

Oral History of
Reiner Bradley

Collected by Adrienne Bradley

Adri Bradley
U.S. Studies - 4th Hour
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Oral History: Interview Release Form

In view of the historical value of this oral history interview, I Reiner Bradley
knowingly and voluntarily permit Adrienne the full use of this
information for educational purposes.

Signature

Reiner Bradley

Date

4/8/97

Introduction: I did my oral history report on my father, Reiner Paul Bradley. He was born on July 15th, 1949 in Salt Lake City, Utah. My father has two brothers and one sister and his parents are deceased. He now lives in Castle Dale, Utah. The interview took place at my home on April 8th, 1997. It was recorded live on a miniature dictaphone and then transcribed by me, with my father's help.

Adrienne: What is your full name and why were you named it?

Reiner: My full name is Reiner Paul Bradley. Ahm, I got my first name because during the second World War my mom went to Austria. She was German and she tended, ah, a little kid by the name of Reiner and she had so much fun doing that in the Australian, Austrian Alps that she always had a fondness for that name. So I was called Reiner. I'm not sure where I got the middle name, Paul, and, of course, my last name is the family name.

Adrienne: Ahm, did you ever have a nickname as you were growing up?

Reiner: Some called me stretch. Um, when I was little I was living in Germany and my friends thought my shoes were funny. Ah, they kind of curled up and pointed up, you know.

Adrienne: Yeah.

Reiner: And so they called me "Hans guck in die Luft" and in German that means "Hans look in the sky." So they were teasing me for my toes that were pointing in the sky on the boots I used to wear. That was a long nickname but they called me either stretch or "Hans guck in die Luft."

Adrienne: Where were you born and when?

Reiner: I was born in Salt Lake City, ah, in July of 1949 on the 15th in the LDS hospital.

Adrienne: Do you remember hearing your grandparents describe their lives? And, like, what did they say?

Reiner: I don't remember a lot about my grandparents. My grandfather on my dad's side, grandpa Bradley, I never knew. He died when my dad was young. My grandma, ah, I only knew her until I was 12 years old so we never talked much about her history. My German grandparents didn't want to talk about their history because they lived during the Nazi time so they didn't say too much about that. But, I did know them pretty well when I was about 12 and 13 years old.

Adrienne: Was there a chore you really hated doing as a child?

Reiner: I can't remember exactly what chore I hated the most, but two of them that remember doing - one was kind of funny - I would wash the dishes but I would always get in trouble for it. My mom was a lot shorter than I was. She was 5' 6" and I was probably 6' 4" at the time and I would wash dishes and whenever I'd dry them I would put them on the top shelf. I always got cussed because she knew when I would do the dishes because she could never reach where I would put them. I think the one I hated the most was when we had to weed, ah. Now days we use these whipper-trimmers that flip the grass around and cut them off on the edge. We always had to do it with knives or shears and, ah dig the dandelions out with knives too. We didn't have the weed killer that we do now-days. The one I really hated was the dandelions - digging them up.

Adrienne: What would you consider to be the most important invention made during your life-time?

Reiner: Inventions?

Adrienne: Hmm-hmm.

Reiner: I think for one it's computers and the advances they have made because of, ah, the space projects. Ah, it's unbelievable to me how compressed computers have become because when they first came out while I was, oh,

young, they'd fill this entire house we are sitting in and now you can hold them in your lap with much more capacity than they ever had before, all because of the space program.

Adrienne: How is the world now different from what it was like when you were a child?

Reiner: Things got busier. Ah, when I was, well of course, it's getting that way for you every day probably - but, ah, things are a lot quicker and I think the big thing is just the information highway. We never had a TV in our home until I was 17 years old, and then it was black and white, and the idea of a colored TV was just so remote. Now everybody has two or three in their house and they've got it hooked to a modem that talks to some internet system. Ah, so, that's, ah, what was the question?

Adrienne: Umm, how is the world now different from what it was like when you were a child?

Reiner: Well, I think that's the big thing it's just the computer and the communication on the phone line, ah, and then the other things is the cars are a lot faster. We used to have to change tires when we took a trip, a couple of times, because we'd always get a flat. Tires - flats don't happen any more.

Adrienne: O.K. What kind of books did you like to read or you like to read now?

Reiner: I never liked reading too many books. I guess my favorites were science fiction. Ah, Ray Bradbury and Rod Serling from, oh, the Twilight Zone and things like that. I'm still kind of weird like that.

Adrienne: Do remember having a favorite nursery rhyme or bed time story?

Reiner: You know, my mom used to tell us all of these German, what they call Grimm's Fairy Tales, ah, the German fairy tales. And we liked hearing all the Hansel and Gretel, and one thing I remember, it wasn't exactly a fairy tale or a nursery rhyme - we had this little record player and we had this one record that for some reason my brother and I, we would play it all the time. I'm not

sure we really liked it. I think we played it to irritate my mom because we'd do it - it was "Hot Crossed Buns". The song went: "Hot crossed buns, hot crossed buns. One a penny, two a penny. Hot crossed buns." That's all I can remember about it, but we'd play it over and over and over again and drive her absolutely nuts.

