don't remember his named. My dad built the room addition and the patio covers and redesigned his house. That was part of his portfolio to start getting other projects around the city. They take their paperwork where they worked on Bill Jones House and of course, Norm Wilson's House.

[00:06:46] Right, so Norm Wilson seemed to be your father worked with Norm Wilson. So did they break off, or how did your father decide to be a general contractor on development too? Because he was not only a contract he was a developer

Tyrone Alexander [00:07:06] Developing came later on up. Norm was very down to earth, practical and very disciplined person, and he wasn't into dealing with the powers that be those personalities, white personalities, you know, my father, you've met him. He was a more of an outgoing comedic type of person. And he, unlike most of the black workers that were on the job, he befriended the Jerry Van Asdale, the Pettits, the guy the Bantha building named after

Ratibu Jacocks [00:07:41] Jerry Van Asdale worked for the city?

Tyrone Alexander [00:07:43] No, they were involved in construction. And back in the early days, you have to remember these guys worked in the 50s together.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:07:48] Redevelopment?

Tyrone Alexander [00:07:49] Right. They worked well before he got in redevelopment. These guys were all carpenters and things like that. They were in the union. This is where their bonds started in the 50s. So when I was a young kid, these guys were starting to get into their political roles in the city, but they were still close friends with my father. They would come over sit at the house and watch games and talk, you know, they wouldn't offer him any jobs, but they were still hanging out and you would hear him pitch. He'd be like, "Hey, you know, we were good enough to work together. How come you can't help me get some of this work? He'd pitch all the time.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:08:22] Your father?

Tyrone Alexander [00:08:22] Yeah, yeah. He'd pitch with Richard there. I have Uncle Joe, Joe, Alexander. They would pitch all the time and you know, Jerry Van Asdale and Mr. Pettit and I cannot think of the other guy's name. I can't think of his name, but they ended up becoming large contractors who work for a gentleman by the name of W.R. Buster.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:08:45] Mm-Hmm.

Tyrone Alexander [00:08:46] W.R. Buster. Now, W.R. Buster was connected to a gentleman named Nathan Weissman, the Wiseman family of L.A., which were huge developers and financiers, and they're tied to the Rothschilds. Now. They call themselves the Rothschilds, but they were also related to the gentleman that was in Vegas in the movie Casino, the guy who always chases had problems getting his gaming license and things like that. They made the movie Casino in

Ratibu Jacocks [00:09:22] Do you remember who they are?

Tyrone Alexander [00:09:23] There was a gentleman named Rothschild, and he worked in the gaming in Las Vegas. He moved and his family was the family. Whenever you saw Budweiser commercials for the Budweiser symbol in the middle of a swimming pool.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:09:38] Right.

Tyrone Alexander [00:09:38] That's the family.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:09:39] Oh, OK.

Tyrone Alexander [00:09:40] So during the civil rights movement, which were that's when he started talking about land development. These guys would start meeting with us at our house too, W.R. Buster, Nathan Weissman and Mr. Rothchild. Mr. Rothchild at the time, I don't know, I guess you call him a multimillionaire, and they started talking about the money that's going to be allowed into the black community. And I want to stress that word allowed.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:10:12] OK.

Tyrone Alexander [00:10:12] Because that was how it was put together. It would be allowed in the community. W. R. Buster's started by helping my father get a contractor's

license and getting him certified through the union as a contractor in the early days it worked for us. Every project we did, we'd have to do union projects. The problem was, we couldn't hire family members. We could only hire white workers. Um. But one of the things I loved about this process was. We worked in Redlands on a project off of Ford St. And I remember this as a kid because it was hard to go on a project. And he would be the boss and they would call him a Nigger, but they work for him and it was be like every day. Then they were sit on our job all day, they never finished the project. But my uncles, Richard, Cleo Cain, Melvin Fowler. These guys were being purposely sent to Palm Springs to keep them from working on our project and every day they would come over and finish that worked for him and it ended up him getting more respect from those developers.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:11:45] Him being who?

Tyrone Alexander [00:11:45] My father, with because they the whole idea was for him to fail, but his brothers and cousins and relatives would work from, five in the evening until 10:00 at night. Five days until...

Ratibu Jacocks [00:11:58] To finish the project?

Tyrone Alexander [00:12:00] Finish the project.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:12:01] That is so good, that's really...

Tyrone Alexander [00:12:04] All of us would be out there.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:12:05] That was really interesting. And so what your house like a social gathering?

Tyrone Alexander [00:12:13] All the time.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:12:14] All the time?

Tyrone Alexander [00:12:15] All the brothers would come over. They would sit in the living room. They go in the backyard, they would go in the garage, and they would assign themselves to what they would have to do to get other family members on the project. We would hire people from the neighborhood. Anybody that wanted to work, that was just what we would do.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:12:34] You stop over there

Tyrone Alexander [00:12:35] You come by our house. I think we did that all the way up until actually until I was like twenty five years old. We would still meet over even after my father died. We still meet over Joe's house. And if you were a young guy, you were was on the West Side and we were in by then. So anywhere we wanted to work, I mean, I did projects all over California and Nevada, you name it. We were in. But if you were young and you wanted to work, you could come work for us. We drove around with a 60 man crew for about seven years.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:13:03] Wow, 60?

