

## Donna Campbell Interview on Governor Vic Atiyeh

An interview of Donna Campbell regarding Oregon's Governor Victor Atiyeh, recorded on June 26, 2015. Donna had known Vic and Dolores Atiyeh since they were teenagers, and she was married to one of Vic's best friends, Jim Campbell. The interviewer, James Moore, was as professor of political science at Pacific University and was Atiyeh's biographer.

Note on the text: This transcript was made through AI in 2025, with some manual corrections. It has been provided in order to facilitate research, but the text does contain errors and inaccuracies. Users should check the transcript against the recording before quoting the speakers.

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Donna Campbell 0:00

Yeah. Well, I've known Victor, believe it or not, since seventh grade. And that's a

Unknown Speaker 0:06

long time. That's a long time, yeah,

Donna Campbell 0:08

and he was, he was wonderful in school. I wasn't in there. I went to Holiday Park, but it wasn't there very long. And then I transferred to Mount Tabor. So I didn't see him again until high school. Then we became because of my husband, who was very close to it, right?

James Moore 0:32

Yeah, yeah, yeah. So when you knew him in seventh grade,

he had already skipped a grade.

Was he a big kid for the grade. He

Donna Campbell 0:45

was larger, but not real, okay,

James Moore 0:47

yeah, because all the pictures I have are next to him, Richard and Ed next to him. They're small and they're tiny little guys, yeah? So,

Donna Campbell 0:56

yeah, okay, but he wasn't overly okay. I mean, he was average, yeah, yeah, average, build, yeah, so,

James Moore 1:06

so in high school,

by the time he graduates, he's done all these sport things, several of which didn't take, some of which did.

He's become a leader

student body and all those kinds of things.

Did you become close friends with him? Then? Were you friends with him? Were you friends with Jim? Was friends with him? Were you friends with Jim?

Donna Campbell 1:34

Was like a brother, more so than his twin brother? Yeah, and we have been with Vic and Dolores, you know, she was the term behind me in school, okay? And we've been friends since our our senior. When we were seniors in high school, the four of us, okay, we're in one little locker together, okay? And so, you know, it's, it's been something that's going on all these years, yeah. So,

James Moore 2:07

yeah, I can relate to that. I met my wife when we were seniors in high school. Oh, good. We didn't get married for another 10 years. We were just good friends then. But so that's, that's an important, guy, that's

Donna Campbell 2:21

true. And he was really very well liked, and he was president of highway, as you probably know that. And when he went down to college, he went into PG along with Jim and his two brothers, and I think they came in, I

can't remember, really, when they went in.

James Moore 2:47

They went in in the fall of 41

now, when did you graduate? Because I know there were January graduations and June graduates.

No, we were June. You were June of 41 same one. Okay.

And so Dolores was then

the January of 42 Okay, okay. And she's not doing very well. No talking to the family. They're finally happy that they have a place that's close by, which is, yeah, that they're happier with, and it's a

Donna Campbell 3:19

nice place. It really is truly a nice place, and they're so good to their people there. But Dolores memory is not I mean, she remembers you at the time and everything,

but then it dissipates. Yeah,

James Moore 3:36

exactly. And that's one of the things in doing this kind of a project. I said to Victor, I wish you would have asked me 15 years ago, because there's but, um, you know that's, that's just the nature of the of the project. That's right. Um, were you friends when Dolores and Vic met her? They had already had. They already met. I think

Donna Campbell 4:00

they had. I can tell you, okay. I really can't Okay. I know that we were all together, our Senior, our Senior, my senior, victory was senior here in high school. Okay, that's when all of us decided that we belong for the camera.

But it was fine.

We've always been with them, I don't know, yeah, well, we've always been there. Jim went into service, Victor went into Coast Guard, right, and then when everything came out, I mean, when they all came out, why that's when we're all together. And then on we did things together, yeah. So yeah. And we were with Victor, you know, when he went to Europe,

not all the times, but. As a when he

took, I was trying to think what it was why we went, but we went to Egypt with him.

Unknown Speaker 5:10

It was a wonderful trip.

James Moore 5:12

This is what he's governor when

Speaker 1 5:14

he was, yeah, okay, uh huh. That was to plant trees.

James Moore 5:17

Oh yes, yes, plenty trees in Israel. Yes, yes, absolutely.

Donna Campbell 5:22

So you know quite a bit about him. Well,

James Moore 5:24

let me put it this way, when he died last summer, and because I've been working on the biography, and I'm also a political analyst, so I do lots of things in the media, just how Victor knew who I was, but his close friends, Gerry Thompson and Denny Miles, were actually telling people you need to talk to Jim. Because at that point, even then, Victor, so many people knew Victor, here or here or here. And already, by that point, a year ago, I knew kind of more pieces than anybody else. So

Donna Campbell 6:03

when he was governor to get away, we had a place in manzanitas, and he would come in, would drive him up there all the time, and he'd always turn the siren on, which Jim Victor had, yeah, you know. But they were good friends. They were they were like brothers, oh

James Moore 6:29

yeah, yeah, really, yeah. So one thing I discovered is in the governor's office, and Victor had a very open governor's office, I know, but if there was when phone calls came in, if there was a priority hierarchy, and number one was always Jim, Jim could always get through, yeah. And Tom Galt was number two, that's right, Dolores was number three. So it was, it was just, you know, if Jim called, no matter what, yeah, and

that was

Donna Campbell 7:04

good, you know, they had, it was a relationship you don't find very often, you really don't. And they were such

good friends, yeah, yeah, I

still had kept going because,

James Moore 7:18

yeah, I'm sorry. Oh, no, no. I spent many, many of these with tears in my eyes as well. Yeah. Do you remember in 1957 1958 when Victor decided to run for office? He tells a story about he'd been approached and he was thinking about it. And he tells a story about standing with Jim on a corner in downtown Portland and talking about it. Did you know that story? I

Donna Campbell 7:53

knew that, that because of Jim, he decided to go in he was not happy at the store probably knew this, yeah? And Jim said, You've got to get into politics or something Victor to get out. And this is when he decided he'd go into the House of Representatives, yeah.