Adrienne: Do you ever remember not having enough food to eat because times were hard for your family?

Reiner: No, my mom and dad always provided for us. Ah, when we lived in Germany we had close friends. One of them love the out of doors and he'd go and he'd collect mushrooms, expert with mushrooms - so he'd make sure he wouldn't bring us home any poisoned ones. But there were times when he'd bring a 10 pound sack full of mushrooms and my mom would put those on the oven and cook 'em, and of course, mushrooms would shrink a lot, but that's all we'd have, a bowl of mushrooms. That's one of my favorite meals I remember. But we, we never were short of food. No!

Adrienne: What were your favorite toys and what were they like?

Reiner: Oh, boy! Ahm, I remember one toy when I was little, and I don't know what it was called, but it was like a construction set made out of little brick that had different forms and windows and - it's kind of like LEGO, but it was an American version of it, and we could build sky-scrapers out of them like the Empire State Building and things, and my brother and I would sit there for hours putting these white little bricks together to make these tall buildings. Ah, I also remember a train set, a Märklin train set, it was a German train set my grandpa, my German grandpa, had when he was a little kid and he let us play with that and put it together and I still have that in a box down stairs. That had to have been one of my favorite toys too.

Adrienne: What were your favorite childhood games?

Reiner: We used to play, sometimes, cards. I'm not even sure what kinds of cards we played. I liked to play chess and occasionally checkers. It seems like we played Monopoly sometimes. We just played Monopoly forever and ever. Later on when I was in my teens, there is a game I really got hooked on - it was called Stratego. And, ah, we used to have competitions with that game to play war against each other on this board game.

Adrienne: What were your schools like?

Reiner: I went to a ton of different schools. My first one was in Pioche, Nevada, a little tiny town, kind of a mining town with maybe 500 people in it, and I was only there through the 3rd grade. I don't remember an awful lot about the school other than it was kind of spread out, but the one thing about the school I remember is that it had this great big, ah, bell shaped, ah, merry-go-round. It looked kind of like - it hung on cables in the center and, ah, it not only rotated around the center but it swung back and forth. Ah, they don't make those now days because you can break your head or knock your legs off when it hits that center pole, if you get it going good enough. But that was one of my favorite school yard or play ground activities, was to go crazy on this, ah, it was kind of like a three dimensional merry-go-round that not only goes around, but back and forth. The next school I went to was in Germany and it was kind of a private school where my dad taught and it had some boarding houses. One boarding house was for sports. One was for music and it was really a regimented school. If you did anything wrong you got hauled into the principal's office with your parents and had the potential of being expelled. I even got called in there for looking out the window once, ah, day-dreaming. So I had to meet with the principal and my folks. And it was kind of interesting. In that school I was, ah, I joined the boy's choir and we traveled all over Germany singing and it was about when I was 9 years

old singing in this boy's choir. If you've heard of the Vienna Boy's Choir it was along those lines. We weren't anywhere near as good as them, but we did that kind of thing and it was just really fun. Ah, from there I went to a Junior High School on an Army military base in Frankfurt, Germany. That was kind of hairy because I was now back with the American kids and they all wanted to beat up on me. Ah.

Adrienne: Why?

Reiner: I don't know. Cause I was quite and I didn't blend in. I was the new kid on the block and they were all bullies and didn't--- I was kind of off to myself and they figured they could take advantage of me. But, ah, from there I went to Lovelock, another little town, and that was again Junior High School. That was, ah, just a small community so I've always been in a small community schools, until I got into high school.

Adrienne: How would you get to school when you were little? Would you walk?

Reiner: Ah, Pioche, Laubach, Germany, and Frankfurt - we always walked.

Adrienne: How far?

Reiner: Oh, probably less than a mile. We never drove to school, there. And in high school I rode my bike to school. So, I never did have to take the bus.

Adrienne: What was your favorite subject in school?

Reiner: Probably, my favorite was math and science, maybe art. Ah, but those two I really liked, math and science.

Adrienne: What was your least favorite?

Reiner: History! I flunked it in the 7th grade. I had to take it over. That is because this weird girl was sitting behind and kept beating on me. She didn't like me and I didn't like her and the teacher wouldn't separate us and so I just had a miserable time that whole year.

Adrienne: Did you have a favorite teacher?

Reiner: I think my most favorite teacher was in the German school, Dr. Rosen. He's really strict but he taught us a lot of things. It was from him - he had a lot of patience with me because I was learning - we were in the fifth grade - we had to take a foreign language in the German school, and that was Latin and I was still not proficient in the German language and so I was learning Latin through a language I didn't know very well, so he was really helpful in helping me learn German and force Latin down my throat.

Adrienne: What activities and sports did you play?

Reiner: I tried to be active in all sorts of things. I love basketball. My dad was the track and baseball coach in Pioche, in the junior high school, and also basketball - he had me come along several times and taught me a lot of things in there, and then in Germany, in the German school, we played soccer quite a bit. And then just a lot of team sports and some basketball too.

Adrienne: How do your fellow classmates from school remember you best?

