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TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW

P R O C E E D I N G S

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Interviewer (Q): Unknown female

Interviewer (Q1): Unknown female

Interviewee (A): J

Interviewee (A1): M

A .....just walk downtown. We would like.....

Q Go to all the events?

A You know, every -- well, not even just the events.

Every day, I would take the kids, I would toss her in her stroller and my son and his scooter and we'd, you know, go down the hill and we'd troll around downtown and then we'd come back. Sometimes we would go down into the -- walk down into the Ship Creek through that side area and.....

Q Uh-huh.

A .....yeah, that was really nice for him. You know, my son (indiscernible) every single day with the kids, so we miss that. That's.....

A1 You're much better about walking downtown than I was.

A That's the only way. It's -- I think it's a mile.

A1 It's just under a mile.

A Yeah.

A1 Super close.

A Yeah. It was nice. And it was just -- yeah, there's

1 so much -- we'd just go and explore around Ship Creek  
2 and see the trains, and you know, there's a little park  
3 down at (indiscernible - voice lowered).

4 A1 You still come downtown a lot though, don't you?

5 A I still go downtown a lot, it's just we live on 15th  
6 now, and so we're coming from a different direction.  
7 It's not nearly as friendly, fun to look at though. I  
8 mean, you don't get the ocean view. I mean, here, you  
9 get to go -- you look at the ocean, you get to see the  
10 ships, you.....

11 A1 (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

12 A .....get to see the, you know, trains. Yeah. I mean,  
13 we were -- you know, we're in Fairview. Yeah. But  
14 yeah, it's getting better in the area of Fairview.

15 A1 Fairview's (indiscernible - simultaneous speech) that's  
16 transitioning.

17 A Yeah.

18 A1 It's going to melt into downtown.

19 A Yeah.

20 A1 It's very interesting.

21 Q Well, can you guys say a bit more about that, like how  
22 have you noticed Fairview change?

23 A1 Well, I.....

24 A Fairview's always been known as being a very scary area  
25 and it's like right -- you know, right above Mountain

1 View. It's like Mountain View, Fairview.

2 A1 I moved into Anchorage from the valley -- I lived in  
3 the valley, so I've been here off and on. Lived in  
4 Fairbanks, Anchorage, Wasilla and I moved back into  
5 Anchorage, it was about 1986 and so the reputation of  
6 Fairview was you did not walk around Mountain View or  
7 Fairview after 6:00 o'clock at night.

8 Q Uh-huh.

9 A1 Period. Or you would expect to get mugged, knifed,  
10 something bad would happen to you. And then there was  
11 some -- definitely some movement underneath the Begich  
12 administration and maybe I think maybe previous to  
13 Begich, they started doing this street alignment  
14 changes. So they got really smart with traffic and  
15 figured out that we had these open traffic areas. It  
16 creates inside and access points for criminal activity  
17 and for them to get a quick getaway.

18 And they closed the main access areas and then  
19 they did this really nice landscaping and fencing and  
20 tree and everybody said why are they wasting all this  
21 money in Fairview and then they started seeing housing  
22 people coming in and making improvements on the houses  
23 and apartments.

24 A There's still areas of Fairview that are very.....

25 A1 There's still some pockets.

1 A We're -- like you know, the Central Lutheran Church --  
2 well, the Denali -- my kids go to Denali Montessori  
3 now, it's a -- pretty much, as soon as Denali turned  
4 into a Montessori thing, all of the housing around  
5 there started getting snatched up pretty fast.....

6 A1 Yeah.

7 A .....and it was people who had money and they started  
8 really -- so all the housing around that area, people  
9 kind of almost don't even think of it as being Fairview  
10 anymore, they sort of think it's south addition because  
11 it's.....

12 A1 It's.....

13 A .....the nicer older houses.

14 A1 It's like the edge of downtown.

15 A And everything has been just kind of eeking out from  
16 there up to -- and they got now the Farmer's Market at  
17 the Central Lutheran Church.....

18 A1 It's.....

19 A .....and pretty much, we're.....

20 A1 It's (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

21 A .....right behind the Mongolian Twin Dragon barbecue  
22 and we're up on the hill so we can see down to the  
23 Sullivan Arena. But we're not on the wrong side of the  
24 highway. On the other side of the highway, I mean, we  
25 are like two blocks away from the scary cars on

1 (indiscernible). The kids call it the scary cars, they  
2 know they stay next to me, we.....

3 A1 I don't go there.

4 A And we go there all the time. I actually do a majority  
5 of my shopping there, but it -- you know, we're just --  
6 you know, we're very cognizant of what's going on and  
7 there's, you know, very large homeless inebriate  
8 population around that area still. But there's  
9 definitely (indiscernible) to the Fairview area is  
10 growing, it's more of a -- because a lot people are  
11 really wanting to live a lot more near downtown.

12 A1 And I think too there's a real strong activist movement  
13 definitely.

14 A Yeah.

15 A1 Who are trying to.....

16 A Yeah, my Fairview Community Council is very aggressive.

17 A1 They're very strong, they really want to see some  
18 improvements. I know they're going through -- right  
19 now, they're trying to dedicate it as a deteriorated  
20 property along with the Gambell area to make some  
21 improvements with the businesses and housing.

22 A Well, Fairview's such a bizarre area, so like they just  
23 had that murder behind the Lucky Wishbone. That's  
24 considered Fairview property area. And so the owner of  
25 the Lucky Wishbone, she's also part of the Community

1 Council and it is -- Fairview is considered like the  
2 actual neighborhood.....

3 A1 (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

4 A .....border. It's very large and odd. And.....

5 A1 It is.

6 A But they were definitely very, very aggressive.  
7 Government Hill and the Fairview community councils,  
8 those two community councils are absolutely, bar none,  
9 the.....

