

George Davis - 8-24-24 (1)

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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Broomfield, day, years, car, severe depression, Boulder, people, company, work, put, refuge, colorado, sold, fired, job, started, police, sales, thanksgiving, problem

00:00

Marrty:

So, good afternoon. This is Marrty Dormish, again. I'm at The Refuge with my friend George, and I'll be interviewing him for the series for Friends of Broomfield History. And it is Thursday, August 24th, 2023. So I'm here with my friend George, if you wouldn't mind just kind of giving a basic intro so people know who you are, if you want to share how old you are, where you're from originally, how you ended up here, stuff like that.

George:

Okay.

00:31

My name is George Davis. I'm originally from Delaware. I made my way out to Colorado through jobs. I did sales and marketing. And about every two years, I would change jobs and move toward the left coast. And then about mmm, 24 years ago, I hit Colorado and decided this is where I want to stay.

Marrty:

Okay.

01:00

What was it about Colorado that made you . . .

01:04

George:

Colorado! The climate, the environment, the activities, all those things I didn't see on the East Coast.

01:16

Marrty:

Okay. Okay. And what year was that, that you decided to move here?

George:

93,

01:21

I believe . . .

Marty:

Okay.

George:

. . . that I got transferred from Chicago out to Boulder to work on, with USPCI.

Marty:

Okay.

George:

And I took over handling the remediation department, and trying to control the government people from the other people who were always fighting with each other. I was brought in to kind of quiet it down and recognize that we're here to make money.

Marty:

So as a consultant, or

George:

No, I was actually in the company at the time. I was Remedial Sales Manager for the Midwest.

02:03

Marty:

Wow. Okay. That was the year I graduated from high school.

George:

Oh, really? Wow.

Marty:

So you ended up in Boulder in 93. And then did you stay in Boulder for a while?

02:12

George:

I stayed in Boulder for a couple years, but then they, in the Boulder area, Broomfield Boulder area, and then they sold the company. And even though we had like \$300,000 worth of things going on the, the company that bought it didn't want to keep remediation. So we happened to be out at Las Las Vegas to see a new, new equipment show. And they got rid of all of us. There was like six of us that were handling the whole country.

Marty:

Okay, so what'd you do?

George:

Then I went, that was when I started, I was, became vice president of a company.

Marty:

Okay.

George:

And I was doing environmental plans and sales plans for various, usually engineering groups.

Marty:

Okay.

George:

And I did that for a couple years, and then my partner bought me out.

03:15

Marty:

Okay. And you stayed in the area?

George:

Oh yeah,

03:18

I love the area. I have, the first time I saw it, like okay, I gotta live here.

03:24

Marty:

So was your residence in Boulder then? Or where . . .

George:

No,

03:26

it was in Broomfield. Most of my residence has been in Broomfield and Westminster.

Marty:

Okay.

George:

Wanted to stay away from Denver.

Marty:

Yeah.

George:
Boulder was cool. I mean, Boulder was where you go on the weekends.

03:39

Marty:
Gotcha. Okay. So you stayed in Broomfield, you got bought out by your partner, and then what? What happened then?

03:47

George:
Then, that's when I started selling my collectibles.

Marty:
Okay.

George:
I collected comic books and baseball cards and movie posters and all that. And I did that for about four or five years on eBay.

Marty:
Okay.

04:07

And then . . .

04:11

George:
Let's see which one was that? Boy, I wish I had my resume with me. It would be easier. But . . .

04:18

Marty:
Try and bring us up to, closer to the present day.

04:21

George:
Okay, closer to the present day. My last official job before I quote unquote retired, was I went to work for PSI, which is an engineering firm. They wanted business development people. And they had five in the last year. So obviously nothing got done.

Marty:
Okay.

George:

So I came in and for the first year and a half, I only took off one day. And that was Thanksgiving, when my ex-wife wanted to have a Thanksgiving party for people that didn't, didn't want to be with their significant other.

Marry:
Okay.

