

History of Tony Conder

Tawny Conder

U.S. Studies 6<sup>th</sup> Hour

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Tawny: What is your full name?

Tony: Tony Carlisle Conder.

Tawny: Cool. Do you have any nicknames?

Tony: Umm... When I was little my mom and dad called me tink

Tawny: Umm... When and where were you born?

Tony: Provo, Utah, at the Utah Valley Hospital, March 9, 1943.

Tawny: Cool. And then did you live in Provo or, how long did you live in Provo?

Tony: Umm... lets see... We moved from Provo when I was in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade when the Carbon plant was built Jack was transferred to the Hail Plant to the Carbon Plant where he was the first super intendant at Carbon when it was started up and uh, we lived in a power company house in Martin which is in Helper. It was by Gilati's service station. It was just up the hill from Gilati's service station.

Tawny: Cool, um.. Back to Provo. What are some of your earliest memories from living there, what are some of your very earliest memories, family, friends or other wise?

Tony: How small it was compared to what it is today, and uh, everybody knew everybody. Provo and the area that we lived in, we lived in the Edgmont part of Provo, uh, it was, and when I lived there it was all apple orchards, one of the, there were 2, no 3 main things that made Utah Valley work. One was Geneva Steel, the other was the power plants and everything else was orchards. They grew tremendous amounts of apples and peaches.

Tawny: hmm and the,

Tony: and strawberries. When they'd plant a new orchard, uh until it got up to where it was

producing enough fruit to make money, they'd plant raspberries or strawberries, and there was always a need for pickers, and they would bring Mexicans in at that time. I remember they would bring Mexicans in and when the work was done the Mexicans would leave and go back to Mexico.

Tawny: The Edgmont part? Is that the part that is up against the hills along the east side?

Tony: Ya, its up against the east side. Its from the mouth of Provo Canyon, down five or six miles along the east side of the road.

Tawny: So, that would entail Olmstead, and...?

Tony: Olmstead was where the power plant was at.

Tawny: Ya, so would Olmstead be like a part of Edgmont?

Tony: Ya.

Tawny: And then up against the hill there, where your cousins, well that wasn't cousins but that one guy who had cut his fingers off that came and herded cows with us, like clear up along where that guy live? That would all be Edgmont?

Tony: Ya, that was in Edgmont, and ya he wasn't a cousin he was just a close friend from that time. And I'd always remained friends, in fact I always used to go back to their mom and dad's place and buy fruit. Mainly it was just to say hello, but I'd always get really really good fruit. I'd get the best of the best.

Tawny: Do they still have their orchards up there?

Tony: Most of them now, you mean Loveless's?

Tawny: Um hm

Tony: Actually I'm not sure if Churl Loveless is alive rite now, but if he is alive I would bet that he does. But that generation is pretty much gone.

Tawny: That is too bad. Um, what was your house like?

Tony: Um, it was about the size of our garage that we have out here and when my father was discharged from the military in 1946 he and his brother bought five acres of ground from a man named Churl Stubbs, and they built cinder bricks from the ash from the power plants to save money and because the other materials, other raw materials really weren't really available like they would be today and they made, they had a press where they would mix the cinders in a cement solution and then they had forms they would put them in and make bricks out of them and then they built the houses. And the house was quite small. Our double garage that we have out here was bigger than that house. And it had, uh, I remember it had an oil furnace in it and it set, it was in the living room. And there was no forced air throughout the house and in the winter it would get cold. And so what you did was you did was you turned that up and everybody went and cuddled up around the furnace. And you had enough blankets on you at night that you could sleep through the cold. In the morning it was cold to get up and get ready for school.

Tawny: What was school like when your were little?

Tony: Umm, I don't really know how to answer, it was school. They taught the ABC's and they taught us.. One thing that was for sure was there was there wasn't as much world history to teach at that time.

Tawny: (laughed) Ya. What was it like compared to what you see at our schools now? School Lunch, class room size?

Tony: well I think the same thing, you had the class room sizes that you had. You probably had 20 kids in say our first grade class. And we had the old desks that the seats folded up on, that kind. And pencils were just starting to come out and there was an ink well at the desk that you put your ink in and even at an early grade you had to learn to write with an ink pen. This is liquid ink. You'd have to dip your pen in the ink and then write with it. And there is always this story of a boy who was unhappy with a girl that set in front of him because her hair was all over his desk so he'd take her hair and dip it in the ink. And she was mad, and then... well that was a normal story. That happened a lot.

Tawny: Did they have school lunch?