10 A1 (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

11 A .....most aggressive community councils in the  
12 (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

13 A1 Well, Mountain View's pretty active too.

14 A Not as much as.....

15 A1 Fairview.

16 A Yeah. Pretty much every -- yeah. Every time I talk to  
17 a politician, they flat out know -- anybody in town  
18 they know, if it's Fairview or Government Hill  
19 community councils, they're going to be dealing with  
20 some aggressive -- you know, because they -- you know,  
21 and the people that are in Fairview, they -- you know,  
22 they really love the neighborhood and.....

23 A1 Yeah.

24 A .....they're (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

25 A1 (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech) they're really

1 vested.

2 A But they've (indiscernible - simultaneous speech) to  
3 being changed. And you can tell that the change is  
4 happening, it's slow, taking its way out, but there's  
5 definitely a -- I think I'm seeing a huge wish, need,  
6 want for people who want to live near downtown, but  
7 just what you saw that big housing development  
8 happening down at the end of Government Hill.....

9 A1 And that's (indiscernible).

10 A .....that's become very popular because, you know,  
11 you're -- Government Hill, in general, is very popular,  
12 for me anyway. I wouldn't move again unless it was --  
13 I could find a house on Government Hill, but it's  
14 almost impossible to find a house on Government Hill  
15 unless you're on the bad side of Government Hill and I  
16 don't really want to be on the bad side of Government  
17 Hill. Have you guys figured out what the bad side of  
18 Government Hill is yet?

19 Q I've never driven down to Government Hill.

20 A It's actually.....

21 A1 You'll see some.....

22 A Oh, this is the first time in the neighborhood?

23 Q Yeah.

24 A Okay, so anybody whose been around for a while knows  
25 that, if you go left, which is this side.....

1 A1 West side.

2 A This is the good side of Government Hill. If you go  
3 right, that's the bad side of Government Hill and it's  
4 a different housing development over there, it's  
5 started popping up in the 40s and 50s and it was cookie  
6 cutter suburban type houses, very small, one-car  
7 garage, you know, two -- two bedrooms, one bathroom and  
8 they were all identical. And if you look down there,  
9 you'll see that they're all painted identical.....

10 A1 Yeah.

11 A .....and just past that, there's a very large apartment  
12 -- there's two very large apartment complexes, one is  
13 massive.

14 A1 Yeah. North Point.....

15 A And it's low income housing and then the panoramic one  
16 though is owned by, I think, a slum lord personally. I  
17 think he's a slum lord. But it -- when you have that  
18 many people and that -- you haven't seen, the fire  
19 department comes up here quite a bit, which is.....

20 A1 Yeah, it's changed.

21 A Yeah.

22 Q Is it getting better?

23 A1 So we used to see -- you know, since I've been up here,  
24 there was definitely a lot of activity on the east side  
25 and you would always see police or fire engines and you

1 don't see it as much. It has definitely gone down.

2 A There's still a bizarre divide over at Government Hill  
3 Elementary now because of it. In what was it, the 90s  
4 they created -- or maybe late 80s, they created a  
5 Spanish immersion program.

6 A1 Oh gosh.

7 A It was either late 80s or early 90s, they created a  
8 Spanish immersion program over at Government Hill  
9 Elementary.

10 A1 Yeah.

11 A And so unlike the Denali Montessori where they said  
12 okay, everybody in the school regard -- you know,  
13 there's residents who live in there and then there's  
14 people who have to get in a lottery to get there,  
15 everybody is going to be in Montessori. Government  
16 Hill Elementary is different. Half of the school is  
17 Spanish immersion and the other half is just plain old  
18 normal English classes. And.....

19 A1 It was the same though as Denali.

20 A It's very.....

21 A1 Or it's (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

22 A .....different environment because it's like a have,  
23 have nots section. If you're in Spanish immersion,  
24 there's some kids from the neighborhood, they get  
25 priority that want to be there, so only parents who

1 have lived here for a very long time are usually the  
2 ones who get in because it's very hard to get in after  
3 Kindergarten or something like that. So it's really --  
4 the only people who are here permanently for a long  
5 time are the ones on this side, the more affluent side  
6 of Government Hill.

7 The people who are on the other side of Government  
8 Hill is a very transient population because it's all --  
9 you know, it's apartments, rentals, that kind of thing.  
10 And so they almost automatically go into the English  
11 only side.

12 Q Oh.

13 A And the result is, you see a lot more behavioral  
14 problems and lower test scores going on with the  
15 English only side and then you see a really massively  
16 active PTA type population, but it's almost all Spanish  
17 parents. Correct?

18 A1 And that's.....

19 A Spanish immersion parents.

20 A1 And I'll talk about the positives of Government Hill  
21 and.....

22 A It's positive.

23 A1 .....the positives of Government Hill Elementary is  
24 that, because of the Spanish base families that are  
25 there, they are very, very active with the families.

1 A Uh-huh.

2 A1 And so you'll see -- and this was the wonderful thing I  
3 loved about it, I was a working mom, so I didn't have a  
4 chance to do the reading time with my kids and go and  
5 visit them as much as possible, but I always knew that  
6 there would be Spanish grandparents always there,  
7 always hanging out and it was a very -- prior to the  
8 school district going through their steps of shutting  
9 doors down, you know, for protection, those parents  
10 would go in and out and the grandparents would go in  
11 and out and they would read to your kids, talk with  
12 your kids, so it -- there's always this kind of  
13 mentoring in the school that I saw, which I loved.

