3-25-2012

Interview with Pat & Roy Sword

Pat & Roy Sword

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Recommended Citation
**Author (Interviewer)**

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<tr>
<th>Hughes</th>
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**Abstract of the content of the interview:**

**Person Interviewed:**

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**Person as Subjects within the Interview:**

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Interview with Pat & Roy Sword
Interviewer: Megan Hughes
February 25, 2012
Biography of Pat & Roy Sword

This interview is with Pat & Roy Sword from Cabot, Arkansas. These two wonderful people are the grandparents of my roommate and are some of the best examples of godly role models. Roy Sword was in the Navy when he first married Pat, and eventually retired from the service because of his diabetes. Both interviewees were born and raised in Arkansas, and met on a blind date while Pat was in High School. Throughout their marriage, Pat and Roy moved around quite a bit, but eventually settled back in Arkansas to finish raising their kids and help raise their grandkids. Future historians and scholars would be interested in this interview if they were comparing living in the north versus living in the south, or if they were focusing on raising a family in Arkansas.
Megan: Okay, welcome to the interview. Can you guys just say your names, just so I have them on record?

Pat: Pat Sword

Roy: Roy Sword

Megan: Okay...Okay so, where do you guys live currently in Arkansas?

Roy: Cabot, Arkansas

Megan: And how long have you lived here?

Roy: Twelve years

Megan: Twelve years. And did you live in any other parts of Arkansas?

Roy: We did.

Megan: Where did you live?

Roy: Jacksonville

Megan: Jacksonville, and how long did you live there?

Roy: Since seventy-one.

Megan: Seventy-one. Did you guys grow up there?

Roy: No.

Megan: And meet there? Where did you guys meet?

Roy: We met on a blind date.

Megan: On a blind date? How old were you when you met on a blind date? Where you in high school? Or outside of high school?

Roy: About...about twenty one.

Megan: Okay.

Pat: He was in the navy. I was in high school.
Megan: Okay!

(Their grandson Braison comes in and out during the interview. This is his first appearance)

Megan: Okay, so on a blind date. And was that in Jacksonville?

Roy: That was in Arkansas. In Searcy.

Megan: Yeah, so okay! Gotcha.

Roy: We're both from that area.

Megan: So you're both originally from Arkansas?

Roy: Yes.

Megan: Yes, okay. And, how was growing up in Arkansas? Like, did you have...did you enjoy your childhood in Arkansas? Like...just tell me about it.

Roy: Worked on a farm, and got to go to town once a week.

Megan: Yeah?

Roy: That's about it.

Megan: Did your - Does your family still own a farm?

Roy: No, Both of my parents already passed away. They left here in sixty-seven and went to Arizona.

Megan: (looking at Pat) How was your childhood in Arkansas?

Pat: It was good, we lived in the country. My dad was a farmer part time, and drove a school bus. And he even worked in the cafeteria some. And we lived two miles out of town.

Megan: Did you like that?

Pat: I guess I liked it because I didn’t know anything else.

Megan: Yeah, (Braison talking)...How was that? Did you feel isolated? Did you enjoy going to town? I guess that's so different than today, when we just have, you know...
Pat: I don’t think we felt isolated.

Megan: Yeah.

Pat: We had… I mean, we went to town. And we, like we would farm in the summer, and take the cucumbers up and sell those. And we would go to the Dairy Queen and get milkshakes. You know, stuff like that…

Megan: So it never felt too distant or too far away.

Pat: No. I mean we had cars, and a truck, and you know.

Megan: How was elementary school? Did you walk there?

Roy: No, I rode a bus. It was fine.

Megan: It was good?

Pat: Yeah, I enjoyed it. Grade school… that was just part of life.

Roy: She went twelve years and never missed a day.

Megan: Really? Very cool! So what about high school? Was that similar? Or…

Pat: My high school was good, I mean, I could say I was going to school twelve years without missing a day, and you don’t think about anything else. That was just part of who you are, what you do. I mean we got up for school every day.

Megan: Were you involved in any extracurriculars?

Pat: I did pep squad. I didn’t do cheerleading, but I did pep squad. And we went to all the ball games. And my dad drove the bus to a lot of ball games, so I got to go to every game. Even, you know, out of town.

Megan: That’s cool!

Pat: Yeah
Megan: I always like it when, like, parents are involved, because my best friend’s dad was a coach, so we got to go to his games and stuff, so that was cool. And so, were you guys in high school or elementary school when the whole 1954, Little Rock segregation happened? Like, did that affect you guys personally – your schools or anything? Or is that too-

Roy: No.

