

SHOWNOTES - Tyler Hewitt (33/50)

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SPEAKERS

Scott Hilton (Host), Tyler Hewitt (Guest)

- S** Scott Hilton (Host) 00:15
Welcome to another episode of Ask my dad Tyler Hewitt here in the studio was welcomed. Tyler, glad to have you, man.
- T** Tyler Hewitt (Guest) 00:22
Thank you. I'm glad to be here.
- S** Scott Hilton (Host) 00:24
This is a special interview for me. I think we're we've done several now. But the ones I get to do with the guys that I grew up with and that grew up with me are really special in my mind goes back taller to when you're about 13 or 14. And you and I were riding bikes. Yeah, we had some great bike trips, didn't we? Yeah, we, we would go ride 100 miles at a time and three or four of us and just just build some great relationships and some great memories. You remember the night we got stuck on the trail in the dark? Yeah, yeah, we came in and you guys had a wreck in the in the dark on on an abandoned trail out in the chiefland dagger trail. That was we had a good time and but our history is that you came to Eagle Rock, when you were how old
- T** Tyler Hewitt (Guest) 01:17
I was around 14. Right around 14 to 15,
- S** Scott Hilton (Host) 01:22
you had quite a by the way. For those that don't know, Eagle Rock is a Boys Ranch that I founded and was I was there. And Tyler was one of my guys. And I'm really proud of where he is. We're gonna get to that in a minute. But there was a lot that went on. And those 14 years,

there's four, first 14 years of your life. And I think that you have a story that a lot of young guys can relate to. Maybe a lot of them are going through now. I want to get you to tell that story. As much of it as you feel comfortable. Some of it may we may leave out but just kind of tell us the story of your life because it's in y'all Listen, this is going to be interesting.



02:04

So a lot of the true story I didn't really find out until towards the end of the story, I'm gonna tell but I'll start from the beginning. I guess I was born in California, in the San Diego area. And so my biological mother and our father, they, they kind of just, I guess they just had me, you know, and then they weren't a couple. So they would swap back and forth key for me. And I would stay with my biological mom, her sister and her. And then with my father when I stay with them. I was there with all his family, his mom and his sister and I had a big family on his side. And so eventually, some things went down between my mother and father. And one day, my mom just skipped town with me. And she left and ended up moving to Texas. And she actually moved with a guy. He became my stepfather. So that was, I would say I think it was around. The storyline was fire around two years old. Whenever that happened. I ended up in Texas. And on my father's and he didn't, he didn't have a clue where I was, you know, he was just, he just knew he went to pick me up one day. And her sister said, Hey, he's not she's not here. You know, some of the Texas Well, the way the story went was apparently, she had become pen pals with this guy. And they were, you know, writing letters back and forth. So I ended up down there. And just, she was involved in a lot of drugs. And so was he. My stepdad. So later on, when I was about four, my first sister, she was born. And a couple of months after that, they ended up both going to prison. So they ended up in prison for drug related issues. So they were in prison, and then we didn't we didn't have anywhere to go. So where we ended up going was with my stepdads family. And so that would actually be no relation to me. It would just be my sister's, you know, aunt and uncle and grandmother. were, you know, they, my biological mom never told you know them about my dad, you know? And I never knew anything about him either. So all I knew is growing up was my dad's get tattooed on me, you know, and that was it. So that's just all I ever knew about my dad, I didn't know anything about him well, so we ended up living with these people, and they just weren't, they just weren't the best people, you know, they didn't, they had kids of their own. And so, whenever you were the people that were living with, you know, sometimes, when that happens, they'll accept you in, you know, as their own kids. And a lot of kids get lucky like that, and a lot of them don't. And so we weren't really accepted in you know, we were just kind of burdens, you know, so we just didn't get treated the same way as them, you know, we get, you know, abused and just a lot of mistreat mistreatment there and stuff like that. So we kind of went through, I went through that for years and years. And eventually, we ended up staying with my sister's aunt and uncle. For our, I'll say, probably third grade, I ended up staying with them full time. And so second or third grade, around that around that time. And one of the main things I took from that was, from that age, the father, who would have been my father figure at the time, because that's all I knew of as a dad, you know, so he wasn't really, he wasn't a good father figure. But he was a really hard worker. And so, he really instilled that in me that you know, what hard work is, and that you have to work. And so that later on helped me as a man, you know, realize, like, hey, we have to get out here, if you want something, you have to work for it, you just can't, you can't expect anything to just come to you. So one of the things we would do, and he had a son, who's about two years younger than me, so every Saturday and Sunday, we wake up, and we go and cut grass, he had a lawn care business. And I started, I started doing that, when I was, I believe, seven or eight, you know, you first you just start out