14 The -- there is a very strong Spanish population  
15 also on the east side at Government Hill and those kids  
16 do go into Government Hill even after the Kindergarten,  
17 first, second grade. So if they're coming up from  
18 Mexico, there's a (indiscernible) immersion for them to  
19 get them updated.

20 A It's a very.....

21 A1 .....to English, so.....

22 A .....successful program.

23 A1 The Spanish immersion program is very successful and  
24 it's a full immersion, so it's.....

25 A Plus they've integrated it, so the kids go from

1 Government Hill.....

2 A1 They travel to.....

3 A .....they go to Romig has the Spanish and then.....

4 A1 .....Romig to West.

5 A .....West has the finishing Spanish, so they get

6 the.....

7 A1 Right.

8 A .....whole -- all the way, if they stick with it

9 through 12th grade.

10 A1 So J kids, you did.....

11 A No, L was in -- I had -- L was in the Spanish

12 immersion program, but.....

13 A1 Up until what?

14 A When we moved, he was in fourth grade, so.....

15 A1 Fourth grade.

16 A He was in fourth grade and we decided to put him in --

17 pull him. I though had a language, which was a

18 language impairment and they were like.....

19 A1 (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

20 A .....(indiscernible - simultaneous speech) and a second

21 language (indiscernible) focus on English. And her

22 kindergarten classroom was out of control. I mean, it

23 was -- there was one day there was a kid who had ice

24 skates on, was running through the school with the ice

25 skates on. There was always something crazy going on.

1 A1 Something happens in schools all the time and then my  
2 kids, G, she went through the entire immersion  
3 for just elementary school and she elected not to  
4 continue it through Junior High and High School. And  
5 then -- and she actually did really well at it, just an  
6 awesome speaker if you (indiscernible) listen.

7 And then S, we went through Spanish immersion  
8 with him up until fourth grade and we discovered that  
9 he was having some challenges with his hyper activity,  
10 which is a bad combination for entering into an  
11 immersion -- language immersion program because -- and  
12 nobody tells you this as going in as parents, you have  
13 double the homework. Double the homework. You have  
14 double spelling words, you're learning 20 English,  
15 you're learning 20 Spanish words every week, you get  
16 tested on 40 words total. So it's the homework level  
17 of commitment. I mean, I'm sure you experienced it.

18 A Uh-huh.

19 A1 It's a huge volume.

20 A Well, that's why when we moved to -- when we moved to  
21 Fairview and we could have went to Denali Montessori, I  
22 -- my son was in fourth grade at the time and I said  
23 what do you want to do, do you want to stay or -- and  
24 he's like no, I'm done, I'm ready, let's get me out of  
25 here.

1 A1 Yeah, it's.....

2 A He was a very active (indiscernible).

3 A1 .....definitely like a commitment for the kids, but a

4 commitment for the parents.

5 A Yeah, and those parents -- the parents at Government

6 Hill Elementary were very, very committed, very, very

7 involved, very cool parents.

8 A1 Yeah.

9 A Yeah.

10 Q All right. Were there ever some like favorite like

11 sort of stories you guys have of Government Hill, like

12 something like just an urban legend or something crazy

13 happening?

14 Q1 Or even like (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

15 A1 There's lots of urban legends.

16 A The kids are convinced that the park down the street is

17 haunted. All the kids thing.....

18 A1 Are you talking about B?

19 A Yeah.

20 A1 Not B.

21 A No, no, no, the one that's really dark.

22 A1 That dips down?

23 A You can't.....

24 A1 It's (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

25 A It's very spooky dark, very -- and they -- you know,

1 and it was really funny because -- geez, what was it, I  
2 was in third grade, so let me see, (indiscernible) so  
3 Government five years ago. The one great thing about  
4 this community is our parks. We have -- you know,  
5 Government Hill has way more parks than any other  
6 community in town, but on top of it, the residents all  
7 commit to getting together multiple times during the  
8 summer and cleaning up.

9 And so five years ago, they had decided they were  
10 going to do this one park down and it's on the other  
11 side -- it's not -- it's way down on the end.

12 A1 It's on the bluff and.....

13 A And there's Browns Point Park.....

14 A1 .....I can't think of the name of it.

15 A .....on the end and then there's weird little dark --  
16 and it's so creepy actually when you look at it because  
17 it's very dark, it dips down and the trees kind of  
18 cover it and they decided they were going to make a  
19 skate park out of it. And so get all the residents  
20 together, let's clean it up and we did, we jumped in  
21 there, B -- and L was scared to death and that  
22 was the first time we had heard him say like mom,  
23 that's haunted, everybody knows that that is a haunted  
24 -- the kids are all convinced that that is a haunted  
25 area. That's (indiscernible).

1 A1 So one of the urban legends, I'll tell you a couple.  
2 Q Oh, maybe the basement guy?  
3 A1 Yeah. So there's this urban legend that somebody has  
4 dug a tunnel.  
5 A I can tell you exactly which house it is. You go down  
6 the.....  
7 A1 In Government Hill.  
8 A Yeah, if you go down the street and it's -- he's  
9 probably -- I want to say four or five from the very  
10 end. It's the only house that's like really up close  
11 to the street and like their driveway, it's like they  
12 have a driveway that comes right around the thing.....  
13 A1 On (indiscernible) house.  
14 A .....but it's really close.  
15 A1 Yeah.  
16 A So the story goes is that they got a basement and he  
17 won't let anybody down into the basement. And  
18 everybody is absolutely convinced except -- was it  
19 Brennan that did it, Tom Brennan was.....  
20 A1 I don't know.  
21 A Somebody went down into his basement and they're like  
22 man, this is really large, like there's no windows.  
23 This is way, way, way larger than a normal basement,  
24 and so everybody pretty much believes that he has dug  
25 under the.....