Tyrone Alexander [00:13:05] 40 of 'em Black and 20 were Latinos. And that's how we got on projects. We were, we were better. And in general, most of the, at that time, we had a lot of black carpenters and people who were, who were skilled, and the only way we could get on a job, unlike white people, was we'd have to promise more than they would to get the job. We would have to. If they said they could do three houses a day, we'd have to do six. And they, and if they paid them hourly, we worked piecework. For us, it was great. Even my father, I mean, he was he was pretty much one of the people that started that. Him and his brother, Uncle Joe, my uncle Joe. After he got his contractor's license and was working with W.R. there would be down time, down periods and during those down periods their crew consisted of as I named before Cleo Cain, Joe Alexander, Jimmy Alexander pretty much the people in community, and they would only get work during the summertime when it was one hundred and twenty in Palm Springs. That was the only time they would hire you while being black. And so in Palm Springs, they paid white workers, forty five, forty bucks an hour. They'd be out there all day. What was unique about these guys were they started piecework and they would tell the black workers, OK, we'll give you 18 cents per square foot. And if you can't keep up, you're fired, so they wouldn't get a W, W2, they wouldn't have a signed agreement. They would just have a slab and some lumber. And that's where you go work.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:15:03] Did they make money?

Tyrone Alexander [00:15:04] I am getting right to that, my father and Joe and them, were like machines.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:15:12] OK.

Tyrone Alexander [00:15:13] These guys started making \$6000 a week, they started standing like it was crazy. They had it all. Everybody would have had something to do.

They actually programmed everybody to come to work and go do this and do that. It got so bad. I mean, they were making so much money.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:15:30] So good.

Tyrone Alexander [00:15:30] They got so good till they start cutting them back on work. Oh, they stopped giving them the run of the job because at one point they were doing so much work. The white workers were doing three houses a day and my father's men would knocking out 10 or 12 houses a day. If you want a 30 house track, it doesn't take much to figure out. You know who's making the money. So they started cutting work off on all of us.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:15:55] So, so first, they white union people contractors try to pay the Blacks that wouldn't pay them the hourly rate. Then they try to say, OK, we'll pay, you piecework work, and then to the piecework, they still was able to make more money.

Tyrone Alexander [00:16:15] Absolutely.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:16:16] Than the other people around them.

Tyrone Alexander [00:16:19] Absolutely. That's why you would see them driving to Lincoln's and the Cadillacs and the things that they had in their time. Now, what was interesting is they were members of the union. So the way you would cut these guys off or cut the family off was you allow them on the job, but you don't tell the union about them being there doing piecework.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:16:37] Oh, OK.

Tyrone Alexander [00:16:38] But if they went to the Union Hall, they were going to get the work anyway. They would have to wait in line and the project. Usually we'd get the project when it was very little project left, just enough to, you know, say, Well, we have some black folks out there, particularly in the civil rights era. So when they started outpacing everybody, they were just sending union guys out there and they would tell us to get off the job because we weren't on the list. So that was how they would work.

Amina Carter [00:17:04] When did they start doing jobs on their own?

Tyrone Alexander [00:17:09] That's, right at the time, that's when Buster came into play. Uh, W.R. was one of the partners in Palm Springs. And back to the project in

Redlands. And he, he wanted my father and them because by the time he did have his contractor's and he wanted him to be his contractor because of the speed. I mean, there was no one that could put up square footage like these black men put up square footage. No one.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:17:39] Mm hmm.

Tyrone Alexander [00:17:41] And they were so good at. He started getting phone calls from Vegas, everywhere, we want that crew. So W.R. Buster told my father, Well, look, I'll even let you be the framing contractor in this project, which is why it hurts my feeling that after we get the contract, you wouldn't let the same crew work on the project that you gave him the contract to perform.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:18:01] Oh oh oh.

Tyrone Alexander [00:18:02] That was why it hurt, because it was like, OK, you gave us, you gave us a deal. But in retrospect, uh, W.R. gained so much respect, he started teaching my father about building homes.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:18:16] Developing or building homes?

Tyrone Alexander [00:18:19] Developing, building, same thing at that time called building. Developing is a little different. A lot, I mean, a lot of people, just because you build homes is not necessarily a development.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:18:33] Right.

Tyrone Alexander [00:18:34] Per say, the building of homes. I mean, I can I can build homes with the best. But the better term now is called a community development project, a planned community development that is the difference in developing being a developer and building homes. We built Orangewood Estates that was a development project because aside from building homes, they had to develop the infrastructure, they had to deal with the tax revenue. You know how the taxes work. And of course, it had to be part of a planned city building plan to be considered a development.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:19:14] So how did the city you mentioned Orangewood Estates. I'm glad I'm there. How did the city welcome the project at the beginning. If you remember?

Tyrone Alexander [00:19:25] What started actually were Richard Cole. Yeah, Richard Cole built tried to put a track in on California and 16th Street on the opposite end of where we built the project.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:19:38] OK.

