

10-31-2011

## Interview with Robyn Daily

Leslie Lasiter

Robyn Daily

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### Recommended Citation

Lasiter, Leslie and Daily, Robyn, "Interview with Robyn Daily" (2011). *Interviews*. 27.  
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**Accession Number:** PS-MS-TR-LASITER-103111

**Interviewer:** Leslie Lasiter

**Interviewee:** Robyn Daily

**Place:** Liberated Salon

2 Madison Street

Mt. Vernon, OH 43050

**Duration:** 25:14

L: Okay so, first question, basic biography of you, how long have you lived in Knox County and Mt. Vernon?

R: I've lived in Knox County my whole life. I'm from Fredericktown. Graduated from Fredericktown High School in 1975, and I've owned this salon for almost twenty-seven years

L: Wow. I'd ask what do you do for a living but obviously...(laughs)

R: I have a hair salon (laughs)

L: Which is where we are. Okay and where do you live now? And you don't have to be super specific

R: I live in Fredericktown

L: Oh you do. Hi (to hairstylist who just walked into the salon). Do you have family in Mt. Vernon?

R: My son lives in Mt. Vernon.

(Phone rings)

L: How old is he?

R: He's thirty.

L: Wow, okay, and what does he do?

R: He works at Areal Corporation in Mt. Vernon.

L: What is that?

R: They make compressors to pump oil. (whispers) Can I get the phone?

L: Oh yeah, please do. Anytime you need to stop, no problem.

(Recorder Paused)

L: So if you want to describe your typical daily routine here at the salon.

R: Come to work. Usually get everything ready for the day. Come in, do towels, do whatever, get ready for the day, check my schedule, get everything laid out for the day, and...check my phone messages.

L: What kind of people usually come in. I'm guessing they're probably regulars.

R: Yeah, I have a lot of regulars. I have probably as many men as women.

L: Really? Interesting.

R: Yeah we have a lot of men that come in. And I do have some that, we don't usually take walk-ins because we don't have time for that, so most of ours are by appointment only.

L: Okay. So is it just you and her? (Referencing the hairstylist who came in earlier).

R: There's three of us that do hair and there's a nail tech.

L: Okay, are they all women?

R: All women. Yep. And they all work part time, so on Thursdays we all work together and then the nail tech works the other two days.

L: Are they younger or are they sort if older?

R: (light laughter). Well it depends on what you call old and what you call young (laughs). They're in their thirties.

L: Okay.

R: One girl's forty, in her forties.

L: Let's see. If you had to describe sort of a typical character who comes in here, uh, sort of somebody who's a big personality, what would they be like?

R: A lot of our people are really fun.

L: Yeah.

R: I mean we have a good time, they like to joke, and all of us girls who work together have a really good time. We really get along which I think is really important. I don't know. We have really good people who come in. We really don't have, you know, grumpy, grouchy people. I don't think anyways. I think all my people are good. Fun. And a lot of them I've done for

several years so they've been through a lot of stuff with me and I've been through a lot of stuff with them. And, so, it's kinda fun.

L: So do you like, help, or do you ever offer advice? Because I know you obviously talk to them and have conversations with them.

R: Oh yeah, and in the same way with me. They offer advice to me. I mean they will tell you stuff you'd be surprised they tell you, and, you know, because you kind of get more of a friend relationship. A lot of these I've done for, Oh some of these I've done for as long as I've been here.

L: Really?

R: Yeah, and I've done their kids and their kids are coming in and so you really get a good relationship with them.

L: So are you customers usually people you know? Do you get a lot of new people too? I'm assuming...

R: Yeah, Yeah. What we get a lot of is referrals. Somebody's friend, you know, is looking for somebody or asks them who did their hair, you know. We get a lot of that too. So.

L: And how do you usually approach somebody who is new? Do you like, you don't have the same rapport that you do with people that you know, obviously, new people.