1 A1 A tunnel.

2 A .....street and that he's got a basement essentially

3 under the street.

4 A1 Okay, that's an urban legend.

5 A Everybody's convinced of that. And then remember when

6 they opened up Browns Point Cottages?

7 A1 Okay, I have.....

8 A That was creepy.

9 A1 Okay, I'll have to tell you about that one. I don't

10 know if it's urban legend, but.....

11 A You know where the Browns Point Cottages are?

12 A1 (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

13 A Wait, it's.....

14 A1 Yeah. We have two historic houses just down the road

15 and they're called Browns Point.

16 A Yeah, they're at the very, very end of (indiscernible -

17 simultaneous speech).

18 A1 They're owned by the city of Anchorage.

19 A Yeah. They're identical.

20 A1 (Indiscernible) they rent them out. They refurbished

21 them through the Anchorage Historic.

22 A Yeah, they were built in the 1940s. For World War II,

23 they were an outpost and the -- whoever the commander

24 was in charge, he stayed there with his wife and there

25 was all kinds of guys that were in World War II and

1           they were kind of lookouts, that's.....

2       A1     They were lookout because (indiscernible - simultaneous

3           speech).

4       A     And the guy's name was B.....

5       A1     .....from the Japanese, Alaska was.

6       A     Right.

7       A1     And so when they did their big opening, it was a huge

8           deal in our community. We did a historic walk in the

9           entire west side of Government Hill. We did this big

10          barbecue potluck at Susan Nightingale Park.

11       A     Yeah.

12       A1     And so I said.....

13       A     Oh, wasn't that part of the -- we were trying to do the

14          90th celebration?

15       A1     Yeah.

16       A     That was the 90th celebration.

17       A1     It was the -- it was like the 90th celebration, we

18          opened up Browns Point, it was.....

19       A     Yeah.

20       A1     .....actually kind of cool.

21       Q1     Bouncy house?

22       A1     Yeah. We just had a lot of fun and so I wanted to go

23          see Browns Point Cottages because they had.....

24       A     (Indiscernible - voice lowered).

25       A1     Yeah, so I got a chance then -- I got in the house, it

1 was a beautiful -- it's beautiful.

2 A Uh-huh.

3 A1 Then I went into the basement and I got down in the  
4 basement and I don't know what.....

5 A It was creepy. I'm not even -- yeah. It just.....

6 A1 There's some kind of.....

7 A It was all clean. It was.....

8 A1 .....spooky -- something going on down there.

9 A .....beautifully painted, it was just.....

10 A1 And I just.....

11 A .....a weird vibe when you went downstairs.

12 A1 .....felt like I was being watched and I was with  
13 people and I think I was with you and I.....

14 A Several of us were I think.

15 A1 .....said I need to get out of here. And I actually  
16 got out of there. It's -- something was not right and  
17 then I find out -- didn't -- does somebody die there?

18 A Yeah.

19 A1 Somebody died there.....

20 A Yeah, I think they had said one of the.....

21 A1 One of the military.....

22 A .....guys -- I don't know what the story was, but.....

23 A1 So I found out after.....

24 A (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

25 A1 After I had gone down to that basement and it was just

1 -- I won't go back in there, the house. It's  
2 (indiscernible - laughing) I don't know why. It's a  
3 beautiful house, the windows are gorgeous and it's got  
4 a beautiful view of the -- you know, every -- you know,  
5 it's funny that up here in Government Hill, everybody  
6 says well, why do you want to be in Government Hill,  
7 you're overlooking the railroad, you're overlooking the  
8 industry, the industrial port, but we see it -- I like  
9 it. I like seeing the water, I like seeing the  
10 activity.

11 A I could get over seeing the gas -- the big gas thingys.

12 A1 The big white tanks.

13 A The big white tanks that were here.

14 A1 But actually, it's.....

15 A It's kind of fun to, you know, get woken up in the  
16 morning to the train very loudly.

17 A1 You hear it clanging because they connect.

18 A Oh no, they do the (makes sound) because they're coming  
19 (indiscernible).

20 A1 Yeah. And during the winter is the worst.

21 A And if you go down to the other end, North Point, and  
22 you stand on that bluff, it's absolutely, bar none, the  
23 best view of Merrill Field. You've got the whole  
24 panoramic of the railroad, but on the other side of  
25 it.....

1 A1 It's gorgeous and the Chugach Range.

2 A I mean, you can see the planes landing, the planes  
3 taking off.

4 A1 And you can see the Chugach Range.

5 A It's pretty cool.

6 A1 It's like you see.....

7 A Yeah, you've got all of that too and then you've got,  
8 you know, the water and yeah, we've got our port and  
9 sometimes they stack the containers a little higher and  
10 it blocks off the water, but you know, I mean, it's a  
11 quirky community, I like it a lot. There's also the --  
12 I had never been into it and I would love to get into  
13 that building. It's about halfway down this way and  
14 it's where the old AT&T -- not AT&T (indiscernible)  
15 now, but Government Hill.....

