

California State University, San Bernardino

CSUSB ScholarWorks

Bridges Digital Archive: Audio and Video
Recordings

Bridges That Carried Us Over Digital Archive

8-13-2014

Draymond and Estella Crawford

Wilmer Amina Carter Foundation

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/bridges>

Recommended Citation

Wilmer Amina Carter Foundation, "Draymond and Estella Crawford" (2014). *Bridges Digital Archive: Audio and Video Recordings*. 40.

<https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/bridges/40>

This Oral History is brought to you for free and open access by the Bridges That Carried Us Over Digital Archive at CSUSB ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Bridges Digital Archive: Audio and Video Recordings by an authorized administrator of CSUSB ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@csusb.edu.

Bridges that Carried Us Over Project

Interview Summary

Interviewees:

Draymond and Estella Crawford

Interviewer:

Ratibu Jacocks

Interview Date:

August 13, 2014

Interview Location:

Fontana, California

Length:

01:38:47

Interview Summary completed by:

Rossandra Martinez, 2023.

Caroline Blanchard, 2023.

Description:

This interview, conducted by Ratibu Jacocks, focuses on the life of Draymond Crawford, with additions from his wife, Estella. Mr. Crawford speaks on his experiences growing up and how the move from Louisiana to California was “night and day”, due to the differences in how segregation was experienced. From Louisiana, his parents were hired to work in California as a maid and a chauffeur for the Axelsons in the 40s. His family moved from Louisiana, to Fontana where he was able to establish his roots with the First Baptist Church of North Fontana. Mr. Crawford has a firm belief that his difficulties were opportunities. This view was strongly guided by his faith in God, who he credits for the work he has been able to accomplish. Mr. Crawford spent 20 years in the military, and met his wife, with whom he now shares a family with, 4 years into the service while stationed in Illinois for flight engineer school. Draymond and Estella Crawford became important figures in Fontana, California back in the 1980’s because of their involvement in the community, especially building affordable Senior Living at Sunrise Apartments.

Subject Topic:

- San Bernardino (Calif.)
- Los Angeles (Calif.)
- Fontana (Calif.)
- Ontario (Calif.)
- Segregation
- Military History
- Housing

- North Fontana
- Pastor Chuck Singleton

Spatial Coverage:

Name of Site	General Location/Address
First Baptist Church of North Fontana (Now Loveland Church)	7093 Mango Fontana
John Burroughs Middle School	600 S Mc Cadden PL, Los Angeles, CA 90005
Chaffee Unified Union High School	1245 N Euclid Ave. Ontario, CA 91762
Danville High School	202 E Fairchild Street Danville, Illinois 61832
Crocker Bank	Los Angeles
First Trust Bank	Ontario and Fontana
Chanute Air Force Base	Rantoul, Illinois
Sonrise Senior Living Apartments	7222 Sierra Ave. Fontana, CA 92336
Castle Air Force Base	Merced, California

Temporal Coverage:

- 1930s in Louisiana and Illinois
- 1940s Los Angeles
- 1940s- Present in North Fontana

Key Events:

- World War II

Key Organizations:

- Chaffey Unified Union High School
- First Baptist Church, Fontana
- Sonrise Affordable Senior Living

Interview Index:

Media Format	Time	Topic Discussed
Digital Video	00:00:07 - 00:02:34	Born in Shreveport, Louisiana in 1931. Mrs. Crawford was born in Danville, Illinois in 1930. Stays in Louisiana through the 3rd Grade and then moves to Los Angeles, California.
Digital Video	00:02:29 - 00:03:31	Moved to Fontana in 1946. Rialto Annexation.
Digital Video	00:04:48 - 00:08:34	Talks about experiences during the move from Louisiana to California and the "White Only" establishments.
Digital Video	00:09:44 - 00:10:03	The Crawford family moved from Los Angeles to Fontana because his father was discharged from the military.
Digital Video	00:10:14 - 00:11:42	His father was a professional chef while they lived in Louisiana, so he served as a cook during World War II in Japan. At this time the military was segregated.
Digital Video	00:11:48 - 00:12:51	Took the bus from Fontana to Ontario to attend Chaffey High School.
Digital Video	00:13:39 - 00:17:16	Speaks about the importance of being able to learn how to cooperate and separate, and the life lessons he has learned from that.
Digital Video	00:19:43 - 00:23:05	Graduates from highschool and joins the Air Force. States how he wanted to have a job that could retire him early and allow him to travel.
Digital Video	00:26:29 - 00:26:34	Attends flight engineer school at the Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul. Illinois.
Digital Video	00:27:14 - 00:30:00	Danville, Illinois and the story of how Mr. and Mrs. Crawford met one another.
Digital Video	00:32:45 - 00:34:10	Churches and their denominations in Fontana.
Digital Video	00:34:14 - 00:35:12	First Baptist Church in North Fontana.

Digital Video	00:35:51 - 00:36:53	Castle Air Force Base in Merced
Digital Video	00:39:17 - 00:39:47	Mr. and Mrs. Crawford decided they will get married after Mrs. Crawford graduates from high school.
Digital Video	00:40:18 - 00:42:04	Sees difficulties as opportunities. Rededication of his life to Christ.
Digital Video	00:42:07 - 00:46:23	Mrs. Crawford shares what kind of man she was looking to marry.
Digital Video	00:46:25 - 00:47:15	Mr. and Mrs. Crawford talk about their 60 years of marriage.
Digital Video	00:51:41 - 00:55:03	Mr. Crawford gets a job as a banker at Crocker National Bank, Los Angeles. He gets involved in the banking industry
Digital Video	00:55:39 - 00:56:58	Mr. Crawford's interest shifts to housing and he starts work on the senior housing project in 1984.
Digital Video	00:56:58 - 01:17:18	First Baptist Church in North Fontana and Campus Crusades
Digital Video	01:17:57 - 01:18:19	Mr. Crawford ran twice for the school board and was defeated both time
Digital Video	01:18:19 - 01:27:58	Mr. Crawford had a medical emergency and was airlifted back to San Bernardino from a New Orleans conference due to the efforts of the San Bernardino community, including Congressman George Brown.
Digital Video	01:28:00 - 01:34:07	Sonrise Senior Complex
Digital Video	01:34:16 - 01:35:14	Loveland church donates \$10,000 as original seed money investment to the senior complex.
Digital Video	01:35:33 - 01:36:41	The inspiration behind the name of Sonrise Senior Complex.
Digital Video	01:36:46 - 01:38:29	Mr. Crawford does not take credit for the work he does, he credits it to his faith in the Lord.

Related Materials:

Additional oral history interviews are available from the Wilmer Amina Carter Foundation's "Bridges that Carries Us Over Project" on CSUSB ScholarWorks, <https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/bridges/>.

Full interview transcript can be found below.

Interview Transcript

Start of Interview:

[00:00:00]

Ratibu Jacocks [00:00:07] My name is Ratibu Jacocks and I am interviewing Mr. and Mrs. Draymond, D-R-A-Y-M-O-N-D, and Estella, E-S-T-E-L-L-A, Crawford, C-R-A-W-F-O-R-D. And we are interviewing them at their home and we are just so thankful. .

Ratibu Jacocks [00:00:49] Today is Wednesday, August 13, 2014. My name is Ratibu Jacock and I am interviewing Mr. and Mrs. Draymond, D-R-A-Y-M-O-N-D, and Estella, E-S-T-E-L-L-A, Crawford, C-R-A-W-F-O-R-D. And we're interviewing them in their home in Fontana, California. And we thank you so much for conducting this interview with us. Let me start off, Mr.Crawford, where were you born?

Mr. Crawford [00:01:31] Shreveport, Louisiana.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:01:32] Shreveport. What year?

Mr. Crawford [00:01:36] 1931.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:01:40] Mrs. Crawford, where were you born?

Mrs. Crawford [00:01:41] Danville, Illinois.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:01:50] Mr. Crawford, how did you arrive in California? Did you go to school and... where did you say you were born?

Mr. Crawford [00:01:58] Shreveport, Louisiana.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:02:00] Did you go to school there or did you go to school out here?

Mr. Crawford [00:02:04] First three grades.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:02:07] Louisiana, through the third grade and then moved where?

Mr. Crawford [00:02:11] Los Angeles.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:02:12] Los Angeles. Remember what year that was?

Mr. Crawford [00:02:15] Sure. Nineteen forty-one.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:02:18] Nineteen forty-one.

Mr. Crawford [00:02:20] Something like that. That's close.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:02:22] Okay, and you moved to L.A. and did you go to school there in L.A.?

Mr. Crawford [00:02:30] I went to school four years in Los Angeles. Fourth through the eighth grade.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:02:34] Okay, and then after then, where did you go to school? And where did you move?

Mr. Crawford [00:02:39] Moved to Fontana, California 1946.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:02:43] I didn't know anybody lived, any blacks lived in California in 1946. Now, where do you live in Fontana when you moved here?

Mr. Crawford [00:02:54] Baseline on Baseline between Maple and Linden.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:02:57] Oh, okay. So you really haven't moved far in Fontana since you got here.

Mr. Crawford [00:03:05] Well, they annexed. Now you see, we're in the county.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:03:10] At the beginning.

Mr. Crawford [00:03:11] At the beginning, in forty six and then Rialto annexed that portion of where we were living and so we moved without moving from Fontana to Rialto.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:03:25] Oh okay. So you lived in Rialto for a while.

Mr. Crawford [00:03:29] Well, only because of the annexation.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:03:31] You didn't move your house, just the annexation caused you to live in Rialto. Then when did you get the Fontana address again?

Mr. Crawford [00:03:43] 1969.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:03:44] 1969 Fontana address again. So your parents, did they move to Los Angeles with you?