Reiner: Well that is a hard one to answer because I didn't associate with the kids too much. Coming from a German school where things were so strict, I didn't talk a lot, I was kind of like in a shell. So in high school I would sit there and do my homework in study hall, and later on I found out that one of the girls was in art class and needed to draw pictures, and she used to draw my portrait because I was the only one that would sit still and do my work, and so she could draw my picture. Ahh, my favorite hang-out was Pyramid Lake in high school. It was an isolated lake, way out on the desert, with no trees around it and it was neat, especially in the summer, because it was warm and a lot of sandy beaches, and that was where we used to try to hang-out after school and on the week-ends when we could.

Adrienne: How many years of education have you completed?

Reiner: I'm in my ninth year of college now, eight or nine, somewhere around there. I lost track - I've been to college - I'm a professional student.

Adrienne: Do you have a college degree?

Reiner: I have two bachelor's degree's; one in, ah, biology that I got from the University of Utah, that I got in 1970, and one in micro-biology, and that is associated with medical technology degree from BYU, in 1976, and right now I am back in college learning to become a physician assistant.

Adrienne: Did you get good grades, and did you like school?

Reiner: I got good grades, my average in college is right around a solid B, about a 3.2-3.3 average, and I always loved school. I guess that is why I am back in it now, ah, as a grandpa, and trying to learn again.

Adrienne: How would you describe yourself politically?

Reiner: I'm non-partisan, I don't, I'm not a democrat. I'm not a republican. Ah, what I do is I take a look at the candidates and figure who suits me best so I never vote party lines, I vote for the person, but as far as being politically active I try to stay away from that, I, in fact getting into political discussion's is something I try to avoid, because everybody has there heated opinion and I've always had trouble having heated argument's or discussion's and trying to present my point of view, so I just let everybody say what they want to and nod my head like a nice boy. And then believe what I want to.

Adrienne: What war's have been fought during your lifetime?

Reiner: Ah, what war's? It would be the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and then little war's all over the place. The Desert Storm and, ah, Saudi Arabia, ah, Sudan and there were several disturbances like the Cuban Military Crisis and I don't remember all of them, but, no major wars - world war's - during my life time, except for when the war was over.

Adrienne: If you served in the military when and where did you serve and what were your duties?

Reiner: I did serve in the military. I was, ah, an officer in the core of engineer, and I served most of that time in Germany. Ah, in a little German town called Zweibruecken, ah, I was in charge of inspecting, ahm, army depots all over Germany and making things worked there pretty well, ah, fortunately when I first go to that facility the army general was really excited about basketball. And so the first year I was in Germany, he exempt all of the basketball players from duty and we never had to do military work. All we did was go practice everyday and play basketball. So it was really hard. And then we traveled all over doing that.

Adrienne: So you were never injured?

Reiner: No, I wasn't.

Adrienne: O.K. How tall are you?

Reiner: I'm 5' 20."

Adrienne: What color was your hair as a young child, and now?

Reiner: As far as I know it's never changed. It has always been kind of, ah, sandy blonde, brunette.

Adrienne: What color are your eyes?

Reiner: Hazel, I guess.

Adrienne: Where have you lived as an adult?

Reiner: I have lived in, Oh let's see, where do we start? Reno, Nevada; Salt Lake City, Utah; ah, Zweibruecken, Germany; ah, back to Reno, Nevada; Provo, Utah; and in Castle Dale, Utah.

Adrienne: Do you wish you lived somewhere else?

Reiner: Right now?

Adrienne: Ya.

Reiner: No, I love living right here. I wouldn't mind a beach home in Hawaii, but here's fine.

Adrienne: Describe your general health.

Reiner: I'm healthy, I'm active, I love sports. I feel pretty good. I'm getting old, but that's all right, I expect that.

Adrienne: Have you had any major illnesses, or health problems?

Reiner: As a rule, no, I've had a few things happen. Going back to my childhood in Germany, in my Latin class I was telling you about, I had such a struggle with Latin, learning it with German, that, ah, one day one of my buddies told me that he had his appendix taken out and, ah, so I asked him more about it. I thought, "Hey this is pretty neat," so when the next Latin test came up I told my mom my belly was hurting. She took me to the doctor and the doctor poked around and I said "ouch" at the right time, and they took my appendix out, and I missed the Latin test. So whether a real bad appendix, or not, I don't know. The doctor said it was ready to rupture, and maybe he was just covering his butt when he said that, but I missed my Latin test. I was ten years old at that time. So that was a major surgery that I had, and then not too long ago I had a metal plate put in my neck because I had a disc that was bulging and pushing on a nerve, and that turned out to be pretty good, it worked out fine. So I'm not having any trouble with that except I set off the alarms at the airport.

Adrienne: What do you do regularly for exercise?

Reiner: I play racquetball. I try to do that about 3 times a week, early in the morning, at about 5 o'clock. I liked playing basketball, but it kills my Achilles, and so I found that racquetball really gives me good work-out and I love doing it.

Adrienne: Have you ever been in a serious accident?