Pat: Little Rock did not affect me when they started. That part did not affect me. I just hear about it on the news like everybody else. Now when they started coming to our school, we did not have a problem with it. We were like, “okay.” We didn’t have very many of them. But they didn’t want to be there. And they really all just packed up and went back to their school. They really didn’t want to go to our school. We never had problems, we never had issues with them.

Roy: And we never had none in my school all the time I went to school.

Megan: Really? The whole time you were there?

Roy: Never had a black in my town or my school.

Megan: Wow, okay so you never had any violence or anything?

Pat: Oh no, that didn’t affect us, and you know they just wanted to be in their own- it’s kind of like if somebody just took you out of your environment, that’s what they did to those kids, and we was just okay with them, and they just wanted their life back.

Megan: Yeah, where it was comfortable.

Pat: Yeah. And most of them went back, I don’t think very many stayed. They had choices back then right about that time, and I was already in high school so it really wasn’t too much of a problem….Like eleventh grade or something.

Roy: No, mhmm.

Pat: No, what?
Roy: You graduated – it was about the fourth grade.

Pat: Well I’m talking about when they came to our school.

Roy: Oh, okay.

Pat: I was already in high school by that time. But the rest of it didn’t affect me.

Megan: Yeah. So you guys met on a blind date, and then did you get married soon after that?

Pat: One year.

Roy: One year later.

Megan: And then what happened once you got married? Because I know you’ve moved around a lot.

Pat: He went to the ... Philippines?

Roy: No, I went to Bermuda.

Pat: He went to Bermuda, and I went back to school. We got married at Christmas vacation.

Megan: Oh wow, so you had to separate?

(Enter Braison...)

Megan: How was that?

Pat: Not fun!

Megan: Yeah, I can’t imagine... That’s got to be very difficult. How long were you separated?

Pat: About three months I think, I can’t remember. But, how long did you stay? Was it three months?

Roy: It was about – well, it was about six months cause I come get you in June.

Pat: Yeah, he was gone about six months. And I just stayed with my parents, and well I needed to finish school.

Megan: Finish high school, or college?
Pat: High school.

Megan: Okay, gotcha. And then you came back after six months, and then...

Roy: And then we went to Florida. I was in the Navy.

Megan: Okay

Roy: I was stationed in the Navy, so we went to Florida.

Megan: And how was like, the different between... you grew up in Arkansas right? So you didn't really... How was that change in atmosphere? What was that like?

Roy: Great!

Megan: Great?

Pat: I saw my first hippie! I saw my first black and white. I saw my first – we had just a laid back life. It was really just, no problems. And when we went to Florida, we got to see – it wasn’t a problem, it was just “Oh, lookie there.” Some boy’s got long hair, or an earing. I had never seen that before.

Megan: Wow, was it weird? Like adjusting? Or was it a smooth transition?

Pat: Oh it was smooth, we were just, it was like hmm.

Roy: We just painted a picture of ‘em.

Megan: Wow, okay. So how long did you stay in Florida for?

Roy: About Two years.

Pat: Two years.

Megan: Two years. And then, did you guys start having kids at that point? Or...

Pat: We were married fifteen months before we had a baby.

Megan: Okay, so you didn’t – did you start raising...was it Mark? Was he the oldest?

Pat: Mhmm
Megan: Was he born in Arkansas? Or was he born in Florida?

Pat: He was born in Arkansas.

Megan: In Arkansas, okay.

Pat: Yeah. I’d come back to Arkansas for three months. Well...

Roy: Yep. I had to go overseas – to the Philippines.

Pat: So I just came home to stay with my Mom till he was born and he got back, and then went back to Florida.

Megan: Okay, so did you enjoy raising your first child in Florida?

Pat: Oh that was the most fun!

Megan: Really?

Pat: Oh yeah, I’d just-

Roy: We were only there two years. Then we moved to Maryland.

Pat: Yeah, about that time we were having another one. And I just thought the best time in life was having two little boys. And I stayed home, and he worked two jobs, and...

Megan: Wow. That must have been tough.

Roy: No, not really.

Megan: So did you like- when you were growing up and going through high school, did you just think you would raise your kids in Arkansas? So then it was like you were disappointed that they were, you know, does that make sense?

Pat: Yeah, I don’t think I thought about it. I thought life was grow up, get married, and just do whatever.

Megan: Yeah, okay cool.
Pat: I was excited to move to Florida – I loved it. I sometimes wonder why I came out of Florida. That’s how much I liked it.

Megan: Okay.

Pat: But we left there, went to Maryland and…

Roy: Then come back here.

Pat: Come back here.

Megan: And then – you stopped in Tennessee first, and lived there for a little while? Or is that later?

Pat: Well, we had some…

Roy: Schooling.