pushing a push mower, back and forth, while he's weed eating or doing whatever he did. And then now you level up to weedeater. And you start doing that. And then once I did that for the whole time I was with, with him, you know. So one of the things that me and you've talked about was, every, every morning, we'd stop at the store close to the house, and we get a drink. When we get back, then they have those little 12 ounce, Mountain Dew bottles, and I'll get one drink a day. And so I'll drink on that all day. And I'll just remember, cherish in that one little soda had all day, because he wouldn't give you because he wasn't gonna get anything else. So you know, you sit there and I was young. So I would, I would take the cap off and pour a little mountain dew in the cap and just sip on it. Just being a kid, you know. And so that's one of the things I really remember from doing that. But just a lot of work. And it really helps you in the beginning, like in the beginning of being a man, you know, growing up, realizing, once you turn old enough that you had to work that it's not that hard to work as long as you started when you were young like that. And so anyways, we we did that every, every weekend, and I wasn't, I had really had really bad ADHD. So, as a kid, it was really hard for me to have a good, you know, be able to handle myself, like a normal kid because I had such bad ADHD. And I think, you know, now it's more normal for parents to realize, you know, how to treat that with their kids were back then. Of like, what I went through was kind of just like, I stayed in trouble, you know, like, that's just the way you are, and you're just gonna always be in trouble. So I was always, you know, always in trouble. Just a lot of abuse and mistreatment because of that, you know, and so

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Scott Hilton (Host) 09:32

you basically got left and got locked in a house and left. Yeah, you tell him you had to crawl out the window to just Yeah, for sure. Yeah,



09:41

that was that was back. That story was actually back with a before I ended up with the mod, my sister's an uncle, my biological mother and it's that, that they were on drugs at the time. So my sister, she was still a little baby, then. And we would just get locked in the room, you know, I would just get locked in the room. I didn't know what drugs was until I grew up and realize, oh, that's what happened, you know. And we started with my aunt, she had moved to Texas, I guess that's how she, we ended up that she ended up down there. And so my two cousins, they were really close in age, they would come over to the window, they would start knocking on the window. And they would, uh, they would holler at me, like, taller, taller. So you know, I'm probably around for three or four at the time. This is one of the main memories I remember from being that little, you know, when that will be, I'll go to the window. And they would try to get me to jump in now, you know, jumping out of a window. It's not very hard. You know, it's just two and a half, maybe three feet half. But when you're four, that's a big jump. And I've never that was so far down. I was so scared. But I was, you know, four years old, and you're just careless. So yeah, just hopped out of the window. And we just kept playing in the yard. Of course, we get in trouble every time. But yeah, but they were they were locking you in, right? Yeah, locking me in a room for hours at a time. Yeah, even days. Yeah, we would just be stuck in there. And, you know, drugs, the jobs they were doing. They didn't you know, they knew what they were doing. But they were more worried about getting hired and things like that, then the saints are their own children, you know, so whenever they finally would wake up or whatever, and find me. You know, I felt that you know, and so especially the father, he was my