So this is, that's, that's when, yeah,

James Moore 8:23

yeah, exactly. And Victor remembers the exact street corner, so, so that's kill you. Oh no, no, that that's fine in terms of him not being that happy at the store. Do you think it's because he did not have a choice in going to run the store, whereas Richard and Ed chose to come in and work in this store. Do

you think it dated that? You know back to 1944,

Donna Campbell 8:51

I know it was. He was never happy there. He couldn't do things the way he wanted to. So he was never he and Richard never got along. I don't know if you knew this or not quite picked up, yeah, but they never did and yes, but Richard and I don't know what it was. It was Richard. It's almost like what he was almost jealous of Victor, really, but it's Victor was never talked against him. He never did anything. He did everything to encourage him. But that's the way it was. I think Richard would like to have been in the position that Victor was in, right, right,

James Moore 9:43

yeah. And, you know, it's, it's also the second generation of a family business. That's right, you know, that's a very common dynamic, and it's amazing that now they're about ready to go to the fourth generation. It's just, it. Said it's a very amazing story.

Donna Campbell 10:03

Well, they, I don't know how successful

Unknown Speaker 10:06

they are now. I don't either I

Donna Campbell 10:08

have no, I don't think they're as successful as it used to be. But I don't know. Yeah, I don't know. I can't do

James Moore 10:18

one thing I'm, in fact, I'm working on right now is

their Victors and EDS and Richard's father, George coming over. I'm about 1900 and then I found the very first ads in the Oregonian. Oh, did you really? And so the very first ones, they start the store in 1900 1904 the first ads appear, and it's a Atiyeh and brother for Aziz and brother. Then in 1905 it changes to Atiyeh brothers,

Donna Campbell 10:50

yes, because he decided to go back to New York. Well,

James Moore 10:54

he decides that in the 1920s they actually run it. They actually run it together. Until about 1922 I

Speaker 1 11:00

didn't realize how long it was, yeah, which you think

James Moore 11:04

that's a long time before they start splitting it right as the boys are being born, right? And so off they go.

Did you know Victor's parents at all? Yes,

Donna Campbell 11:18

I think his wife very well. In fact, when the boys were over in service, I used to go over and stay with her, and she would read French newspapers to me, fantastic. Yes, she was she spoke beautiful French. But, you know, I think that

was part of her education in the old country.

James Moore 11:45

Well, she she grew up in Beirut, right? Where the dominant language especially, I'm getting the sense that she was kind of an upper class or a middle upper class person. But her first language would be French and then Arabic, yeah, whereas Victor's father's first language was probably Arabic,

Donna Campbell 12:06

that's right, yeah, yeah, I was in a range marriage. I don't know. Well,

James Moore 12:11

I've been trying to figure it out, because

we have a pretty good idea how the families met. Her family actually was in the shipping trade. And so it would make sense that rugs would go through there in either Victor or Aziz or George or Zs would go through occasionally, looking for rugs but an arranged marriage, yes,

Donna Campbell 12:33

yes, it was. And I don't know how many people know that, yeah, so, but it was, you know, but the boys never talk about that, yeah. It's something that

I knew because of Linda

sisters, Victor's mother, yes, and but she, she was wonderful with the boys. She was a wonderful hostess, and she she did a lot for the boys, yeah, yeah.

James Moore 13:12

Them growing up, and they would either go to Seaside or up to Mount Hood, right? And while we're talking, I'll see if I can find a great picture. See if you can guess which our future governor is. But when, when you were talking to Linda, because another thing that's striking to me is she, she's like, 15 years younger than George, and she dies at age 51 or 52 George died at age 61 ish. There are three sons all lived past 90. That's amazing. That's amazing. Just amazing. Did you get the sense from talking to Linda that she was, was she happy here in the United States?

Donna Campbell 14:09

Oh, I think she was happy here. Okay, yes, I think so happy here. I don't think her marriage. You know, when you have an arrangement marriage, it's different, yeah,

James Moore 14:24

and her husband also is, he was very predominant, I can, I can imagine. And he's very busy. He's running a business that was doing all sorts of things there.

So this is from,

this is from

Ed's daughter, Linda. Made a book a picture. So here's, here's George and Linda, right there. She's beautiful.

She was a beautiful woman. Yeah. Yeah, just beautiful.

And then got all sorts of things here, there's their old house.

Donna Campbell 15:05

Isn't that amazing how old it's torn down? Yeah, yeah,

James Moore 15:11

looking at the size of this house. So

would you say that the Atiyeh boys were they kind of did they have enough money in the Depression? Did you get a sense of that were

Unknown Speaker 15:25

Yes, they were well off. Okay,

James Moore 15:27

okay. I was talking with one of the former governors, Ted Gulen goski, who became very close with Victor in the past 10 years. Yeah, he's the one that Victor beat by a whole lot. But when Ted became governor, they became very close, and Ted was saying something that really struck me. You know, all three of these boys were expected to go to college, and their father didn't. He didn't say, come work in the store, he said, but you have to get an education. And then he decided, but before World War Two, that was remarkable. Yeah, that was true. That was remarkable. There

Donna Campbell 16:02

were quite a few my husband

had. They all went into service, yeah, in their sophomore years

that spring.

