

Kerry Kastler Burt Interview  
Interviewed by Loren Webb

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Participants: Loren Webb (Interviewer)  
Kerry Kastler Burt (Interviewee)

Location of Interview: St. George, Utah

Transcribed by: Susan Mower

Webb: Hi, welcome. My name is Loren Webb. I'm the Oral History Coordinator for the Washington County Historical Society. Today is Thursday, June 12, and our guest today is Kerry Kastler. I've known Kerry for most of my adult life, and particularly involved with when I was a reporter working at *The Spectrum* newspaper and she was involved with the St. George Planning Commission and the Washington County Planning Commission. So we'll talk about that a little bit later during this oral history interview. So today, welcome, Kerry.

Kastler: Thank you.

Webb: And so tell us your full name.

Kastler: It's Kerry Kastler Burt.

Webb: Where and when were you born?

Kastler: Oh, my. I was born in Salt Lake City [Utah] a long time ago, but October 29, 1951.

Webb: And who else was in your family?

Kastler: I had a half-sister and my parents, and then some aunts and uncles, but it was a small family, particularly by Utah standards.

Webb: What were your parents' names?

Kastler: My dad was B. Z. [B. Z. Kastler, Jr.] or Bud Kastler, and my mom was Donna.

Webb: What type of work did they do?

Kastler: My dad was an attorney by education and then became the chief counsel for the gas utility, which at the time was Mountain Fuel and now is Enbridge.

Webb: Before that it was Questar, right, Questar Corporation?

Kastler: And before that it was Questar, then it went to Dominion Energy, and then Enbridge. So he rose through the ranks to become CEO and Chairman, and it was, I know, a great honor for him and for our whole family. My mother was very active in civic affairs and served as the President of the Utah Girl Scouts. That meant I went to Girl Scout Camp more than once.

Webb: That's great.

Kastler: That was pretty much our look-see.

Webb: How did your parents meet?

Kastler: They met at the University of Utah.

Webb: Tell us, what did your community look like outside of your family, growing up?

Kastler: Well, I had one aunt and uncle that lived by us part of the time, though not consistently, because he was in the Air Force. And then my father had one sister. We are a really small family. They lived in California, and so we vacationed in California because it was generally nicer weather than Salt Lake had to offer.

Webb: What was your neighborhood like, anything that stands out about your neighborhood, growing up in this neighborhood.

Kastler: Oh, my. It was a new neighborhood. It was considered the outskirts of Salt Lake but is now darn near downtown. And there were lots of young families, very few people our age. I went to Skyline High School. It was the newest school and, I think, still to this day holds the record for the largest student body.

Webb: Let's come back to that. Where did your ancestors come from?

Kastler: They were primarily from Germany and English isles, and they immigrated here not in my parents' parents' lives, but in their parents' parents'. So I guess that would be my great grandparents, and my great-grandmother spoke, oh, this much English and a lot of German.

Webb: Do you recall approximately when they came to the United States?

Kastler: I can't tell you that. I'm so sorry.

Webb: Where did they first settle?

Kastler: My grandmother's family on my mother's side were in Iowa, and my father's family, they were like rolling stones. They moved around, and I don't know where they settled. They spent most of their life in California, although my parents met because my father

was with his parents in Utah. His father worked for the telegraph company and did Morse code.

Webb: Describe your grammar school and your high school years. You talked about Skyline. Where did you go for either junior high or middle school or elementary, anything that stands out?

Kastler: I was a little before middle school was invented, so I went to Eastwood Elementary and Wasatch and Churchill Junior High School, which were both kind of on the east side of Salt Lake, and then Skyline.

Webb: That's like me. I went to a junior high school, as well. So what influential teachers did you have, any that stood out?

Kastler: I had a high school biology teacher that, and I'm not a big mathematician or science guru. But he made biology so interesting. We had the lift-up desks, and for people that had misbehaved the day before, there might be a skunk waiting for them inside their desks. And I kind of overdid the whining when we had to dissect frogs, which were the rubber formaldehyde specials, so I got to do a live one. And I was pretty overwhelmed by that. But he got his message of discipline across and made it every interesting for all of us to be able to see and hold his pet skunk that had, of course, been de-scented. It was amazing. And he did that over and over again. And I thought, you really think outside the box, and it made it great for the students.