Mr. Crawford [00:03:52] Well, they were hired out of Shreveport, Louisiana, as a maid and a chauffeur. So they came out in 1940 and was serving as the maid and chauffeur for the Axelsons. The Axelsons were people that hired them out of Louisiana and they were kind enough to let them bring me along.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:04:19] Do you have sisters and brothers?

Mr. Crawford [00:04:22] No, but I came to Los Angeles after my parents were here.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:04:28] They were already here?

Mr. Crawford [00:04:29] Yes.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:04:30] And now they have been here, if I understand correctly, three or four years here, one year before you got here. And what was life like in California when you first moved here compared to Louisiana?

Mr. Crawford [00:04:48] Oh, my goodness. Night and day. [Laughing] And and the reason I say that is that the drinking fountains, colored only...

Ratibu Jacocks [00:05:03] In Los Angeles?

Mr. Crawford [00:05:05] No.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:05:05] In Louisiana, okay...

Mr. Crawford [00:05:06] I'll compare you to the comparison. You had to watch where you walk and what you said, who you said it to, how you said it, when you said it. You just had to be on. You'd be restricted in all the activities. Most of the time in Shreveport, Louisiana, the blacks were restricted to areas that they could participate in.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:05:32] Right.

Mr. Crawford [00:05:32] Okay, and then with that particular experience of being restricted and besides all the segregation signs and so forth was just a routine for me. I thought that was part of life.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:05:53] In Louisiana.

Mr. Crawford [00:05:59] In Louisiana. Now, my mother says we were poor, but she said we were more than poor we were po'. [Laughing]

Ratibu Jacocks [00:06:09] So did you feel poor?

Mr. Crawford [00:06:11] Of course not. I didn't know any different.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:06:14] So your mother said that.

Mr. Crawford [00:06:17] My mom shared that with me, but it didn't have any effect.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:06:20] On you. So when you came to California and it was a new life; the water fountains were integrated... did that empower you? Or did that frighten you? How did you deal with that?

Mr. Crawford [00:06:37] I was very receptive of it. And it didn't bother me any at all because I was a kid coming up and I'm learning, you know, and I'm seeing the difference between shopping in Shreveport, Louisiana, and shopping in Los Angeles, California. Major difference. So with that background, I've got a background of segregation and separation. I went to an all black grammar school in Louisiana. I come out here to Los Angeles, by fourth grade I was the only black in the school. [Laughing] From all black to one black. Difference. I had a little fight every day almost, but it was all part of learning. Learning, you know?

Ratibu Jacocks [00:07:39] Well they were fighting you because you were black or because you were new?

Mr. Crawford [00:07:44] Because I didn't... we just had little words. Okay, and little words would start something. And the good part about it is we'd have the fights and we would accept that teachers wouldn't even know about it. Have our little fight and they go about their business, I go about mine. But they soon found out that this old fellow, you don't start nothing with him, okay.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:08:17] So you were a little fellow compared to the other students or...?

Mr. Crawford [00:08:23] Nothing, I mean, so drastic. But it was just the fact that I use that expression because I'm the only one in the school.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:08:32] Right. So not your size necessarily.

Mr. Crawford [00:08:34] That's right.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:08:36] And that's elementary school. Did you go on to high school there?

Mr. Crawford [00:08:41] Went to middle school.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:08:42] In L.A.?

Mr. Crawford [00:08:43] In Los Angeles.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:08:44] What was the name of that school if you remember?

Mr. Crawford [00:08:46] Let's see. John Burrow Junior High School. [phone ringing] John Burrow, Junior High School.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:08:56] You could let it go. I mean, you can talk if you want to. We can edit some of this out, so go ahead and answer. Just give her a second to answer then we can edit this out.

Mrs. Crawford [00:09:19] Hello. He's busy right now getting a message. Okay, Pastor Fred, does he have your number? Okay, Okay, he'll call you back. Bye Bye.

Mr. Crawford [00:09:36] That's Pastor Freddie.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:09:40] Okay. So you you went to middle school in LA.

Mr. Crawford [00:09:44] Yeah, junior high school, and then through the eighth grade. And that was in 1946. Then in 1946, we moved from Los Angeles. My dad was discharged from the military and we moved to Fontana.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:10:03] What part of the service was your...

Mr. Crawford [00:10:04] Army. He was a cook. .

Ratibu Jacocks [00:10:07] A cook in the Army. Okay. So one time he was a chauffeur... then he went into the military.

Mr. Crawford [00:10:14] Right. He was a professional chef when he was in Louisiana. Washington area hotel was where he was a chef then. And then he accepted the chauffeur position with, he and my mom, and they came to Los Angeles. And from there he went into the service, after the service, he was in the service four years, three years.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:10:41] Was he was in World War two?

Mr. Crawford [00:10:43] World War two in Japan, went to Japan in World War Two.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:10:47] Did he see any action or combat action?

Mr. Crawford [00:10:51] Well he was a cook.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:10:53] Oh he was a cook in the service.

Mr. Crawford [00:10:56] Right behind the lines, he was never.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:10:58] So he, but he was he was out in the field cooking for soldiers. Did he cook, do you know, for black troops, but that time it was segregation and the army, was he cooking for all soldiers or just blacks?

Mr. Crawford [00:11:14] He never told me.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:11:15] You don't know?

Mr. Crawford [00:11:16] He never told me. But I can tell you from my knowledge of what's going on, it was black. It was a segregated military. Well, it wasn't desegregated until 1948 when Truman did.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:11:31] Right. But I didn't know if black cooks cooked for white soldiers as well as black soldiers, they could have. And you don't know, he never said?

Mr. Crawford [00:11:42] No. He never said.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:11:44] So then did you graduate from high school?

Mr. Crawford [00:11:48] I graduated from high school because that's where the focus was.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:11:52] And where? From what high school.

Mr. Crawford [00:11:55] Chaffey Union, Chaffey Unified Union High School.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:12:00] In Ontario?

Mr. Crawford [00:12:01] In Ontario. The funny part about that is we bussed four years from Fontana to Ontario.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:12:10] Is that right?

Mr. Crawford [00:12:13] Four years, okay.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:12:13] I mean, why were you busing?

Mr. Crawford [00:12:16] Because there was no high school in Fontana

Ratibu Jacocks [00:12:20] And you didn't go to San Bernardino High School, you were bussed west?

Mr. Crawford [00:12:27] Right, see Fontana was the dividing line. Kids in Rialto went to San Bernardino. Kids in Fontana went to Ontario. And of course, the kids in Upland and Etiwanda and Ataloma, all those folks, Miraloma.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:12:42] They went to the school you went to.

Mr. Crawford [00:12:44] Right.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:12:44] And what was that school call again?

Mr. Crawford [00:12:46] Chaffey High School.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:12:48] Right. OK, I know where it is. Still stands.

Mr. Crawford [00:12:51] Still there. Yeah, it's still, it's a nice school.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:12:56] And so you graduated from high school and what are you doing with your life now after you graduated from high school?

Mr. Crawford [00:13:04] Oh after high school?

Ratibu Jacocks [00:13:05] Yeah. Because you were a bad boy. So I wonder... [Laughing]

Mr. Crawford [00:13:13] What you've missed is when I moved to Fontana. When we moved to Fontana in '46, there were segregated signs that said "White only" at some of the restaurants here in town.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:13:28] Same thing you saw in Louisiana.

Mr. Crawford [00:13:30] Same thing.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:13:31] You were seeing here in Fontana. So how did you feel when that...?

Mr. Crawford [00:13:36] Didn't bother me a bit. [Laughs]

Ratibu Jacocks [00:13:38] Why?

Mr. Crawford [00:13:39] Because I already knew and had experienced things in California more so than just in Fontana and all of the restaurants in Fontana did not have that sign. OK? Had all the restaurants in Fontana had it, and the other establishments, you know, then it would be a different story. But it was just this one particular restaurant that had "white only" on there, right in their window when you come in the door, you know, so I didn't have no problem. I avoided it like I did in Louisiana. I avoided all those the places that didn't invite me, you know. Yeah so, and that's, that's a life lesson. You can, you can really benefit in some areas like that because you can avoid the confusion that you will cause by participating or trying to participate in things that you are not invited to participate in. So that was a life learning lesson for me.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:14:47] What would that lesson be called in a word or two?

Mr. Crawford [00:14:54] Good question. Other than just a life lesson for you?

Ratibu Jacocks [00:14:58] Is the lesson to learn how to cooperate or separate?

Mr. Crawford [00:15:07] Both.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:15:08] Okay.

Mr. Crawford [00:15:11] Well, the reason that we talk about that is in the process of trying to get along with people, so you, I respond different nowadays to you than I would 20 or 30 years ago. And it's only because of the experience or exposure that we have in life. My relationship with my wife is completely, no, not completely,

Ratibu Jacocks [00:15:42] Not all the way.

Mr. Crawford [00:15:43] Not all. But it has grown in such a positive way, way past when we first got married. And I think that's because of our exposure and our life experiences that has enhanced us to be able to relate better than we did initially. The same way with you. When I first met you, we didn't have a good rapport with each other as we have now. Our experiences in life have given us that where our exposure and our experiences has caused our relationship to grow. Now it can do the same thing and go down, it don't have to go up. It can go down. And then on occasions it will stay just where it's at. Yeah, but that's...