Pat: …schooling to do, in Tennessee, but we were going to go back to Tennessee, but that didn’t work out in his job, so we ended up back in Arkansas.

Megan: Okay, so how old were your kids when you came back to Arkansas?

Pat: Two…four…

Roy: Seventy one…two and four.

Pat: Two and Four.

Megan: Oh, so they grew up mostly here?

Pat: Yes.

Megan: Oh, okay. So just- tell me about that. What did you guys like to do…what…- just what was it like being back, like after traveling around? What was it like coming back? Did you have to readjust?

Roy: It was good. We moved to Jacksonville, and I went to work for the post office in north Little Rock. And…until I retired.
Megan: Oh wow, okay. I didn’t know that.

Pat: Yeah, we lived in the same house for seventeen years. The kids were all there. And we had Tonia, you know, there.

Megan: And was your family in Arkansas too?

Pat: Yeah, my family was from Bald Knob.

Megan: Okay, so your family was here while they were growing up? That’s cool. Did you like having them that close? And being there? Were they...

Pat: (shakes her head “no”)

Megan: Okay.

Pat: I enjoyed being in Jacksonville, but I enjoyed them being in Bald Knob. They gave me room, and that gave them a place to visit, and that kind of thing. And I think when I moved, I moved, and I was ready. Sometimes you’re just ready for your life, and we’ve always had a good life, and so when you’re—when you’re—when things are working out good, I think you’re okay with whatever your decisions are.

Megan: Yeah, just going with wherever God takes you, and... What about the churches, like growing up in Arkansas? At least in Searcy, around school, there’s you know, so many churches and its like a very big...- but up north— I’m from Pennsylvania, and so up north, up north the churches are smaller, like how— Can you compare the churches from Arkansas to Florida, to Maryland... How were they different? similar?

Pat: Well I grew up in a very small church out in the country.

Roy: And I did too, really.
Pat: And then when we moved to Jacksonville, we started going to a small church, and it grew, and we just grew with it. I mean now they have well over a thousand people, and we’ve been there since they had thirteen people.

Megan: Oh wow.

Pat: …at that, you know. I mean there was transitions. But different things, and, but it’s the same church, I mean. Up north we went to one church we really, really liked. When we went up to- not up- Florida. That’s when we really got involved in church. I started with the youth when I was young. I started the youth program at our church with another girl. And when we moved to Jacksonville, we started children’s church down there. So we’ve kind of been involved as we go along.

Megan: In Maryland we went to church, but too involved because we weren’t there too long…you know. But we’ve always been involved in church.

Megan: Gotcha, that’s cool. I don’t know, I just, I just liked hearing about just different things, different experiences. Are there any experiences in your life that stand out? That you think may not have happened had you not lived in Arkansas? Or… Do you think Arkansas has shaped you? The experiences that you’ve had here? Opportunities that you’ve had here?

Pat: Well, I think we were just stable. You know, we – Roy got a job at the Post Office right after we came back. I mean for a little while he had his own business, and then when he had his job at the post office, he gave that up and worked there until he retired, you know. And I think the things we’ve done, he’s always had two jobs. I mean, he’s always worked at something besides his regular job. And he had a janitorial service, (enter Braison) he had a lawn service… And I didn’t work a lot, but I worked on and off, different things, and then I had a beauty shop, I had my own little store with my brother… So we just kind of went from one thing to another –
we’ve always been busy doing things: raising our kids, being involved…making sure they had baseball for the boys, and cheerleading for Tonia, and Girl Scouts, and Brownies, and you know things like that…

Roy: Boy Scouts

Pat: …Boy Scouts, I used to be a Cub Scout leader.

Megan: Really?

Pat: Yes!

Megan: For both your boys?

Pat: Yes.

Megan: How was that?

Pat: It, It was good.

Megan: That must be…busy?

Pat: It is busy. But I think that’s what life is when you’re raising your family – it’s get involved and stay involved and be busy. Doesn’t make it always come out like you want it to, but still, that’s what you have to do. When we’d go to baseball games, he’s go to one field, and I’d go to the other.

Megan: And you just make it work – divide and conquer. That’s what my mom always said.

Roy: And then the boys always been involved with me with car shows. We travel all across the United States going to car shows.

Megan: I didn’t know that! All over…wow.

Pat: There’s not many places we haven’t been with the kids.

Megan: In the United States?

Pat: Mhmm.
Roy: Yeah.

Megan: Really? So would that be like your vacation? To travel around to somewhere new? Or was that like – did you just travel around because there was a car show?

Pat: Because there was a car show!

Megan: Yeah, Okay!