Tony: Ya, they did.

Tawny: What was that like?

Tony: I don't ever remember it being bad as a whole. It filled the whole. I don't remember it not being good. It was okay. I don't remember really wanting to go eat school lunch again but uh, for the time I was glad to get it.

Tawny: What was the food like that your mom prepared? How did she do it, what kind of things did she make?

Tony: My mother was a very very good cook, and she made lots of different thing. Uh, chicken, pork, beef, uh and fish but there was very little fish out of season. And if there is a big difference it is uh, there are more trucks come from California now loaded with produce, and we didn't have free ways in those days and you didn't have the produce selection that you have today in the grocery store. And so meat and potatoes was a big part of, well that was how you ate, with what

you had. Everybody would raise a steer, and then you'd butcher the steer in the winter, and hope that it stayed froze, because you didn't have freezers.

Tawny: Hm. (sounding interested)

Tony: You'd butcher the steer after thanks giving, when the weather would get cold, and for celery wed put bales of hay, and build like, well we'd dig a hole in the ground and line it with bales of hay and then put it so you could put hay across the top of it and then canvas and then more hay on top of that and that was how you kept your celery from freezing and anything else that you wanted to protect that was from your garden. But the way that most of the food that was protected that we ate was canned or bottled. The women of the house would bottled the fruit.

Tawny: O really? Like did they bottle everything from like strawberries to just everything?

Tony: Everything! There wasn't trucks coming from California, there wasn't a good selection at the grocery store, uh, it was very important to get a deer. That meant you ate. You had a deer. And considering you bought a deer tag, or licence that you paid \$0.50 for and you had that much meat. Plus it was fun and it was a family outing and everybody, the whole family, went out to get a deer. And it was at that time it was a significant thing because it was planned on as part of the food. So if you could buy your wife a licence any you a licence that was 2 deer that you could get. And that was a month maybe 6 weeks depending on how you used it for food. I don't remember what it would cost to buy a steer but the steer, well the steer you could get anytime. But through the season, through the hunting season until the deer was gone it was deer that you ate. And that is why I wont eat dear today, I've had my share of it. I didn't like it then and I don't like it now.

Tawny: Did they can that too?

Tony: Yup they canned deer meat.

Tawny: How was it? Was it like one of the most awful things you could find?

Tony: Uh, if they didn't get the fat out of it ya. And the first time that you ate the fat out of the canned fat that was in the deer meat it was bad! It seems to me I gave you a taste of that one time.

Tawny: That was just an elk roast but ya. It about made me want to die.

Tony: But that was ya, that was common. And on each bottle that would be bottled there would be a quarter inch of white stuff on the top and when you opened that bottle you'd want to break that white stuff and get all that out of there first cause that's the fat, that's where all the bad taste is. Beef fat is good. You can eat beef fat. Venison and elk are not desirable. We also canned pheasants, and we canned fish. You know where we lived in the mouth of Provo Canyon?

Tawny: Um hm.

Tony: We canned a lot off fish.

Tawny: Really?

Tony: Ya. So we had canned dear, and canned elk quite often, and canned fish.

Tawny: Yeah! (Sarcastically)

Tony: And it was a big thing as to wether or not you could go out and catch a fish, if you didn't know how to fish you sometimes didn't eat. I remember my grandpa talking a lot about the depression, because when I was real young the depression and WW2 was just ending, and prior to that the whole world had been in a depression, and it was probably 1950 before people really

realized that they were out of the depression. And the economic time as it happened, you see I was born during WW2 and uh, economic times and things and food plentiful for, well I don't know really how to say it but if you went to Walmart today its full of everything, if there would have been a Walmart then it wouldn't have had anything in it because everything was used for the war effort.

Tawny: Ok, what do, well do you remember anything about the war? Do you remember it ending? What do you remember people talking about it?

Tony: Uh, my father was stationed at Wendover Air Force Base. And the reason he was there was because he had worked at the steam plant in Provo which at that time was really experimental high tech thing that's now so old and ancient that its kind of silly to, how um..

Tawny: How it gave him a higher status?

Tony: Yes, so what he was good at was testing the water, hard to soft water, and if your going to make a turban spin. You do not want the solids that can be in the water to stick to the turban blades, it will damage them. So he knew how to run the power plant, so every time his name came up to be shipped out it was taken off the list and he was told that he was going to stay home and run the power plant. Which is what he did.

Tawny: That is way cool. So that means he never had to fight?