Ratibu Jacocks [00:16:42] Yeah. Well we can get to your wife in a minute. I'm anxious to get there, moving right along. I see you in high school, and I see you graduate but don't take me too fast. Sometimes I'm teaching Sunday school and we are explaining the first verse. And then people want to tell me the second verse and third but I say hold on. We'll get there and he's already into his wife. He hasn't even graduated from high school. [Laughing]

Mr. Crawford [00:17:16] Yeah. But I see I was into life lessons.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:17:18] Right. I understand you use that and [crosstalk] I'm on track. I just want to say, stay on the track but I like that example of a life lesson because I wasn't clear on what you meant when you said that. That's more of a jargon word to me and I need to break it down for the camera and the future. What do you actually mean? Someone may ask me, what did he mean now got not only what you meant, but some examples to support what I mean. Yeah. So you're in high school. You graduated from...

Mr. Crawford [00:17:55] I'll have you know, during that last year in high school, I decided that I wanted to pursue a career that would retire me at the earliest age possible and I could travel the world. That was my, that's my goal.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:18:18] Where do you get that goal from? What made you want to do that?

Mr. Crawford [00:18:22] Well, I just thought the idea of traveling would be a good experience and good exposure in life. And you learn a lot when you do that.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:18:37] Well, did you see other people traveling, black people especially at that time?

Mr. Crawford [00:18:42] No, no, no, no, no. I didn't see that, yet. But it was the exposure that I had in high school that I saw where, looked like to me it would be interesting to travel the world. Okay? I thought that was a good idea and the exposure I got in high school, I received in high school caused me to think that way. In the process of that. So if I'm going to accomplish that, I need a job, I need some money, and I don't want to be old and gray trying to travel the world. So with that in mind, I needed a job and need to retire as soon as possible so that I can travel the world.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:19:36] So did you finish school at that time or you quit school and went in the service?

Mr. Crawford [00:19:40] No, no, no, no. I graduated from high school.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:19:43] And then you went in the service.

Mr. Crawford [00:19:45] Then I joined the service. I graduated in June, first part of June and went in the service at the end of June.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:19:56] And what branch?

Mr. Crawford [00:19:57] Air Force.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:19:58] Air Force. And the reason for it is, is that's a 20 year career and I can retire.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:20:05] So did you go. 20 years?

Mr. Crawford [00:20:07] Yes.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:20:07] Oh you went 20 years? You retired from the Air Force?

Mr. Crawford [00:20:11] Yes, sir.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:20:12] After 20 years?

Mr. Crawford [00:20:13] Yes, sir. With the opportunity to travel.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:20:14] And you travel while you were in there?

Mr. Crawford [00:20:19] Oh too much.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:20:20] And you made some money?

Mr. Crawford [00:20:22] Well, I have access to some money. [Laughter] I didn't, I didn't make no whole lot of money, but I have access.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:20:32] But your goal was to travel, have money to travel and live. You weren't really trying to make a whole lot of money. Your emphasis was more on traveling?

Mr. Crawford [00:20:45] My emphasis was on the retirement and the travel. See the retirement was primary so that the travel could come along. Because if I don't get to retirement, OK, then the traveling is nebulous. We got to look somewhere else. [Laughs]

Ratibu Jacocks [00:21:05] So what were your rank? Did you move up in rank?

Mr. Crawford [00:21:11] Yeah I moved up in rank. I was privileged to have five stripes in five years. OK. And then I ended up with an E-8 ranking.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:21:20] So you retired as an E-8?

Mr. Crawford [00:21:21] Yeah, Senior Master Sergeant.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:21:26] Alright. So what kind of experience did you have in the military then? Then after this question. I'm going to find out how you met this beautiful lady here. So what was some of the experience you had, not talking about her, in the military.

Mr. Crawford [00:21:47] Okay some of the what?

Ratibu Jacocks [00:21:48] Experiences...

Mr. Crawford [00:21:48] Good and bad?

Ratibu Jacocks [00:21:48] Yeah.

Mr. Crawford [00:21:49] OK. I had some experiences in the military that I cherish, played a lot of ball, won some championships,

Ratibu Jacocks [00:22:03] Baseball?

Mr. Crawford [00:22:03] Basketball, so in the process of that, I enjoyed that portion of the...

Ratibu Jacocks [00:22:10] And you traveled doing that, too then. You travel while you were playing sports. Was that called TDY like it is in the army?

Mr. Crawford [00:22:20] Yeah TDY.

Mrs. Crawford [00:22:20] Flying airplanes is what made you travel.

Mr. Crawford [00:22:24] Well, what's happening is, I was a mechanic.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:22:29] OK, that's your job?

Mr. Crawford [00:22:31] That was my job.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:22:33] On the airplane?

Mr. Crawford [00:22:35] On airplanes. On B36s number one engine mechanic and being a number one engine mechanic, and you see my fingernails? They're a little long, but you don't see a whole, you see some dirt under, but not a whole lot of dirt, OK. When I was a mechanic, they were never clean, always dirty.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:23:05] Grease.

Mr. Crawford [00:23:07] Absolutely. You can you can wash your hands all you want, still going to have some residual from that grease that you had. And then on those airplanes, we had safety wire at those particular times and so we'd safety wire up everything. And in the process of safety wiring, as you work on those little ends of the wire, cut your hands or cut your fingers all the time. OK, so my fingers are always sore and have little cuts on them all the time. So I decided I need to change my field of experience here and do something different so that my hands won't be dirty all the time. And so I volunteered to go to flight engineer school. They sent me to Flight Engineer School. I became a flight engineer. And so then all I had to do was write up whatever was wrong with the airplane. I'd write it up and give it to the mechanic to fix and I go about...

Ratibu Jacocks [00:24:14] And you kept your hands cleaner.

Mr. Crawford [00:24:16] Absolutely. Cleaner is the right word. [Laughter]

Ratibu Jacocks [00:24:22] So what was some of the places you visited and while you were in the military? What states, countries?

Mr. Crawford [00:24:31] A whole lot of places. The most, we went to England, Spain, and not Germany. England, Spain, Africa, Greenland, Canada, a whole bunch of other places, I don't remember now, but Azores Bermuda. We traveled a lot and we were going at least three months out of the year. A lot of times four months out of the year. As an example, I know we're going to get to her, but my...

Ratibu Jacocks [00:25:21] We're going to do that now. I told you after this question. [Laughter] Go ahead. You can lead us into it.

Mr. Crawford [00:25:29] You know, I'm just I'm just saying you asked me where, in the process going to Greenland, we went to Thule, Greenland. Thule, Greenland is about less than 500 miles south of the North Pole. So we got lots of snow and ice and all that kind of experience up there.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:25:50] So you were fulfilling your goal to travel for sure?

Mr. Crawford [00:25:57] It's a fact. OK. Yeah, but my traveling wasn't intended to be in that fashion. [Laughs]

Ratibu Jacocks [00:26:04] So another way God blessed you, but not in the way that you thought it was coming?

Mr. Crawford [00:26:10] Absolutely. So, so the traveling was part of my desire. OK, but my goodness, the way we did it could have been improved. [Laughs]

Ratibu Jacocks [00:26:21] OK, so. So then where do you meet her? Did you meet your wife during some of your travel?

Mr. Crawford [00:26:29] In flight engineer school.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:26:33] You were in school.

Mr. Crawford [00:26:34] Flight engineering school and, I was in, when I was a B36 mechanic, I was in Fort Worth, Texas, Carswell Air Force Base. When I went to flight engineer school, they sent me to Chanute Air Force Base, in Rantoul, Illinois. Rantoul, Illinois is 30, around 30 miles from Danville, Illinois. So we had the privilege of going to Grand Tule, Champaign or Danville as far as recreational activities, when you didn't have nothing else to do, you visited one of those cities.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:27:13] And where did you visit?

Mr. Crawford [00:27:14] I went, I visited Danville, Illinois.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:27:18] OK, now we getting close. We getting somewhere Flo. OK, you in Danville, Illinois. And you don't have much to do, you waiting and then what happened?

Mr. Crawford [00:27:37] Well. They had a barber shop there, so I'd get my haircut at the barber shop. They had an eat shop right next to the barber shop,

Ratibu Jacocks [00:27:50] Eat shop, food.

Mr. Crawford [00:27:53] Yeah Restaurant. There was a waitress in the restaurant that after I got my haircut, I went into the restaurant and order a sandwich and guess who the waitress was?

Ratibu Jacocks [00:28:06] Are getting there?

Mr. Crawford [00:28:08] We're there.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:28:08] We're there from eating that sandwich, is there.

Mr. Crawford [00:28:14] We are there.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:28:15] OK, stop right there.

Mr. Crawford [00:28:15] I ordered the sandwich from this waitress.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:28:20] OK, OK. Now, waitress, what do you remember about that sandwich? [Laughter] And I have more questions for you Estelle, but let me talk to her for a moment. I had to get ahead, I'm not a lawyer, but I know he introduced you, so now I gotta question you.

Mrs. Crawford [00:28:42] I could just sit here, majority of the people that come in, and I think hamburgers is basically the, the top of the notch, you know, of what people eat. And I think, the lady did have a full dinner, if you want a full dinner, you know, and so that's where they would come in and that's what they would eat.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:29:05] Do you remember if he was sitting at the counter at the table or standing?

Mrs. Crawford [00:29:08] He was sitting at at a table near the window, you know, and he would come in and he would order his food and I was nice and I would serve it to him.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:29:19] OK, were you thinking about a relationship?

Mrs. Crawford [00:29:23] No.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:29:23] What were you thinking about, cause you're working in a restaurant, what was going on in your mind? It wasn't a relationship.

Mrs. Crawford [00:29:33] No it wasn't a relationship, to me he was just another GI that would come into the restaurant and would eat and when they would get through with eating sometime, they would leave. But sometime he would just hang around, you know, but see, I didn't know what was going through his mind.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:29:51] Okay, what was going through your mind?

