

Annabel Ryan Interview, May 2017

J: June

A: Annabel

11:00

A: Hello.

J: Hello, Annabel, this is June Hussey. How are you today?

A: I'm fine, June. How are you?

J: I'm doing just great.

A: Good.

J: I'm going to ask you some questions and I'll explain a little bit about what we're doing before we get started.

A: Ok.

J: I get to interview residents all over the country and it's really a treat for me just to even get to know so many fascinating people. But in addition to that, what we like to do is get their stories and find out how the process went for them as far as figuring out what they wanted to do in their future, how and when and where to move and all of that kind of stuff. And then we share that information with people who are maybe just beginning to think about what they are going to do or maybe they haven't even thought about what they're going to do but we find that sharing our residents' experiences kind of helps them open their minds to the possibilities that are out there for them. That's pretty much the purpose of the interview and we are recording this conversation so that we can get an accurate transcript but I always tell people, because sometimes these conversations can get a little bit personal,, if you should happen to say something that you don't want other people to necessarily know, you can just stop right there in the conversation and say, "Hey June, let's strike that part from the transcript." And we'll do that, ok?

A: Ok.

J: Very good, all right, well, before we get into asking you all the specific questions about the move itself, I'd like to invite you to just introduce yourself and tell us a little bit about who you are and where you're from, your interests, your family, whatever you'd like to share about who you are, just to get us going.

A: As you know my name is Annabel Ryan. I'm originally from Lansdale, Pennsylvania. I attended Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania for two years. I have one son and I have one stepdaughter and one stepson, who are like my own, and they do not live in Florida. My son lives in Florida very nearby The Fountains, which is one of the reasons I chose The Fountains. He's only about 10 minutes from where this is located. I've lived in Florida, first of all in Pinellas County for 20 years and in Manatee County for 20 years. My last place of residence was Rosedale Golf and Country Club and I lived there for 22 years. I moved to The Fountains in January of 2017, deciding upon doing that because I was tired of taking care of a single-family home and all the arrangements and costs that go with that. And decided it was time to look around, which I did. The Fountains appealed to me the most for a number of reasons. I like the location and the price was right. The people seemed friendly, they are welcoming and I

have met a lot of nice people. I'm glad I made the decision. It was just the perfect time for me to do it. I guess that's it in a nutshell.

J: That is a very good nutshell. It seems to me I've interviewed other folks that lived at Rosedale Golf Club, is that possible?

A: A couple moved in a month ahead of me who I've known since I lived at Rosedale 20 years, Joan and David Rice, they moved in a month ahead of me.

J: I interviewed them yesterday I think.

A: I have another friend that lives here, Ruth Schnarr, and I've known her prior to moving here, which was an incentive for me to move here, as well as my son and his wife living close by.

J: So had you visited your friends at The Fountains prior to getting serious about making a move?

A: No, no, Joan and David and I had come down and looked at it in October/November. I had considered it prior to that but wasn't quite ready to do it. When they got involved and made their decision, they sold their home quickly and moved more quickly than I did. I made the decision at the beginning of December and it took the six weeks that they required to fix my apartment the way I wanted it and moved in here in the middle of January. So I did not come back and forth. Whatever things needed to be done, I had a representative from The Fountains come to my home and we kind of did it there. So I did come down once and picked out the things I wanted in the apartment. So no I did not come and visit them. I had not seen their apartment until I actually moved here.

J: So you lived in Florida quite a while and I know there's a lot of different retirement communities in the area. How familiar were you with the whole concept of a retirement community like The Fountains? Did you have other friends that you had visited or how did you even know about it?

A: Well, the retirement homes that I visited, a couple of them were in Pennsylvania where I came from. My sister lives up there and my granddaughter lives up there. I did visit one or two up there because I had friends living there so I got an idea of what retirement living was like. Then I came down here and I visited a couple down here, a couple different ones down here. Either they did not appeal to me or one of them was sort of a high-rise concept which I did not want. I did not want six or seven stories so it felt like I was living in a hotel. The Fountains just seemed to appeal to me and did appeal to me. I came several times before I chose the apartment in which I'm living. And this one became available. I wanted to be on the first floor. I did not want to be on an elevator. That would make me feel like I lived in a hotel. I've been happy on the first floor and I like my apartment. So I think I made the right decision from that standpoint.

J: Good, so you said you feel like you made the move at about the right time in your life. What made you feel that way, that it was time to make a move?

A: Number one, my age. I've been living alone. I've been a widow for 15 years so I was, you know, living in that home alone for 15 years. It was in a golf course community, I was right on the golf course.

Please note: This interview was cut short due to a technical difficulty with the phone service. We apologize for the abrupt ending to the conversation and transcript.