Tony: no he never did. In fact as far away as he ever got was he went to Florida for basic training and then where he was stationed was Wendover Air Force Base, Utah. And we lived in Provo so to go for him, well when he left to go into the military I was already born. And mother went over with me, or she took me and we went over and lived in Craig Colorado, until about mid 1944,

and then we moved to Wendover and lived with Jack. He got a promotion to where he could live off base and we lived in what had been a cleaned up and re-modeled chicken coup, that's what we lived in.

Tawny: Wow. How old were you when you move out of that? What year was that?

Tony: Well we'd have to do the numbers, I think we moved out of that in about '45. It would have been late '44 or early '45.

Tawny: So you weren't in the chicken coup for very long.

Tony: A year or so. But we thought we had it really good.

Tawny: Really

Tony: There were no complaints about where we lived. Living then was no comparison to what living is like today. You look around here at the house you have and this would have been the governor's mansion in those days.

Tawny: Wow. So you were born in Provo and then right after you were born did you go to Craig? Or did you live in Provo with your dad for a little while?

Tony: I think it was right after I was born. Dad went into the service, or dad was already in the service, and well I don't really know those dates. That was way before my memory started.

Tawny: So who did you live with while you were in Craig?

Tony: Flo and Mert, my mother's sister.

Tawny: And their last name was Chamberlain?

Tony: Um hm.

Tawny: So, so you lived with Flo and Mert and then the chicken coup and then to the 5 acres?

Tony: Flo and Mert had a nice house, and then we went from that to the chicken coup and then to the 5 acres in Provo.

Tawny: So is this the house that we always hear referred to as the acre?

Tony: Yes, the acre was the 5 acres that Jack and Phil bought when they got out of the military.

That is the one that I talked about that was so cold. And then Jack got a promotion and we lived in a power company house at Olmstead and we lived there til they started to build the plant in Castle Gate, and the Jack was the super intendant of the plant so we move away from Olmstead.

Tawny: Ok so what was your favorite part about living in Olmstead? What was the most fun thing to do in Olmstead?

Tony: Well, on the one side of the house there was the tail race which is the river that came out from underneath the power plant that turned the turban and made the electricity and on the other side of the place was the Provo River. The tail race was deep and it was swift. It had a lot of current to it and it was real difficult to dive and go to the bottom. But to dive off of the rocks, and you've seen it, and the tail race was all lined with rocks, well that was a fun place to play was in the tail race, that is where I learned to swim. I thought I was a really good swimmer cause I could swim in this creek and I could swim quite a ways, then I went to a swimming pool and tried to swim and I couldn't go anywhere. I realized that it was the current that made me move. I could keep my head above the water but I couldn't really swim, and when I got in water that didn't have any current I couldn't go anywhere. I had to re-learn how to swim.

Tawny: So you said you were in about the 6<sup>th</sup> grade when you moved to Helper?

Tony: ya it was the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Tawny: So was it not a really big difference because you'd have been moving into a Jr. High anyways or did they do it that way in those days?

Tony: Uh, I attended the 6<sup>th</sup> grade in Helper. We got there just before the school year started and I attended my 6<sup>th</sup> grade year in Helper.

Tawny: Do you remember, was it hard to move? Did you have to leave a lot of friends?

Tony: Ya, I didn't want to move because I didn't want to leave all my friends.

Tawny: Was it easy or difficult to make new friend in Helper? What was Helper like in those days?

Tony: Helper was quite a story in those days. Uh, that's a whole different, well you probably don't want to get into that.

Tawny: Lets hear it! Lets hear it all, we are doing this to record your memories stuff. So what do you know.

Tony: Well it was, well our entertainment was, well Helper had a ball leagues, baseball and basketball leagues. They didn't have a foot ball league, but Helper had a lot of athletic things for the kids to do, plus we played in the mountains and in the cliffs above Helper in what's called Martin. If you drive through today you'll see the castle, uh, or its called the balance rock motel and we lived just up the street from that so we weren't in Helper we were in what is called Martin. And then the next town up the mountain was where there had been a mine but it had really died out and it was called Castle Gate and at that time there was a large population in Castle Gate, and there was also a large population in Spring Canyon from the mines that were up there.

Tawny: Didn't Boggy grow up in one of those places?

Tony: No Boggy was from Willow Creek which is, uh, if you go up the canyon and you take the exit to where the power plant is and you cross the rail road tracks you could turn left or right and if you turned left you go into Castle Gate, if turned right you would go into Willow Creek. Now but because Boggy, or well I don't know why, but Willow Creek was known for, or well, that is where all of the weirdos came from.