Webb: Yes, that's great. You always remember your best teachers, the one that really made a difference for you. What were your hobbies and interests as a child?

Kastler: I was forced, and eventually liked, playing the piano, and actually played competitively.

Webb: Good for you!

Kastler: But it's very time consuming. If you're playing more complicated pieces, you might be practicing three hours, and I'm sure many practiced more hours a day. And I loved that. I liked rocks really well, and I liked reptiles really well because I caught a snake when I was younger, and I thought I was the snake whisperer and quickly learned that I would not want to pick up a rattler.

Webb: Did you read much, and if so, what topics? Does anything stand out?

Kastler: I read primarily non-fiction. But I read all of the common books of that age group when I was in school, like the Nancy Drew mysteries. But my mom had a very big interest in archeology, and my dad, of course, the law. So I ended up reading things like *Gods, Graves and Scholars*, lots of more thought-provoking and, again, often non-fiction books.

Webb: Did you belong to any influential clubs or organizations in high school?

Kastler: I was in Honors Cotillion so I could learn to be a lady, because I was so far from it. It was tough, but I made it. I was not of the predominant faith, so it was very good for me to mix with people from primarily throughout Salt Lake City.

Webb: Education-wise, did you attend college or university, and what were your major and minor, if any?

Kastler: My undergrad was in consumer studies with emphasis in nutrition, and my graduate was in philanthropic studies, and that's the science and the field of fundraising, mostly the science.

Webb: At what university?

Kastler: Indiana University, Purdue University, Indianapolis, IUPUI. And I went to the U, the University of Utah, because my family all went there, and "Go Utes." I never did convert to Indiana.

Webb: But you went to Indiana first, and then came back to Utah?

Kastler: No, Indiana was grad school.

Webb: That was grad school. So you went to University to Utah, got your bachelor's degree, and then went to Purdue University.

Kastler: Yes.

Webb: Did you get a master's there?

Kastler: Yes.

Webb: In what, in philosophy, or—

Kastler: In philanthropic studies.

Webb: In philanthropic studies. What stands out about your college years? Did you have any influential mentors or any interesting experiences, any successes, accomplishments, challenges, frustrations, anything like that, that stood out?

Kastler: Biochem was a challenge and a frustration. Grad school was amazing. I was older, I was in my fifties, and many were younger. And I remember when the professor would pose questions that we were to answer or online debates, and these were not visual, they were just written. When we would be posed those questions, I was amazed at how the primarily younger students could whip out an answer that made sense and used grown-up words, if you will, and I would labor over that. But it was a very good experience for

me, and I was out there alone. I didn't have a buddy that went with me. So I learned a lot of skills out there. And I learned about humidity, which we don't have in Utah.

Webb: Right, the Midwest. Yes. Describe how you met your husband when you married.

Kastler: My children's father I met in my last year, well, actually, I met him in high school but didn't see him too much until I ran into him at a car wash, and we started up a relationship from there. And we married when we were about 21 and had three children.

Webb: This is Ron Phillips?

Kastler: This is Ron Phillips. And good luck keeping my name straight. And he lives here in town, and we have a good relationship. We see our kids, usually together, every week, with our families. And it's been good. He's a good guy.

Webb: So you have three children?

Kastler: Three children. I have two daughters (one is special needs), and a son. Every one, at one time or another, has been involved with the pool industry because Ron started a pool business when he was here.

Webb: Okay. So I definitely want to know what was his occupation, and what experiences did you and your family have in relation to that occupation, anything that stands out?

Kastler: Future careers were, especially my son and some of his step-children, and my daughter's children, every one save me, knows their way around the swimming pool and chemicals, and it has been, obviously, in St. George where so many people are looking for an escape from the heat, there are lots of swimming pool opportunities and spas. And so it's been enough to keep those who want to be involved, employed well.

Webb: Then you divorced him and met your husband Wendel Burt? Tell us about that.

Kastler: Wendel I met when we were both empty nesters and a mutual friend lined us up. He lived in Salt Lake. He had Burt Brothers Tire and Service that he and his brother founded and later sold to their sons, and now they have partnered with a private equity group and have about 24 stores, I believe, throughout Utah. And they started with one.