16 A1 You're talking about the.....

17 A .....used to be the only point of communication  
18 for.....

19 A1 You're talking about the wireless?

20 A .....the city. The wireless building.

21 A1 Yeah.

22 A So the.....

23 A1 We have some historic houses up here.

24 A Well, this was a wireless building, it was for all  
25 communication. Somebody needed to communicate off the

1 hill, that's where they did it and that's the reason  
2 why AT&T has their building here is because the  
3 wireless was already set up right there and so it was  
4 like yeah, they just went down the street a little bit  
5 and it continued doing -- you know, I mean, that was --  
6 if that AT&T building went down, that's the point of  
7 all wireless communication for Alaska, isn't it? Yeah.  
8 A1 Yeah. And we have.....  
9 A Yeah, that's pretty much.....  
10 A1 When you visit, we've got -- when we did the historic  
11 tour, you can see the Quonset huts.  
12 A Oh, the Quonset huts are great.  
13 A1 And people live in them.  
14 A Uh-huh. I think we've got the -- I want to say we have  
15 the only Quon -- there's Quonset huts all over the  
16 place, but I think we've got the only ones that are  
17 actually being currently -- people lived in.  
18 A1 Living in them and they like them.  
19 A Yeah. Currently lived in. And yeah. Yeah, there's  
20 really cool old houses, the original houses and.....  
21 A1 And the other thing is -- and you -- I just posted  
22 about this. Government Hill, the east side has got a  
23 very active gardening community.  
24 A Oh yeah.  
25 A1 Near Panoramic, so.....

1 A Chinese -- they call it the Chinese -- Korean Gardens,  
2 correct?

3 A1 Korean Gardens.

4 A Korean Gardens and the reason why they call it the  
5 Korean Gardens is because the majority of the people  
6 living down there that are running these farms are the  
7 Koreans that are living down there and I don't  
8 understand how they get the stuff to grow. It's just  
9 like amazing to me. It smells like crap though.

10 A1 But they're amazing.....

11 A I'm pretty sure that's what (indiscernible -  
12 simultaneous speech) manure.

13 A1 They're amazing gardeners though. But this year.....

14 A They get like two and sometimes three, you know, crops  
15 out of what they do down there, it's crazy.

16 A1 I don't know how many crops -- how they do that many  
17 crops (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

18 A Do you remember that one time we were going down there  
19 and they were like roasting some kind of animal?

20 A1 Oh (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

21 A In the front yard, that was (indiscernible -  
22 simultaneous speech).

23 A1 (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech). So  
24 (indiscernible - simultaneous speech) that story. But  
25 what they just did was this summer, this spring, they

1 built new garden boxes for that community.

2 Q Uh-huh.

3 A1 And so they replaced what they were built -- what they  
4 were doing was straight up on the ground and then they  
5 got.....

6 A What they did is they tore up the grass in between the  
7 sidewalk to the.....

8 A1 To the street.

9 A You know there's that strip of grass?

10 A1 Yes.

11 A They were just like tear it up, we're going to use  
12 that.

13 A1 And they had little makeshift kind of little  
14 greenhouses that were close to the.....

15 A Uh-huh.

16 A1 .....ground and -- but they built these beautiful high  
17 wood boxes for them and they're all full right now and  
18 they -- I think they may have already done a crop  
19 because it.....

20 Q Sure.

21 A1 .....was -- most of it was low growth, so I'm sure  
22 they've already pulled and now they're regrowing  
23 another thing. But the funny thing -- so one of the --  
24 here's a quirky story about that community. So every  
25 once in a while, and you don't see this much anymore.

1 You would see from that side of the hill, they would  
2 come over here and they would be picking off of Harvard  
3 Park beans and we couldn't figure out what they were  
4 doing and so then I was doing -- I work for an agency  
5 that does that development project right now for North  
6 Point Bluff and I -- every -- I got up there once a  
7 week, kind of just double checking, making sure the  
8 houses were okay and sidewalks and the land and  
9 everything.

10 And then one day, the community on that east side  
11 had done their picking of their garden and they had put  
12 together this big butane heater on the sidewalk at  
13 North Point Bluff. It was lit and then they had a big,  
14 probably 50-gallon pot and it was boiling. And on the  
15 sidewalk, it covered, I would say, easily two blocks of  
16 sidewalk and they had laid own their beans on the  
17 sidewalk.

18 And I call up my boss and I said oh my God, our  
19 community's using North Point Bluff as their drying  
20 area. So we -- and they did that -- I saw it two times  
21 in the year and I haven't seen them do that in some  
22 time. So maybe somebody said oh, you shouldn't be  
23 using the big butane (indiscernible - simultaneous  
24 speech).

25 A Yeah, several times a year, we've had the fire

1 department comes up and it's specifically because of a  
2 kitchen fire down there and it's usually because  
3 they're cooking something that's bizarre that's out of  
4 control in the apartment and -- yeah. And so most of  
5 the older residents in town are still very pissed off.  
6 Was it Begich who got rid of the fire department up  
7 here, I think. One of the Mayors.

8 A1 I think it was him.

9 A There was -- we used to have our own fire department up  
10 here and the residents still -- like you'll still go to  
11 a Government Hill Community Council meeting and it'll  
12 still come up. Somebody's been around for a while,  
13 still just -- if we only had that fire department  
14 around.

15 A1 We -- they do fine. They've got a fire station number  
16 1 right down the road and.....

17 A Yeah, I know.

18 A1 .....their response is, I think, three minutes. Three  
19 or five minutes.

20 A Yeah.

21 A1 So they -- they're.....

22 A It's just funny though because they -- you know, the  
23 older residents in town.....

24 A1 I -- older residents kind of get stuck in ruts.

25 A There's certain things they can't let go of. The fact

1 that the fire department was taken away, they're still  
2 pissed off over the 9/11 taking away of that gate.