Tyrone Alexander [00:19:40] Again, racism played a big role in it. Richard went out there and he was right, but it wasn't the time for it and the banking system. When you're a black developer, you don't get the development fees in those terms. This was like '70, '72 actually, '72. When Richard went in banks didn't treat us like they treat everybody else. His deal was, You build these houses, we're gonna treat you like this. You to build these houses, you'll get the construction fees. We'll give you two percent of the project, overall project. And but you know, when I let you be quote unquote, the developer or you get the developer fees, and that's huge because the developer fees are the bigger money when you're building projects. And if they allowed a black man in the seventies in Southern California to get that recognition, he would be able to pretty much go anywhere and do projects on his track record. So Richard, fought for that.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:20:44] He fought. Well, was Valerie with him then fighting for them or was this before Valerie?

Tyrone Alexander [00:20:46] This is before... well, Valerie at that time, Valerie Pope and not really Valerie but Frances Grice. Yeah, at that time, those two were dealing with operation. The starting Operation Second Chance which started down there next to where Safeway was. Oh, is that Second street I keep trying to remember on the other side of road where the shopping center is?

Amina Carter [00:21:06] That is Second Street.

Tyrone Alexander [00:21:07] So Second Street, that's where Operations Second Chance and it was going on at the same time.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:21:11] Okay.

Tyrone Alexander [00:21:12] How Richard and they connect. It was during the battles over the housing tract that Richard was trying to do because they stepped in. And we're trying to get creative financing, you know, free money to build a project. But the city, because it wasn't one of those HUD projects or started in that kind of category, it wasn't going to happen. So that's how Richard started getting involved with them because they literally got into this big fight over this project. Um, so flipping back to Orangewood

estates, the cousins, Richard and my father kind of fell out when we built the Orangewood Estates because Richard refused to use the resources that we had. When I talk about the W.R. Busters and the Wiseman's and the Rothschilds, that that's a very high level of money and it comes from old relationships and money, and you have to be part of their family to do anything. Um, Richard didn't like that, so he didn't want to partner up with us as a family. And that's where the two relatives, the two cousins first cousins fell out was he just didn't want to have anything to do with our relationship.

Amina Carter [00:22:23] Richard was your dad's first cousin?

Tyrone Alexander [00:22:25] They're, the Richard's mother and my grandmother are sisters.

Amina Carter [00:22:28] Oh, I see.

Tyrone Alexander [00:22:29] Okay, first cousin. So. And she's in those pictures, actually. So that's where that fell out. But my father was determined, and at the time he was on the planning commission. He was the he was on

Ratibu Jacocks [00:22:42] The planning commission for the City of San Bernardino?

Tyrone Alexander [00:22:44] Right. He was appointed by Norris Gregory

Ratibu Jacocks [00:22:47] And Norris Gregory was who?

Tyrone Alexander [00:22:48] Was the sixth ward councilman, the first black six ward councilman.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:22:51] OK.

Tyrone Alexander [00:22:52] This side of San Bernardino. So at that time, he was determined to change that, that that concept. And that's when it got really interesting. Based on what happened in Redlands with W.R. W.R., felt bad and we did make very good money off a W.R., and he started to teaching my farther how to build homes. My father refused to be just a general contractor for W.R., so their relationship in the respect level they had went to another level. He built two custom homes with W.R. up there by the Indian Reservation is at the top of Palm overlooking the city. He started building out. He built W.R.'s custom home around the corner here in this track and

Ratibu Jacocks [00:23:36] and the El Rancho Verde Country Club?

Tyrone Alexander [00:23:38] Yes, it is. Awesome, house it. It had a he gave him an idea and they were trying to build this. This is where he really got a lot of respect.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:23:50] Your father?

Tyrone Alexander [00:23:51] Yeah, my father, a lot of respect. They were trying to build a special bathroom in this house and um. He built this glass bathroom in that house that had a shower that came through, but it had plants and everything that lived in the shower in the natural light that came through the roof. I don't know if that house is still over there, but the house was awesome and it burned down, so it burned down. And so W.R. couldn't find anyone that would do redo the house. This burned down in the 70s. So I don't know if it's the same house, you know, but it burned out in the 70s. It may have burned down again, but it burned down in the 70s the first time. So no white contractor or anybody, would do the project. So W.R. made a deal. When he said, Clyde, you come in, you redo my house and you rebuild that bathroom. I help you move right over here. El Rancho Verde Country Club, right out here on Riverside. The house is like around the corner from here that we were going to get. So we went out there and he rebuilt the entire house. Re-did that, that bathroom the way it was. You couldn't even tell the house burned up. So W.R. Buster, who didn't understand racism at that time, the way it was. Him and my father came over and they tried to buy the house, I think their house is like right around the corner and we were met with the Klan and everybody else to keep us from moving in that house.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:25:14] Wow.