Reiner: I just remember one. My buddy and I were coming off of the, ah, ski resort area. It wasn't during ski season, it was like in the early summer. But it had rained and we were racing down the mountain in the VW bug, and we came to this corner, and were going too fast, and, ah, actually, we had passed a little Fiat earlier, a little sports Fiat. We were going faster than we should, and when we hit the water going around this curve we slid sideways and rolled into the mountain. Rolled the bug over two and a half times and it stopped on its side. Ah, Kent, my buddy, was -- It stopped on my side, the drivers side, and Kent, my buddy, was up in the air, hanging over me, asking me if I was all right, and I said "Ya, sure, get out of here," cause he was the only way we could get out, so he popped the door open. He is 6' 6" and I'm 6' 8" and this little Fiat pulls up with this little five foot guy that comes out, and he's got big old eyes looking at us, he knows we just rolled this bug. Out pops this Kent, who is 6' 6", and I pop out at 6' 8". And it was kind of interesting to see his expression, "You guys all right?" and we said "Ya" and Kent and I rolled the bug over on its feet again, checked the oil, because it had been leaking a little bit, and started the engine and it worked, pulled out the fenders so they wouldn't rub on the tires, and drove down into Salt Lake City, pulled into an Arctic Circle place and ordered hamburgers, and I remember this girl coming to the window and saying "Oh, what a cute little bug, what happened?" and Kent said "Oh we rolled it." "When did you do that?" "Oh, about ten minutes ago." And she turned to her friend, and one of the other waitresses, there and said "Just like a boy, all they think about is there stomachs." So that was the only serious accident we had. The only thing we got from it as far as - well it was a bad accident, but it didn't hurt anything. The most we got hurt was rubbing the glass off of us, ya know, little scratches we got from rubbing, brushing the glass of us.

Adrienne: If you could change something about yourself what would it be?

Reiner: I'd probably have gone to P.A. school a lot sooner than I did. Ah, I was the oldest in my class, it was always something that I wanted to do, in fact, when I was in college the first time around, I always wanted to get into med. school, and couldn't. If I would have had the opportunity, back then, to become a physician assistant, I probably would have.

Adrienne: What church do you attend?

Reiner: I attend the Mormon church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Adrienne: What was the most stressful experience that you ever lived through, and what helped you get through it?

Reiner: Probably, the most stressful, has been the end of quarter final exams during the P.A. school term. And all you could do was just get in there and study and do 'em. I'm expecting, ah, the next week to be quiet stressful, because I'm taking national boards, but, ah, again you just buckle down and do what ya can and hope to do your best, and if you don't do good enough you do it again.

Adrienne: What is the scariest thing that has ever happened to you personally?

Reiner: Well, you know, that's hard to say cause things don't usually scare me too much. I guess when we rolled the car it kind of worried me. Ah, but just to show you how stupid I am, I guess you'd say is, ahm, when I was in the military, I went Airborne. That means that you strap on a parachute and jump out of an airplane. Well, the first jump I made - it was really exciting, and you don't have a clue what's going on. You just see the ground going by below you, little tiny things all the way down there, and you know that you are going to jump out into space, so , ah , like everybody else, I jumped out. And there are certain things you are supposed to do. You're supposed to look up at your parachute to see if it's open. That's a good thing when it is. And to see

if there are any holes in it. That's not a good thing if there are holes. And I looked up and there's a hole in my parachute. This is my first jump, and so I thought this is not good. I had a reserve chute, and my first thought was - well we were trained, if you have a hole in your parachute you're supposed to pull your reserve. Had I pulled my reserve, I was worried about the reserve going into the chute, that was already inflated up there maybe causing more trouble, so I look around and saw how fast everyone else was going down, and we were all kind of floating down through the air together. I wasn't bombing down to the ground quicker than anybody else. I didn't worry about it. Well, when I got to the ground, I hit the ground, and it wasn't very hard, in fact, I hit so soft, I kind-of had to force myself to fall. When you're parachuting, you land and you're supposed to hit your feet and then fall down on your back so you absorb the fall and don't break anything. Well, I could have just landed standing up, because I hit so soft. I had to force myself to fall, and no sooner was I standing up to gather in my parachute then this drill instructor was over there with his blow horn, one of these hand held megaphones that were battery operated, yelling at me - why didn't I pull my reserve chute?, because he saw the hole in my chute too. And I said I wasn't going down any faster than anyone else, I thought I was fine. So he was O.K. with that. Well, after you jump, you string your parachute up and shake it out on this big, ah, hanger, I don't know how to describe it. But we looked at that hole in my chute and it was big enough for me to stand in. So, after seeing how big it was, that really worried me. All these modern chutes, they have all these holes in them, and they float really nice, so maybe I was developing the modern chute.

Adrienne: What kind of musical instruments have you learned to play?

Reiner: Oh, I can't say I've mastered any of them but I like just picking up anything and playing with it. I can play the piano, and the harmonica, and the, ah, accordion. I love playing the accordion. I have played trumpet a little bit, especially in the Boy Scouts, like "Taps" and things like that on the bugle. Am, I, ah, let's see, I play the radio. And what else? And I've always wanted to learn how to play the violin, but I haven't done that.

Adrienne: Would you consider yourself creative?