(Both Laugh)

Tony: So I have this good friend named Boggy who was from Willow Creek, and of course I never rubbed that in on him or anything. (Sarcasm)

(Tawny Laughs)

Tony: I told him how sorry I felt for him because he was from Willow Creek and I asked if there was anything I could do to make life better for him and the thing that he would say to me I couldn't repeat right now but,

Tawny: (laughter) So living in Helper, what was the town like?

Tony: It hasn't changed much. It really hasn't changed much. The things that changed is now they have diesel trains and they're clean. When we first moved there they were just getting rid of the steam engines, and the steam engines put out a lot of smoke. And with that came soot and dirt and it was dirty. Everything was dirty around. Price Canyon has kind of grown back now but there didn't used to be any trees in Price Canyon because as these trains would go up and these trains would belch smoke and cinders out it was common to have fires burn the sides of the hills down. After awhile they got it all burnt down along the rail road track and we didn't have

fires anymore. The trains in Helper were quite amazing.

Tawny: We forgot to talk about Carlyn! When was Carlyn born?

Tony: About 5 years after I was.

Tawny: So she was really little when you moved to Helper.

Tony: Um hm. She doesn't remember much about Helper.

Tawny: So was she born when you lived at the acre or when you lived at Olmstead?

Tony: She was born when we lived at the acre. Mana was fixing dinner one night and she was supposed to fix waffles, she promised me she would make me waffles. So I'm waiting for my waffles and Mana goes and lays down, and I realize she is not making my waffle and then pretty soon Jack shows up. And Jack grabs Mana and they take off and Im sitting there wondering what's happened to me, is everybody gone off and gunna leave me or what. And then aunt Fay who lived next door which was maybe a hundred yards away comes over and I went over to there place and had dinner and whatever and that was the night that Carlyn was born.

Tawny: So I know this is something that has been going on for years. Has Carlyn ever made up for you not getting your waffles?

Tony: Of course not! You think some store bought waffle could make up for what my mother made?

Tawny: (Laughter) One of the things I remember about Mana's funeral was Carlyn bought a box of Eggo Waffles and brought them to you, at the funeral.

Tony: Ya but they weren't as good as Mana's waffles. Normally I wouldn't say anything like that but because its my sister I can say that.

Tawny: So what was that like? Going from being the only child to having this little sister that you had to tote around with you. How did you and Carlyn get along?

Tony: Because there was a 5 or 6 year difference between us uh, it, we weren't like, real close. By the time she started grade school I was about ready to start Jr. High, and by the time she was in Jr. High I was out of High School. And gone on a mission really. The age difference was enough that we didn't have a lot in common when we were young.

Tawny: So did you guys ever fight, or how did you get along? About like John and Sidnee or what?

Tony: Umm... I think all kids have a tenancy to wanna be the number one child and get the most notice. I don't think either one of us had it to bad.

Tawny: where did you live after Helper?

Tony: Bountiful.

Tawny: What took you to Bountiful?

Tony: Jack's work. He had another promotion and he and a job where instead of being over one power plant he was over all of the steam plants that the power company had.

Tawny: O really? What was his title?

Tony: Steam production supervisor.

Tawny: So he was pretty high up in the company wasn't he?

Tony: And then he went up higher. Do you wanna ask me more questions or do you want me to stick with that?

Tawny: Lets stay on Bountiful for a minute. How old where you when you moved to Bountiful?

Tony: It was at the end of the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

Tawny: so was it during the school year or after?

Tony: It was right at the end. I think there was like a week left when we uh,

Tawny: Packed up and left?

Tony: Ya

Tawny: That's rough. So um, you went to all of High School in Bountiful?

Tony: Um hm.

Tawny: And that was Bountiful High. Is that what it was called?

Tony: It was the first class to go completely through Bountiful High, it was 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, and it could have been 9<sup>th</sup> but im not sure. But anyway Bountiful was a brand new school when I when I went there my first year.

Tawny: So what was Bountiful like? Was it a lot like Provo or, small town kind of a place?

Tony: After moving from Helper, Bountiful was kind of a pretty big city and it was growing. Real big. Bountiful and Helper were nothing alike. Bountiful didn't have any Mexicans and it didn't have any trains and it was just no comparison.

Tawny: How 'bout compared to Provo?

Tony: Bountiful were comparable, they were not the same place but they were comparable.

Tawny: Were there the same kind of orchards there or was it more city by then?

Tony: In Bountiful you mean?

Tawny: Uh huh.