Tyrone Alexander [00:25:15] So that's how we built the house we have a 16th street. That's why we added the room one because we were trying to turn that house to look like these houses that were built right here on Riverside. We had a little door and came in with a double door and they had the little windows on either side. That was why we built that house that way. But the best part of it was that because he never lost it or never, you know, went off on anybody when they were pretty much we had our money invested in house and they pretty much bought it back from us. My father never lost it on it, and W.R. had so much respect for him. They started working on him being a developer in '72, I was 12 years old. When he started teaching about how to put development projects together and we started going to his office area as a little boy, I remember sitting in W.R.'s office, which used to be on the corner of 5th, 5th and Alabama all the way out past Norton in that area, and we would sit there on Saturdays and Sundays while he would teach my father how to do development projects, how to talk to different banks, how to talk to the city of how to do different, how to get financing

and even how to buy banks while he was doing development, if he ran into any racism. Which I thought was off the chain, I was like 12, 13 years old and I was hearing this guy tell him, "This is how you control the bank". Nate Wiseman came in and they and they were getting ready to build up part of Park Plaza in downtown San Bernardino, the senior project that we built. And Nate and uh I can't believe I can't give her name right now, you just talked about her the other day. She worked for HUD for years back then and then she ended up being the, working with the first lady mayor of San Bernardino. What was the Black lady's name? I cannot a right now.

Amina Carter [00:27:19] Mayor?

Tyrone Alexander [00:27:20] No, she worked with the first lady mayor.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:27:22] Not while there.

Tyrone Alexander [00:27:24] She moved to Texas. Juanita.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:27:27] So Juanita Scott.

Tyrone Alexander [00:27:29] So Juanita at that time, we were living. My father and mother broke up, so he was living in Pasadena, and Juanita was brought into this meeting. And Mr. Wiseman, Mr. Rothchild and W.R. didn't want to be involved. Started talking about how to bring my father in as a partner and get grant money, HUD money. But they had to have a black partner and this is when I thought my father was brilliant. On this move. He every day when we would drive home from San Bernardino because he always kept his office in San Bernardino and he loved San Bernardino, we drive past him. We have to go out the 10, come up the 57, and go out the 2 to go out the long way to Pasadena. At that time, when you got passed in, the 210 Freeway stopped you right in front of Rosemead and you had to get off and to go to our house. We lived up in the Altadena. We had to go out the back way so he would sit on that freeway and every day he would tell me "We got to get ready on the west side of San Bernardino because that 210 freeway getting ready to come through and we're going to turn the West Side into one of the most upscale black communities ever seen because everywhere that 210 freeway goes through, the cost of houses increase. This man said that every day from 1972 until we started building those houses, he saw that 210 Freeway.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:28:54] Well, when did Clyde Alexander pass?

Tyrone Alexander [00:28:57] 1982.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:28:57] When?

Tyrone Alexander [00:28:59] 82.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:29:01] 82, its been that long, God, it seems like it was yesterday.

Amina Carter [00:29:04] So what year did he started building the houses over here?

Tyrone Alexander [00:29:05] 79.

Amina Carter [00:29:09] 79?

Tyrone Alexander [00:29:09] 79. But he had to sell the farm to get it.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:29:13] So he's uh, he's a visionary and in a way. I mean, and the real way. He was able to visualize, could you also say that he also was a public relations person? Oh.

Tyrone Alexander [00:29:30] Yea, I would definitely say that. I think the other thing that is missing that a lot of the people don't realize is that he wasn't just talking about building houses. He was talking about building the community. He was talking about shopping centers. He was talking about schools. He was basically talking about changing the entire infrastructure that way. That's why it was important for us to make sure that when we did our project, everything was underground and up to date, and in line. He understood what he was taught. I mean, I've sat to these meetings and he was given a lot of just personal, in his personality. If you met him, you can understand why it just went where it went. These guys loved this man. You've seen them show up for his funeral. They don't go to each other's funerals, but they'll show up for his because he had he would learn but he would have the whole crew just rolling just, you know, he was that way. And when they would say, "Well, you know, in our communities we would do this", so he would say "well, why can't I do it in mine?" He didn't mind saying that to these millionaires. He never was intimidated. He was never was intimidated. He would tell them, "Well, if you guys are going to do that there. Why can't we do it here?" So. In fact, we lost W.R., not W.R., but Nate Wiseman when we built the housing tract because Nate was upset that, uh, the gentleman who built the golf course over here. Uh, it's Shannon Hills golf course?

Ratibu Jacocks [00:31:05] All right, Warner.

Tyrone Alexander [00:31:06] Warner Hodgdon.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:31:07] Warner Hodgdon.

Tyrone Alexander [00:31:11] Ok, Warner. Also, another thing that my father was involved in is the building of a city hall. That was directly after that when he built the city hall in 74.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:31:18] I didn't know that.

Tyrone Alexander [00:31:19] You didn't know that. Well, let me tell you, I was there. There's a lot of stuff that's missing here. OK

Ratibu Jacocks [00:31:24] Just make sure we got it him. So I knew that.

Tyrone Alexander [00:31:28] He was involved in the building of City Hall. And his position, I remember, was either project manager

Ratibu Jacocks [00:31:34] [inaudible] No, your father.

Tyrone Alexander [00:31:35] My father was either a project management, but he was there because he was black. Warner Hodgdon was on the same level, but they didn't want Warner to be recognized because they needed to have this black participation in the building of City Hall.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:31:50] Right.