Mrs. Crawford [00:29:54] It wasn't that. [Laughter]

Ratibu Jacocks [00:29:58] Well. Did you have a boyfriend?

Mrs. Crawford [00:30:00] Yes, I had a boyfriend. And with him being in the service, you know, your parents tell young girls, don't get yourself connected up with what they called GIs.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:30:12] Because they move around.

Mrs. Crawford [00:30:13] Exactly. And so forth and so on. So therefore, I didn't have that kind of a relationship. So I caught myself having my own little boyfriend, OK? And so anyway, one day he asked me if he could come and visit with me.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:30:32] At where, at the restaurant?

Mrs. Crawford [00:30:34] No at the home. So I asked my mother and so she said, OK, so because I didn't have this kind of a thought in my mind that even my mother said, Aren't you going to change clothes? And I said, no, you can accept me like I am. [Laughter]

Ratibu Jacocks [00:30:51] What clothes did you have on, your work clothes?

Mrs. Crawford [00:30:55] No, blue jeans with something that way back in those days, the young girls did not wear, you know, like they do now.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:31:02] Well, on. You had graduated from high school?

Mrs. Crawford [00:31:08] No, I hadn't graduated from high school.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:31:10] OK, where do you go to school?

Mrs. Crawford [00:31:12] I went to school in Danville high school. And that was during the time that I had met him and everything. And so he came to visit with me and whatever. And we had started a little, I say a little relationship, you know. But it wasn't until, of course, he tells me now that he came back to California for some training and he talked to one of the pastors at the church and he told this pastor, he says, I have met a young lady that's the marrying kind. We hadn't even talked about getting married or nothing. [Laughter] So the pastor told him, he says, well, if you want to marry her, you better go back and ask her.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:31:57] So you are in California. And what church were you going to confide in this minister about your deep feelings, which church?

Mr. Crawford [00:32:09] OK in forty six when we got here. When we arrived in Fontana

Ratibu Jacocks [00:32:13] Your family?

Mr. Crawford [00:32:13] Yes. It was Community Church.

Mrs. Crawford [00:32:17] It was First Baptist Church at that time.

Mr. Crawford [00:32:19] No no no.

Mrs. Crawford [00:32:21] Reverend Williams somebody

Ratibu Jacocks [00:32:22] We're going to have a fight.

Mrs. Crawford [00:32:26] [Laughter] He wants to go all the way back.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:32:27] Yeah that's where I want to go. He knows where I want to go.

Mrs. Crawford [00:32:28] Okay.

Mr. Crawford [00:32:32] This was nineteen forty six. They had three churches that I remember here in Fontana. They had Community Church.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:32:43] Was that a Baptist church or what?

Mr. Crawford [00:32:45] Community church. non-denominational. And that was up on Carter Street it's still here. It is now Community Baptist Church. Then they had Bethel for the Methodists and then they had Pentecostal. They had a Pentecostal church on Highland, not too far from from the community church. So they had three churches that I can remember and forty six when we arrived. Yeah. In forty nine in 1949, there was a split between the community church and a new church that organized themselves as First Baptist Church of North Fontana. Most people,

Ratibu Jacocks [00:33:40] so the church split, what was the community church and which church?

Mr. Crawford [00:33:46] No. Out of the community church came First Baptist Church of North Fontana. That was because of the split between the two churches, OK, and so most of the publicity you hear about Fontana and especially from a Baptist would be involved or was involved would be First Baptist Church.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:34:10] Did you go over there to First Baptist or did you stay at community?

Mr. Crawford [00:34:14] Well, my, my parents were charter members of the First Baptist Church in North Fontana.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:34:20] Oh, they were? I know where you went.

Mr. Crawford [00:34:25] with my mom and dad.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:34:27] Yeah. And so how were you then? I want to get back to this pastor at the time that you talk about your wife. But I'm talking younger now.

Mr. Crawford [00:34:39] Right. Original, the organizing pastor was a young man by the name Harley Hayes. He was the first pastor of First Baptist Church in North Fontana. And then they had a group of different pastors. Now, about 1952 when I came home, I was telling, yeah fifty two, fifty three in that area, I shared with Pastor Williamson,

Ratibu Jacocks [00:35:12] he was the pastor of First Baptist Church,

Mr. Crawford [00:35:16] Right and he's the one I shared with that she was talking about, that I shared that I met a young lady that is marrying material and he said, you better go back and see if that's real.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:35:30] OK, but you're still in the military, and you're home on leave or?

Mr. Crawford [00:35:39] No, just visiting. Well, yeah, on leave.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:35:42] On leave. But you're still stationed in Illinois. What were your station?

Mr. Crawford [00:35:51] I was stationed in California, up in Northern California. Now that's when I finished flight engineer school. They sent me to Castle Airforce Base in Merced. After Merced then where did I go? Lockbaum, but this is all in transition from reenlisting and all that kind of good stuff. But but I was at home visiting my mom and dad when I talked to Pastor Williamson he said, you better get back there and see what's going on. This was about nineteen fifty three that he told me. You better check it out boy. I said, Yes sir, I'll check it out. So I went back to Illinois to check it out.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:36:47] So you had no other reason to be back in that town?

Mr. Crawford [00:36:50] In Danville?

Ratibu Jacocks [00:36:50] Yes.

Mr. Crawford [00:36:53] Not, no other reason is right because I had finished all my schooling, as you knew, and had been transferred to the flight school in Texas and then to cancel airforce base after I completed my flight engineer training.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:37:11] So how did she look to you?

Mr. Crawford [00:37:13] Good.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:37:13] Oh [Laughter] So you came back and,

Mr. Crawford [00:37:21] See here, I didn't give you the whole story.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:37:27] Keep me on track..

Mr. Crawford [00:37:27] See I had prayed about this situation, okay, and I asked the Lord, I said, Lord, this is what I want in a wife. This when I was about 18 or 19 and I shared with the Lord what I wanted in a wife. One of the things, I didn't want her to be bigger than me.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:37:52] OK,

Mr. Crawford [00:37:53] OK,

Ratibu Jacocks [00:37:54] I got it.

Mr. Crawford [00:37:55] All right. I didn't want her to be bigger than me, OK? I want her to have some of the same interests that I had, OK? There was, I had a list of things I done forgot them now.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:38:13] You were choicely

Mr. Crawford [00:38:15] Of course. And look, I asked, I've prayed and asked the Lord for those things. Oh, probably the most significant part was I asked the Lord that she would be able to play a piano. Okay.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:38:30] So you were in church, Mrs. Crawford when you met him?

Mrs. Crawford [00:38:35] Oh Yes.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:38:36] And, and were you playing in the church? You were participating in the choir?

Mrs. Crawford [00:38:42] I play for the choir. Sunday school and the choir.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:38:45] Oh, OK. And did you consider yourself a religious person, a saved person or just hanging in and out?

Mrs. Crawford [00:38:56] No. [Laughter] Being brought up with my family, I consider myself a very saved Christian person.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:39:04] So you were selective with what you did and who you associated with?

Mrs. Crawford [00:39:08] Oh yes, definitely. Because other that they would not approve.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:39:11] So when he come back and talk to you, what was your reaction?

Mrs. Crawford [00:39:17] We started to smile about it because we really didn't talk too serious about it. And so he was getting ready to get transferred, leaving Illinois, going to Missouri, so we decided, yes. That we would get married after I graduated from high school. So actually six months out of high school and that's when we got married. And I've been following him ever since. [Laughter]

Ratibu Jacocks [00:39:47] So it seems to me, Mr. Crawford, I think, I didn't call you Pastor Crawford yet, but I will get to that too. It seemed to me you had certain goals and

aspirations and you've been pretty successful in most of them that you have talked about, so far. Up to this point, what are your most trying time, a most difficult situation, at this point?

Mr. Crawford [00:40:18] Some people call it difficulties, I don't, it was just opportunities. My experiences in life, the negative things that I experienced, I would just step into them. I didn't consider, I was passed over for promotions, things of that nature, but I didn't consider those as a as a hindrance. I didn't consider them a hindrance.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:40:48] Why not?

Mr. Crawford [00:40:49] And the reason for it is because the opportunity would come around again. Promotions always came back again. OK, places you go and things you do, most of them come back again. There's very few things that I'm aware of that you only have one opportunity. In fact, I don't know. I don't know of anything that I've experienced or I haven't had a second opportunity, including my relationship with Christ, Salvation, me slipping and sliding, and then my, what do you call the...

Ratibu Jacocks [00:41:33] The rededication?

Mr. Crawford [00:41:37] That's it. My my Christian life is rededicated again and my focus is Christ. So so that's more than one time. OK. Every time you sing, you get an opportunity, okay, to be forgiven of it. So. So and I've said more than once,

Ratibu Jacocks [00:42:00] or twice. [Laughter]

Mr. Crawford [00:42:04] And I'm thinking I'm not by myself. [Laughter]

Ratibu Jacocks [00:42:07] So you said you say yes and you decide to go with him. Do you think in your mind? Do you have any doubt that he may not be really what you what he pretended to be?

Mrs. Crawford [00:42:24] You know, it never really come across my mind. And I guess it's because the faith that you have,

Ratibu Jacocks [00:42:30] you had it in the church too?

Ratibu Jacocks [00:42:31] Yeah, I was brought up in the church and everything. And I think is the faith that you have, because with him being from California, I'm from Illinois in a little small town in Illinois and I call myself a little country, little country girl, California is like going to London, England. And the only thing that you heard about was Art Linkletter on that. You know, we didn't even have television at the time. So it was just like, oh, you know, I'm following the man that that that's really awesome, you know? And and I'm glad that I did. And I have prayed for a husband that I wanted to be like all those menfolks in my life is my father, my two brothers, you know? So those are the two, three men that I looked up to.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:43:24] So so what what were some of the characteristics of the man that you were praying for before you met him that he matched up to? Or didn't meet, what are some of the things he met and what was some of the things he did meet?