So this is from Seaside.

James Moore 16:21

One of those bear butts is the governor of Oregon.

Unknown Speaker 16:25

I haven't seen that. A great picture.

James Moore 16:30

Yeah, it's just a, it's

just a wonderful picture of kids, you know, playing

that delightful, but

Donna Campbell 16:40

that filled up. It was a beautiful home, it really was, and she was wonderful about entertaining everybody. When the boys would have a birthday or something their picture, I was always included, because of Jim, we all got presents. That was something, yeah, she did, yeah,

James Moore 17:05

which actually is an Arabic cultural thing, yeah. So that's good. That's very good. One thing I actually, I'm a political science professor, and half of what I do is American politics, and half of what I do is international politics. So this is a wonderful project for me, because Vic mixes them all up. But one of the things, when he was giving beginning to give his things to the to the university, I would go along. Because when most people give their things to an archive, a moving truck pulls up and takes everything and takes it off. That's right, Victor didn't do that. He would give us a box and so and so I would go along, and he would tell stories about the box, and I would ask him questions. He was a great story. He was a great storyteller. But one of the things that he had, he had all these business cards from when he left the governor's position, said Victor, who was the ex governor of Oregon, but they were Arabic on one side and English on the other. I happened to read Arabic, so I was able to actually be the first person who read his cards and told them it says

what you thought it I didn't know that. Yeah. So it's a really, really fun souvenir to have those.

Donna Campbell 18:24

He put me on the first tourism, I don't know. Oh, great, great. I was on the first Tourism Council Oregon, and wonderful. I enjoyed it. I stayed on it until the next

Democratic governor. Right, right, wasn't it? I was trying to

James Moore 18:46

think gold, yeah, yeah. Who? After 2003 victor would not even say his name.

Donna Campbell 18:54

He never talked about anybody. Yeah. He never found Victor Talking about anybody. Yeah,

James Moore 19:01

and that's one thing, because I am, I know so much stuff, I was able to push it and say, No, really, come on. But, but it was, it was hard to do. But as he got older, he was also seen.

Unknown Speaker 19:17

It was a shame, yeah, yeah.

James Moore 19:20

It was time to start talking about

things. Back to Linda,

gracious hostess, beautiful French, which is great

when the boys went to college,

because they're in college for the first year, they're all three now, right? They're all there together. So did they come back home and at vacations and stay in the family house

where they did? I don't know. Okay, yeah, college

gets a little different than high school. Yeah, I

Donna Campbell 19:56

really don't know. I know that Victor. And Tom gal and Jim had a horrible car together. Jim's father didn't want him to drive it, and so it was and Victor's father, I can't remember. I can't remember if he had passed away. He

James Moore 20:24

passes away in 1944 so it's a little app. It's like after the equivalent of three years of college. Yeah?

Donna Campbell 20:30

So this was, I couldn't remember exactly, yeah, because I never once Jim entered service. Yeah. And

Victor quit when his

brothers and Jim went into service. Yes, they wouldn't take him. Yeah.

James Moore 20:51

In fact, one of the things that I did is I, I talked to the registrar at U of O, because it's not clear in a lot of things were there. Victor was there for two years or three years. He was there for two years, I think they went

Donna Campbell 21:09  
into service their spring tournament,

James Moore 21:12  
yeah, yeah. They all those who could signed up and went, Victor couldn't, so he completed another year. That's right, yeah,

Donna Campbell 21:20  
he completed that year. His sophomore year,

James Moore 21:23  
his sophomore year, yeah, which included his not quite being on the varsity football team at University of Oregon.

Unknown Speaker 21:32  
I didn't know about that. In

James Moore 21:34  
the very last game they were playing Oregon State in the Civil War, and all of the guards and tackles had been hurt, and so Vic is there, and all the players wanted to go in, and one person says to the coach, don't send him in, because it'll ruin his eligibility for being in for longer when beginning the next season. And so he did. He didn't go in, and that was it, that was it, that was it. And so he

Donna Campbell 22:04  
quit, you know, after, because his everybody he knew, yeah, we're gone, yeah, yeah. So he left the university after his SOP, after

James Moore 22:15  
a sophomore year, yeah, absolutely, which is very clear in when he's first running for office, it clearly says two years at University of Oregon, right? But later things budget. So that's why I talked to University of Oregon in it two years. That's it was two years.

Donna Campbell 22:37  
Dolores quit at that time,

at that time as well. Yeah, they both give Yeah. I

was at St Helens Hall, Junior College. I don't know if you this was Oregon episcopo, and that's where I was for two years. I was going into nurses training.

My mother didn't want me to

then Jim and I got married. So, yeah,

James Moore 23:07  
yeah. Now, when did you get married? We

Donna Campbell 23:10  
got married in

September, no, May, 1319, 44

James Moore 23:18  
Okay, so the beginning of that, that summer, when Dolores and Vic get married in July, we were

Donna Campbell 23:26  
married in May, and they were married in July,

James Moore 23:30  
right? And here is

Unknown Speaker 23:35  
yeah, that was in the paper.

James Moore 23:36  
That was in the paper. This was another sign that this might not be a family that was hiding under a rock when Dolores picture is the picture the feature, featured picture that sells you something about about their standing in the community. Yep. So it's got everybody who was here. It's interesting. It has some things that are not quite right in it. They always do, yeah, yeah. But I talked to Ed and said, No, wait, it says this, that and the other. They said, No, no, no, no, this is how it was, okay, good. Got it.