3 A1 Okay. I'm a little upset about that.

4 A It is. It's very dangerous if you think about it.

5 A1 So 9/11, how it impacted our community when I was up  
6 here, we always had -- prior to 9/11, we always had two  
7 ways to get out, so we had the bridge and if the bridge  
8 got shut down, we had the back side of the port go  
9 around. We could go down into Ship Creek and go  
10 around. We could get up on the back side of Government  
11 Hill.

12 A It's towards Susan Nightingale Park.

13 A1 Yeah. So there's been a couple times where the bridge  
14 actually got shut down and usually it was during an  
15 emergency situation. I had my kids, most of the kids  
16 up here in Government Hill, they go to Hillcrest  
17 Children Center, so everybody kind of (indiscernible -  
18 simultaneous speech).

19 A (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

20 A1 They go from Hillcrest where my kids went.....

21 A Uh-huh.

22 A1 .....they go to Government Hill Elementary and then  
23 they go to Junior -- you know, Romig and West or  
24 Central. And so all the kids kind of get to know each  
25 other and so you'd get a call from Hillcrest and -- all

1 parents would and most of them are downtown business  
2 people like myself and we get a call, you need to come  
3 pick up your kids, we got an emergency situation and  
4 we're moving all the kids to the Lighthouse because our  
5 Lighthouse Church over here is.....

6 Q Uh-huh.

7 A Emergency shelter.

8 A1 .....emergency shelter. And I said okay, so I tried to  
9 get off to the bridge and you couldn't, and so my kids  
10 would be up here with no way. And so more than likely,  
11 I would just -- I would start walking it to get to my  
12 kids so I get them to the house and leave my car  
13 downtown.

14 But so that happened where I would actually have  
15 to walk when they shut it down. Before you wouldn't  
16 have to, so if the bridge got -- if there was a major  
17 accident or if there was -- and another thing that  
18 impacts Government Hill pretty hugely is that, if there  
19 is an emergency with the base, they do this call and  
20 then all of a sudden, everybody starts flooding that  
21 lives on the housing, they are told to come onto base.  
22 So that's happened to us too, you can't get on the hill  
23 at all.

24 And so we always had that second choice and then  
25 the dilemma with it was the city, of course, says well,

1 if you get in that situation, just call us.

2 Q Call.....

3 A1 So they.....

4 A They'd give you the (indiscernible - simultaneous  
5 speech).

6 A1 (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech). They do have  
7 those emergency numbers, I have them and so when we  
8 call, nobody answers, you have to leave a message.  
9 (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

10 A Yeah (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

11 A1 It's just a big (indiscernible - simultaneous speech),  
12 you know, and so it is sort of a sore point for our  
13 community is that it -- we can't -- there's -- we have  
14 trouble getting on and off Government Hill if there's  
15 an emergency.

16 Q So.....

17 A1 Which is kind of ironic with the whole Knik Arm Bridge.  
18 The folks complain about if the Glenn shuts down, so a  
19 bridge that's (indiscernible) you know, you're going to  
20 -- it's a double edged sword really. So there's  
21 moments where it's happened. I mean, legitimately and  
22 more -- and most of the time, it's during the winter if  
23 there's a major acci -- you know, there's accidents on  
24 the bridge unfortunately. There's some really icy  
25 corner areas that, if people aren't experienced on how

1 to drive that bend, you know, you come down, there's a  
2 bend. Everybody knows on the hill, you hit it on snow  
3 or ice days, you go 30 miles an hour and you go 25 to  
4 30 or you're going to lose control of your vehicle and  
5 you're going to have a major accident.

6 And everybody knows that and then when we got  
7 those people that aren't experienced that hit that,  
8 they're the ones that get hit. They're the ones that  
9 get in an accident unfortunately, so it shuts us down.  
10 So it happens.

11 Q So that major road was shut down in response to the  
12 9/11?

13 A Yeah, specifically, they -- if you go -- when you see  
14 it.....

15 A1 You'll see it (indiscernible - simultaneous  
16 speech).....

17 A Huge gate and it's always funny because it's right next  
18 to Susan Nightingale Park and my kids don't even know  
19 it's called that, by the way. My kids call it Fox  
20 Park.

21 A1 We call it Fox Park.

22 A We call it Fox Park because there's a family of fox  
23 that have been there for forever and they'll peek in  
24 and you'll get to see them, so the kids are always  
25 constantly like trying to go down the hill where the

1 fence is and down into that area and we'll get funny  
2 looks like what the hell you think you're doing.

3 A1 Yeah, it's.....

4 A And yeah, they don't like you getting anywhere -- any  
5 -- near the fence, the gate, anything. They're very,  
6 very protective of that area.

7 A1 Yeah, they do and that's the other nice.....

8 A Uh-huh.

9 A1 I guess the other funny thing about Government Hill is  
10 that the community has built these pretty strong  
11 relationships with our business partners.

12 Q Uh-huh.

13 A1 So we've got the Port, we've got the Alaska Railroad,  
14 we have.....

15 A AT&T.

16 A1 .....AT&T are two really, really strong business  
17 partners though. It been the Port and the Alaska  
18 Railroad.

19 Q Uh-huh.

20 A1 And they have, for many, many years, since -- as long  
21 as I've been on the community council, they have always  
22 had somebody attend our community council meetings.

23 Q Uh-huh.

24 A1 They've been -- we have our own representatives that go  
25 to meetings. They -- it's -- and they're -- they

1 listen to us, they help us and they appreciate for the  
2 neighbors, they're kind of watching over the Port area.  
3 If they notice something funny or if we know something  
4 on the railroad, we know who to call. Like there was a  
5 broken fence, you know, and we said hey, you know, you  
6 might have some problems with some vagrants going into  
7 the railroad property, you got a fence down. So they  
8 got on it right away and got it fixed.