Mrs. Crawford [00:43:43] One of the things he had to go to church, [Laughs] he had to go to church. And and basically, I don't think there was anything that I feel like that he didn't match up to or he did that I didn't approve of. And that was because the way he grew up with his mother, you know, the Christian home that I did not have to deal with him in smoking or doing drugs or anything like that, you know, and which has really turned out to be a blessing for both of us because I didn't do it either. And so it was just really, really something. You know, one of the things we both smile about even right now is that when we getting married and we thought we grown, OK, we get married. And my father was like, OK, you know, when you all leave out here you better be back in this house before twelve o'clock.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:44:36] And y'all were grown.

Mrs. Crawford [00:44:36] And we turn around and looked at each other and said we get married like tomorrow. He's telling us that we got to be back in here. But you know, there are some things that your parents tell you that you just don't forget. So even after we got married and we would be out at the clubs, at the the Air Force clubs, you know, and whatever. And we look at our watch and when it comes and it depends on where we live, it came about 11:30 quarter to 12, you said we better get out of here like, it was like daddy going to be setting at the door waiting on us. Or what ever. And it just really something that builds something up into our relationship to the fact that he can't say that I wanted to stay until one or two o'clock same thing was me, is that he didn't want to stay to one or two o'clock. Both of us knew we had better be home by 12 o'clock, you know, and it had turned out to be a blessing to us because there's been people that was there at the club and he didn't drink and I didn't drink and they would come to the club. And of course, both of us love to dance. So therefore we would get out there and the band starts. We would dance, of course, by that time, you know, 11:30 quarter to we were ready to go home, but then there's the other people there. See they be half drunk and that's when they want to start dancing. So it just different things that you don't know that you prayed about has really been beneficial to you in your marriage to where we did not have to deal with that later on in marriage that we had to go to counseling is because things like that, you know, and things like that is not simple. It's very it's very serious. And it has torn up a lot of marriages.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:46:21] And so, y'all been married how long now?

Mrs. Crawford [00:46:23] November the 7th be sixty years.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:46:25] Sixty years. So did you,

Mr. Crawford [00:46:29] She's put up with me a long time. [Laughter]

Ratibu Jacocks [00:46:32] But did you look at her as a partner, help mate, lover, friend?

Mr. Crawford [00:46:40] All of that. [Laughter] All of that.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:46:45] She met, she met your standard before you met and after you married.

Mr. Crawford [00:46:52] Now, listen, let me tell you about her the Lord gave me and this lady everything I asked for, OK? All the things I asked the Lord for, in a way she has,

Ratibu Jacocks [00:47:03] Okay that's what I'm getting to,

Mr. Crawford [00:47:06] The other thing, the other part of that equation is that He added some things to her that I didn't ask for.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:47:14] Oh, OK.

Mr. Crawford [00:47:15] So in the process of that, I was willing to accept all the things that I asked for and it wouldn't be practical not to accept what he added to her. So I just my attitude was he gave me everything I asked for, then I will accept whatever is included in that package. Okay?

Ratibu Jacocks [00:47:40] So how long do you stay in the service after you got married?

Mr. Crawford [00:47:44] 16 years.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:47:45] 16 more years.

Mr. Crawford [00:47:46] 16 years. I had put four in.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:47:49] Before y'all got married. And then 16 years you're a military wife and you're traveling with him. Did you ever have to stay back while he went?

Mrs. Crawford [00:48:04] Yes, majority of the time I did is because with him flying and they would go TDY, I couldn't go so I pretty much stayed.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:48:13] [???] did you have children at that time?

Mrs. Crawford [00:48:15] I had one son that I had and then almost seven years later, then I had another son.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:48:23] Another son. So you have two boys?

Mrs. Crawford [00:48:26] Two boys.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:48:26] You have two boys.

Mrs. Crawford [00:48:27] Yeah.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:48:27] OK. And how many grandchildren do you have?

Mrs. Crawford [00:48:36] Five, six, seven. [Laughter] I have to count. [???]

Mr. Crawford [00:48:46] We got six biological and then we've got two,

Mrs. Crawford [00:48:52] seven makes seven. Cathy's two.

Mr. Crawford [00:48:53] Cathy's two, and then.

Mrs. Crawford [00:49:02] That's it.

Mr. Crawford [00:49:02] Yeah, well, you said grandchildren, right?

Ratibu Jacocks [00:49:06] Yeah, grandchildren.

Mr. Crawford [00:49:07] Okay.

Mrs. Crawford [00:49:07] That's it.

Mr. Crawford [00:49:07] Five...

Mrs. Crawford [00:49:07] Six, seven...

Mr. Crawford [00:49:10] Six, seven, eight. Cathy has two.

Mrs. Crawford [00:49:11] Okay. Eight.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:49:15] So eight grandchildren. So you're in the military. But you, eventually you got out of the military and you're married now. What happens then?

Mr. Crawford [00:49:27] My whole philosophy and changed my traveling program and things that I thought I wanted to do [Laughter] all of that come to,

Ratibu Jacocks [00:49:45] A squeaking halt.

Mr. Crawford [00:49:46] Yes sir. And a big change. We, in marrying this girl, I tell you, it was a blessing for me because see before we got married, I'm running up and down the coast.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:50:03] Of California,

Mr. Crawford [00:50:05] Of course, and go kill myself. OK, we've come down to Los Angeles or here in Fontana or someplaces in Southern California, and then on the way back in the wee hours of the morning, the fog in the San Joaquin Valley was a monster. And so therefore, you get behind one of them ol' big trucks and follow them up the coast and the killing part about it, they go so fast that scare you. So it scared me. So I slow down and wait for another truck, but it would take,

Ratibu Jacocks [00:50:48] and they sort of guide you through the fog

Mr. Crawford [00:50:53] Yeah and that wasn't safe at all. Well, here I am. All I'm doing is following head. I mean, tail lights

Ratibu Jacocks [00:50:59] He suddenly stopped you,

Mr. Crawford [00:51:02] That's not not very smart real.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:51:05] So let's go back to you out of the service and, and you're married.

Mr. Crawford [00:51:11] Yeah, I'm out of the service. I'm I'm married. I need a job now.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:51:15] Did you have any children? Do you have any children? When you got, no, no, at the time you got out of the service and you're married and you have two children and you had two children, then?

Mr. Crawford [00:51:28] Yes.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:51:29] OK, so you have a family.

Mr. Crawford [00:51:30] Yes.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:51:31] OK, now what you do?

Mr. Crawford [00:51:33] I asked the Lord for a job.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:51:35] OK.

Mr. Crawford [00:51:37] And he gave me a job.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:51:39] Where you work?

Mr. Crawford [00:51:41] I went into the banking business, I was a safety supervisor up at Travis and so they gave me credit for supervision. The bank did experience, supervising experience. They said they could teach me to be a banker, but they couldn't substitute or teach me how to be a good supervisor. So they credited me for my experience in the military and they gave me a job six months before I came out of the military.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:52:17] As a banker?

Mr. Crawford [00:52:18] As a banker.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:52:19] And what bank was that?

Ratibu Jacocks [00:52:20] Crocker National Bank

Ratibu Jacocks [00:52:21] Crofort?

Mr. Crawford [00:52:22] Crocker.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:52:23] Crocker. Yeah, I remember them. And was that, in what town?

Mr. Crawford [00:52:28] Los Angeles was training. Pomona was the first assignment.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:52:32] In Pomona. So how do you get back to Fontana then? Cause I met you, I think with Bank of America...

Mrs. Crawford [00:52:42] First Trust down the street.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:52:42] Yeah, down on Sierra Avenue. Right.

Mr. Crawford [00:52:51] Long story. [Laughs] After the training with Crocker in Los Angeles, we lived in Los Angeles for a year while I was in training, then we came back here. We had our home already.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:53:09] In Fontana.

Mr. Crawford [00:53:09] Right here.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:53:09] Oh in this home? I'm sitting in it.

Mrs. Crawford [00:53:11] We rented it out.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:53:29] Oh while you're in L.A.

Mr. Crawford [00:53:29] So, so we, my first assignment was in Pomona. So between us living in L.A. and me working in Pomona, we finally got back into our own home. And so I just commuted back and forth.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:53:49] From here to Pomona

Mr. Crawford [00:53:52] And then they transferred to San Bernardino. And all during this time I was going to school. And so they combined with the First National Bank of San Diego. Crocker bought them out. So they had an office in San Bernardino for Crocker and one was on one corner, the next corner was the National Bank from San Diego. So Crocker on one corner, the Bank of San Diego on one corner. So they combine the two offices and I'm the junior officer amongst them. So guess who gets to be laid off?

Ratibu Jacocks [00:54:43] You were laid off?

Mr. Crawford [00:54:44] I got to be laid off. In the process of that, I'm still going to school. I was going to school. And it was to my advantage to get laid off because I could put all my time in school. And so I put all my time and in school and come out of Lavern.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:55:03] So when you came out of school, how did you get back into the business, banking business?

Mr. Crawford [00:55:08] I got a call from First Trust Bank and went in, interviewed with them.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:55:16] What year was that?

Mr. Crawford [00:55:17] 1976.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:55:20] Were many blacks in the banking business in this area at that time?

Mr. Crawford [00:55:25] Of course not.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:55:25] I didn't think so.

Mr. Crawford [00:55:26] Just a few

Ratibu Jacocks [00:55:28] Do you remember any other black people who were in the banking business?