Got it. Ed does not look

Donna Campbell 24:16  
good. Yeah, I saw him today. I was at Portland golf. He really

does. I just they have

inquired about a place here, okay, but these corner units are hard, and I don't know how soon I have inquired, yeah, well, this

James Moore 24:39  
is, remember, this is also a really hard time, because this is the anniversary of Richard and Victor's. They died about a year apart. So I was talking with Ed's son, Bob, who was saying a year ago, in fact, it was after Victor fell. Bob drove Ed and Victor. Out to Richard's grave, and Victor was saying, Well, you know, someday I'll be here. And two weeks later, he was, yeah,

Donna Campbell 25:08  
we just do that. I just, I'm so sorry. They seem to get together as they got older. It was great.

James Moore 25:20  
Well, so funny. They all live right next to each other.

Donna Campbell 25:26  
Well, Victor and Dolores bought first, okay? And then Richard thought right next door.

And Ed was about, I think, about two years later,

okay, something like that. And then it, I mean, Richard bought another house. Okay, a bigger house. Okay, okay. So now

James Moore 25:51  
you know that this right next door was a TF farm, a TF arm. They had a farm out here that they sold, and that's what the Fred Meyer said. So this is a neighborhood they grew up knowing. No, I didn't know. Yes,

Unknown Speaker 26:10  
that's something. Yeah, no, I never knew that

James Moore 26:12

when I was, when I found that out I was, I was sharing it in a restaurant where I go is just saying to the person who I always talk to there and say, you know, it's just amazing. You know, they had a farm. And he said, Well, let me tell you, because his grandfather, this person's grandfather at the restaurant, remembers when the Atias sold the farm, that the grandfather was a little boy, and so he took great delight in taking the stakes out of the ground as they surveyed it to build something on it so they knew the at farm I

Donna Campbell 26:47

had no, I never

heard that before, yeah, never, yeah, not from the whole family, yeah.

James Moore 26:53

So it's just amazing. In the 1970s when Oregon's passed its land use laws, Victor was a skeptic. He liked the idea, but he wanted to make sure that it was right. And you know, those kinds of things, he said. He's a meticulous conservative, but conservative wanting to know all the sides. But one reason he wanted the law is because he watched this road, which they knew as a country road turn into four lanes with strip malls. And he said it would be good to have a law that would help prevent things like

Donna Campbell 27:31

that. But it didn't. But

James Moore 27:32

it, no, it didn't. Well, this is this happened way before that. Yeah, but it was because he The farm was right next door.

Donna Campbell 27:37

I'll be doing no i No one ever said anything about a farm. No, you know, and I've been associated with this family for years. Nothing, yeah, nothing at all.

James Moore 27:51

Yeah, no, it's just sorts of fun little things.

Donna Campbell 27:56

Yeah, that's interesting to know. Yeah.

James Moore 28:00

Um, so Vic and Dolores get married in the beginning of July, and they basically get married because Ed and Richard are back on leaving,

pushing it. We get it all done,

then Ed and Richard go back. And then the end of the month, dad dies, and Ed and Richard are able to come back and see him just before he dies, but that's right, and then Victor all his plans are gone. Do you remember Victor Talking about going to law school?

Donna Campbell 28:33

He and Jim together. They talked everything over together. They were

very close. Yeah, that's wonderful.

As I said, before there were, Jim was like his brother, and he would Oregon was in trouble financially, and Jim being in the insurance business he was in one of Jim made his business one of the biggest in Oregon. And there was something I don't know the particulars of it, but there was something that Jim showed Victor how he could get the money that was needed for to run the government. And I really don't know, because my husband passed away, he just never talked about

that. Yeah, so and I didn't inquire. Yeah, absolutely. So this was the way it was, but I don't know. There was one period when Victor, I don't know if it was first term or second term, right, right? That Oregon was in trouble financially, right? And Jim showed him he was. Working on it, and everything showed him how he could get the money to keep the government running. Well,

James Moore 30:06

since he's in insurance, I'm wondering if this was dealing with the workers compensation at safe they stayed out. Yeah, exactly. I can understand why you would. But eventually they do do something with the Safe Money that that solves the problem. If the Supreme Court later says you can't do that, yeah, but they did it at the time. They did at the time, and that sounds like something that would match Jim's expertise in knowing that back in 19 in 1944 Do you remember Victor Talking about going to law school at all. Never, okay,

Donna Campbell 30:43

okay, well, let me put it to you that's not right.

He and Jim.

Jim said, when he came back from service, he got to go into law, which he did. He worked in insurance, but went to night school at Northwestern time, and I think Victor was talking he didn't know, I can't remember what, yes,

James Moore 31:10

yeah, okay, that's, there's, you're gonna need to know

Donna Campbell 31:16

everything. But I know Jim did, right? He went two years of law, so he graduated, yeah, Jim graduated through night school, right, and ran the business. So,

James Moore 31:32

yeah, were you there with Dolores and Vic when they lost their child?

Donna Campbell 31:37

Yes, it was the same time that Eva's brother was lost. So did he

James Moore 31:45

die in the war? Yeah, he was killed

Donna Campbell 31:47

Japanese. Yeah, my husband would never go with Victor to Japan. No way. Victor tried many times, but you know, because he ate quite a few trips. Oh yeah, and

nothing doing,

he just wouldn't have nothing to do. So Victor thought he should be nice if he would, right, we went to Europe with them.