stepfather. He was really abusive, especially towards, you know, my mother and things like that he wasn't afraid to put his hands on you. So went through a lot of that. Until like said they went to prison. And so fast forward about two, with my sisters, aunt and uncle, they ended up wanting to move to Alabama. And so the process of doing that, now that I'm older, I realized what what happened, but they they ended up I guess, whenever you go to government housing, you have to go on a waiting list. So I guess they were on this waiting list. Well, it was towards the end of my kindergarten year. And we ended up moving to Alabama, but we stayed at a campground for the whole the whole summer. And we we lived that out in a tent out there. We ended up moving into the projects in Fairview, Alabama. And that's where I lived from first grade, all the way to about ninth grade, not specifically in the projects, I don't remember when we moved, but we ended up moving into a trailer park. And so we did that trailer park for a while. And it was just a lot of, you know, like, say, going back and forth, dealing with me having ADHD. And I think them not knowing how to how to handle that, you know, so for them, it was just weapons and more weapons and ground. And so I spend 90% of my childhood standing in a corner, you know, they now might be 10 years old, and we were living in, in the trailer park at that time. And all run away, you know, and go hide in the bushes, they will come out, they'll fire me. And I'll get in trouble, you know, get a weapon and then just go back through it again and again. And so eventually I ended up getting into a we're jumping on the trampoline with our example of trampoline with their son. And I was around 13 And he was probably 11 You know, and you know, whenever younger boys you're always play fighting always turns into actual thought. And so that's when it ended up happening. We started getting into actual thought and so just as a kid, you know, and they ended up calling the cops on me. So I ended up going to date press charges on me, the people I live with since I was four years old, so they press charges on me ended up going to the detention center in Coleman Alabama. And so I was in there for I think it was three or four days. But the time that I was in there, I liked being in there more than I did being with those people, you know. And so I stay with them for now I'll get out, then I'll you know, but after that they ended up going on probation. So they will tell my probation officer, you know, he's doing this or that, you know, they'll put me back in there. So I'll go back and forth. And I spent a couple weeks in there on the summer, that summer, I remember. And eventually, they the system ended up sending me to boot camp. And the name of the boot camp was camp Mitnick. And I was there for six weeks. I get out from there. And I started going back to school, I think I was in ninth grade at the time, I just started I'd start she started my high school year in that boot camp, and then I got out, actually started going to back to high school out there very view for in ninth grade. And I got in trouble again with them. For something you know, I'm not I can't remember what it was, there's so much stuff, but I ended up going into a behavior center, that ninth grade year. Well, this time, I'm already 14. So I believe I was 14. And I had a social worker. And I remember I went in there that ninth grade year, and I remember spending my Christmas in there. And Thanksgiving, I spent Thanksgiving and Christmas in there. I can't remember when exactly it was but on social workers, you know, she was like looking for somewhere for me to go basically. She had taught to, to those people, the people are living with the parents, and they didn't want me back, you know, they didn't want anything to do with me anymore. So, you know, that really strikes, you're out there, you know, 10 years of your life you spent with these people that just kind of shows how much they cared about you, you know, so they said we don't want them anymore. So they ended up looking everywhere on social worker. And that's whenever they found the rats. So I went to the ranch later, earlier that year. I can't remember what what exact year it was, but it was like

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Scott Hilton (Host) 17:33

2011 or 12 Yeah, I remember.



17:38

I think it was 11 Yeah. 2011. And so I say at the ranch for, say 2011. I got out of the ranch around 2014 15. Maybe somewhere around there. Yeah. And so I started the ranch. And so I first came to the ranch, the boys are an Eagle Rock. And a lot of boys there hated that place. You know, they didn't want to be there. They didn't want anything to do with it, you know, but me For me, there was structure, you know, which you have to have that as as a child. But coming from what I had came from, I was loving it. You know, I was loving that place. You have like freedom. You know, to go when you know, work, make your own money. Even at that age, you know, you could do we were doing work making money. You could buy with your own stuff, you had your own room, you know, you had a roommate, or some guys have their own room. And you had that a lot more freedom, which a lot of those kids they didn't have that they didn't that wasn't freedom to them. But for me, coming from what I had, that was like that was amazing to me. You know, I loved it there. And I ended up going to one of the high schools and it was one of the bigger schools so that they don't know coming from where I went to school where it was a smaller classroom. It was tough. It was big school where yeah, the school I went to was two or three times bigger, you know? So I didn't really have that one on one, you know, so I knew I was I wasn't really felling out of school, but I just didn't have any desire to go. So I'll talk to the lady that was running the ranch and I kind of told her, I hey, you know, can I just get my GED? And she was like, Oh, I don't know about that, you know, back and forth. You need to go to school and I'm not learning anything you know. And at the time, that's when Never, they had just bought the GED up where it was supposed to be really, really hard to get your GED to try to keep kids from wanting to, you know, drop out and get their GED. And so I taught my social worker went back and forth with her. And finally they agreed, you know, as soon as you drop, you know, you withdraw from school that you'll have to do this. Ya know, you'll have to get your GED. So I did that. I got out of that high school. And that next week, they you know, they sent you to this program. We are similar to this program. Yeah. I think I was only there for maybe like two weeks. Okay. He's ready, you know, to get his GED. And they're like, you know, you moving on pretty fast, whatever. So I went and took, took the test, and passed the test. Everything was good. And by this time, I was in 10th grade. And I had already had my GED. So

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Scott Hilton (Host) 20:59

yeah, a lot of the guys took a months and months and years even. Yeah, you just got out and took it. And



21:06

yeah, I kind of just got out and took that test, you know, a week or two. And I got that under my belt. And I remember the day I got got it. It was a thing. I actually got it on my birthday. Because you're the one that gave it to me. Came in it came to your office or something like that. And I've still got it. Yeah, you do. Yeah. Yeah, I've