Webb: Do they have one here in St. George?

Kastler: Yes, they do. And regrettably, Wendel died before, just a few days before it opened. But they do, out on Sunset.

Webb: What month and year did he die?

Kastler: He died in '23, April. We were camping in Palm Springs, and he just dropped dead.

Webb: I'm so sorry.

Kastler: He was younger than I was. I robbed the cradle, and I'm like, what is going on? You still had so much life. But he really wanted to live. He had a vibrancy for life.

Webb: I'm so sorry about that.

Kastler: Thank you.

Webb: Tell me a little about your duties if you worked prior to your involvement with Dixie Medical Center and Intermountain Health Care. Were there any other places that you worked prior to your involvement there?

Kastler: Right out of school, or the University of Utah, I worked for Associated Food Stores. I was responsible to answer a hot line, if you will, do some in-store work with primary good nutrition and consumerism. I believe I was Consumer Specialist, something of that nature. And I wrote a weekly column for their ads, which were fairly large at that time. And it was always on a food or nutrition, good health, good shopping topics.

Webb: That's a huge business.

Kastler: It was fun.

Webb: I've driven past there, you know, like their docks. And they're huge. They reminded me of WalMart.

Kastler: They are. And they did so many things for me. They wanted me to understand food from the bottom up, and I went to a slaughterhouse and went to different growers, and it was really a great experience for me.

Webb: It sounds like it. So then tell us a little bit about your involvement then with, let me just double check. I want to make sure I'm not getting ahead of myself.

Kastler: Next, I worked at Mountain Fuel.

Webb: You started working at Mountain Fuel.

Kastler: I did. I had done an internship there. At the time it was quite common for utility companies to have nutritionists or home economists that taught people to use the range, gas or electric, dryers, barbecues, practice good nutrition, and particularly good shopping and use of that particular energy source. And gas was a big mystery. It was not uncommon on television to see people stick their head in the oven, and then that would be how they ended their life.

Webb: Right.

Kastler: And there was a lot of time dispelling that. And, again, I learned more, like people would say, “Oh, we’ve had this turkey for about three or four years now. It’s been in the freezer. What do you think about it for Thanksgiving this year? And I’d just think, “Oh, my.” But it was fun. I learned all sorts of tricks in the kitchen, and it was good for me because I hadn’t been a star homemaker at home because my mother filled that role.

Webb: What other civic, community, religious, or other organizations did you participate in, including your work with the St. George Chamber of Commerce?

Kastler: Oh, gosh. Once we relocated to St. George about 1985 from Salt Lake I was in the Chamber [of Commerce], Rotary, Toastmasters. You know, I did not get my résumé out for this interview, and I thought, you can remember all those things. But I really can’t. The Chamber stands out in my mind because it was such a connector and made it possible for me to really build the roots of what would become the Development Officer at Dixie Regional [Medical Center].

Webb: And you were involved with Sunshiners, too?

Kastler: Yes, I’m still a Sunshiner.

Webb: Tell us a little bit about what the Sunshiners do.

Kastler: The Sunshiners welcome new members and encourage membership in the St. George areas Chamber of Commerce. And they go to ribbon cuttings and groundbreakings. And I learned all about those, as well, and was so thrilled the first time I got to cut a ribbon, and it wasn’t even a business that had anything to do with me. So they do a great service to the community.

Webb: So you got to meet a lot of community leaders in these positions with the Chamber of Commerce and the Sunshiners, right?

Kastler: Absolutely.

Webb: As you said, a great connector, a great way to build your level of friendships and business associates and acquaintances and that kind of thing.

Kastler: Absolutely.

Webb: Describe your experiences serving on the St. George Planning Commission. How did that come about?

Kastler: That was really quite a surprise. Karl Brooks, who was then mayor, called me and said, in his own [way]—did you know Karl?

Webb: I did, very well.

Kastler: His own very light-hearted yet effective way of “Don’t hang up.” You know, “This is Karl Brooks. I’m the mayor.” I’m, “I think I know that.” And then he asked me if I would consider serving on the Planning Commission. And I did, and became the chairman, over time, and met great people there. My takeaway was—

Webb: Yeah, what did you take away from that, from serving on there.