Mr. Crawford [00:55:39] Not to name. I remember a guy was in Riverside. And he had an office in Riverside, and they gave him an office out in the desert. And they gave me an office in Ontario after I had. I was with First Trust Bank. That's when I started the seventy

six, I spent two years... Three years, spent three years here in Fontana, then they gave me my own office, for a couple of years in Ontario, then they brought me back here for three years. That ends up about 14 years in the banking business at the same time I was working on the senior housing project.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:56:43] At the same time, okay.

Mr. Crawford [00:56:44] And so that's how I got distracted out of banking in to housing.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:56:48] Was that in '76 or... eighty something?

Mr. Crawford [00:56:48] Yeah eighty-four.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:56:58] OK, so you're still and this time you're going to First Baptist Church in Fontana and you're going you both go going to go to... What's happening with the First Baptist Church in Fontana during that time?

Mr. Crawford [00:57:17] Active at about two hundred and fifty members, which was a big church. Well, yes, that's a big church for the time. For the time we had a pretty big church. Yeah. But then in 1975, there was a pastoral change. In fact that was several pastoral changes. A Lous Patterson was our senior pastor for a number of years, and from him came Lloyd Sea Blue. And then from him came J. Edward Henry and from J. Edward Henry, and from there comes Charles Singleton. Then and then the pastor of the First Baptist Church in Fontana from 75 to 81. 1981 they changed the name from First Baptist Church of North Fontanal to Loveland church of Fontana. And and actually at that particular time when the name change occurred, the official name of the church was Loveland Baptist Church and Christian Center and First Baptist Church of North Fontana\

Ratibu Jacocks [00:58:45] They want to hold onto old things and new things. Did it grow? Where was the most growth? Who brought it up to the 200 or so members which pastor the experience that growth or were you there?

Mrs. Crawford [00:59:16] I was there during a time of Rev Patterson, Rev Patterson, Rev Blue, Rev Henry.

Mr. Crawford [00:59:22] I was actually I think if you want to give anybody growth, it would probably J. Edward Henry.

Ratibu Jacocks [00:59:31] And so now was Pastor Chuck, as I know him, was he already a member of that church. He just was called to preach?.

Mr. Crawford [00:59:42] No, he he joined First Baptist Church and

Mrs. Crawford [00:59:47] He was a member of the Methodist Church, he and all the people from Campus Crusade for Christ. They were over at the Methodist Church in San Bernardino.

Mr. Crawford [00:59:56] But he moved over to First Baptist.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:00:14] But OK, let me focus, because this is part of the discussion that I wanted to get into anyway. So he's a member Pastor Chuck of another church, but

then he comes to First Baptist Church as a preacher. Right. And then where the campus crusade come in.

Mr. Crawford [01:00:37] And he was he was the staff member of Campus Crusade and they joined different churches in the neighborhood,

Ratibu Jacocks [01:00:46] The preachers there. OK, and they joined your church. I mean, the church

Mr. Crawford [01:00:50] we had Pastor Chuck and somebody else from Campus Crusade.

Mrs. Crawford [01:00:56] Campus Crusade they're not all pastors, but they do join other churches to do the ministry that they're to do from campus crusade. We had several people from Campus Crusade that would come and they would be members.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:01:11] Did you experience growth because of that? how was the membership received? Because they liked the philosophy that was coming out of campus crusade for Christ.

Mr. Crawford [01:01:24] I think that I think we were more receptive. We were as accepted, receptive as anybody in the Inland Empire of their efforts and what they were trying to do, and that is to minister and present the gospel on college campuses.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:01:46] On college campuses. Yes.

Mr. Crawford [01:01:48] OK, so so with that in mind, we we were receptive of that kind and our membership was receptive of that kind of activity.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:01:59] Do you have a lot of older members at that time?

Mr. Crawford [01:02:03] Yeah, we had when we had a bunch of "oolder members" [laughing].

Ratibu Jacocks [01:02:06] Oh, oh, that's what I understand that's where you always have to deal with. Yeah. The old timers. And so how was that situation with this new pastor coming in?

Mr. Crawford [01:02:23] The old the old timers were pretty receptive of all of the changes that occurred through the pastors and recognizing the fact that every pastor not the same and different people approach things differently. And so therefore, the the attitude of the church per se was very receptive of of the pastoral leadership that the church received.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:02:49] So was your mother and father, were they still a member of First Baptist? And so they were called the old people. Right. And they were acceptable, receptive, receptive for the changes. So Pastor Chuck is in and you still First Baptist and I remember I came here at seventy seven.

Mr. Crawford [01:03:13] OK.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:03:14] And I remember our choir out here. I think it was that church. I don't know for sure, but people used to tell me about this choir in Fontana, and did y'all have a good choir?

Mr. Crawford [01:03:26] Yes, they do a very good choir.

Mrs. Crawford [01:03:27] Yes I was the musician

Ratibu Jacocks [01:03:28] Oh, I see. You know, the choir, you know, I wouldn't go to any church, but they say you got to come by and hear this choir. I didn't go to any, but I said, yeah, go ahead and listen.

Mr. Crawford [01:03:43] Had a real good choir.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:03:46] That's what I heard. It was a real well, good choir. Then when Pastor Chuck came and it was good choir and good preacher. Yes. At that time. And where was the building at First Baptist Church of Fontana.

Mr. Crawford [01:04:03] 7093 Mango.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:04:04] Mango. Yes. And how big was that church? That's the First Baptist Church. Yes, that's what I'm talking about. Yeah. The building itself.

Mr. Crawford [01:04:14] Oh, I think it will probably seat 100 and what? 125.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:04:26] So you were soon growing out of that church?

Mr. Crawford [01:04:29] Oh yes. We're growing. We're were at the point where we could make a decision on to expand. Buy some more land somewhere else and build. We were at the at the point where we could consider that type of a program. Then that was before Brother Chuch came along,

Ratibu Jacocks [01:04:56] Before he came. Yes. Oh, so you were thinking about expanding or building before he came?

Mr. Crawford [01:05:03] Yeah, but it didn't materialize. And the reason it didn't materialize is because of the changes of the leadership, the pastoral leadership, and that's why it wasn't pursued very heavily. Pastor Patterson, did a excellent job of leading the church from my perspective, and the reason for it is he cut out all the iced teas, ice cream social, chicken fries, and emphasized tithing as the means of support for the church.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:05:39] So he brought in tithing. Pastor Chuck didn't bring in tithing it was already there when he got already that it was already there. Right.

Mr. Crawford [01:05:48] And the the love offering, system. Pastor Patterson brought that in and it was already there in force,.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:05:59] So it wasn't just one of the salary as much as love offering for the pastor.

Mr. Crawford [01:06:04] It was a love offering love.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:06:07] And for the pastor. How about the musicians? Did you get paid?

Mrs. Crawford [01:06:12] No. No. We had another young man who was going to college, and at that time they could not afford to pay me and pay him. So I feel like that I had a husband. If I needed something, he give me my little dollar. So because, you know, and to me, it was a ministry that the Lord had given me and it had nothing to do with money, money. So I told them to go and give it to him here.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:06:42] What was his name?

Mrs. Crawford [01:06:43] Sam Gee. And he he also played and they were they gave the money to him.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:06:51] OK, so and that was First Baptist Church of North Fontana before Pastor Chuck came there. Anybody else in the church who was getting paid?

Mrs. Crawford [01:07:06] After he left then Eddie Robinson came.

Mr. Crawford [01:07:10] You know, you talking about musicians?

Ratibu Jacocks [01:07:12] Anybody you know you, you said the pastor was getting the love offering. I don't call that pay but

Mr. Crawford [01:07:21] Our church administrator, that's when Jane King. She was getting paid.

Mrs. Crawford [01:07:28] Well. I was on staff at First Baptist until we went over to Loveland so I got paid.

Mr. Crawford [01:07:37] OK, when were you? When were you before we went to the bank, I mean before we went to baseline?

Ratibu Jacocks [01:07:48] I was uh huh. And then there was a pastor, Josh Beckley and Pastor.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:07:54] When did he come?

Mr. Crawford [01:07:56] He came when we were on Mango. OK, and that's between... He came about 1975, 76, after Pastor Chuck came.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:08:11] He also came out of campus crusade for Christ, am I correct?

Mr. Crawford [01:08:18] No. He came from what's the name of that ministry that Dr. Evey Hill had also in L.A.

Mrs. Crawford [01:08:28] There was and I don't remember the name of it. That's where he came from.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:08:33] So they didn't come together. No, no.

Mr. Crawford [01:08:36] He came later after Pastor Chuck was there

Ratibu Jacocks [01:08:39] So Pastor Chuck is preaching and now you're ready to make a physical move from Mango to Baseline and Sierra .

Mr. Crawford [01:08:48] Yeah, we've we've we've all almost certain we don't have any room at all. None. At no service.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:08:57] And how many service were you having?.

Mr. Crawford [01:09:04] I'm trying to remember.

Mrs. Crawford [01:09:05] At First Baptist, did we have two. During the service, we had to open up the front doors and put chairs down the hallway and then people stand on the steps. We only have we didn't we didn't have we didn't have any room at all. So the whole church was completely open up

Mr. Crawford [01:09:24] We were funneling one service. So so the emphasis was to find a place and, you know, retain the one service, one big service. Right. So we bought a place, brought some land on the corner baseline and Sierra.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:09:39] And what year was that,

Mr. Crawford [01:09:42] uh, 1980 plan in 79 the. That was in 1980, 1980.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:09:52] Yeah, that's true. Now I recognize the Loveland Church from a billboard on Foothill Boulevard, near Macy, And I'm living off of Macy and Spruce. So I used to see the sign.