Roy: Well, like when we went to Colorado, went to a car show, and when we got down there we went up to Wyoming, Montana, and took about what, a week extra? Every time we go somewhere we take a week because we want to run around, like up in Connecticut and Maine…

Pat: Or we would go a day early, and make sure the kids did anything they wanted to do. We would take them to…

Roy: Six Flags…

Pat: …yeah, make sure they had a day…

Roy: I don’t know how many times I’ve been to Disney World out in California…Disney Land!

Pat: Yeah, we would always go a day, so they would have their fun, while we’re at the car show, although they still got to do things at the car show and they loved that. But we didn’t try to take anything away from them by going to car shows, you know…

Megan: Right. Did they enjoy the car shows?

Pat: Oh yeah!

Megan: Even just listening to Mallory, she seems to have such an appreciation and she knows a lot because, that’s, you know what you guys are interested in, and so just growing up with that…

Pat: Yeah, we went a lot like that, but we – there was always tours, like Pennsylvania, when we went to Pennsylvania we did…

Roy: We done the Liberty Bell, and
Pat: ...yeah we did tours...

Megan: Philadelphia...

Roy: Washington, D.C. ...

Pat: Philadelphia... And we lived in Maryland, and we did all the White House stuff...all the...

Roy: Cemetery and everything.

Pat: And we didn’t do them once...when someone came to see us, we did it over...and over....

Roy: And like in Connecticut, we got to go to New York, and see the Empire State Building, and
the Twin Tours about a month before they lost them. So we’ve been a lot of places – from one
coast to another, and from one boarder north to one boarder south. We’ve had our kids in Mexico
and Canada and everywhere.

Megan: But Arkansas is home? You still consider...

Pat: Yeah, I mean, we just ended up here, and that’s just... And our kids are all right around
us...they never go very far away.

Megan: Right! Yeah, because I was gonna say that you have, now your grandchildren are being
raised here and...and yeah. I mean, I guess....yeah, this is what you’ve always known right? And
so overall, would you say this was a good place to grow up? The opportunities, and the
environment? ...Just very homey and...

Roy: Yeah. I wouldn’t want to raise my kids up north like some where like Michigan or
something like that. Or California.

Pat: Yeah like, I have a cousin in California, and he said the lifestyle we have here is much
better, much more laid back, and you know, things like that. And I think that’s what makes us
think that maybe this was a good idea, you know.
Megan: Yeah, I mean, yeah. I definitely see a difference. There's different values down here, just as a culture, than there are up north.

Pat: Yeah, like I have an Aunt and Uncle in Michigan, and their kids, and they tell me that it's harder to get jobs and things up there, and I think that just listening to things like that well, you probably should have done what you did, you know. I don't know, I always think God put us where we need to be at the right time. Like if we would go look at a house, if it wasn't the right house, something would change and we wouldn't get the house. It was kind of like God was working in that... and we just kind of feel like that. God helped us to get through every stage that we... We had moved so many times for a few years looking, and looking to see where God was in it. yeah...

Megan: That's cool. That you can look back on your life and see all those connections and stuff. That's awesome. That's perfect. That's kind of what I wanted to hear - just what you felt about Arkansas. Is there anything else you want to say, or you want my teacher to know about your life in Arkansas? You're happy about that this is where God's placed you?

Roy: Oh yeah, all my life I'll be going to church and working. I got home work now, so I work every day about it.

Megan: Wow, that's awesome.

Pat: Yeah. I like having my life, my freedom, you know?

Megan: Yeah, definitely.

Pat: And we stay busy. We work in church, we're still involved. I don't know, I think that's just, I think that's probably good. I think you're involved with whatever you think is the right thing to do, you need to be involved in it.

Megan: Yeah.
Pat: We still go to that little old church that now has a thousand. We just feel like it's the same little church, but now it's just got a lot of people.

Roy: (cough) Excuse me.

Pat: You feel that way when you've been there from the beginning.

Megan: Yeah, you've helped create it. It's still the same as it was. Are you still involved with the youth? And children's church? Or have you passed that along to...

Roy: We're a little too old for that. No we're still involved. What was it about a year ago, we were both involved in Sunday school. I was the Sunday school, I guess, superintendent for twenty something years, and she was the Sunday school secretary.

Pat: And I like to be over the women at church.

Megan: Alright, well I think that's it. I think it's time for some...some uh, what is it called?

Pat: Grandma's attention?

Megan: Yeah, some pops, and some dessert.

Roy: Our grandkids don't like us! And you can tell that!

Megan: Thank you so much for talking to me! And for doing this for me!

Roy: Mallory wants to get some fried taters, and it's all baby.

(Braison playing with the microphone...)}