Was it planting trees in their hero,

Unknown Speaker 32:19

yeah, it is real, yeah. And this is funny,

Donna Campbell 32:24

Richard, not Ed, but Richard was always a little jealous of Jim because of the close relationship. But,

you know, that's

way back,

and then he got to be head of Rose Festival. Exactly,

James Moore 32:44

yeah, and things

are better, yeah, exactly.

Talking when you're talking about Richard and Victor's relationship and their wonderful mother, Linda, because Victor was big and the older boys were small. When they were young, she would often dress them as triplets. So I just wonder what that does to a relationship siblings.

Donna Campbell 33:17

I don't think it bothered. I really don't, because they love their mother. Yeah, she was so good too. Yeah, I don't think so. I really don't think it bothered particularly. I really don't Yeah.

I can never hear no. I just don't Yeah. So,

James Moore 33:39

so Dolores and Victor lose their first child.

Tom comes along in 1947 ish, he

Donna Campbell 33:49

was the same as my older daughter,

James Moore 33:51

as your older daughter. I talked to someone, in fact, right? When Victor asked me to do this, I gave a talk at do you know it's called Rose Villa retirement over in Miron, and I was giving a talk, and a woman came up and said, Well, I was a sorority sister of Dolores, and she vividly remembers Tom's birth because Tom was one of the first people with Blue Baby Syndrome that they could save. But she also remembers when Victor was running for office, that the sorority sisters would get together and stuff envelopes.

Donna Campbell 34:26

Yeah, they did. You know, the first time he lost and everything was not good, yeah. I mean, it was not. I worked as I worked as a receptionist. Did the telephone work? Mm, first time, and everything was a mess. Yeah, it was a mess, yeah, but Victor had never done this before, and, you know, he had, I told him, I said. You've got to go in the back room. Everything's a mess back there. So he did, and he learned, you know, to experience, that's what people do. And by the time he ran the second time, he had a good idea the way he wanted to go, right? And I worked the with Denny miles,

oh, yeah, several times

he's getting got married again,

James Moore 35:30

yeah, yeah. And did you know Jerry Thompson, yeah, Denny and Jerry now live about 100 yards from each other. Danny just moved into Jerry's neighborhood last summer, so it's very funny. I

Donna Campbell 35:47

saw them at,

Unknown Speaker 35:51

oh the memorial, no,

Donna Campbell 35:54  
when he turned over all his papers. Oh

James Moore 35:56  
yeah, the party at Pacific, yeah. So I don't know if you remember that, but I was the master of ceremonies, I get that. So

Donna Campbell 36:05  
I was watching Dolores because she was having a bad time. Yeah, she was having a bad time, right there with her. And I just wanted to be sure, right?

Unknown Speaker 36:16  
I'm sorry I did no.

James Moore 36:20  
So, yeah, no, I talked to both of them frequently. Yeah, pick your head a

Donna Campbell 36:28  
lot. What happened to all those papers?

James Moore 36:32  
You know, most of them, what he gave to us, we have. There's still a lot of stuff in the house. Well, this is what I was wondering. And so yeah, and and Victor made it clear that everything would go to the university, but it's now up to Tom, basically, and he's giving us some things,

but there's,

Donna Campbell 36:57  
there's a lot of things. I'm sorry that Tom is doing it because he's not. What can I see? Tom's my god child, but he's not capable of looking at a lot of this stuff that

they've demand. I don't think, I mean, that's my own.

James Moore 37:18  
I just hope that he's not destroying things.

Donna Campbell 37:22  
So they're putting the house up. I guess they're going through a lot. Suzanne was here, and she doesn't like her families. Oh, yeah. So this is not working out well, but I don't know I I haven't talked to her lately. I just couldn't understand

James Moore 37:44  
all this. Yeah, well, and with Victor being so organized, I'm kind of surprised he didn't make it very clear. He didn't, no, he didn't, because he has he's at heart, even though he didn't like working at a TIA, brothers at heart, he's a salesman. They shake your hand, look you in the eye, and it's like, that's good, but when you can't do that anymore, there need to be very clear instructions. And so we have a whole bunch of stuff, but, you know, I just hope that we continue. And Tom's been good about bringing things we didn't even know existed, yeah, but it just makes you just, yeah. He had an awful lot.

Donna Campbell 38:26  
There's a lot on though, he had so much on the exposition. I don't know if he brought any of that. I don't know. Either

James Moore 38:37  
I don't know, either, he had a lot.

Yeah, I was just writing briefly about the losing Clark exposition, because the TIA brothers was there. And just wondering, you know, boy, it'd be great to fill this out with some things that Victor had, but we don't know. Yeah, he had

Donna Campbell 38:57

a lot. He has a lot of everything. Victor never

threw anything, right? He just

didn't want to do that. So that was his nature. But

I don't know, I don't know where it is.

I was Tom's my god child, and, you know, I don't know what's happened to him in the last what, five years, he's just different, yeah? And there's nothing. I just completely divorced myself from it, because it's there's nothing I can do anything. I go to see Dolores when I can, but they took my car away, which is terrible. I used to driven since I was 16, but

I'm not good. On tests. Never happened,

and they had me take a test, not a driving test, computer. My son, he he's retired. My husband, as you probably, had insurance company, and he's retired. Dick's 66 and he just thinks I went out and rented a car. It's good for you, but they made me take a bath because they had canceled my insurance. And it was smart, but it just made me mad that I couldn't get out and drive. Yeah.

James Moore 40:51

Well, you and Victor, yeah, and he was driving everywhere. Oh, I know. I know. Driving everywhere, driving Nike, driving the fog. And drive anywhere,

Donna Campbell 41:02

yeah, he thought he was a good driver, just

like me. Yeah, exactly, exactly. It's

he didn't drive too far, no, right around here.