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Scott Hilton (Host) 21:28

got this certificate. I've got I've got a bunch of certificates. Yeah. As it got there. Gee. these

because that's, that's a proud moment for me. Having seen what you guys went through? Yeah. For you to make that accomplishment was I mean, it's hard. Yes. at it. Yeah. Tough. Yeah. Work your way. The GED is no laughing matter. It's tough. But you You worked hard. And apparently you learned some stuff, in spite of all the things you had to go through? Yeah, yeah. So yeah, I remember you getting that

 21:58


I was I was older than 16 at the time. So now, the next step was for me, you know, to go ahead and start college. And so I've always been really good at math and, you know, working on things I like, I like to take things apart, put them back together. So I ended up going for robotic engineering. I think I went for about a year and maybe semester, about a year. And the same thing, I just, I just didn't like being in a classroom, you know. And I ended up getting a job at the company I'm working at now. I remember I started out there, you know, making \$10 an hour, working 5060 hours a week. And, like I said, everything kind of clicks for me. And I think that's where ADHD helps me. And that end my childhood, working, you know, from starting out seven, eight years old, all the way until I ended up, you know, leaving that family, I was working, even after school, you know, I'd have to get out and work, whatever, whatever he needed us to do. So that helped me a lot. And I just worked my way up at that company. And now, I've been a supervisor for out there for probably a little over four years for going on five years. So I've moved up pretty quickly out there. And now my next step is to go, you know, back to school, I was when I was the starting on is going back to school. And getting that getting that degree. And farther up, you know,

 Scott Hilton (Host) 23:45

what was the key to advancing career wise in terms of attitudes and things you do?

 23:52

For me, I would say a lot of times, especially whenever you're working for another company, is just they're going to offer you extra work, you know, over time or move here, do you want to move here, I my main thing was to learn as much as I could to make myself more valuable to the company. And that's what I do is just anytime I have an opportunity to learn, especially if you're getting paid for it, you know, do that Learn, learn whatever you can and don't have the mindset of that's not my job, you know, that's his job or, you know, well, I'm pretty tired. I think I'll just go home or to work my eight hours, you know, I worked a bunch of 1416 hour shifts, you know, growing up to learn as much as I could and that's really going to push you ahead because working for a company they see you wanting, you know, wanting to make that extra money and there's Saying that guy he wants to learn, he's learning. And that's, that's really what's gonna get you ahead of the other guys being eager to learn and like said, just taking advantage of any opportunity you can to be get ahead of the next guy, you know?


 Scott Hilton (Host) 25:15

Yeah. And so you're living proof that that works. You know, at what point in your life was there

ever a point that you said, you know I'm gonna do better? Or did they just kind of evolve?

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Really what what set it up for me to realize I need to go that extra mile is whenever my daughter was born, you know, it still wasn't I still didn't have that. That mentality whenever, you know her mother was pregnant, it was really once once I held her in my arms, I was like, Okay, this is it, you know, I have to give her everything that I didn't have. Since she was a turning point. That was that was the turning point where okay, this is this isn't about just me anymore, you know, this is about her. And so the last thing I ever want her to go through is anything that I had to go through, you know,

 Scott Hilton (Host) 26:12

so what do you say to the young guy who is where you were 10 years ago,

 26:18

I would say to take advantage of any opportunity, opportunity that you can, you know, to, if you have that opportunity to go to school, or if you have an opportunity to learn from anyone, I would learn as much as I can. And use that to set yourself up really.

 Scott Hilton (Host) 26:41

But you're always trying to improve yourself. And there's no reason that you can't man we have guys that came out of the ranch and all their stories were kind of like yours. They all had challenges and disadvantages. But man the things are doing with their lives. Yeah, it's incredible in the you know, this guy's Yeah, right. They're great dads, they're, they have great jobs. There's things are so much better for for their kids. And it was for them just like with you. What I see, I see pictures on Facebook of, of say, the things you do. What do you think it takes to be a great dad?

 27:17

Oh, I think for me our I think for me, what helps me to be a great dad is to

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I know a lot, especially as a dad, you kind of want to stay that manly man, you know, especially having a daughter, I would say just throw your dignity to the side, you know, and get down on her level with her. You know, if she's two or three years old, or my daughter is six now. You know, I'm gonna, whenever it's time to play with her. I'm gonna act six. You know,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 27:55

you played with water balloon. Yeah, birthday party.