R: Well of course. Usually we introduce ourselves and ask them if they want to look at some hairstyle books and then we'll take them over to the mirror and discuss—I like always discussing what we're doing before we do anything. I mean, I wanna make sure, the last thing I want is to cut somebody's hair too short or wrong or whatever, so I'm very careful discussing what they want. Plus how they take of it afterward cause that's important too.

L: Yeah, definitely. Getting your hair cut is a big deal and I totally can understand that. My hair was like, down to here (points to low part on stomach).

R: Really?

L: So I chopped it off.

R: Did you donate it?

L: I did, yeah, yeah.

R: Good.

L: Yeah I was like I know it's different but at least I'm doing it for a good cause.

R: Yep, yep. Hannah's done that a couple of times.

L: Oh Hannah—

R: Yeah Hannah Sacks. You know, her dad, Howard Sacks.

L: Okay, yeah, Hannah Sacks. She just got married I think.

R: Yep, she did. Yep.

**5:30**

L: So just switching to Knox County, Mt. Vernon. Do you have a favorite place where you like to go on the weekends, to spend your leisure time?

R: Around here?

L: Yeah, aside from here and home, a place that you sort of are drawn to.

R: Well, we like to go to Jake's to eat. You know. We meet friends there, and then the Mexican restaurant, a place like that.

L: Fiesta?

R: Yeah Fiesta Mexicana.

L: IS this sort of typical of the community to gather in the places or would you say that—

R: I think it just depends on the age cause, you know, the age groups determine what you do and everything. I know that out in Gambier there are some places that people meet out there.

L: Oh really, Gambier? Interesting.

R: Yeah, oh what is it? The Gambier Inn?

L: Oh there's the Kenyon Inn.

R: Kenyon Inn. Yeah, Yeah. Oh and there's also another place that my son goes to. I can't think of the name of it but I know that some kids go out there too.

L: Yeah that's funny because that's where Kenyon is.

R: Yeah, I know.

L: I guess that would be the Cove or the VI?

R: The VI, that's it.

L: Yeah there's a lot of Kenyon people there but then there's a lot of people who live in the community who go. Do you ever go there or is it kind of just out your—

R: Yeah, I've been there a few times but we don't go there on a regular basis.

L: Just because...what would you say if you had to say why you don't go there?

R: A little farther maybe and usually ours it's like a last minute thing and we're home a lot because we're both gone and working and doing things so, you know, if it's meet up with friends it's kind of a last minute thing. Where's the closest place to go or whatever.

L: How would you describe how this community has changed? Were there places where people would go to sort of socialize that aren't here anymore? Like, not necessarily bars or restaurants but just sort of meeting places, gathering places, because In a lot of our research on Knox County we've found that, oh, there was this drug store, this soda fountain where people would just crowd to every weekend--

R: That's gone now.

L: Downtown Main Street has lost a little bit of it's attraction.

R: Yeah.

L: So I was wondering since you've lived here for a while, how has it changed from your perspective?

R: Well this is a restaurant but up the street where the station is there used to be a restaurant there, it was called Blaine's and, you know, being here it was easy to go up there. On Main Street there was Ringwald's, it was a clothing store. Then there was, I think it was called Beck's. It was out where Burger King is now and Penny's Store was downtown. I'm trying to think of a place where people gathered other than bars. I can't off the top of my head.

L: How easy is it to meet new people around here would you say?

R: How easy?

L: Yeah or just like—

R: Gosh that's hard to say for me cause I've always lived here.

L: that's true.

R: You know I'd say it's probably, you know, through church and organizations and stuff like that I would think if you get involved in stuff like that I think that would probably be an easy way to meet people. I don't know I think people are just pretty friendly.

L: Yeah I've noticed that people here are very friendly. It's very refreshing. People at Kenyon tend to get tunnel vision. So would you say that you spend most of your free time at home?

R: A lot of it, yeah. I have a grandson. We go camping. We have two other couples we camp with and we go do that a lot.

L: Oh that's fun. Where do you go?

R: We go to Mohican. There's a state park there that's really nice. I like to go there and we'll go to other state parks too but that's our favorite. It's not that far yet there's a lot of things to do.

L: How far away is that?