Mr. Crawford [01:10:11] And if you if you went down baseline, you'd see one on baseline.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:10:15] You did have one on Baseline. Now were you are trustee, Mr. Crawford, or what? What were your position in the church?

Mr. Crawford [01:10:25] Good question. I was a deacon.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:10:28] Oh you were already a deacon. You, when Pastor Chuck came you are already a deacon. Were you ever a trustee?

Mr. Crawford [01:10:37] Yes I served on the trustees.

Mrs. Crawford [01:10:41] He was ordained as a deacon when we was in a service back in 1958.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:10:45] So you already a deacon before he came and before you got involved in the church in a real way. Why did you want to. Why do you feel that you are qualified to be a deacon?

Mr. Crawford [01:11:00] Why did I feel that? Well, wasn't so much feeling qualified. I wasn't far as I was concerned. I had no qualifications at all to be a deacon. And so that was a challenge because the pastor asked me about being a deacon and I wasn't too receptive to being with Deacon. And it wasn't so much that I didn't want to be a deacon. I just didn't know what a Deacon did, really.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:11:37] So keep going. OK, and the reason I said it, I didn't know we you know, how much time we had on the camera and not you, you know, on the most. I'm about an hour and we did that. And I was going to make this two parts, but I think I can wind up where I want to. And she's saying you can keep on going, OK, you want to take a break? I got more question for you. I haven't gotten into a lot of stuff.

Mrs. Crawford [01:12:06] We need to let you have the time to answer questions instead of us keep on talking.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:12:10] No, no, no, no, no. It's going just I want to talk to you. I know he's a talker. I knew that when I came. I didn't learn this as I got here. And and I know you and your husband are close and always to me appear to be close. So I wanted to try to try to figure this out. So you're deciding to build the church, not expand the church that you're in. Right. And why not? Do you have the land?

Mr. Crawford [01:12:48] Very simple. OK, we were on a side street and we wanted to be on a thoroughfare. OK, OK. So Baseline and Sierra was most active, one of the most active intersection in Fontana, and we had an opportunity to go there. So with that in mind, that's how we.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:13:08] What the square feet, how many square feet you had at that church and what was the seating capacity and did you have one shows or two. So what happened there?

Mr. Crawford [01:13:19] We only had one three services. Yeah, three services.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:13:26] You grew into 3 services after you moved.

Mr. Crawford [01:13:28] After we moved the baseline. And so when we moved from Mango the baseline and Sierra. The first service standing room only

Ratibu Jacocks [01:13:42] and how big how many square feet was it or how many?

Mr. Crawford [01:13:46] I don't know how many square feet.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:13:46] But 300 people or so?

Mr. Crawford [01:13:48] Oh no we could have about five.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:13:50] Oh, so it was a big.

Mr. Crawford [01:13:52] We could hit about five people. And if we squeezed and stood them on the wall, we had about six.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:14:02] In one service. And so then you decided to have another service.

Mr. Crawford [01:14:06] Then we started to go to two services, and then we went to three services.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:14:12] OK, during this growth and in this location, did pastor, Ray Turner, happened to join up with you.

Mr. Crawford [01:14:22] Yes, OK. He came in. In 81 or 82, somewhere in that area.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:14:31] Right after you moved. Right. So you're in a new church and going church and he comes as a deacon?

Mr. Crawford [01:14:40] No, just as a layman.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:14:42] Oh, he just came as a member

Mr. Crawford [01:14:44] And then ordained in and we served on the deacon board together. And then he acknowledged a call to the ministry. He was singing with the Christian disciples, all of that kind of good stuff. He used to sing in the choir, you know. Yeah, sang in the choir.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:15:05] He was singing in the choir too. So he was a singer who was a singer, who was a deacon. And when I really started remembering and used to go out and bring in members all you had cells, you had a group home meeting that something was going on where

Mr. Crawford [01:15:27] We had evangelical teams.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:15:30] OK, how did that work. I don't know if you ever heard this before.

Mr. Crawford [01:15:35] Every every Saturday they would gather at the church and they would gather at the church and then go into the neighborhood. OK. And each Saturday they would go to a different location that's how they.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:15:56] So you were growing that way, too, because you were recruited members and then the service was bringing them in. Right. And I remember the we call it open the doors to the church wide invitation, but it seemed like a lot of people used to come and I couldn't tell if they were new or old.

Mr. Crawford [01:16:16] Oh, well, combination. OK, just like a rededication of your life, a special prayer.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:16:27] And so they all came forward.

Mr. Crawford [01:16:29] Yeah. And each one has a different.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:16:33] So did you then take them and organize them into groups right away. What were your systems?

Mr. Crawford [01:16:42] We had we had what they called three steps to Christian maturity. OK, step one, step two and step three. Step one is acknowledging your faith in Jesus Christ and strengthening your position. Step two was the evangelical team. Step three would be the Bible study leader conducting Bible classes.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:17:10] How long did it take to complete all three steps?

Mr. Crawford [01:17:14] A year.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:17:14] Took a year and and do you think that was helpful in the growth..

Mr. Crawford [01:17:18] Well, I would think so, yeah because of the fact that people would know their position and where they could they could build a foundation and be comfortable in knowing who Jesus Christ is. And that's all in step one.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:17:38] So did you run for any political office in Fontana doing all that time?

Mr. Crawford [01:17:45] One, I ran for the school board.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:17:47] What year was that?

Mr. Crawford [01:17:48] 80 what?

Mrs. Crawford [01:17:50] You was at the bank the first time that you ran and then you were at Sonrise when you ran the second time.

Mr. Crawford [01:17:57] OK, well, anyway, I ran twice for the school board and was defeated both times. Blessing. [Laughing] It was a blessing a real blessing.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:18:09] And I like the way he don't negative he sees blessing with how it turned out that way.

Mr. Crawford [01:18:19] Well, look, our whole life has been a blessing. I mean, look, I was, I had an aneurysm in 87. An aneurysm. If you know anything about medicine, I'm not supposed to be here talking to you because most people that have an aneurysm of the type I had, die from it.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:18:39] And were you on vacation when that happened?

Mr. Crawford [01:18:42] I was I was at a conference a medical conference for community health systems.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:18:50] And why were you there?

Mr. Crawford [01:18:51] I was serving on the board of directors as I was the chair of the board of directors for Community Health Systems, and they had a conference, national conference in New Orleans. And so that's why we were there

Ratibu Jacocks [01:19:07] in New Orleans

Mr. Crawford [01:19:09] and my partner was with me. So I had this aneurysm. She took me over to the hospital and I spent 15 days in the hospital and didn't know I was in the hospital. No, no, no memory at all. The first fifteen days I was in the hospital and all the blood was in my brain cavity. So as the blood dissipated, then my stuff started to come back, OK? And so who? I was there for a month, spent a week trying to get back to

California and then spent a week at Kaiser Rehabilitation and then. No deficiencies from the aneurysm, and here I am today, still no known deficiencies from the aneurysm.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:20:05] So how did you get back to California?

Mr. Crawford [01:20:08] Medical air

Mrs. Crawford [01:20:11] I made arrangements for the Air Force to bring him back in their medical airplane.

Mr. Crawford [01:20:17] OK, so your wife, your wife was a big instrument,

Ratibu Jacocks [01:20:24] what year was that? 87. Cause we totally remember it.

Mr. Crawford [01:20:29] 1987.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:20:31] What was going on with us? [10 minutes] OK, what was going on in your mind when he is not remember and he obviously is not speaking and you are in a different place from home. And what are you feeling at that time? Do you think you're going to lose him?

Mrs. Crawford [01:20:56] You know, there is a time when something like that come up. You don't have any feelings, you know, and and it was just a blessing there because I didn't I didn't realize that he wasn't remembering anything else when I. I just thought he had a headache. And then when I realized that it was not a migraine headache, then I found that I was taking I had to take to the hospital. He don't remember even getting dressed. I had to dress him and call a taxi, take him to the hospital. And then he was talking to me about it. And I told him told everything. And then that's when they told him what had happened, you know? And so I just got you know, one of the other ministers had called call, told me that they can continue to talk to him,.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:21:46] Which ministers, from here?

Mrs. Crawford [01:21:48] One of them was from here, and he told me to allow to continue to talk to him because even though he doesn't respond back to me, but his spirit is receiving what my spirit is saying. So he had a favorite scripture, 91st Psalms. And I would just sit by his bed and just read to him, you know? And so, you know, like you said, you don't think about it after so long with that old man. You know, I could have been so scared because if you if you think about those kind of things, you might end up doing something that was not right right now. So but you just you just you just automatically just do things that you know, that you have to do and without even thinking, you know. So sometimes I will spend the night at the hospital with him and everything, you know, and and then I come back to the hotel and hotel is taken messages for me and the everybody. It was just like laying out their hand. People that lived here in California that had relatives in New Orleans. They was calling them and says, go to the hospital and give Mrs Crawford such and such. You know, I did what they says He was, supply all your needs. I didn't even have to. I didn't even have to be any money. People were sending me money. People was given. Some lady come to the hospital and she said, I'm so-and-so. She says, I have a cousin that might be in that way. She told me to give you this, you know, and and the people that lived there heard about it and come to the hospital and they would take me to their house and I had to wash my clothes. See I'm on vacation. You don't take all your clothes. So I would go take my clothes. I had walked so much to the hospital that I had

ever walked the heel of my shoe. This somebody had to take me to the store to buy me a pair of shoes. You know, you just automatically do things in a situation like that. And it's not until after you get back, then you sit down and then you think about, oh, my lord, you know,.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:23:55] Had to have been the Lord.

Mr. Crawford [01:23:56] Let me say this, considering this interview. The best part of me is this lady right here. That's the best part of me

Ratibu Jacocks [01:24:08] and that part of you, but the best part of you.