9 So it's kind of nice. They appreciate us,  
10 sometimes that we can be a little bit of.....

11 A Well, they've got a very strong relationship with  
12 Government Hill since -- I think it was the 40s. If  
13 you go down there, you'll see there's several what  
14 looks like duplexes, nice old duplexes.

15 A1 Railroad houses.

16 A Those are all railroad housing, so -- and they would  
17 have.....

18 A1 There's a lot of railroad property up.....

19 A .....for the people.....

20 A1 .....here.

21 A They would bring their people in here and so this -- a  
22 lot of those have been sold. That subway that was  
23 right there, that used to be.....

24 A1 That's railroad -- that is railroad.....

25 A .....railroad property.

1 A1 .....property.  
2 A Oh, that's -- they did.....  
3 A1 Subway's leasing it.  
4 A They're sub leasing it.  
5 A1 Tesoro property, that's railroad property.  
6 A Yeah, so they've got a very strong relationship with  
7 Government Hill and so yeah, it's always been positive  
8 pretty much. I've got a friend -- I wish you guys  
9 could meet Mrs. E. She is so great. She's 96?  
10 A1 Oh (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).  
11 A (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech).  
12 A1 Close to (indiscernible) F house?  
13 A Yeah.  
14 A1 A?  
15 A Yeah, yeah. So she lives.....  
16 A1 I think she's (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).  
17 A .....right next door to where -- yeah, she is.  
18 A1 Yeah.  
19 A She lives right next door to where Lisa Murkowski used  
20 to live.  
21 A1 Yeah.  
22 A Lisa Murkowski had the house that's right across from  
23 Sunset Park.  
24 A1 Sunset Park.  
25 A Which I don't know if you guys have seen Sunset Park.

1           Sunset Park is where Government Hill Elementary used to  
2           be and when the '64 or.....

3           A1       (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

4           A       .....the Good Friday earthquake happened, that's why  
5           that park -- the kids -- that's (indiscernible) in  
6           town, by far. So you go and it's a huge dip because  
7           the.....

8           A1       It dropped.

9           A       Yeah, it literally cut the entire (indiscernible) in  
10          half.

11          A1       It's cut in half. The elementary in half, yeah.

12          A       And she's still living there and she's been living  
13          there since the 40s. Her husband was a railroad  
14          employee.

15          A1       Yeah.

16          A       He actually ended up -- she's got so many stories about  
17          Government Hill. Her husband actually built an  
18          airplane in the back yard and tried to take it off  
19          somewhere here in Government Hill.

20          A1       I didn't know that.

21          A       She.....

22          A1       That's a great story.

23          A       She's a funny lady, but -- so she, of course, was here  
24          during the '64 earthquake and my best friend, M,  
25          her daughter, her only surviving daughter. She had

1 three daughters and the two oldest ones, before they  
2 knew that aspirin -- that C (indiscernible) were  
3 allergic to aspirin, both of them died as a result of  
4 -- I don't remember the.....

5 A1 The poisoning?

6 A Yes.

7 A1 Oh wow.

8 A M almost died too, and by that time, she was  
9 older and they had kind of figured out that aspirin was  
10 an issue. But so she's got just the one surviving  
11 daughter and she's up here living by herself, 96 years  
12 old, still living in the exact same house that she --  
13 since the 40s and the railroad bought her up and she's  
14 just got so many stories. She remembers the Good  
15 Friday earthquake, but M -- a story, so she was  
16 four years old when it happened. Online, there's a --  
17 somebody did like a website like we remember the  
18 earthquake or something. And so there's earthquake  
19 survivor.....

20 A1 Anchorage Museum.

21 A .....story.

22 A1 That was Anchorage Museum I think.

23 A I think they might have done that, so she's.....

24 A1 Yeah.

25 A .....got a story in there because her older sister was

1 in the house when it happened and her mom and dad and  
2 her were downtown and so they -- the car was going all  
3 over the place and they were worried about getting back  
4 to the sister and so their house is here, Lisa  
5 Murkowski's old house is here. This is where the --  
6 you know, Sunset Park coming in this -- it split right  
7 in half and went down into the -- have you guys seen  
8 the pictures?

9 Q I've seen a lot of them. I remember when the museum  
10 did the whole spiel on the earthquake, and so.....

11 A Uh-huh.

12 Q .....I saw a lot of the pictures of just the slump  
13 rocks that have rolled off into the ocean.

14 A Yeah.

15 Q Yeah. And just the houses left and split in half.

16 A Uh-huh. And so yeah, Government Hill got completely  
17 destroyed and so she just remembers all of that, that  
18 shaking and things going out of control.

19 A1 And they still have -- we still have old Government  
20 Hill Elementary School teachers from the old school  
21 that live up here, which is kind of neat.

22 A Uh-huh, yeah.

23 A1 So the other thing about -- and I think this is  
24 probably normal for any community. Government Hill  
25 really watches out for the elderly. She's.....

1 A Yeah, you don't see that -- I think that's one of the  
2 things I like about Government Hill is.....

3 A1 We -- I don't know if it's because we worry about them  
4 or -- but we're kind of watching out for them.

5 A Government Hill is, bar none, out of all the  
6 communities I've seen around town, other than the one  
7 where they've got that Halloween thing where they shut  
8 down the street, I can't remember what community that's  
9 in, but Government Hill is definitely -- knows who  
10 their residents are.....