Reiner: Yes. I like making things. Ah, this is part of my nature. Things that I have made is like that German Christmas star I've put together. When I was little, my grandpa and my dad taught us how to put it together, and we never really had a solid pattern, but the knowledge he gave me I was able to reconstruct the pattern for that German Christmas star. And design some of my own patterns from it. And that goes back to my love for math and geometry and making things. So I try and be creative, and I like making things.

Adrienne: How would you describe your sense of humor?

Reiner: Well, I'm not quick with wit. I've always wanted to be able to crack jokes and make people laugh. Ah, but, ah, I can joke around and I have always had fun doing pranks and I don't blow a cork when people pull fun with me. I feel like I have a good sense of humor. I'm just not a funny person.

Adrienne: What is the funniest practical joke you've ever played on anyone?

Reiner: Oh, boy! Ah, I don't know where to start on that one because, ah, I've done that a lot. My favorite day of the year is April 1st. But I do remember one time that I just look back with great satisfaction. My buddy and I were driving this bug up to Lake Tahoe, on this two lane road, and the bugs in those days, and even now days - if you could get any head of steam going up a mountain you were fortunate. We were cooking along and this truck was ahead of us and we had enough speed we could pass it. And we even had an open lane

so we could get around it. Well, this guy, driving this truck, didn't like the idea of this bug passing him going up hill. It ticked him off, so he passed us the next chance he had, and then slowed down. I lost all my head of steam. And of course, I didn't like that and after a few miles we finally got up my head of steam again, and timed it just right, and passed him again. And went flying by him going up the mountain again. Well, he wasn't any friendlier about it the second time around and passed us and slowed down, and we lost our head of steam going up toward Tahoe one more time. Well my buddy and I used to always carry dynamite and fuse around with under the back seat of the car, and if we ever decided to go blowing up something in the desert, like an old car or a washing machine out of a junk pile, we'd take the blasting caps and put them in the glove compartment. We didn't have any blasting caps that day so the dynamite was kind of harmless in the back. But I turned to him and said "There is dynamite in the back, and fuse. Put some fuse in that stick of dynamite." And he knew exactly what I was talking about so he poked a whole in the dynamite and stuck a piece of six inch fuse in there, got out his lighter to light it. Now realize that a stick of dynamite with a fuse won't do anything because there is no cap in there to blast and set it off. But nobody is going to be pulling the fuse out of there to see if there is a cap on it. So, as we get up our steam up this mountain again, to pass this pickup truck, he lights the fuse and as we go by, he throws this lit stick of dynamite in this guys pickup truck, in the back. And we go zooming by, and all of a sudden we see this pickup truck make one major stop off the side of the road, and as we are looking in our rear-view mirror as this truck disappears in the background, we see this guy hauling out of this truck going up the side of the mountain, away from his truck, because this stick of dynamite is burning in the back of it. We have no idea how long he stayed

up in the woods before he had the courage to come back down to see when that stick of dynamite was going to blow, but we just love that.

Adrienne: What activities have you especially enjoyed as an adult?

Reiner: I love to ski. Ah, both water ski and snow ski. I love sports. One of my favorite activities is going all over the country watching my kids playing sports: basketball, volleyball, track, softball, baseball. They played most all of them. Ah, I do love the out of doors, especially with my family.

Adrienne: What did you usually wear to school?

Reiner: Clothes! There was nothing particular. I do remember as a little child, because of my German heritage, I would wear Lederhosen once and a while, leather pants. One of the teachers, when I was in the second grade, pulled my dad aside and said "You shouldn't let your son wear that to school because it is so different." And it really irritated him, but that is the only thing I remember about clothes. I never cared too much about, worried too much about what I was wearing.

Adrienne: How old were you when you started dating?

Reiner: I think I was 15 or 16. I was a senior in high school - 16 yah.

Adrienne: Do you remember your first date?

Reiner: Yes I do. It was a girls choice to this Sweetheart Ball. And we went, danced and went home. That's all I remember about it.

Adrienne: How did you meet the person you are married to?

Reiner: In - I was going to college at the University of Utah and was an orderly at the hospital, University of Utah Hospital. And I would, after school, go up there and work and try to help put my way through school. Well one particular evening, Teresa, now my wife, was visiting a friend who was in the hospital, because she broke her ankle several months ago and was having complications. I was walking down the hall and saw this real tall, platinum,

blond girl and kind of did a double take, and kept going down the hall to take care of whatever it was I was doing. And she looked down the hall and noticed that I was tall, and she is 6 foot and I'm 6' 8", so after I was finished with what I was doing, I went back and talked to her and her friend and said a few things, and I overheard her giving her friend in bed her phone number to give her a call later on that night. So when I got home after work, I called her and reminded her of who I was and that we met at the hospital. She asked me how did I get her number? And I said "You told it to me." And she said "I did not." I said "You did. You said it to your friend and so I just remembered it and called you." I said "My room-mates and I would come over and visit with you." And she said "O.K." So about half an hour later - five of us - because we lived in this little house - all of us guys went over to her dorm, and she had about four girls living with her in the dorm and they'd gone. We knew what room they were in because they'd told us. They left, so we walked in the room, into their living room, and took a panel out of their ceiling and took it with us. Ah, and called them back later on and asked if they were missing a panel out of their ceiling. And they said "Yah." And we said "Well we just wanted to bring it back." They didn't - they thought we were kind of bold, taking something from them, but we wanted to make sure we had a good reason to go back. We did because we had part of their house with us.