Tyrone Alexander [00:31:51] So how we got part of Pioneer Park Plaza was well, father was bought out of his position and Warner was slid into his position. But it was done in a way to where it didn't look like it was racist. And of course, Warner became wealthy from that position because it was a well-paid position. And once everybody realized the lump sums of money in terms of gratuities for doing that job, they didn't want my father to have that.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:32:22] Mm hmm.

Tyrone Alexander [00:32:22] And so you can understand, when Warner finished the City Hall project, he started developing and he bought that racetrack over there, Riverside. So you understand what transpired here. The light came on when everybody is like "Hold up, we're not letting this black dude do that, but let's buy him out. So that time there was a school called Conrad in downtown San Bernardino. Do you remember

Conrad? It was. It was located just above 5th street. That's where they send everyone that went to continuation or was in, you know, troubled kids in high school, they sold it to my father for a dollar, for a dollar. That's how he got that project. And that's how W.R. and the rest of them came in. Now. I know I'm jumping around, but now.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:33:06] Go ahead.

Tyrone Alexander [00:33:07] Now that that project took from '74 to '76 to be actually prepared and completed and put into place, but during the process, because he was learning from the Wisseman's and Rothchild and W.R, he learned about how to negotiate other projects, trade wares and get at that time, which was new tax increment bonus which was going to be used in the state project. The roadblock was he had a lot of power brokers winning. And Mr. Rothchild, who bowed out of doing a project, introduced him to the owners of a Belgian bank, which ended up being one of our companies called Bellgate. And then we owned Northgate. Bellgate financed Northgate, Northgate built the homes on the west side of San Bernardino, which goes back to what I was saying before. There are different arms in land development, and a lot of people don't realize that land development has a whole bunch of different. Being a developer has a whole lot of different additives to it during this process. Mr. Rothchild, who was enormously powerful at the time also, taught my father on how to buy banks, it was the strangest conversation I had ever seen in my life. And by the way, that's where the Tyrone thing came from.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:34:32] Oh.

Tyrone Alexander [00:34:32] But we would sit there and he was talking about "When you partner up with these guys here, they want to be in the United States and they want to be a bank in the United States. If you play your cards right, they'll finance you and they're going to buy a bank in the United States and you will be in control so that you could build as much as you want to build when you want to build."

Ratibu Jacocks [00:34:52] Right?

Tyrone Alexander [00:34:53] I literally sat through that conversation, and as a kid, I was blown away because I was hearing things and I didn't, you know, I, you know,

Ratibu Jacocks [00:35:02] Nobody, not a lot of people were talking about that, now were, what was Talmadge Hughes' role, if any and all of that.

Tyrone Alexander [00:35:09] In the early days, Thomas had no role.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:35:12] OK.

Tyrone Alexander [00:35:13] And that that was why. I mean, you know, there's things that I heard and you got to give my father credit. He was insisting on while I'm doing this, I need to have a black real estate broker because they wanted to bring in their real estate brokers on our projects, even though I got to have Black real estate broker. I got to have insurance people. Samuel Jackson because by the time Golden State wasn't where they were, but the bonding capacity, remember Sam could start bonding. That's where that came from. Sam, you know, we used to have to go to Mr. Rothschild's Bank to bond as a black contractor. There was no black contractors other than L.A., and they weren't allowed to bond out this way. So that's where that argument started. He was like, "Look, if I'm going to do this, you're going to make all this money. We got to do performance bonds in the city San Bernardino."

Ratibu Jacocks [00:36:04] So Jackson's, Sam Jackson would bond people. He had the capacity.

Tyrone Alexander [00:36:11] He got the capacity to sell.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:36:12] Sell the bond.

Tyrone Alexander [00:36:13] The bonds, but he wasn't allowed to do it on our projects. See that there's a lot of give and take and these guys became friends during this project because of it. So once Sam got the opportunity to bond and they wasn't allowing Talmage to be the he wanted Talmage to be the real estate broker when we put together Pioneer Park Plaza Downtown San Bernardino Senior Housing, he wanted, actually wanted Samuel to be involved. I mean, Talmage to be involved in that because he trusted Talmage. That wouldn't happen. He wanted Richard Cole, who was a contractor. Well, he asked Norm Wilson first. Norm didn't want to be involved with the people that we were involved with. A lot of blacks had issues with dealing with Jewish or people of that stature. Given their background, they just were hands off. So we tried to get Richard because Richard was a contractor. He was a family member, and at one point they were there were business partners. That's why Richard companies was called "Alco Builders". But. They wouldn't let Richard have the contract because it was a union job and they wanted to have their way on Pioneer Park Plaza. So even though we ended up be partners and developers on part, Pioneer Park Plaza, we couldn't hire black contractors.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:37:32] Now, tell me, does Plaza, say it again because

Tyrone Alexander [00:37:37] Pioneer Park Plaza. It's called The Plaza now it's downtown across the street from the bus station, between F and G just north of 5th street.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:37:44] Yeah, I know that project. Oh, that was Clyde's project?