Mr. Crawford [01:24:12] That's the best part of me. I'm part of me, too.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:24:14] Yeah, but I but I wanted to ask this question because Jean Peacock made the impression and the insistence on Amina and Congressman Brown helping. I'm trying to figure out and I haven't talked to her about it, how did she get the word to really work on this thing, to bring you back y'all back on this plane, this type of plane

Mrs. Crawford [01:24:40] Jeans husband was there something pertaining to school

Ratibu Jacocks [01:24:44] Walter

Mrs. Crawford [01:24:47] And she knew that. I don't know how she found out, the way she knew that I was at the hospital and she would come and sit with me. She would come sit with me, keep where they were in New Orleans at the hospital.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:25:01] Jean Peacock,

Mrs. Crawford [01:25:05] Is that Walter's wife? Yeah, this is what I said. And she will come and she will sit with me. While he was there doing some of what ever the school was.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:25:15] Oh, he was at a school board conference, right?

Mrs. Crawford [01:25:17] He was there.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:25:19] Oh, I'm getting the story now.

Mrs. Crawford [01:25:20] Yeah, and because she knew where we were I was that she would come and sit with me. Oh, and then and then I had told her this been twenty six and seven years ago. Yes. I think I told her that I had tried to call. I called the Navy base, which was closer than the Air Force base. The Air Force base was in Biloxi, Mississippi. So I called the Navy base and told them that I need to put his name on the roster so that I so that I can get him back because he had had this aneurism that had erupted in his brain and so forth. And so they told me that was not top priority. And so I had shared that with her, with Jean. So anyway, she in turn calls back to California

Ratibu Jacocks [01:26:06] To Amina I remember that. I thought she was here. I didn't know she was there.

Mrs. Crawford [01:26:11] And told her what was going on. And then she in turn told people. So the next day I got this call, Mrs. Crawford. And I said, this is also on the Democratic side. You've got problem to get your husband. And I said, don't you worry about you take care of him. You know. Then I get Mrs Crawford, this is so and so on the Republican side

Ratibu Jacocks [01:26:32] because we know he was a Republican. Yeah, but what we thought

Mr. Crawford [01:26:38] I was just going to say, you're thinking and that's why.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:26:42] So we're thinking that this Republican, George Brown is a Democrat, but he's our constituent. We don't care what he is.

Mrs. Crawford [01:26:53] The next think I know I get this telephone call from the Navy and talk about what you didn't have to call your congressman or your senator. I says I didn't . There was somebody else that did that for me. His name got on the on the on the thing and on the manifest. And the next thing I know that he was they

Ratibu Jacocks [01:27:13] picked him up from the hospital. Are you conscious now? Are you are you conscious of what was going on at that time?

Mr. Crawford [01:27:21] Yeah. Yeah.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:27:21] So you were getting better?

Mr. Crawford [01:27:24] The first fifteen days was no, nothing. OK, and then from that period of time I was coming back and remembering.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:27:33] So were you in a bed on the plane, how was this plane?

Mrs. Crawford [01:27:37] Yeah, it's a hospital plane.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:27:38] There's a hospital, doctors on the plane,

Mr. Crawford [01:27:41] and nurses on the plane.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:27:43] And where did it land here.

Mr. Crawford [01:27:46] We went to three different March Air Force Base here is where we ended up. But we stopped at two or three different places. Took us a week to get here. We got here.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:27:58] Yeah. Yeah. So that is really good. So, so, so much. I want to talk to you about it or what. But OK, you're back and you're still in Loveland. And now they talking about had they started talking about the senior citizen complex

Mr. Crawford [01:28:15] We put the senior citizen complex in the master plan in seventy-nine. OK. And then we start working on it in eighty two.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:28:23] Now who help with that locally here because it's a political governmental endeavor.

Mr. Crawford [01:28:36] Ok. Hm. The city council in Fontana and Matt Simon. OK. He was part of the group that supported the Dino Popovero senior center in 76 that they built somewhere in that vicinity. They built on the corner of Marigold and Juniper, one hundred and fifty units. From there when we started, we have we have put it in our master plan. We can keep on talking, but after we put it in our master plan, OK, then in 1982, we start to put the work together. Put the plan together, OK? And I contacted all city and see how you got to know that I've been involved in Fontana. From nineteen seventy one up to date, been with city different committees at the city, different communities, school district, and so I was basically politically entrenched. I knew all the people. So when we put our plan together for the senior our senior center Sunrise apartments, the things that I needed from the city, I went to the mayor and the city council and asked them for. Of course, I asked them before I stood up at the platform and asked if I asked them each individually for support

Ratibu Jacocks [01:30:35] before you spoke at the public comments.

Mr. Crawford [01:30:39] That's right And so when I stood before the council to ask for their support, I had already I knew who they were going to say before this, before it become public, because I did it on an individual basis and it isn't. And we didn't violate the Brown Act because I went to them one on one, OK? And so that's we got the city support as at the same time we got the county support. OK, because I know a couple of the supervisors and so. It wasn't hard to get support for seniors being there, we're serving seniors, right, because seniors vote

Mr. Crawford [01:31:32] and you weren't a senior. Were you a senior at the time?

Mr. Crawford [01:31:39] I don't know. On my way. But but I got the county's support. And in the process of that, when it all come around and I'm asking the city for support when I'm the guy from the county is sitting right next to me, you know, the council meeting. I'm asking the city for support for sewer, sidewalks, curbs, gutters and all that kind of stuff, and and see, the catch of it is a 202 project, like the one we have it has a priority of funding. When you talk about block grant money. OK. And, of course, the county was providing block grant money to the city, and so I'm standing up there to assist them with some funds from the grant block grant money. And this guy from the county is sitting right there next to me, OK? They know already that the town is supporting OK. And so therefore they went on and it was their support.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:32:53] So you become the manager. How did you because you have been working on it.

Mr. Crawford [01:32:58] Let me share that with you. There is a management. There's a management firm that we originally hired to manage the property out of San Diego for some reason HUD disqualified them. OK, and so we had to go and ask another management firm to manage the place. And so that's when we got Jim Johnson. He was a former city manager of Compton and he owned a property management firm. So we hired him to be our management company. And then at the end of the construction has been completed and we're ready to take applications and all that kind of stuff. I asked the management company, and I said, well, I don't know anybody know any more about this company than this facility that I do want you guys, man, hire me and I'll go to work for you.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:34:07] Now, what interest does Loveland today, Loveland Church have with the senior citizen complex?

Mr. Crawford [01:34:16] Only as the sponsor. Loveland Church gave us ten thousand dollars original seed money investment. OK, I think. A year or two years after they hit, we had changed from a construction loan to a permanent loan. We had ten thousand dollars that we could go back to them, and so we gave them back ten thousand dollars seed money that they gave us. And we thanked them for. And says, thank you. See, we were independent. Sunrise is an independent 501c3 202 federally funded senior housing No. Senior Affordable Housing Project.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:35:14] So who named it Sonrise? And so I like the son of God. OK, who named it that?

Mr. Crawford [01:35:28] Well, let me tell you where I got that from.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:35:30] I mean, this is the last comment that was. Come on.

Mr. Crawford [01:35:33] Well I got that from Chuck Singleton, but I got that back in seventy five. Seventy six. We were doing a project for Harambee Movement in Chicago and Milwaukee, New Jersey and some places. Well, anyway, we were doing a project with Harambee movement and Sonrise was mentioned in our in our discussion of what we were going to do for that national conference that we were doing so last summer. So I took that. So when we organize the nonprofit. Son Sonrise came forth but but he mentioned it four five years before. So when we got to the point where we organize and now then see I don't like this. I'm the chair, the chair of the board ok. And I just don't like to talk about what I do.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:36:41] Why?

Mr. Crawford [01:36:42] Because I just don't. It's not.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:36:45] I want to know.

Mr. Crawford [01:36:46] We'll see. But the Lord does so much. And I got to make sure I give him credit where credit is due. In my life I try to reflect Him everything I do because He's really been good to this ol' boy, or I should say this old country boy.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:37:04] So how old are you now? How old are you now?

Mr. Crawford [01:37:09] Old.

Mrs. Crawford [01:37:10] Take a guess, take a guess.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:37:10] Oh, I don't know. I came to a birthday party and he was 16.

Mr. Crawford [01:37:20] 83.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:37:22] So when if ever do you plan to retire? Is that in your plan.

Mr. Crawford [01:37:29] No, that's not in my mind. OK, I that's not in my plan.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:37:33] I still want to ask you about Temple and how you got there so much. I still want to ask you that may have to set this up for another time because I didn't do everything I wanted to get through because it took a little longer because two of you are here and we usually we have one person talking. But I know this is why I'm talking to people and it takes a little longer. But I just wanted to say, though, that I want to thank greatly Mr. Pastor Deacon Draymond and Estella Crawford for this interview. I really an honor for me to do this. And I'm sure after we watch it, I have some more questions that will hopefully set up another appointment to talk to you some more. OK, thank you so much.

Mr. Crawford [01:38:29] Thank you.

Mrs. Crawford [01:38:35] Left and went with her husband

Ratibu Jacocks [01:38:38] Light skinned lady

Mrs. Crawford [01:38:39] that was directing the choir and everything at the church there. Oh, I can't think of her name it. Rhonda.

Ratibu Jacocks [01:38:47] Rhonda.

Mrs. Crawford [01:38:47] Yeah, OK. She, she, she came and she sung and Benny played for them and so we had to Pastor Turner came and so anyway we was out in the parking lot and so anyway so, so anyway they went on, they, they talked about, you know, Draymond Crawford and all that he did and all this kind of stuff.

End of Interview:

[01:38:47]