Adrienne: How long did you know your wife before you got married?

Reiner: Ah, it was just about a year and three months - about 15 months - something like that. We dated for about a year and went away to basic training and I came back and we got married.

Adrienne: Describe your wedding proposal.

Reiner: Hum, let's see. I'd taken Teresa skiing in April and she broke her leg. She was in a long leg cast. And, ah, so that May we were up on her dad's land,

up in Joe's Valley. She keeps telling people I made her walk up this mountain, and I guess I did. It wasn't really that far, but she walked up a ways and I - out in the wilderness - I asked her to marry me and gave her a ring. She said she'd do it.

Adrienne: When and where did you get married?

Reiner: We got married in Castle Dale, in the LDS church, October 17th of 1970. Almost twenty-seven years ago.

Adrienne: Did you have a honeymoon?

Reiner: Well, to some degree. I had come off of basic training in the military for a weeks leave, to get married, and then we went back to Washington, D.C. to pick up my car and drive from Washington, D.C. to Fort Benning, Georgia. So our honeymoon, basically, was to take in a few of the sights in Washington, D.C. and driving to Georgia. So, you might say that was kind of a honeymoon, but it wasn't any big extravagant affair.

Adrienne: How would you describe your wife?

Reiner: Well, she's kind and a good mom and a great housekeeper. I come home to a beautifully kept house all the time. She's a great teacher. She's raised my kids well. She's loving and works hard. A good cook and everybody loves her. She's a talker. She loves to talk on the phone and to people. Just a great lady.

Adrienne: How long have you been married?

Reiner: 27 years, almost, in October.

Adrienne: How did you find out you were going to be a parent for the first time?

Reiner: We were in Germany and I have a hard time remembering exactly how it happened, but she - I think I just came home one day, and she had been to see the doctor, and said that she found out she was pregnant. I'm not sure

she let me know the same day she found out or if it was a little later, but that was when we found out we were expecting Shawn, our oldest son.

Adrienne: How many children do you have?

Reiner: We have four. Two girls and two boys. Shawn is my oldest, born March 22, of 1972. Tasha, who is my oldest daughter, was born July 17, 1974 in Reno, Nevada. Justin, my youngest son, born on 11/11, a German holiday for Fasting, the beginning of Lent season. Anyway he was born in 1976. And then my youngest child, my daughter, Adrienne, born in Provo, on June 9, 1980.

Adrienne: Do you remember anything that your children did when they were small that really amazed you?

Reiner: They grew fast. Ahm, Shawn would beat his toys up. He'd play so hard. He had a Mighty Tonka Truck that he would grab the side of the dumpster and he would bend over and he would run full speed anywhere he could like a field, a road or a sidewalk. And he literally destroyed 3 Mighty Tonka's even after his grandpa took them and welded them together, several times, trying to keep them in one piece.

Adrienne: What is one of the most unusual things that one of your children did when they were small?

Reiner: I remember, my youngest daughter, Adrienne. We built a pole fence around my house out of trees from Joe's Valley. We cut down about 20 foot poles and when she was just little she would get up on those pole and she would walk around practically the whole yard on those poles, just balancing herself, and I'd be walking along side of her making sure she didn't fall, and she never did. She just had incredible balance.

Adrienne: What is the funniest thing that you can remember that one of your children said or did?

Reiner: Boy, there are so many things that they have done. I do remember, ah, when Shawn was little we told him to keep his eye on the ball because he'd missed it a few times when we were playing softball. We were just tossing him the ball, when he was probably three or four years old, and that's exactly what he did - put his eye right on the ball.

Adrienne: What did you find most difficult about raising your children?

Reiner: I guess one of the hardest things is to try to be fair. There's so much diversity in personalities when you're raising kids. Each one is different and each one has different needs and wants, and if you yelled at one, it would just run off of them like water off a duck, and yell at another one and he'd go into hiding and withdrawals. And so you had to adjust what you did for each child according to what they did. So, you just learned as you go, I found out, and by the time you are done you have some clue of what you are doing. You never know what you're doing when you first start.

Adrienne: What did you find most rewarding about being a parent?

Reiner: I guess, most rewarding, is feeling the love back from the kids. Ah, something I've always loved giving, you know. Being with my children. It's rewarding to feel the appreciation for you and what you've done and being a part of their accomplishments is really rewarding when they shine in what they work really hard to do. And being there to witness their thrill of victory and their success in what they are doing.

Adrienne: Did you spoil any of your children?

Reiner: All of them! Probably my youngest, most.

Adrienne: Were you a strict or a lenient parent?

Reiner: I think I always considered myself to be lenient. Most strict with my first one and then I tapered off, kind of like my dad. He was really strict with me, the oldest one. By the time my little sister came around he was quite mellow. I

probably followed that same pattern, but I've never considered myself anywhere as strict as my dad was with us.