George:
So I cooked. And that was the one day I took off. And PSI was new out here, and with that many business development people nothing got done. So I busted, like I said, I took one day off in the first year and a half, and ended up getting into a lot of these companies that we wanted to, by setting up a matrix. I would go in at like six in the morning and look up all the new job opportunities, 'cuz our company fed them to me. A lot of companies didn't have that. And then I would figure out, according to my matrix, who does what best. And then I would send them the leads. And the only thing I would ask for them is that they'd let us bid on the jobs. And this became very successful. And I was, I had my one review, after a year and a half, with the vice president. I went into his office, and he sat me down, and he said, you're the best employee I have ever seen in my life. Two weeks later he came into my office and fired me.

Marry:
Oh.

George:
It seems the engineers in Chicago didn't think they needed anybody but engineers. And they thought, oh engineers can do the business and sales and everything. Right down the pits. But after two and a half months of looking and it was very, there was nothing out there at that point. I got a call from one of the other managers saying, how would you like to be project manager of the largest job we have in the United States? And I said, well, I've never been a project manager. And their basic response was, yeah, but I know how you work. And you can talk to anybody. So I ended up doing that for like four months, getting up at 4: 30 in the morning, getting home at 7: 30, often waking up in my sandwich, and made 'em, oh a little under a half million dollars. And then they fired me because there was no other jobs that had my, needed my expertise. So that's when I decided I was done. I was going to just, I'm done using my brain. I'm done rebuilding systems. That's basically what I did, I would go into a company and build a sales and marketing system. It would take about two years, and then they would turn it over to somebody else. Of all nine companies I worked for, all nine of 'em lied to me and cheated me out of money. One cheated me out of \$1.2 million dollars in commission . . .

Marry:
Wow.

George:
. . . and fired me the day before Christmas, because I couldn't change congressional rules on purchasing.

Marryty:
Wow.

George:
So, you know, that's the type of thing, I immediately went to work for one of the companies I worked with here that I set up as a partner, sold, what was it, US Forest Service, I sold them, it was about 6 million. And I was going to get 1 point, 1 point, \$150,000 out of that in commission. But then we came across 9/11.

Marryty:
Okay.

George:
So the government actually took all the money from, all the president's people took it all to build Homeland Security. So instead of getting 150,000, I got fired. So that's when I decided, I'm done. I'm done using my brain. So then I just started going to work. I went to work for Jax, here. I was at work with Home Depot here, and all these, and I did that and then went back into selling comic books again.

Marryty:
Okay.

09:07
And so then you did that until your current situation (inaudible).

09:13
George:
Until the car was stolen, that Public Storage, with my last load of shipment in there, which was all my personal stuff, all my family stuff. everything I had for the business was gone. Just walked out and boom, that was it. And the thought that occurred to me as I saw this blank parking place is, well I'm diabetic, if I don't, they had, they took everything, all my money and everything. I had no money, I had no food, I had nothing and I theoretically could have been dead within 24 hours.

Marryty:
'Cuz they had your insulin.

George:
No because I had nothing to get food with. I had no money. So I couldn't eat any food.

Marryty:
Okay.

George:

So I went to put in a claim with Progressive, who I'd been a member with for five years. They blew me off and put me on the street, literally on the street, for two weeks. And that's less than a year after double heart surgery, and severe arthritis.

So yeah, we had pictures of the people that did it, fingerprints, we knew their address and everything else. And the Broomfield Police, all they did was talk about their vacation that was coming up in two days, and they never did a damn thing. We did find a car, everything inside was gone. And I started my walking, forever it seems like. But it took, they said they found the car in four days, and it took 'em 'til, this occurred on February 19th, and it took 'em 'til the day before Thanksgiving before I got my car back.

11:02

Marty:

So what years were these?

11:05

George:

A year and a half ago to two years.

Marty:

Alright.

George:

Yeah. So again . . .

Marty:

2021.

George:

Yeah.

Marty:

Okay.

George:

And I had lived in my car before, but I did it, at that point I was working at Jax. I was just fed up with people. And I went to live in my car and talk to God. And I did that for three years.

Marty:

Okay.

George:

And then a friend of mine, who I had worked with, got me a room at his place. I'd rented it from him and sold comics there the whole time. The only problem was I went into a severe depression, which I am still working on. And then one day he saw me have a low sugar attack and threw me out. This was during COVID. And it was then a month and a half after that, that my car and everything was stolen. So that's how I got here.