Kastler: You know, we all have a voice in our community, really, our entire nation. But we don’t always use it. And I learned one of the first steps in using that was if you were disturbed by any growth or new business that was coming into town, you had an opportunity at the Planning Commission to voice your concern then. If it passed through the Planning Commission, of course you would be able to go to City Council. And I had an experience where someone who was very prominent in the community said, “I hope I don’t lose my temple recommend for this,” because I think they were not in favor of a church structure going so closely to their particular neighborhood.

Webb: Interesting. So were you the chairman of the St. George Planning Commission?

Kastler: Yes. Not initially, but later.

Webb: Not initially, but later on.

Kastler: Yes, later on.

Webb: Tell us a little about the difference between serving as Chair and just as a member.

Kastler: Well, you’re leading the meeting when you’re the chairman. You recognize those who wish to speak. You recognize the commissioners. You make in your own mind, “It sounds like we’ve heard this issue, it’s probably time for a vote.” And the hard part was that when you looked out over the audience there were always friends on the pro side and always friends on the con side. And no matter which way you voted or what kindness you tried to weave into your comments, there was always someone who was going to be not so happy. And I don’t think I lost friendships, but probably came close. So that was tough. But it gave me a really good opportunity to learn about meeting leadership and recognizing people and their feelings. It was great. But from that, I’ve got a son who lives in the town of Virgin, and you might know that that’s exploding right now, and they moved there to be off the grid. And they are not off the grid. And things happen and come up, and they’ve actually gone to the Planning Commission and to the City Council, as well. And he is not that guy. So I’ve been really proud of him. So everyone, really, if you really want to, you can have a voice.

Webb: Describe your experiences working with the Washington County Planning Commission. How was that different?

Kastler: That was not as fun.

Webb: Not as fun?

Kastler: It was more looking at bringing in developments in what was primarily in either open space or agricultural was typically a zone that undeveloped property would come in at. And I didn't know too much about building, and I learned very quickly that, "Oh, is there water there? Is there sewer there? Do they have will-serve letters from the utilities?" And many times those caused field trips because I couldn't picture where Long Valley Road was, where now, when I go to see my kids up in the eastern county, I go via it. But I had no idea, just looking on a map, just where is that? And how is that going to eventually fit in? So it wasn't quite as fun because St. George, I knew where almost everything was, and I had an opinion, but I didn't have an opinion on good old Long Valley Road or several other developments.

Webb: Like out in New Harmony?

Kastler: Yes.

Webb: What were our duties with *The Spectrum* writers group? And what kinds of positive or negative experiences came with that group?

Kastler: I love to write. And it was a great opportunity to do just that. Each member wrote a 500-or-so word op-ed.

Webb: For *The Spectrum* newspaper?

Kastler: For *The Spectrum* newspaper once a month.

Webb: And were you contacted by the publisher? Was it Roger Plothow or—

Kastler: Uh-huh. It was either Roger or Brent.

Webb: Roger or Brent Low?

Kastler: Yes. I may have worked with both of them, because I did it for quite a few years. I loved it. I learned so much because you can't just form your opinion. You've got to have a reason for that opinion. And my claim to fame is that there was a proposed statue of a famous gentleman in history that Washington City wanted in their Town Square. And he was very controversial, involved with Mountain Meadow Massacre. And I argued against that. Why would you want to celebrate someone that had already brought so much rancor to Letters to the Editor, for example, or just in the community buzz. And the mayor called me. I didn't know him.

Webb: The mayor of Washington City?

Kastler: Yes, and said we're going to vote against it, at least he was. And it did not go through.

Webb: That's right. And today that statue is inside the Washington City Museum. It's not in the Square.

Kastler: Yes, because Jerry Anderson, our local—

Webb: Yes, the individual who created the statue—

Kastler: Yes, such a great sculptor, had already sculpted it.

Webb: Right. Interesting. Any other experiences? What about the one with the “Beyond the Oranges and Bananas”?

Kastler: Oh, I mentioned I have a special needs daughter, and she is fortunate to work at Harmons. Many of the grocery stores have a nice commitment to weaving in those with special needs, and she was very grateful to go there. She started bagging, but she was not excellent at it the first couple of months, and there was a woman who was very short with her, and I couldn't understand why you would value the time that it took you to get apples and bananas, which wasn't very long, with the value of human feelings, because it broke her heart. She couldn't understand what she was doing wrong. And you know, she was doing something wrong, putting oranges and bananas on top of bread. But, you know, the stores here, they would quickly remedy that.