Adrienne: As a child what did you want to be when you grew up?

Reiner: I always wanted to fly a plane, be a pilot. I thought that would be exciting and then early, early on, probably in Jr. High and High School, the idea of being a doctor, and the idea of working on people, was a high priority in and a dream in my life.

Adrienne: How did you first hear that you were a grandparent and how did you feel about it?

Reiner: Let's see. I was driving to Salt Lake City, and my cellular phone rang. It was a call from Shawn, and he told us that they were expecting their first child. That's what he told me. And my wife, Teresa, was in another car with another cellular and he called her so we both heard it on the freeway on cellular phones while driving around in the big city and we were really excited. We thought that was just super cool.

Adrienne: What was your first job?

Reiner: You know, that's a hard one because I baby-sat when I was twelve, thirteen, and fourteen years old. My first main paying job would have been at a Thrifty Superstore, Raleigh's I think it was - as a bag boy.

Adrienne: What kinds of jobs have you had?

Reiner: Off the wall - I was an orderly, did a lot of work in the hospital as an orderly during college. And I was in the military as an officer. Ah, going through school, I also worked in the emergency room, and in the lab, and the last 20 years I have been a laboratory technologist and an Xray tech. And now I'm almost finished studying to be a Physician Assistant so I'll have that job real soon.

Adrienne: Did you make enough money to live comfortably?

Reiner: I did! Not always spent wisely, but we always seemed to manage O.K.

Adrienne: How long did you have to work each day at your job?

Reiner: Most of the time I have been able to work a pretty steady eight hour shift. Once and a while, in the past, we were on call and had to do coverage in the middle of the night for lab and x-ray. Generally an eight to five job, or an eight hour job, anyway.

Adrienne: What were the hardest choices that you ever had to make?

Reiner: When it was obvious to me that I wasn't getting into Med School, I had to decide, you know, what was I going to do? I had a degree in Biology and I didn't want to teach Biology. My dad was a teacher and I always said that I never wanted to be a teacher. And I'd seen the struggles he'd had trying to raise High School kids, you know, teaching them, so when I didn't get into Med School, I had to search and see what I wanted. And I was fortunate because an offer, or the opportunity, I guess it would be, to study as a Medical Technologist came up, so that wasn't an easy decision, but it was fortunate how it came about.

Adrienne: Who is the person who had the most positive influence on your life?

Reiner: I think I'd have to say my wife, Teresa. She put up with me for three years as a non-member in the church and, ah, because of her good example, I finally figured out that what I was needing to do is join the Mormon church myself. So she's probably been the best influence on me. Without her I'd probably be a smoking alcoholic right now, I don't know. But she's been good to me.

Adrienne: What are your hobbies and what do you like to do when you're not working?

Reiner: My Hobbies! I like to fix things. I built a home so I had a lot of fun putting a house together, learning how to do the plumbing and the electrical and the dry wall. And during my free time I really like to play sports like racquetball,

and I get most pleasure out of going with my kids, you know. That's. I guess, my biggest hobby is watching them play sports.

Adrienne: What is your most embarrassing moment?

Reiner: Well, I was probably filled with embarrassing moments. I can't think of any one particular --- except - one. I was nine years old and we were in Germany and we used to practice in this German boy's choir in this great big hall. It was kind of a castle setting. So the walls were stone, and it was kind of cold, and we were sitting in these wooden desks, and things were so strict there that if the director raised the baton, everybody was dead silent. So, that's where we were, and we were sitting in this room, probably 80 kids, from the ages of 8 to 18. I was in the soprano group, because I was still a little kid singing high soprano, and it was dead silent, and I farted. And the whole group turned around and then I was embarrassed. It rumbled through that whole place - so, yah, that was embarrassing.

Adrienne: What organizations and groups have you belonged to?

Reiner: I guess, ah, one I hold closest to my heart is Boy Scouts. I belonged to them as a kid, was a member of the Order of the Arrow, which is a part of Boy Scouts which focuses on Indian lore, and I was the secretary for all of the Nevada and California area in that group. And so I got around quite a bit in the Boy Scouts, in the Order of the Arrow, so that was a lot of fun.

Adrienne: Describe the time and place when you remember feeling truly uplifted and happy to be alive.

Reiner: I guess one of the best examples of that would be when I got married and then after I had each of my children. That just really was probably the happiest times of our lives, is when we realized we had a new life brought into this world and we got to tend them, care for them.

Adrienne: What is the most beautiful place you have ever visited and what was it like?

Reiner: I've traveled quite a bit around the world and seen a lot of pretty places. One of the ones closest to my heart is all through the Swiss and Austrian Alps in southern Germany and the alpine regions. This is such beautiful country, and the houses are just so quaint, gorgeous, just like the people are. It just is a neat place to be. Somewhere I'd hope to be able to take all my kids to one of these days.

Adrienne: What has been your favorite vacation?

Reiner: I'd have to say I've had two very favorite vacations. The first one was a Caribbean cruise my wife and I took with some real good friends of ours, the LeRoy's. It was just such a relaxing boat ride, and cruise, and food for a week. And the other one was, ah, a trip at Lake Powell for a week with my son on his floating house boat, floating mansion. I had the chance to be down there in the middle of the summer with him, and my whole family, and we just had a wonderful time being together down there and having a ball.

