

Transcription of Podcast Episode 367: Edwin Deas

SPEAKERS

Bob Firing, Edwin Deas

Note: This transcription was computer-generated and may contain typographical errors.

Bob Firing 00:10

Good afternoon, Shadow Hills. Well, this is going to be a little different kind of program than we normally do. We've got 6,000 different residents around here. 6,000 stories, and a lot of people are doing interesting things in retirement. And the man I'm going to interview today is Edwin Deas, who, in his retirement has become a radio disc jockey . . . in Scotland of all places. And so, to take us on that journey, Edwin, welcome to the podcast.

Edwin Deas 00:46

Thank you. It's nice to be here.

Bob Firing 00:47

So, give us a bit of your background. You grew up in Scotland?

Edwin Deas 00:50

Yep. Okay. I grew up in Scotland. I trained as an accountant, chartered accountant in Scotland. Then I moved to Canada, and worked in education, there. And then late in my career, some relatively late career, I moved to California, and I worked in the College of the Desert here in Palm Desert.

Bob Firing 01:15

What was your position at the college?

Edwin Deas 01:17

CFO.

Bob Firing 01:18

Yeah, yeah. Chief Financial Officer.

Edwin Deas 01:21

That's correct. Yeah.

Bob Firing 01:22

Okay, and when did you retire? And when did you move to Sun City Shadow Hills?

Edwin Deas 01:28

Okay, I retired in 2015. And at that time, we moved to the coast to Oceanside and stayed there for a while. But we weren't too happy with the winters, which can be kind of damp there. So we decided to move back here in 2019 and we've been here ever since.

Bob Firing 01:52

I see. And you spend your summers in Scotland. Tell us about how all that happened and then how you got into doing this radio show?

Edwin Deas 02:00

Sure. Well, as I said, I have this connection with Canada. That's where I first moved to North America. And so, our family is still there. We moved down here to California, and we love it. But the summers are a little bit of a trial for us. So, we decided we would spend some time back in Canada seeing family and a few years ago, about five years ago, we decided we would do four months of each summer in Scotland, where I'm originally from. And so that's what we do. We basically split a year into seven months here, one month in Canada, and four months in Scotland.

Bob Firing 02:40

And your summer residence is on the Isle of Cumbrae?

Edwin Deas 02:45

Cumbrae, although your pronunciation is more common than you would think. A lot of people think it should be that.

Bob Firing 02:55

And you spent some time there when you were a child.

Edwin Deas 02:58

Yeah, I mean, it's on the west coast of the country. And I was born and brought up on the east coast. But my parents took me to this island every year for my summer vacation. And then when they stopped taking me, I basically took over and to cut a long story short, I've been there almost every year of my life. I've missed a few. But it's just something in my blood that takes me back there. So, I kind of feel like something of a resident there, even though I'm not. They talk funny.

Bob Firing 03:31

And so how did this radio opportunity come about?

Edwin Deas 03:34

Well, as I said, when we started going back, we used to visit it was maybe for two weeks. And when we started going for the four months. Coincidentally, I learned that a very enterprising young man in the island had set up a radio station. He had got funding for a beautiful little studio, permanent studio. And he was looking for volunteers. And so, I called him and said, you know, I don't know if you'd be interested in my situation. The first bit being, of course, that I've only been there for four months of each year. And he jumped at it because I was something different. A) I was something different because I

played, I was interested in different music to most of the presenters. B) Because I had spent virtually my whole life visiting unlike the other presenters, and I guess C) just because I was different. I talked different. I was a foreigner for four months of the year.

Bob Firing 04:39

So, tell us about the music you like.

Edwin Deas 04:41

Okay, well, in I said to him, when I was interviewing with him I said, if you want me to play rap or something like that, you know, we can stop it now because really, I'm interested in all music, but the music I really love is the music of the '60s and the '70s and I immediately thought of a little hook from for a potential show in Scotland. And that would be that I would play predominantly California Music. And so that's how it came about.

Bob Firing 05:11

Yeah, and so it's called "California Dreamin."

Edwin Deas 05:14

Yeah.

Bob Firing 05:14

And I think that music genre would really resonate with our residents because we all grew up in the same era.

Edwin Deas 05:23

Well, that's it. Yeah. And even the younger people are quite gracious and say to me, geez, you know, I, you know, I didn't realize I liked that music until I actually heard you playing it. Plus, what I do on this show is, I don't just play the records, I make a playlist, and I research the information around the recording about the artist and the circumstances in which the record is made. And I kind of throw in a bit of history, you know. So, people are getting kind of hooked on this now that, you know, they're learning things that they didn't know before.

Bob Firing 06:00

Yeah, well, that's, that's great. And I bet so we're gonna put a link to Edwin's program in in the, in the announcement the email that we're going to be sending you and hopefully you can try it out and hopefully get hooked yourself. So just give us an example of you know what, let's, let's say you do something on what the Beach Boys but what would be how would you typically introduce something like

Edwin Deas 06:31

well, I mean because it's California Music, The Beach Boys come up pretty often if not every week, maybe every second week. But what I tell about the Beach Boys is you know things that not everybody knows. You know for example the tensions within the band, you know, brothers not getting on brother and cousin and not getting on. Mike Love and Brian Wilson being amazing in that they could produce all this great music while at each other's throats pretty constantly. About you know, things like they

weren't great musicians. They were good singers, but they didn't play on many of the records. It was all session men that played and produced that "Beach Boy" sound, but it wasn't the Beach Boys making it. Then they would go on the road and they always had backing musicians, but the and they changed constantly but somehow managed to create that sound that you know you if you hear a Beach Boys or something like that you pretty much recognize straight off.

Bob Firing 07:33

Okay, well thank you for coming in and telling us what you do. Hopefully, this is going to resonate with some of you and you can become fans of Edwin's. And I'm sure there are lots of other interesting stories out there. And so if you have an idea for someone I should interview send me an email podcast@scshca.com and we'll get 'em on the air. So Edwin, thank you for coming in and until next time bye-bye.