Webb: What kind of feedback did you get from your article?

Kastler: I got good feedback from that.

Webb: Good. That's good.

Kastler: And I was appreciative.

Webb: How did you become involved with the Dixie Medical Center Foundation and later Dixie Regional Medical Center Foundation, and what experiences there stand out for you as either a Board Member or as President and Chief Executive Officer?

Kastler: Again, it was kind of quite by accident that I ended up with the hospital. I had been in public relations in Salt Lake, and they had an opening. I worked part time for the Public Relations Director, and occasionally we would get checks from folks who were grateful patients, for example, who wanted to do something to help the non-profit hospital.

Webb: Are you talking about Terri Draper, working with Terri?

Kastler: No, I hired her.

Webb: Oh, you hired Terri?

Kastler: I was the fortunate person, that's a claim to fame right there.

Webb: Wow.

Kastler: So those checks would come in, and no one wanted to deal with them. So I was elected to do that. And from that I was able to encourage additional donations and begin a newsletter and many other things to draw attention to the fact that it was a non-profit and trying to communicate to others that non-profits don't necessarily make a profit. In fact, you probably want them to. Otherwise, they would quickly be gone. But it's what you do with that profit that counts. And, of course, Intermountain has a huge charitable care, not only on the end of a patient's bill, but in community services that they provide throughout Washington County and everywhere they serve.

Webb: What were your experiences like serving as President and Chief Executive Officer?

Kastler: I loved my career there. I had a saying that I'm sure someone else gave me, but "People are at their best when they are giving." And from my experience in Volunteer Services to that of Development, that was almost a hundred percent true. You saw their good side. They were happy to be providing help that they saw was critical to make their community a better place to live, not just now, when they were making their gift, but in the future. And the volunteers the same way--they ran the snack bar by themselves for years until I came along and ruined it—all of a sudden they had to have a boss. But they taught me more than I ever taught them.

Webb: So was this starting at the 400 East Campus?

Kastler: On 400 East, yes. Actually, I had an office that was on 300 East in the old yellow brick building that some might remember before I ended up elsewhere.

Webb: Wow. And weren't you involved in helping with the Jubilee Home? Is that right?

Kastler: That Jubilee Home was my first major fundraising experience.

Webb: And it was located right across the street and just kitty-corner from the 400 East Campus facility?

Kastler: Kitty-corner from 400 East. Yes. And we had, thanks to a grant that I believe Senator Orrin Hatch had quite a bit to do with from the Downwinder perspective, we were granted the money to start a Cancer Center. And all of a sudden people who had to travel hundreds of miles to receive life-saving care, could receive most of that care here because we had both surgical, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and, of course, physicians to oversee that. And it was really the physicians and the caregivers that wanted a place for their patients to stay so that they wouldn't have that added burden of not only just funding but finding a place to stay, often for a long time.

Webb: This was for the families to stay, the families of patients?

Kastler: Yes, the families and the patients, depending on what they were receiving.

Webb: The families and the patients. And this was kind of a new concept, it seemed like a new concept for here.

Kastler: Well, Ronald McDonald houses are around.

Webb: I know there were the Ronald McDonald houses. But to me it was brand new.

Kastler: But for here it was brand new. Yes.

Webb: I just lived right up the street from the Jubilee Home.

Kastler: That's right. I remember that.

Webb: I lived on 400 East. And I just thought it was really a neat concept and a great thing the hospital was doing. That's why I remembered that. So what were your responsibilities with Intermountain Health Care's Southwest Region in Institutional Advancement, and how did you become involved with that organization? And tell us about any experiences that stand out with IHC.

Kastler: I became involved because my position grew from public relations to volunteerism to both to then handling those checks that would come in unsolicited. So I was fortunate to meet some folks, Bill and Berniece Godfrey. They had a hotel on Main Street, and they wanted to make a difference. And they gave me a fairly large contribution to that end, and in my wildest dreams I never believed we'd be able to build a home with charitable funds. And indeed we were. It was all private donations that funded that home. And it made such a big difference. And their gifts not only inspired others to give, they inspired me to get more involved with the facilitation of giving in the hospital arena here. And it was named a Jubilee Home because the Godfreys didn't want it named after them, but they did want to recognize the Jubilee of Trees.