Adrienne: What pets have you had?

Reiner: We've had dogs and cats and rabbits. One time my son decided he wanted to raise rabbits. They went from two to twenty thousand, it seemed like, they multiplied so fast and we finally had to get rid of them, all. But the pet we have now is an old dog named "Smokie." He's about eight - nine years old and has Saint Bernard in him, and Black Lab, and just the friendliest, lovingest animal you'd ever imagine. He kind of scares people and keeps them in their cars but all he wants to do is roll on the grass and play.

Adrienne: Do you have a favorite story about a pet?

Reiner: One time we had a Brindle Great Dane. It was a tall dog and it looked down at you when you came driving into the driveway and it'd bark, you know, so it was kind of a scary dog. Another dog that was just absolutely friendly, but she had a bark that a lot of people wouldn't get out of their cars until we

came out and rescued them, but we had an old junker car out in the back of the yard, just sitting out there, and the windows were open, and Sheba, was her name, decided to make that her home. And she'd lay on the back seat and sleep there. Well, one day Sandra, my wife's sister, came over and needed to get something out of the car and she had no idea that Sheba was in this car. And, ah, at the same time we had this - I mean this is a big tall dog - we had this short squatty dog. It was a mix between a St. Bernard and a Bassett hound so it had the St. Bernard head and feet and the Bassett hound body. So it was close to the ground. I mean it was the funniest looking thing you ever saw. So we had these two dogs, and Sheba's laying on the back seat and Sandra is getting into the back of this car, and it startled Sheba so she barked and came dashing out of the car. It scared Sandra to death. She jumped on top of the car, and so Sheba thinks this is big fun and sport - big game. So she's got her paws on the roof standing there barking at Sandra, dancing on top of the car. And, Sandra is screaming, because it is scaring her to death, and in the meantime Bongo, this big-headed, short, squatty looking thing, is running around on the roof with her, having a blast too - you know - and she's not scared of Bongo because Bongo is just - ya know - but she was making noise. My wife was downstairs and hears this barking, all this noise, and then in the background hears this shrill screaming - comes out and sees her sister with this dog running around her on the roof and Sheba with her paws on the roof barking at her. I mean it had to have been the funniest sight. It would have been a good one for Funniest Home Video.

Adrienne: Is there anything that you have always wanted to do but haven't?

Reiner: I've always wanted to go to Hawaii, and take my wife and kids, and go scuba diving in the clear waters of Hawaii.

Adrienne: What is your favorite style of music?

Reiner: I really like all styles of music. Ah, if I am home alone I will listen to classical. I like country. I can't stand rap and acid music, but I am pretty easy with most all types of music. But I have a favorite in classical.

Adrienne: What is your favorite musical instrument?

Reiner: Another hard one...I like the oboe, and the French horn and the kettle drums.

Adrienne: What is your favorite musical group?

Reiner: I like, ah, oh gee, the Oak Ridge Boys, the Judds, ah, that kind of country music, ah, oh let's see, what's his name - Kenny Rogers.

Adrienne: Who is your favorite movie star?

Reiner: I guess I would have to say Meg Ryan is my favorite movie star.

Adrienne: What is your favorite movie?

Reiner: My favorite movie...I like Field of Dreams.

Adrienne: What is your favorite painting?

Reiner: One of my favorites is "The Man in the Golden Helmet," um, painted by Leonardo Davinchi.

Adrienne: What is your favorite T.V. program?

Reiner: Star Trek, I love that series and, ah, The Last Generation.

Adrienne: Who is your favorite author?

Reiner: I have two of them, I can't remember the ones name, but the one is Irving Wallis.

Adrienne: What is your favorite book?

Reiner: The Word is one that I loved.

Adrienne: What is your favorite season?

Reiner: Summer.

Adrienne: What is your favorite flower?

Reiner: That has got to be the Indian Paint Brush.

Adrienne: What is your favorite holiday?

Reiner: Christmas.

Adrienne: What is your favorite color?

Reiner: Blue.

Adrienne: What is your favorite sport?

Reiner: It'd have to be basketball and volleyball. I love them both.

Adrienne: Who is your favorite athlete?

Reiner: My four kids. Adrienne and Shawn are on the top of my list.

Adrienne: What is your favorite meal?

Reiner: Ah, that would have to be Sourbraten, with Kartoffel Kloesse, and Rot-kraut. It's a German meal centered around what's called Sourbraten - sour roast beef.

Adrienne: What is your favorite fruit?

Reiner: My favorite fruit is nectarine.

Adrienne: What is your favorite vegetable?

Reiner: Asparagus, and maybe, I don't know, mushrooms - that is more of a fungus.

Adrienne: What is your favorite candy?

Reiner: Marzipan.

Adrienne: Favorite drink?

Reiner: Ah, a combination of red cream soda and orange crush.

Adrienne: What is your favorite restaurant?

Reiner: Well, that is the Heidelberg. It was a German restaurant north of Bountiful.

Adrienne: OK - Bye!