R: You know, miles wise, I'm not sure. I'd say maybe less than a half an hour from here. They have canoeing and stuff like that down there. They have horseback riding and a lot of different things to do like that too.

L: Do you go to Coshocton Ave. a a lot?

R: Sometimes, not unless I have to. I mean, it's pretty busy out that way. But yeah, I do go out there for like, some of the stores like the penny's store or the Peebles or just some of those out there.

L: Yeah so Fredericktown. That's a more rural area.

11:35

R: Yeah. And you know, it's not that far from here. It takes me maybe fifteen minutes. I dunno maybe ten miles or less. Miles wise I'm not really sure.

L: Oh yeah that's not bad at all.

R: Both my kids graduated from Fredericktown and of course I did. What's a good thing about a small town, including Mt. Vernon, if someone's ever sick or has any, you know, house burns down, (laughs), any kind of tragedy, there are people there to help. I mean, they're really good about that.

L: Yeah that horrible thing that happened last year around this time with the family. I just got really, I mean it was horrifying, but I just got a really good sense of how supportive everyone was here.

R: Oh yeah. I think it really pulled the community together. I mean, I don't know, even though you didn't know them you still felt, it just was so horrible. You just felt so bad for the girl, the families, yeah it was just very bad.

L: Very sad. So this place has been here for a while. You haven't changed locations.

R: Well actually the girl who had it before me had it down on Chestnut Street. That's where she started it. Sense then they've torn it down and that's where the car wash is at, but this at one time was a barbershop, and then it was a union hall. I think it was a union hall when she bought it, and she's had it for—well, it's been a salon for around thirty years. Then she decided to move away and sold it to me. And it's been twenty-seven years since I've had it.

L: And you do like—

R: Oh I love it. I love my people, I honestly do, I mean I have great people. I enjoy working with people.

L: It's probably mostly fun. You get to be social all day.

R: Oh yeah.

L: And you certainly have to have a kind of personality and energy for that.

R: Oh yeah. And you know everybody's different with what they want to talk about, and sometimes you'll get a sense where someone doesn't want to talk when you're doing their hair so you just kind of go with that. But yeah, I have great people. That would be the thing that I would miss—I mean, I love doing hair too but I would miss the people.

L: I just thing it's so interesting that you have a lot of men who come here too. Part of our project is we wanted to look at barbershops versus beauty salons and seeing how those places differ gender-wise. I think it's really cool that you get a lot of men to come here. They just want something a little more fashionable.

R: They'll come from Rolls-Royce. Oh that's nothing, years ago there used to be a factory down the street. It's a dead end street, and one time it was American National Can, I think, or it was when it closed up, so we got a lot of people from there. I think that's one reason why Connie bought this salon and made it into a salon here, because of all the traffic. Well, since then it's closed up and they've torn it down. So we get a lot of people from there. But yeah, I have several men that come in and some of them like, one lady I do every week, and her husband, and she get's it blown dry and curled, and her husband brings her so I do his hair too. So, you know, stuff like that, you'll do husband and wife.

L: And I guess you have kids come in a lot (motion to children's toys in waiting area)

R: Yes. We try to, and yeah this has worked out great. The kids love playing with those legos and it gives the kids something to do, keep them out of everything else. Everybody who comes in are real good about keeping their kids under control. I do a family and they've got four kids and I've watched them grow up and it's fun to, and I enjoy doing kids.

16:09

L: Yeah seeing people grow up that's just so interesting.

R: This one girl I'd do her kid's hair and I remember she used to bring the youngest one in, the little thing, she'd set it on the floor and you know, now she's fifteen or something like that. Yeah it's, it's fun.

L: So you had kids. What did they like to do when they were younger?

R: Oh I don't know, gosh. I have a daughter, she's twenty-six almost twenty-seven, she's married and has a child. My son lives down here and she lives in Fredericktown. I don't know I think they'd mostly, my son, he would go to a buddy's house. Stuff like that. Once in a while, once he was old enough to, they would go to the bars and have a few drinks. They would never hang out in the bars, thank god for that. Same way with me daughter, I think just get with friends and do stuff like that.