James Moore 41:13

Well, there were some times when all of a sudden he would appear in Salem or in Bend, and people would say, you know, I told you, I can drive you, I

Donna Campbell 41:25

know, but he wouldn't do that. No. Victor was very independent. He was so he was and he was wonderful to me. I had,

I was just like a sister. He never had.

It's just it's

Unknown Speaker 41:43

hard, yeah, yeah, but

Donna Campbell 41:48

I lost all my good friends, yes. So anyway,

I don't mean to break down. I haven't done that in the ages.

James Moore 42:01

I'm asking you questions to get it to those things. Yeah, that's about, let

me. Let me ask you just a couple more questions. Do you remember Victor Talking about thinking of running for governor back in 1973 so or so,

Unknown Speaker 42:19

he and Jim talked

James Moore 42:21

about so they he that's who you talked about.

Donna Campbell 42:26

Okay, Jim told him. He said, You've got

to get out of the store, right? You're very unhappy,

and you would make it. Just told me, make a good politician, somebody to run Oregon or, I don't know what they had said, yeah, yeah, but that's when it started. Yeah.

James Moore 42:47

A fascinating story. When Victor is governor,

he officially resigned from the store, but he kept all the stock and things. But at some point, when in those eight years he told his brothers, I'm not ever coming back. And the reason he told me is he liked making decisions by himself.

Instead of having to talk to those two,

Donna Campbell 43:15

he didn't want to. He wanted to do his own thing. Yeah, absolutely. That's why I was glad to see Richard, head of Rose Festival, the

Unknown Speaker 43:26

Rosarian, yes, because

Donna Campbell 43:29

that was in the Wharton to Richard, yeah, because he had to have something that equaled, that didn't equal, but on the same level as Victor. Yeah, he does his own thing, yeah, and he's just, I've been close to the Atiyeh boys for a long, long time, and

I'm just sorry

I'm just sorry about Tom, you know, he should talk to somebody with all his dad's papers. They're going to sell that house. And there's all kinds of things there, Dolores, doll house and thick wire, and, you know all kinds of things, yeah, yeah, I don't know what they're gonna

James Moore 44:27

do. Well, I hope to talk to Tom for the book. So when I talk to him, I can just suggest I can even rent a truck and come over

and take things, yeah,

Donna Campbell 44:45

I don't know what to tell you. Yes, changed a lot, and he's tried to make it up to me. I don't know if you knew that there was a big

dealings. I don't know who put it on

with. All the people who had done so much for Oregon, and Victor was one of them, and I knew Tom Moyer was a good friend of my husband, and Tom and I started going together after, oh, it's about what, four years after Jim passed away, five something like that, so I was very close. I wouldn't marry again because I just didn't want to marry again. I have three children, 11 great grandchildren, and I just didn't want to get married Jim and I had a good marriage, so he understood that, so it was fine, but he just passed away, too so, too much. Yeah. Anyway, I don't know, I haven't but they had a big deal. I don't know who put it on and the Hilton. Did you

James Moore 46:08

know about there's lots of these things, but so as you describe it, I'll be able to figure out,

Donna Campbell 46:11

well, they all had pictures of the people who had done so much,

the judge, Mercedes, one of them,

some of these people, I had no idea, but I was there because of Tom, and Tom Atia was there because of his dad. So he gave a nice talk. Real good. Came up,

and we had a nice chat. Afterwards. There's

a lot of things, you know, Victor kick everything, yeah, yeah. I don't know

he could. He made that room, you know, in the garage. Never used it,

yeah? But you know, he thought maybe someday he would, the day never came, yeah, so it's,

I don't know,

Oregon, Austin. He was so interested in the Indians, yeah, yeah. And the Indian Did you know he was wrapped in a blanket? I've heard that the Indians, the chiefs, brought this great blanket that they wrapped people who were predominant Indians, and he was wrapped in that. So I thought that was a tremendous honor.

You should see what he has from he just has

a lot of stuff.

So I don't know if you got to see a lot of it or not. Well,

James Moore 47:59

I saw what was in his office and in his home, we would usually just talk. But yeah, I mean, there was stuff all over in the house. One story that I learned in 1978 when he's running for the second time, he had his campaign staff over to the house, and they were eating dinner, and one of the people who was in charge of the volunteers, I don't know if you knew, Sharon page. And so Sharon was just looking at the wall, and there was a framed Green Bay Packers contract.

And she said,

What is this Green Bay Packers contract said, Oh, just something from 1944 he never told anybody outside the family at this Well, I knew, well, you're the family. You're the family. And the campaign manager said, Oh, my God, we have to

put that out for the campaign, because it and so that's when it became known that he was a head professional contract and all those other things, and wouldn't accept it, and wouldn't accept it before his dad died, he turned it down, but that then took off, and so as he told that the farther along he went in politics, the better a football player he became. So when he was in the legislature, he was a University of Oregon player. When he was running for governor, not in governor, he was a varsity University of Oregon player. He never played varsity football. When he became governor, he was a professional football player. And then in 1981 so he's towards the end of his first term in Governor Portland Interscholastic League. Starts an Athletic Hall of Fame and Victor and two professional football players are the first three people in that hall of fame. And he just shook his head. Good luck. Even Tom

Donna Campbell 50:01

is there? Oh yeah, he's another one who's very much like Victor. He never, never would say exactly, yeah, yeah, very wealthy man, yeah, this building. Have you seen this new building? Oh yeah, beautiful. Yeah. He got to see it before he passed. Oh, good, which was up to about the ninth floor was more than that. I think it's going to be as taller than the bank building. How tall is it bank building? I don't know.