27:58

Yeah. So get get down to her level, because that's where she's gonna relate with you the most is when you're treating her like a kid, you know? And then whenever it's time to be stern, you know, especially in things you believe in that you want to instill in her, be stern about those things.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 28:18

What do you want her to say about to you?



28:20

Or? Oh, that's you? That I love her. You know, I loved her. I showed her how much I loved her her whole life. And that was always there for and that made sure she knew what was right and what was wrong. You know?

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Scott Hilton (Host) 28:38

That's awesome. There's a kind of a footnote to your story that I think is kind of neat. Several years after you got out on your own. You got a phone call one



28:49

day. Yeah. So it was see seven years. It'll been in April of April, the 14th of 2016. Actually, I was actually at work where I'm working at now. And I had a meeting to go to and this lady had messaged me on Facebook. And so I get this message and it was from this random lady and she said can you please call me this is my phone number. And I was like, Who is this? You know? And I messaged her back. Oh, no, I don't know who you are, you know, especially there's a lot of scams obviously on Facebook. So she was really adamant. She was like, please call me I'll pay for your call out anything. Just call me and so finally I messaged her back I said okay, I'll call you. You know so well. I ended up calling her said hey, let's do this is and she answers the phone. She says, Are you taller Hewlett? And I was like, Yes, ma'am. And she's like, taller Bruce, who is my middle name? And I was like, Yes, ma'am. And then she, she asked me what my birthday was, well, she said is my birthday, my birthday? And I said, Yes. You know, kind of starting to gag for like, what's going on? And you know, this just started crying. And I was like, hello, you know, it's like, I found you. I found you, you know. And she was all she was tore up. And I said, Who are you? You know, she said, I'm your, your dad's wife, your biological dads. Wow. I was like, Jerry, because I had just seen his name on a my birth certificate. And I was like, Jerry, she was like, Yes, Jerry said his last name. And she's like, yes. And I said, his middle name is like, Yes, that's him. And I was like, No way. You know, she's like, Yes, I'm serious. And so I'm

crying at this point, you know, and she's like, your dad loves you, He never stopped loving you. He's been looking for you all these years. You know, I've let people know. But whenever you're young, the system, the way the system works, is they're not, they shouldn't be easy for people to find you. You know, you don't want to you don't need to be able to find a kid, you know. So it was really hard for them to find me. But she never gave up looking for me. And I heard her stories. Call in all of these other toddlers UU IDs, and girlfriends getting mad. Who was that? Who? Why did you call him a man and all of those, you know, why are you calling me stories. And finally, she found me and, you know, Gaston, Alabama. And that next day, we were on an airplane. I was on an airplane out there to go see her, you know, I would go see my father and meet her. And they have my step sister and met them. And it will oil is amazing. You know, I met my father and my dad, he's great. He's successful. He has his own company out there. He has a really big construction company out there. And he's just, you know, I'll talk to him all the time. And, uh, go out there every now and then and spend time with them. And I'll see all my family that's out there. And, you know,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 32:33

so it's a great, it's a great story. And yeah, it hadn't really warms my heart every time I hear. Yeah. So Tyler, you again, you're, you're an inspiration. To me. It's one of the joys of my life. To know that I dedicated my life to helping guys like you. You've made it and you're still making it. I mean, you every day, it's everyday one day at a time. But you're an inspiration to me. And I want to thank you for that. You're also an inspiration to a little girl. See your her world. And so we had her do a little just a short little video clip for you. We want you to see that.



33:22

What do you want to think your daddy for? A drone? You want to thank him for a drum? Okay. What is your favorite memory of you and your dad? We went to a berry farm water park and it was so fun. I loved it. And we went to that little pub read so fun. And what makes your daddy so special? Everything again. And it makes me so special. And it makes him so special because I love him so much. And what's something you want to say to your daddy? In this video? I love you so much, daddy. You are the best study ever. You are the best.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 34:13

Is it worth it taller? Oh, absolutely. Yep. All working long hours. All the stuff that you do to be a great dad. Is it worth it?



34:24

Yeah. 100%

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Scott Hilton (Host) 34:26

Awesome. Well, you're an inspiration again. So thanks again for coming in. I know it's hard to go back and tell your story. And sometimes people just want to leave it behind and go and not

go back and tell your story. And sometimes people just want to leave it behind and go and not get that understand it but you've you've made the sacrifice to to share your story so that you can help other people and then we're gonna help you to do that. So thanks again. That conclude this episode of that's my dad where we're inspiring fathers to be great dads and we're breaking cycles of generational fall. Homelessness. See you next week.