Webb: So you got involved with the Jubilee of Trees?

Kastler: It was part of the Foundation.

Webb: You are also over three hospitals, is that right?

Kastler: Yes. The Southwest Region was Cedar City.

Webb: Cedar City Hospital?

Kastler: Yes. Well, it was Valley View at the time.

Webb: Okay, Valley View Hospital.

Kastler: And Panguitch, Garfield Memorial.

Webb: Panguitch. Garfield Memorial Hospital.

Kastler: And then St. George.

Webb: And Dixie Medical Center at the time, right?

Kastler: Yes.

Webb: Did you eventually move to the 1000 East campus?

Kastler: Yes, and you probably remember the administrator, Steve Wilson.

Webb: Yes.

Kastler: When he came and announced to his executive team that they had secured that property up on 7<sup>th</sup> East, River Road, excuse me, I just thought, “Are you kidding? That’s like out of town!” And what foresight and what a blessing that was, because the campus is huge now, the population of course had continued to expand. And I believe that the hospital has been one of the biggest drivers, along with the college, of people wanting to move here because they all of a sudden feel like, “If I have a heart attack, I don’t have to drive a hundred miles to be seen and be saved.” So I credit the hospital with kind of sparking the fire that really ignited the growth down here.

Webb: That must have been really exciting for you.

Kastler: Oh, it was.

Webb: You were seeing all this growth of all the campuses, the various buildings and the various specialties. All these things are going on to provide all the health-related things so you didn’t have to be transported to Las Vegas or to Salt Lake so much, right?

Kastler: Yes. And I think the only secondary doctors, when I moved here, were surgeons. And all of a sudden we had the oncology team for cancer. Then when we moved to River Road we were going to have heart surgery. And, boy, it doesn’t take a rocket scientist to figure out that will be life saving, particularly for many retirees who move here, just like Life Flight was another raise that I was intimately involved with. That was by far the easiest fund raising because the hospital was a little bit more complicated and took a lot more nurturing and cultivation, education, and inspiration to generate gifts. But Life Flight, it didn’t take long for people to understand that yes, anybody.

Webb: What an incredible service. And it started at Dixie Medical Center on 400 East. I remember seeing them flying over my house all the time, and then over here.

Kastler: But that was not our helicopter at the time.

Webb: Oh, it wasn't?

Kastler: We didn't get that helicopter until 2007, I think.

Webb: So did they contract with it at that time.

Kastler: Maybe, or of course, other helicopters from outer regions would come here because it was the most advanced hospital. We had fixed wing, but not the rotary.

Webb: Not the rotary. And the rotary just saves too much time.

Kastler: It did.

Webb: It has the abilities of going to Sand Mountain, like if there is a rollover of like a 4-wheeler, or a side-by-side.

Kastler: Yes.

Webb: And they're able to land right on the road and be able to bring those life saving efforts.

Kastler: Yes. We hear about it often in the news.

Webb: And then come back and save those lives.

Kastler: Again, we were really fortunate that, for example, Jerry Atkin had had a need for life flight when he was on a trip in California, and he was a very eloquent and influential supporter of life flight. And it made it a great raise of funds.

Webb: Okay. So are you still working with them, or did you retire?

Kastler: I retired. And if I hadn't married Wendel, whose businesses were all in the Salt Lake area at the time, I would like to think I was still doing something for the hospital, because it will always have a place in my heart. But I retired to marry him.

Webb: What year did you retire?

Kastler: 2016.

Webb: 2016, okay. Describe your responsibilities as Development Coordinator with Conserve Southwest Utah, and how did you become involved with this organization, and what years have you served with them, and are you still working with them?

Kastler: I am. I've never been an employee, and I was never Development Coordinator, but somehow that got put on a business card by somebody, not me.

Webb: So what is your position?

Kastler: I am a board member.

Webb: A board member.

Kastler: And I do work with development as that board member.