12:10

Marty:

So it was a series of events that led to you being outside. And then you said you were walking a lot. So what was that like?

12:18

George:

Well, I was, first of all Broomfield is not flat. Trust me, I know. I enjoyed walking. I was normally, before this all occurred I was doing two to three miles a day around Standley Lake. And now it became four to five miles around Broomfield.

Marty:

Okay.

George:

And then when the car finally died, it became six to seven miles around Broomfield. I enjoyed walking. The only problem was, and this is probably not the place to say it, but Broomfield has crappy sidewalks. When it's snowing, and you're tripping all the time. I tripped, from December 1st 'til January 9th, I tripped 11 times and fell. I only broke a rib once. But that's how I survived, was walking around and whatever had to be done I walked to it.

Marty:

Mmm-hmm.

George:

So that's . . .

13:20

that's . . .

Marty:

So you just have your daily tasks for the day - I need to go get something to eat . . .

13:24

George:

What I need to get done, who I need to see where to be, that kind of thing, and just started walking. Yeah.

13:31

Marty:

Oka. And you've had several different vehicles since then, correct?

13:34

George:

I've had only one vehicle. I had the original vehicle that was stolen, that one died the day before Thanksgiving last year. When I left my job, the transmission fell out and I put my phone in my drink, in the car. And I stayed in Public Storage parking lot for Thanksgiving. This was when I was, I was always joking about the fact that I have these curses that keep hitting me. But anybody who knew me said, you ought to write a book. Nobody goes through this stuff.

Marty:

That's a lot.

George:

Yeah. So this is where I am now. I got my new, the new car, which I'm very happy with. Let's see what else?

Marty:

And you're sleeping in . . .

George:

Sleeping in the car, yeah. Mmm-hmm.

14:30

Marty:

Are you part of Safe Parking, or do you just find your own . . .

14:33

George:

No, I'm not. I, right now I'm doing, helping Betty a lot. So I try to stay close to her.

14:41

Marty:

Okay. And she just moved back into housing this last Spring?

George:

Right.

Marty:

Which is great because she was also in a car with her family, and now she has permanent housing, which is nice.

14:52

George:

Yeah, it's just great for her. Yeah.

Marrty:

And

14:56

so what's the next step for you? Are you, are you okay where you're at now in your vehicle?

14:59

George:

Yeah, I'm fine with it.

Marrty:

Okay.

George:

As long as I stopped being harassed by the police, it's okay.

15:04

Marrty:

What do you mean by that?

15:07

George:

Well, we used to park on 116th, and for some reason they seem to pick on my car. I had at one time when there was three nights in a row they actually came and woke me up at two in the morning, and want to check my ID. The third time I finally said, look, I used to be a cop. I know you're bored. I'm sorry. But you know what? I don't want to see you guys again, or I'm gonna put in a complaint. Because it's easy to go pick on the homeless. And I have since then been picked on repeatedly. But . . .

15:49

Marrty:

When were you a police officer?

15:50

George:

I was a police officer, oh now we're gonna go back, early 70's.

Marrty:

Okay.

George:

Started in security at the university.

16:01

Marrty:

So you've had a number of different careers.

George:

Oh, I'm

16:03

all over the board, yeah. I've got a very varied resume. Yeah.

16:10

Marrty:

Okay. What are some things that you would like people in Broomfield to know about others who are in your boat, about (inaudible).

16:20

George:

Respect. We brought that up in the past that we're not criminals, we just don't have money. That's one of the big ones. And that's, again, with the police thing. They keep coming and bothering you and it's like what, we're easy pickings. 'Cuz they know where we're at. They know we're not, we don't have anything. So that continues to be a sore spot.

16:51

Marrty:

Okay. So besides respect, what are some other things that you think are important for people to know about others who are in this situation?