Tony: Ya in fact I worked for a man named Wilford Wood from, uh, I guess it was when I

finished my sophomore year and he raised grapes, and alfalfa and grains and things. But he had a tannery where he tanned hides and they raised mink and they make mink coats.

Tawny: Oh really?

Tony: You've seen the old building.

Tawny: Ya I remember going there.

Tony: Well he had a vault in it, and he was quite well known, and he spent his time and money collecting antiques for the church. And he had a tremendous amount of things that belonged to Joseph Smith.

Tawny: O really

Tony: And you've seen the Book of Mormon that I have that was before it was chapter and verse and he had the uncut plates, meaning that before they were cut and you go into pages. Like you'd have sheet that would be maybe a couple yards by three yards and the pages hadn't been cut out and put into a book. Any way he had pages like that and it was a Book of Mormon before it was in chapter and verse.

Tawny: Wow that is cool. It seems like you've told me he had some other cool stuff like Joseph Smith's death mask and...

Tony: Yes he had the death masks of Joseph and Hyrum Smith and those have now been donated to the church and they are on display in Salt Lake. You remember one time we went to a building and I pointed those out to you.

Tawny: That's really cool.

Tony: That was his obsession, was to gain anything that had belonged to Joseph Smith. He had a

lot of desks, and I remember he had the bed that Joseph had the first vision in.

Tawny: Really? That is really cool! Um, so what did he pay you to work for him?

Tony: \$0.50 an hour.

Tawny: \$0.50 an hour! Was that like a pretty good paying job for you or...?

Tony: Ya I had hit the big time!

Tawny: O ya kind of how I'm pretty darned happy getting 8 bucks an hour now from Castle Valley, like compared to most kids it was pretty darned good.

Tony: Probably

Tawny: That is really cool. What did you do for him mostly?

Tony: Its like when you work on a farm you just do what ever needs to be done. I did the farm work and then he was restoring his mother's home. And his mother or his father was a polygamous and there had been 2 wives that lived in the house. And he tried to restore the home as close as he could to what it was like when he was a boy. It was interesting to see how they had lived.

Tawny: Cool. What was life in Bountiful like for you? Did you date a lot in High School and what was bountiful like for you?

Tony: Uh High School was like, well every body knew every body and there were groups just like im sure in yours school now there are groups, and everybody belonged to a group but when you've just moved in you don't really fit into a group and you really don't quite fit into anything yet and that's how I pretty much felt all through High School.

Tawny: All of it? Did you eventually get into a group?

Tony Well ya I had close friends in High School, and uh, I was active in a lot of school things but uh, a friend that you've had for a year or so is just not quite the same as a friend you've have from grade school on up to high school.

Tawny: So what are just some odd, fun things you remember about living in Bountiful?  
Cavenaus Chocolates or things like that.

Tony: Now what was that?

Tawny: Cavenaus Chocolates and things like that?

Tony? Cavenaus chocolates is now it a house where the first girl I ever went on a date with, her name as Eriline Servace, lived. So Cavenaus chocolates was not around yet when I was in High School.

Tawny: What are some things that have changed from then to now?

Tony: In Bountiful now compared to then, I can't even find my way around Bountiful. It's not even close to the same. Bountiful was all orchards like Utah Valley was, and farms, but its all house to house, wall to wall now.

Tawny: Where was your house? Was it the same house that we would go to visit Jack and Mana in when they were older?

Tony: Uh huh. You'd get off on the North Salt Lake exit to go to where we lived.

Tawny: So what did you do after high school first thing? Did you work or did you go to any school or did you go straight on a mission?

Tony: I went to work for Utah Power and Light

Tawny: What did you do for them?

Tony: I worked on a survey crew. I was a stake pounder on a survey crew.

Tawny: O boy, so is that like helping build power lines or what?

Tony: They were building the power line and getting ready to build a power plant in Kemmer and we staked the line. First of all you'd run a line for as to where you'd think it was gonna go.

Then you go along that line and you stake out every hundred yards and you pound in a stake. I was a stake pounder and that's all I did all day long was pound stakes. You'd have a number on it and you'd measure it and then after you'd pound them in you'd go back along and do elevation and find out how high the mountains were how low the pole is gonna go and then they take it back to engineering and they draw a map of it and then they design an power line to go on it. There is a Line that goes from Benloman to Kemmer and I've walked that, carrying a bag of stakes and pounding stakes in the ground.

Tawny: Sounds like fun. (Sarcastic) So what did you do that fall after you finished that job?