Tyrone Alexander [00:37:49] Yeah. That's the project. Actually to see the money to finish to start building Orangewood Estates.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:37:53] Oh okay.

Tyrone Alexander [00:37:54] And we owned that project until 1993.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:37:59] Oh, OK. Even after he passed, the family kept control.

Tyrone Alexander [00:38:02] Well, we only we only owned 25 percent. Of course, the Rothschild and the Weissemans owned the other 75 percent.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:38:11] Mm. But we it was a lot of interest.

Tyrone Alexander [00:38:13] Yeah, we had interest in it. And of course, we controlled the management of it for the first again. He learned so much from these guys. He made agreement with them that it would be a black management company. They ran it for the first ten years. He, of course, he died before the tenure is over. But he was able to craft an agreement to where, no matter what it would be someone in there black working and someone in there black working in the maintenance part of it. You know the..

Ratibu Jacocks [00:38:39] Why do you think your father thought it was important to have blacks in these positions and not just go along with the uh establishment?

Tyrone Alexander [00:38:51] I guess it was in his heart that was something that he. I've never gone, never went with him, and I went to almost everything and he never spoke up and said, "Well, wait a minute, you know, we gotta to have blacks."

Ratibu Jacocks [00:39:04] Where was he? Where was he from? Where was he born?

Tyrone Alexander [00:39:07] In Oklahoma.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:39:08] Oklahoma?

Tyrone Alexander [00:39:08] Yea, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:39:10] So how did he get to San Bernardino area?

Tyrone Alexander [00:39:12] Well, you know the history of Tulsa.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:39:13] Huh?

Tyrone Alexander [00:39:14] You know the history of Tulsa Black Wall Street were Black Wall Street, the black businesses. If you go up and down Apache Lane and of course, my grandmother and Bobby's and Richard's mom Faith, these were business owners in Tulsa. So that's where it came from. And Blacks in Tulsa do business together, and that was just his mindset. He would rather, and with family, you know, family and culture. That was just the way it was. And as I said when we met, you may not have seen Richard or Bobby around him in the outside, but they would either meet at Bobby's house, Richard's house, our house, my Uncle Joe's house in the gardens. And you would have all of those relatives in those houses on weekends. As kids we felt like were in the mafia because we had to play. We all played with each other. All of them would be outside having their meetings and they would be planning what they were going to do in the community.

Amina Carter [00:40:08] What year did he come to California, do you remember?

Tyrone Alexander [00:40:12] Father?

Ratibu Jacocks [00:40:13] Yeah.

Tyrone Alexander [00:40:13] I don't know. But I think they bought the house on 16th Street 1954.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:40:17] Were you born here before?

Tyrone Alexander [00:40:18] No, I was born in L.A., but I was raised here.

Amina Carter [00:40:21] So they went to L.A. first and then...

Tyrone Alexander [00:40:23] Yeah, everybody went to L.A. first, then came to San Bernardino. I can't tell you what year. We almost didn't even live in San Bernardino. I remember when I was young looking at houses in Baldwin Hills. I do know that.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:40:33] Oh, OK.

Tyrone Alexander [00:40:34] And Bobby was too.

Amina Carter [00:40:35] How many brothers and sisters do you have?

Tyrone Alexander [00:40:37] I have one sister and she passed.

Amina Carter [00:40:39] She did?

Tyrone Alexander [00:40:40] Yes.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:40:40] Are you the only child living now?

Tyrone Alexander [00:40:42] Yes.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:40:43] From Clyde. And what were your mother's name?

Tyrone Alexander [00:40:46] Eddie Lee Alexander. Eddie Lee

Ratibu Jacocks [00:40:48] Eddie Lee Alexander. Oh, okay did you know, her, Amina?

Amina Carter [00:40:50] No. What year did she pass?

Tyrone Alexander [00:40:53] In 1993, but I was adopted as a baby by my father.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:40:58] So, he is not your biological father? I would not have known that.

Tyrone Alexander [00:41:05] No, my sister was adopted, too.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:41:06] Oh, so both you guys were adopted. Right? Did Clyde have any biological children that you know of? No, no, no. But I would not have known.

Tyrone Alexander [00:41:22] I was adopted at six months old.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:41:24] OK. Uh.

Tyrone Alexander [00:41:27] I don't say this, but family funny.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:41:29] We can edit out whatever you want with the edits. Whatever you want to say on your chest.

Tyrone Alexander [00:41:37] Because I grew up. I grew up. What I always tell people, the best thing that ever happened to me in my life was my father, because he was a unique individual. We never talked about it. I never knew it because I was a baby. How it came out was when he passed, and you know what happens when people pass?

Ratibu Jacocks [00:41:57] Let's look at all the paperwork.

Tyrone Alexander [00:42:00] Paperwork, so and it wasn't him that told me it was just very straight and very ugly conversation. And it was like, Wow, OK.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:42:10] So how did that make you feel?

Tyrone Alexander: It didn't made me feel anyway.

Ratibu Jacocks No, you had no feeling.