James Moore 50:38

I don't know, and it's also hard to tell, because they're on hills.

Donna Campbell 50:45

Portland is, what is seven hills? Yeah, yeah,

Seven Hills, yeah. This is on the hill. Yeah, yeah.

James Moore 50:54

This is the beauty of a nice show. But

Donna Campbell 51:01

I don't know. I was trying to think. I can't remember. Okay, I can't

James Moore 51:08

remember when Victor was leaving being governor and deciding that he would start his consulting business. Do you remember any conversations about that? You know, hearing from Jim that Victor was going to do this or or anything like that. You know,

Donna Campbell 51:28

we had a place in manzaniga,

and when Victor wanted to get away, he'd come up there and spend time. He and Jim would talk. They'd go on the beach and talk. And I don't know, right? You know, Doris and I were doing what we usually do, yeah, no, I don't know, yeah. So a lot of their conversations, unless Jim told me about some of them, or I asked, didn't you know? I thought a lot of it wasn't my business between the two, yeah, so yeah, but Jim was very instrumental with victory and everything he did. Jim would never go to Japan with him, either if I told you that or not, because of his brother, yeah. And he just never would. So

he just decided, no, yeah, that

was it. But they were together lots of things, golf, everything like that. Fishing, love to fish together. Oh, good, yeah, I don't know where I had a plaque that Victor made because Jim would always change Park spark, and it's a really good one, but I don't know, since I've moved my kids have put things in boxes, and I don't know, I haven't gone through a lot of it. Yes, yes. So stayed away.

Unknown Speaker 53:04

I can understand that. That's

Donna Campbell 53:07

what I've been doing so well, I just didn't want to go through it yet. I will. Yeah, I will. Yeah, absolutely.

So he was a wonderful man.

He and my husband both, they were very

close. Just was hard for Victor, very hard.

James Moore 53:33

Well, when Jim died,

Victor told Denny miles, okay, when I have a stupid joke I have to tell, I'm going to be calling you, so I can't call Jim anymore. Okay, fine.

Donna Campbell 53:50

I'm so glad we went to Israel and every place with Denny, and Denny took care of Dolores, and I because Jim and Victor came back to Oregon

together, and

so Denny stayed with Dolores and I, which was fine, yeah, yeah,

the only thing he wouldn't let me go into the souk.

I wanted to go, but he wouldn't let me go. So he said it was too dangerous.

I didn't do it,

but I don't know what else I continue.

James Moore 54:31

No, this has been wonderful, wonderful, wonderful, wonderful. Yeah,

Donna Campbell 54:36

he just they were always close. They were just like brothers,

James Moore 54:42

yeah, and so, yeah, what you've told me is valuable, because not only are they close, but Jim is also the person that Victor talked to about major decisions and ideas, and Jim was giving him ideas, right? So that's that's very important. Yeah, yeah.

Donna Campbell 55:00

It was hard for Victor when and Victor was awfully good to me when Jim passed away, just both of them, Dolores, too. So, because the both of them thought the Father Jim, but then they got to know Tom, and me, but a lot of him do, so, yeah, I've been very fortunate. Yeah,

that's wonderful. Yeah, it is,

because they've been very outstanding men, both of them. I used to work. When Victor was running, what was it? He lost the first one the second one. I worked in the office, but Jim became ill, so I had to stop. The third time we were in, he was governor.

I did all the

work in the office. All the phone calls come wonderful, which was

James Moore 56:11

wonderful, yeah, enjoyed it, yeah.

Donna Campbell 56:15

So, you know, I'm just,

I know he never would take any money, and that's something I don't think people realize. So,

yeah, he's a very honest man

Unknown Speaker 56:31

who's a very honest man, very

James Moore 56:35

honest man. And one thing that strikes me about not only him be honest. You were talking about Linda always having gifts for you when you go over to the house. Victor gave gifts to people as well, I know. So I was just interviewing some people out in Pendleton who a guy named Mike Thorne, who was in the state senate, so known for a long time, and they also are trying to have a lot of stuff. And they heard it, heard how much I admired Victor, so they gave me one of the state of Oregon medals that Victor had given to people when he left office. And so that's not for the archive, it's just for me. That's good, but that's, you know, so Victor, on his own, went and had these made, and

Donna Campbell 57:31

Jim had some. I don't know what I think I gave him to my grandchildren, yeah, yeah. I think that's where they went, yeah. So, yeah.

So I was, you know,

like, I don't know if they even have a Tourism Council anymore. They

James Moore 57:47

I'm not sure if it's a Tourism Council, but there's tourism something. Victor really changed tourism. It used to be with the highway department, and he brought it into economic development. And so every time he went on one of those international trips, the tourism people were with him. It was considered just as important as getting a factory here, and that's the way it's been ever since. And so I'm not sure the Tourism Commission exists, but something does exist.

Donna Campbell 58:15

I know we were there for three years, and then the democratic came in and said, No more, yeah, every Republican was taken out, which

James Moore 58:30

is fascinating, because when Victor came in, he actually changed the application forms for every commission and took political party off of it. That's good. He didn't care.

Donna Campbell 58:42

Oh, I know it didn't make any he didn't care. Yeah, well, he was a big man, yeah, you know that's a difference between a small man and a big man. Yeah, absolutely. Yeah, no,

James Moore 58:58

it's just one of the wonderful things about him.