Tony: Well lets see how did that go? Well I finished High School in '61 and I couldn't go on a mission til I turned 19 which was almost a year off so I took a class at the U to start college, because I wanted to go to college, but then I realized how much a mission would cost and so I worked a lot of over time. For the power company so I stayed with the power company until I went on a mission. I did take some night classes though from the University of Utah. But my interest at the time was going on a mission, and work kept me busy and out of town and so it was kinda a waste of time to take classes because I was never around.

Tawny: So, when did you get your mission call and how has that changed, getting a call and going on a mission, then to now?

Tony: I don't think it's changed much. You get a letter in the mail and it says you are going on a mission. I was called to serve in the Southern Far East Mission with my headquarters in Hong Kong.

Tawny: What was the MTC like?

Tony: There was an MTC where the new tabernacle sits. Across from the temple to the north is where the MTC used to be, and we had 2 weeks in the MTC before we left.

Tawny: 2 weeks!?

Tony: Uh huh.

Tawny: Did they start you on the language then or did they just wait til you got there?

Tony: No.

Tawny: So you went over there with no language experience at all?

Tony: That's right.

Tawny: Holy Cow. Did you know what language you were going to end up speaking?

Tony: No, because within the far east mission there were several different languages.

Tawny: And hasn't that all changed? I think there are something like 3 missions in just Taiwan now. And you ended up in Taiwan right?

Tony: Um hm.

Tawny: Was there a temple yet in Taiwan?

Tony: No. There had only been missionaries in Taiwan a couple of years ahead of us. The church owned no buildings, uh, we rented buildings for the missionaries to live in and to hold church meetings in.

Tawny: What type of buildings did you hold church in?

Tony: Uh, there isn't any real way to describe it. We rented Chinese building. China is so different than here and everything is just different.

Tawny: What was the most culture shocking thing when you got to Taiwan?

Tony: The heat. I wasn't used to 100 degree heat and 100% humidity. The food and language were big difference but you kinda expected that, you expected China to be China.

Tawny: Just explain some of the difference between like housing and transportation and things like that.

Tony: It would be a brick building and it would be quite long and maybe 3 or 4 stories. We would rent a building and we would hold our meetings on the first floor and the missionaries would live on the second floor.

Tawny: Where there just a ton of people all around or was it crowded?

Tony: Ya there were a lot of people. Taiwan is about half the size of Utah, and the eastern half of Taiwan is all steep mountains, so what that means is all the people live in the west side of Taiwan, and it's a bit, at the time I was there the population was something like 14 million. So to meet somebody you didn't have to go very far.

Tawny: So did you do a lot of tracking?

Tony: A lot. There were very few members. I went to a place that had just opened up as a new branch and the church was brand new in Taiwan and there were LDS military people there and the rest we had to go knock on doors and track.

Tawny: How was the language? Was it hard for you to get it, or how did you study and learn it?

Tony: That was all I did was study the language and speak the language.

Tawny: What did you do when you got there and didn't know anything and couldn't communicate? Did your companion speak English so he could help you?

Tony: Ya a little bit. But they give you a book that teaches you to say hi how are you and I'm fine and this is my name what is your name. It was about as basic as you can get, and by the time I left I was able to read a Chinese news paper which I thought was pretty good.

Tawny: Is there anyway to sound out a word in Chinese or is it all just learning and recognizing characters?

Tony: It is just memorizing characters. The Chinese language is made up of what is called radicals and there may be a diagram that represents and means something. And you may put two of them together to make a word and alone they may be a word and if you use three of them it can be a different word with completely different meanings so the whole thing is just memorization. You had to memorize the characters to understand it.

Tawny: So one character can be in all three words but none of the words sound anything alike?

Tony: No they don't. And they even can have different pronunciations, and a word can have several meanings so it must be looked at in context to the sentence it was in. I had a dictionary with 5000 words in it. It was called the Buns 5000 and I could recognize most of those and about that many characters by the time I left Taiwan. I'm not going to say how great I was but I felt I did pretty good with the language. I didn't think that at the time but as I look back it was an amazing accomplishment for me to learn the language that way. And it amazes me that I still can speak good Chinese today.

Tawny: Was it hard to come home and do you wish you had more of that culture in your life?

Tony: Yes, I wish I had more Chinese culture in my life. My thoughts at the time was that I would like to got to BYU because that was a place that taught Chinese and get a degree in Chinese, and then go back to the Orient and get into the import export business. There I figures I could make a lot of money and come back and buy a farm in Emery County. My goal was to have a farm in Emery County.