

Why Vienna Changed

CG: How do you think it's (Vienna) changed from its simple farming beginnings to that centennial celebration?

JS: Right. Well I think part of it is our location, which is always what realtors say—'location, location'. For a while there was Washington over there and Vienna here and Falls Church in the middle. But everything, as everything expanded, it all became together in a way. And then of course Dulles Airport, we're right there; when 66, when 66 opened up—we're kind of sandwiched between the Beltway, 66, Route 7 and then Tysons. It just, we just happen to be, depending on your point of view, in *my* point of view, we're in the perfect place. Some people don't like the change. 'Oh, Vienna's not like it used to be.' Well, no. We don't *want* it to be like it used to be. (All laugh) It's always good to look back at the good old days, and think, 'well, were they really the 'good' old days?'

Well, I think too, people—we have these blocks, and if you've been around Vienna very much, they all used to be little houses on big lots. Now we're getting bigger houses. Well, the people in the little houses are like, 'What's happening to Vienna, it's changing!' But that's peoples' expectations of what they want in the house. We grew up, three kids, with one-and-a-half baths. No problem. But now, no way. Every kid has to have their own bathroom (Virginia: What!), their own private space, all this. The kids come and are like 'what is this room?' I say 'Well, it's my living room.' 'Well, where's your family room?' 'Well, this is it.' You know what I mean? They have dens, they have libraries. And that's fine. I totally agree with that. If that's what people want, and they can afford it, great. It's just that peoples' expectations are different now. You can't argue with that. I'm not going to. That's fine. So that's why we have these bigger houses going up.