Do this, and I'm talking to governors and all sorts of people doing this. And it's when Victor and I agreed that I would

write this book, The only way I would write it, and he agreed totally with it. It can't be about Victor. It has to be about the times. And this guy named Victor Attia did things, and

Donna Campbell 59:27

it was a bad time. If you remember, economics were really bad. It was really tough. It was tough, but he brought the state out of it. He really didn't.

So he worked on it, and

he did. He brought in businesses. That's why he went to Europe, yeah, I mean to China,

James Moore 59:50

yeah, yeah. Brought

Donna Campbell 59:52

a lot of business. Yeah. First tourism did that? Did you know about that one? No, no. Oh.

Unknown Speaker 1:00:01

To Oregon. Would love

James Moore 1:00:02

Oh the Japanese show, yes, yeah,

Donna Campbell 1:00:07

he brought it in. They really liked him a lot, but it brought a lot of money to Oregon. Oh

James Moore 1:00:17

yeah, absolutely at his memorial service down in Salem. One of the big bunches of flowers was from Fuji television, from the the same guy that Victor worked with, a guy named Hi Eva, who was head of it. Then he's not head of it anymore, but he's still very important. And they sent a huge bunch of flowers.

Donna Campbell 1:00:40

I didn't go simply because it was going to go over Dolores did so much, yeah, you know, yeah. And here she was in a rest home, and I thought, I'm not coming. Yeah, I'm not going to go. So I didn't. But

it was wonderful. I know that wonderful,

and I think it was great, you

know, but I just felt that she should have had recognition that she didn't

James Moore 1:01:12

have. Yeah, well, they actually Denny, specifically, we had a moment of silence and applause for her in the service.

Donna Campbell 1:01:23

But I just, I just decided that over with her every Yeah, every place together and when she, when Victor was running, I was the one who was always the driver right for her, for different things. So, yeah, I just thought I wanted to be there. Yeah,

James Moore 1:01:48

one last question.

How was Dolores on the campaign trail? The reason I ask is some people talk about her. She was never she wasn't a political life, but she did it. But some people have noted that sometimes she could get kind of prickly out there if things

weren't going the way right way. So what was she like on the campaign trail?

Donna Campbell 1:02:16

Can I say Dolores? Never liked politics,

never she was good because of Victor. She loved him. She wanted to help him.

She got awfully disgusted with a lot of people, and I don't believe her. I was right along with her.

The one thing in Oregon never gave their governor's wives a private secretary or anything. She had to do a lot of this with Jerry. She put a lot through there. Yeah, but, you know, I can't, I can't say that she was

all it great,

but she was good. She was good

because of Victor, yeah,

James Moore 1:03:09

yeah, once they were elected and they were living in that house, I was actually because Victor, you know, he's polite, but he hated that they raised the rent on him twice while he was governor. And I was talking in Salem and a group of people about those kinds of things, and the person who was actually in charge of the house at the time said, Oh, it was a great deal for them. And I said, Oh, just keep my mouth shut.

Donna Campbell 1:03:39

No, it was, you know, Dolores and Vic took all their own furniture down there. Yeah, they did entertaining down there. Dolores all by herself, yeah, well, she and my daughter, she brought my daughter in and taught her, Oh, good. And which was good? Yeah, that was Nancy, my middle daughter, and she brought her in and taught her how to do things, you know, largely, for a lot of people, but

I just,

I don't think, I think she should have been given more, yeah, I honestly do, yeah, she, I think I was trying to think what she did to the one house they gave to the governor's wives or the governor. What's

James Moore 1:04:34

the name of it? Well, there was, there was the rental house that they had, yeah,

Donna Campbell 1:04:39

but this is the one,

James Moore 1:04:40

the big one, Mahoney Hall, Mahony, yeah, yeah,

Donna Campbell 1:04:44

that was it. And she

helped, you know, pick out a lot of stuff up there. Yeah, and,

but never was there, yeah, exactly. Well,

James Moore 1:04:57

a couple of people who were state legislators. I remember going because Vic would have everybody over at the beginning of the legislature, and so they were, wow, we're going to the governor's house, and they would be met at the

door by Dolores, who would have trays of food, and then Vic would be holding court back in the house. And after a while they realized it was Dolores and maybe one other person in the who were doing all this stuff. And that's true. It was

Donna Campbell 1:05:29

Yeah. Later on, her second visit, his second term, she brought people in. She had to Yeah, you know, it was the case that she wasn't all that well. She was having trouble with her legs and everything, and she wasn't she wasn't all that well, but she was fine, and she went with him every place and did everything, but

I never could do something.

I just couldn't. Yeah,

James Moore 1:06:04

I've never wanted to run for office. I would love to be appointed to something where you didn't have to run. But my wife said she won't divorce me, but there's just no way. She won't

Donna Campbell 1:06:19

do anything, no

matter. What you do, you're going to be criticized, yeah,

yeah. And there's it could be right, yeah,

but still, you're going to be criticized Exactly.

That's the way politics are. That's the way it is. That's why, still, exactly, exactly.

James Moore 1:06:41

Well, this has been delightful. Thank you very, very much. Thank you giving me lots of good things. And you know, I'm writing a book, so I hope it comes out next year. But books are books, you know, you get into them, you get everything together, yeah, exactly. So I hope it comes out next year. I'm so sorry

Donna Campbell 1:07:05

I forgot. You know I had, I've

had too much on my Oh, yeah,

Speaker 2 1:07:11

that's fine. Too much. That's fine. So I was here, yeah,

James Moore 1:07:15

you were here. That was great. That was wonderful. So it was nice to meet you. It was nice to meet you.

See here, yeah.