Tyrone Alexander [00:42:15] No. Because. The gift that I have that is more important than anything was I got to be able to sit here with you. And I learned. I got to do things that no other kid could do. I got to work at construction sites at the age of eight and read blueprints by the time I was nine. I could manage construction projects by -- when I was fourteen years old, I built two custom homes in Redlands on the hill for a doctor named [Squibble] who hated black people. But he would come out every day, and say, "I don't understand how your fourteen year old" excuse my word -- "ass is able to keep up and build these houses." So, I'm happy with that. I got relationships for a lifetime with billionaires. That any time I ask for help, or want to do a project, they're here. I brought Andrew Weissmann down. I brought the owners of Peck and Jones. I just told you we met with him. I have relationships where I go to Bell Canyon and most black people can't go there.

Ratibu Jacocks: So, you still have these relationship...

Clyde Tyrone Alexander: have all of these relationships.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:43:13] that your father shared with you. So, he shared with you not only knowledge, but also resources that you continue to maintain.

Tyrone Alexander [00:43:24] Right. My consulting firm does what we want to do when we want to do it. I'm not hungry for money. I'm hungry for knowledge and opportunities. And these are things that I covered because I try to follow what he set forth. I could easily, and I think, you know, Lou, we spent time together. He gets it now. I could easily do projects, but I owe it to my father to not sell myself short, no matter how long it takes me to do what I want to do. Because the one thing that he did not do and could have done was just walk away and build what he wanted to build, make as much money as he wanted to make anywhere he wanted to make money. But his relationships with these people is impeccable.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:44:12] So City Hall, I met him in City Hall. Did he have a job in City hall? Or he was just on the planning committee?

Clyde Tyrone Alexander [00:44:15] He was just on the planning commission.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:44:19] That's why he was there?

Tyrone Alexander [00:44:21] And he only went to -- byproduct of that, he went to the planning commission so he can learn about the building processes in San Bernardino that's... He didn't want no other reason... The only reason why he went there, and he said it and he made it clear when him and Norris Gregory going back and forth about it. Norris, said, "Clyde I know you know all these people, I need you." He's like, "no. No, I'm not doing it unless you let me have what you guys have in the city when you let all these other people build homes and do projects." So, he stayed on the planning commission two terms just to learn that. That was it.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:44:52] Any other politician besides Norris Gregory that he... How about John Hobbs, John?

Tyrone Alexander [00:44:58] John was... John was in the mix. Tom Bradley. There Tom Bradley. Bradley used to come down... I have pictures. He used to come down. We have relatives in Fresno that were city managers, city mayors, project managers, the owner of the black bank in L.A. What was it called? Black....

Ratibu Jacocks [00:45:20] Black [inaudible] no. No, it wasn't freedom, what was that bank?

Tyrone Alexander [00:45:25] Yeah, that him. We worked with him a lot. [Gulderich] and Cast, which were the biggest Jewish builders in the '70s and '80s in L.A. Peck and Jones. At that time they were called something called something else. But, Peck and

Jones. Griffin Homes, Covington Construction, Lewis Homes, Nick Tavalone, or Tavalone. All of these people were people that he interacted with all the time. Of course, we have Barbara Robinson and Frank Robinson, which were relatives.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:46:02] And there's Richard Coles

Tyrone Alexander [00:46:04] Richard Coles' sister is Barbara.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:46:06] Oh, but the husband name is Frank Robinson.

Tyrone Alexander [00:46:09] The baseball player. And then we had connections with Diamond League. I can't think of all Congress people these people knew. Marv Dimonle. Alan Cranston.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:46:19] How about George Brown?

Tyrone Alexander [00:46:23] Yeah, George Brown all the time. He, my father built homes in Pittsburgh, California, and at that time, I think George Brown. Was it Brown? I know it was Brown..

Ratibu Jacocks [00:46:31] Congressman Brown.

Tyrone Alexander [00:46:34] No. Yeah. Congressman Brown. Yeah. Because I got an award from him as a kid, but the other Brown that was head of the State Assembly. Willie Brown. Willie Brown was in the Bay Area. We built some homes in Pittsburgh, California. Their friendship was unbelievable. Unbelievable. I remember going to Sacramento and just sitting in the Capitol for hours while they'd go in the room and talk. So, he had a lot of political connections all over the state. You know, it was just unreal. But I think the biggest thing about him was he always sold San Bernardino. He always envisioned having a... African-American community, that was a planned, developed community. Those were his words every time we went to the office downtown. Every time we were doing the projects here on Sixteenth Street. In fact, he was trying to build condominiums before he basically started working with John Dukes.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:47:40] OK, so that's what I want to ask you. John Dukes. He went to phase one. John Dukes was phase two. And someone finished it all up, so I'm not sure of that. Can you talk about that?

Tyrone Alexander [00:47:52] The relationship between him and John Dukes was interesting. John... That part of the project had to have -- in every black community they

want you to put multi-family, or put in apartments. And my father didn't want to do that. He didn't want to do anything low-income because he felt that if I built homes and we put low-income apartments in there, your killing the value of these homes that we are building. The city was, like, killing us. We owned that land, where John Dukes..