L: I feel like you get more creative in a way in a small town atmosphere.

R: Yeah.

L: There's a tattoo parlor I just realized over there.

R: Yeah. They've been there for quite a while. It used to be a gas station.

L: Yeah it kinda looks like a gas station.

R: Then when they closed the gas station then it was a feed store, then from a feed store it was a tattoo place.

L: Do you know the people who own it?

R: I know them to see them but I don't know them personally. I don't really pay any attention to what goes on there. And they keep it nice around there, so that's the important thing.

L: So has this place physically changed since you've gotten it?

R: Yeah, when I bought it it just had little mirrors at the station. It had all white paneling, and it had like a lime green carpet. The chairs were lime green. The sinks were yellow. Yeah so I kinda remodeled everything and put the big mirrors up.

L: I'm just curious. I don't know, I feel like cutting hair would be really hard. How do you keep up with what's in and fashionable?

R: I go to hair shows.

L: Hair shows?

R: Yeah there's hair shows. There's a supply place in Mansfield, that I buy a lot of my stuff from. They have shows, and then we've gone to Columbus. There's a big hair show that's in Columbus. We've gone to that. We get magazines for hairstylists and we read those, but the hair shows are the big thing, how you keep up on trends.

L: Do you go to Columbus at all?

R: Sometimes. I mean, not a lot. I probably go to Mansfield, which is closer for me living in Fredericktown. I go to Polaris and I have doctors that are in Columbus. Usually if I'm going to Columbus that's what I'm going for.

L: What are your friends like?

R: Well, my friends are my high school friends. We graduated of course together, and there's three of us that have boys the same age as my son and they used to run around and then I have another friend and my daughter is the same age as her daughter and their best friends. So we've all known each other for years. We get together, there's probably ten of us that graduated together, we get together like at Christmas and have an exchange. Most of them live around here except one who lives in Loudinville so they're all pretty close.

L: So you usually get together around the holidays mostly?

R: Yeah. We used to get together once a month and some things changed so we couldn't get together but we're hoping to get back to doing that so that's those friends. Then we have friends who are couples that my husband and I run around with.

L: Do you guys usually go over to each other's houses to hang out?

R: Or dinner. We go out to dinner. Like I said, we camp with some of them and when we go camping we have friends that come and visit. When I say camping, we have a fifth wheel camper so it has like a shower, I mean, everything in it.

L: That's nice.

R: Yeah they're like, "that's not camping" and I'm like "Well, it's camping to me." I don't like tents so, yeah, it's fun.

L: Yeah, camper's are fun. My family has one. We have one of those old silver ones.

R: I like those old ones. A lot of people are getting them and then fixing them up.

L: How would you say Knox County, or maybe just Mt. Vernon and Fredericktown, have changed?

R: Like how have they advanced, you mean?

L: I guess the addition of Coshocton Ave.

R: Yeah and the hospital. They've got a new road up there. Gosh, well one new thing in Fredericktown. They didn't sell alcohol. I mean, I'm fifty-four and I don't remember them ever selling alcohol. They just passed something that let's them sell alcohol. There aren't any bars or anything like that. And the grocery store and the gas station, they sell alcohol now. I mean, that's a big big step for being dry for all those years. In Mt. Vernon well, they've, hmmm.

L: How do you think the sense of community has changed or do you feel that it's mostly the same?

R: Oh I think there's more stress because of the way the economy is. And Rolls Royce is a big factory in town and they hire people and then they'll lay them off. There was another factory, an industrial park out on Blackjack Rd. that closed up and a lot of people lose their jobs because of that. And I think the community has gotten a little bit tighter because of the murders that happened last year. They've done a lot of fundraisers for the girl that survived.

L: What do you love most about living here?

R: Being a small community. When my daughter was three and a half she had cancer. The community pulled together and had fundraisers. I think that's what I love most. You know a lot of people and people come together when there's tragedies or anything.

L: Thank you so much for your time. That was great.

R: No problem. I enjoyed it.