Webb: Thanks for correcting that, because that's what I saw on the internet when I was looking this up.

Kastler: I can't believe it's still there. We'll have to do something about that, because there are people who work far harder than I do. They have a pretty nice staff now. But I was involved with them from their early days in the early 2000s when they were, now I'm going to have to look through my notes to find out what their name was—I think they had a different name.

Webb: A different name.

Kastler: My first involvement was as a facilitator for strategic retreat because I did that around the City in addition to my duties at the hospital. And Conserve Southwest Utah was one of those organizations. And later when I moved back here they asked me if I would want to be involved again, and I did. I love Conserve Southwest Utah. It's, in my mind, the premier and really the only organization 501C3 that's focused on the preservation of our water, which is particularly salient right now, our public lands, and our air, and who's also interested in teaching people about desert livability. All of us, most of us, like lawns. They are inviting. But here the water usage is not good. And we've even seen the predominant church here, which has several buildings, remove a lot of turf and do different landscaping that is more congruent with our water supply. And they are leaders, and it influences their members and others who drive by, that "Boy, if they're tearing out that much lawn, there must be something to this water shortage." And that's been a very difficult point to get past people. This is a building and construction trades Mecca here, and there are many people who depend on that to maintain their source of income. So it's a difficult lesson and back and forth with a conservation organization and developers. I think we've seen a lot of change and a lot more acknowledgement of the role that water conservation plays, and at the same time that water plays, all of a sudden faced with, "Oh, you mean we may not be able to use as we do now?" And that's true. Hopefully everyone will come together and get behind water conservation because it, in my mind, is critical.

Webb: Okay. What are your thoughts about the Northern Corridor? I know Conserve Southwest Utah has been fairly opposed to that.

Kastler: We have, for a number of reasons, it increases the likelihood of fire, it's a road that we believe is not needed particularly at this time. There are other alternatives that are already built. I don't know what your thoughts are but it's been my experience over the

decades I've lived here that if you build it, they will come. And if there's a road to it, it will make it that much easier. And if you listen right now to the news in Salt Lake where they are closing a few major roads and see what difficulty that causes people who have become very accustomed to that new way, and they've actually had to find other ways to get home or get to a business. But I would like to see that not occur because once it's gone, we won't get it back. And we have those beautiful red cliffs that so mark and define a good part of our beauty here. It would be a sad day for me to look forward and think even though there's a commitment to not build, I think if the road is there, it will be pretty hard to keep that commitment for a long period of time.

Webb: So as you look back over your life, what would you like to be remembered for?

Kastler: Well, I've been the beneficiary of giving, of volunteerism. I had cancer my early years here, and without that cancer center I would have been traveling. So I see what the charitable dollar can do. I see what charitable time can do. When you consider that the Jubilee of Trees is almost all volunteers. Look at Huntsman World Senior Games and the volunteerism there. And I'm not going to name any more because I'll leave someone out. But it has driven this community forward, and I'm inspired by that. And I hope I can leave a legacy of having made a difference.

Webb: Is there anything else you feel is important that I haven't asked you that you'd like to share with—

Kastler: I'm also fortunate to be involved with the Institute of Continued Learning here at [Utah Tech University].

Webb: Yes—tell us about this.

Kastler: It's awesome. They have primarily teachers who are well studied and, not necessarily seniors, but certainly have some life behind them, who volunteer their time and teach classes, primarily for seniors because those are the folks who have time to go to school and learn about subjects they never got to do when they were in school. And there's such a plethora of subjects and fabulous teachers that are doctorates and who have had entire careers at large universities. And you can take a class from them. I think you can take as many classes as you want for \$90 for year. Now where can you go and get that? And there are so many people who need a chance to meet others, to keep their mind going, to learn new things. And it's right here in good old southern Utah.

Webb: Anything else?

Kastler: I could go on and on because we could always talk about ourselves. But I appreciate being here and I appreciate what this community has done for me.

Webb: Thank you so much, Kerry.

Kastler: You bet. Thanks, Loren.

Webb: We really appreciate having Kerry Kastler here with us today for this oral history interview. And we also want to thank Lauren Golden and James Farnsworth who are with the Community Education Channel studios and for their allowing us to use these facilities. And until we talk to you again, thank you so much for joining us.