Ratibu Jacocks [00:48:23] Where John Dukes was California and

Tyrone Alexander [00:48:25] And Seventeenth Street, North. And then we ended up selling the other part with the doors are south to him because the city insisted that someone build low-income housing. So, he was so adamant against it, he made a deal with John Dukes and that's how that project came about. But the relationship between them was good, but the projects clashed. I think that it's unfortunate that, again, what they call, so-called redlined communities, we get... We catch that...

Ratibu Jacocks [00:49:04] Your father was against.

Tyrone Alexander [00:49:05] He wanted to stay with the successful program that they had put in place through Operation Second Chance. And Talmadge [Hughes], and that group where they had stopped the projects, was like his, he hated the projects. And his idea was, we've got to stop building large concentrations of low-income housing. When he was on the planning commission, he -- if you remember for a minute there, they would build four units. They were building four units and they were spread all over the city. Some of those units at that time when Del Rosa and those areas were still predominately white. They built low-income housing in those, they would [build] four-plexes in those units. And that was his thing. I don't want to build three hundred units and slap all these low-income people. And, in particular, if you build on the West Side, you already know it's going to be three hundred black people slammed together and he hated that concept.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:49:59] I didn't know that

Tyrone Alexander [00:50:00] He hated it. That was where him and John Dukes and Frances and everybody parted ways. That's when the battle started between our family and the powers that be because we were adamantly against building large concentrations of low-income housing.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:50:19] And he thought, if you put up, if you do bring everybody poor together like that

Tyrone Alexander you get what you got.

Ratibu Jacocks It's a negative effect on the community

Tyrone Alexander [00:50:30] Right. His idea was to continue, they had [inaudible] and he made money building satellite low-income housing, I forgot about that. Where they would build four-plexes in different parts of the city. And his concept was: if I build four units in a white community where everybody is being successful and everybody has a job and it is clean and it's safe, it will inspire these people that moved in that are low-income to get involved. You know, I don't know how it would work -- if, you know, you are low income, and you just don't want to do it. But it made sense to me where instead of having three hundred people sitting there, you know, like crabs in a barrel, maybe two out of the four will decide, "let me go to work at McDonald's because the little white kid next door is going to work at McDonald's." So, it kind of made sense to me. After this Renaissance kind of thing took place, the city sided on that side of the fence and stuck with the concentration and cut the projects. I can drive around this whole city and show you where they actually -- there was ten of them built. And I can show you them. One was built down here not far off of Mount Vernon and Ninth Street. Eight of them were built over there in Del Rosa, Highland, and over by Golden. All of those units still look nice.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:51:41] OK. [inaudible] We got about five minutes and we're going to wind this section up because these tend to be about an hour. But, what I would like to do with you is to get Flo to bring the camera, drive around, talk about different projects, like you said. So, we can actually visualize and see what you are talking about, not just hear it, but see some of it and see what's happening here. Will you be willing to do that one day?

Tyrone Alexander [00:52:13] Absolutely yeah. There's one other thing. He put in several things that I'm so upset about that is happening in the West Side.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:52:20] Who is he now?

Tyrone Alexander [00:52:22] My father. They put together what is called the enterprise zone. I'm sure you've heard. And northwest redevelopment. What hurts my feelings is, I remember sitting watching this be put together. The concept of Northwest Re-Development is actually in-line with what we were doing with [inaudible] with the state. It was to give the people in the community the power to pick what projects went in and how those projects work. It never worked the way it was basically put together. And unfortunately, we have sat and allowed the Enterprise Zone to lose its accreditation. We fought. I was standing outside to watch because I was aligned with another group and I could not interfere. But we fought and we let a golden opportunity slide away. The

reason why I'm saying this is because no one realized the effectiveness of Northwest Re-Development until it basically left the way. If you've been involved, and I know you have been involved in politics, you will always realize that the people in City Hall always want to know what was going on with Northwest Re-Development. The people in City Hall always want to know what was going on with Northwest Re-Development. The -- I don't know if it's been re-worded or was ever re-worded, but the basic premise of it was to have your most educated and most knowledgeable people out there on the Northwest Re-Development.

And the mandate was to continuously infuse, design, and add to the possibility of building new projects, bringing in new revenue, new tax revenue and new ideas into the West, into San Bernardino. Somewhere along the way, something happened, and has never met its potential. It actually had enough power to control what opportunities came into the West Side of San Bernardino.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:54:20] I say, and I want to say this before you go. That was the last project that had paid executive director. They paid people to head Northwest Re-Development. They had money...

Clyde Tyrone Alexander [] Right.

Ratibu Jacocks [] The other one was sort of... Looked a lot different, but this one was a...

Clyde Tyrone Alexander [] And that's why they paid the money.

Ratibu Jacocks [] Right,.

Clyde Tyrone Alexander [] Because it had teeth.

Ratibu Jacocks [] Potential to make money, as well.

Clyde Tyrone Alexander [] It had teeth.

Ratibu Jacocks [] Right. So, look, let me say thank you. I'm going to call you again to do some more of this. Man, I really appreciate this. I know you could do this. And now it's demonstrated that you did it, but we're not finished.

Clyde Tyrone Alexander [] OK.

Ratibu Jacocks [] OK. Thank you, Flo.

End of Interview:

[00:55:07]