17:00

George:

Many of the people in this situation do have some psychological problems. I have severe depression. But I was able to fight it until literally, I lost everything I had. And then the other car died, and that broke me, put me back into severe depression. Most of the people in here are good people. You know, I, I being, having been out there thinking that well, you know, it's probably all druggies and stuff. Well no, that's not the way it is. We're people who are just trying to get by with, the best way we can, with

problems. I mean, I don't have a job right now, because I mentioned to you about the therapist, and I told her, I said, since I was seven years old in a car accident, I have been in severe pain. But I never let that bother me. And then as I got older, I became severe arthritis, severe depression, double heart, diabetes, peripheral neuropathy, and all of these cause pain. I'm in pain constantly. But it doesn't mean I'm a criminal or anything like that. It's just, this is what I've been given to deal with. So I'm trying to deal with it as best I can. And that's what, what a lot of people are, they're trying to deal with the situation they've been handed. And that means we, part of it is coming here . . .

Marty:

Mmm-hmm.

George:

. . . and getting help.

18:45

Marty:

What, what's your experience of Broomfield then, just in general?

18:48

George:

I love Broomfield. It's great. I mean I've literally walked it all, so no, I mean, the various things that I've found, the opportunities that they have. The things like The Refuge, and the health, and the senior centers, and those kind of, and the library, I live at the library, are great. I think they're doing great. I am somewhat concerned, as I am about all of Colorado, turning into concrete. 'Cuz you can't throw a stick and they're still building and we're hearing that they're getting out, they're leaving Colorado, but they're still building. So someday that will hit. That bubble will burst, and then it's going to be really strange. But no I love, love Broomfield. I love where it is. It's positioned, I can get where I need to be, going between Boulder and Denver. It's great. Ah, bus system.

Marty:

Okay.

George:

They need to improve the bus system. One, one bus an hour in the west and east doesn't cover

19:57

it.

Marty:

Mmm-hmm. You're talking about the 120?

19:59

The 120. Yeah. And there are other bus systems. I mean, I studied the other bus systems 'cuz I had to go other places. And the bus system is just, no.

Marrty:
Not enough?

George:
Not enough.

Marrty:
Okay.

George:
But everything else I can think of, like I said the library, I love the library, library's great, and everything else I've seen, they've been really good to me.

20:27

Marrty:
What are some of the biggest lessons you've learned over the course of the last several years as you've been in this new season of being . . .

20:35

George:
Trust almost nobody. Watch your back. Again, when you're at this level, you're very vulnerable for many things. And that's one of the things, like there's great people here and we that we meet, but I see, not only Broomfield but I see the United States turning to poop, for lack of a better way of putting it. Suicides are up, the greatest amount since World War II, right now. People, I said before, the first time I went in my car is because I wanted to get away from people. I've been in sales my whole life - professional sales, I taught, did courses, taught college, wrote things. I don't like people anymore. That may sound strange, but it seems, you drive around, I mean, you see people buzzing through red lights like they are nothing. Never use a blinker. I give Betty a hard time, look at that, and somebody else ain't using a blinker, what are they thinking? And I wonder, maybe the Broomfield Police should start doing a little more policing in traffic and stop picking on the homeless. Because I see tons of violations every day. But, then again we are the capital of stolen cars in the United States. So that's another thing. And since I have a personal, I know four people that had their car stolen. And at our level, most people don't have cars. And it appears nothing's being done. Like I said, they had everything in the world, they knew who everybody was when mine, and they never did a thing.

22:47

Marrty:
Anything else that we haven't covered that you would like to share with people?

22:52

George:
Oh, no, I think I think I've expressed myself. I . . .

Marty:
You've covered a lot.

George:
. . . I am not shy.

Marty:
Okay.

George:
I, I, when I have a problem about it, I'll speak it, speak up about it.

23:04

Marty:
Fair enough. Thank you for being willing to talk and share part of your story.

23:08

And I do appreciate The Refuge and FISH. I appreciate that. It was funny today, I had to go and contribute urine, and it was \$15 every time you have to do it. And I said to the guy, what happens if I don't have money? I said, I'm homeless and at the end of the month I may not have \$15. I may not have \$15 for food. He goes, I don't know. The incompetence that we're seeing in these new generations are very frustrating. They just don't seem to care. And that worries me. So that's it.

Marty:
Thank you for sharing.

George:
Everything's great.

Marty:
Thank you, George.

George:
You're welcome. Glad to.

End of interview.