11 A1 (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

12 A .....and you know your neighbors and actually watch out  
13 for each other.

14 A1 Yeah.

15 A People are on an email chain, they've got a Facebook  
16 group, which is kind of funny because you've got these  
17 older residents who are in their 70s who are like oh,  
18 Facebook, aren't they (indiscernible) you know, and so  
19 they're posting pictures and like what was it, a week  
20 ago, there was -- yet again, there's almost constantly  
21 brown bears -- or black bears up here.

22 A1 Black bears.

23 A So there's a black bear just down the street.....

24 A1 Or cubs.

25 A Was that what's her names house with the purple

1 (indiscernible)?

2 A1 (Indiscernible).

3 A B? Yeah, B's been up on the hill for forever

4 and she's got a really cool.....

5 A1 She.....

6 A .....old house. She's got the original tar paper.

7 A1 (Indiscernible) Bobbi might be a good person to talk

8 to.

9 A B knows everything. She's amazing.

10 Q Does she work for the Anchorage Museum?

11 A I think she might do a little bit, but she works mostly

12 for Artique (ph).

13 Q Okay.

14 A But I think she has a little.....

15 A1 (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech) person to talk

16 to.

17 Q Uh-huh.

18 A1 She's got great stories.

19 A Historical knowledge, yeah.

20 A1 Right, historical knowledge.

21 A She was raising her grandsons up here, but she had like

22 a black bear and four cubs and.....

23 A1 Playing in her yard and it's a purple house you can't

24 miss it when you go down the street.

25 A It's funny though, you see like the -- you know, it

1 used to be like we'd just knock on each other's doors  
2 and then Facebook and internet and now you see, you  
3 know, older community members, you know, keeping track  
4 of each other. So and so's sick, everybody goes to the  
5 hospital, so and so lost her husband -- M,  
6 everybody's doing a great job taking care of M  
7 since her husband died.

8 A1 Yeah, M (indiscernible - voice lowered).

9 A And he had cancer for the longest time. Everybody  
10 would check in on them and it's just -- yeah, it's a  
11 community -- it's a community like what you would --  
12 you know, you think of as a -- where, you know, a good  
13 place where you'd want to raise your kids where they  
14 feel safe.

15 A1 And what's unique about Government Hill too is that you  
16 can walk the streets, east and west side.....

17 A Uh-huh. Even what you would consider the bad side, I  
18 wouldn't hesitate to walk through.

19 A1 You can walk in the middle of the night with no fear  
20 that something bad will happen to you.

21 A Other than a bear.

22 A1 Other than a bear. Good point.

23 A Be careful when there's a bear. You know, and the nice  
24 thing is like my kids, like they'll be taking a walk,  
25 my daughter would be taking a walk down the street and

1 one of the neighbors would stop, they would stop and  
2 pull over. This would never happen in another  
3 neighborhood, pull over and go, sweetie, be careful, I  
4 just a saw bear four houses back, you might want to  
5 turn around and go back. Like another place, they  
6 wouldn't have cared less.

7 A1 And if you do this, if you walk Government Hill, you're  
8 going to notice -- this is what I love about it.  
9 Because we don't have a lot of sidewalks on the west  
10 side, we do on the east side, but not on the west side  
11 because it's the (indiscernible).

12 A (Indiscernible).

13 A1 So a lot of people just walk in the middle of the  
14 street. And -- but what I notice is that you'll notice  
15 that a lot of people who drive past you will just wave  
16 at you.

17 Q Uh-huh.

18 A1 And you'll wave back, and I mean, that's like -- to me,  
19 that's like -- you know, I came from -- also lived in a  
20 very small city down in Wyoming where it was a town of  
21 6000 and everybody knew everybody. So it was very  
22 normal for people to say hi to you and things like that  
23 and that's what it's like up here in Government Hill is  
24 that I feel like even -- it's wonderful to be close to  
25 downtown Anchorage, but I feel like this is like our

1 small little neighborhood community.

2 A It really is. The rest of the community -- the rest of  
3 Anchorage kind of views Government Hill -- if they even  
4 know about Government Hill, first of all, because most  
5 people get across the bridge and they're like oh crap,  
6 there's a sign saying Port, there's a sign saying  
7 military base.

8 A1 They don't know how in the world to get up here.

9 A Oh shit. That's what? And then they try to figure out  
10 how to turn around and they're like where in the world  
11 is this going and you don't know, all you can see is  
12 woods. And so a lot of people view it as like.....

13 A1 The (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

14 A .....they don't know what it is, they have no idea that  
15 there is a neighborhood up here and so it's almost like  
16 it's own little island tiny town going on, and you  
17 know, the people who do know about it know enough to  
18 realize if -- and it's very hard to get a house up on  
19 Government Hill. When a house goes for sale, first of  
20 all, everybody knows each other, so they tell someone  
21 they know first because they want to get somebody in  
22 the neighborhood that they actually like as opposed to  
23 not. And so, you know, it's just really difficult to  
24 find a house up here, very, very difficult.

25 A1 It is. And everybody does know everybody and including

1 -- and maybe I'm probably one of the worst ones that --  
2 our commercial area. We know -- everybody knows the  
3 owners, we know them by their first name, we know  
4 they're.....

5 A People don't think about it. I mean, they.....

6 A1 They know their.....

7 A That is the first (indiscernible - simultaneous  
8 speech).

9 A1 (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech). We know their  
10 personal business and.....

11 A Yeah, and nobody wants to go to the -- it is the first  
12 strip mall in Anchorage.

13 A1 It is the first strip mall in Anchorage.....

14 A Literally.

15 A1 .....which is hilarious.

16 A Government Hill is literally the first neighborhood in  
17 Anchorage.

18 A1 They have a -- there's a Sears up here and.....

19 A Uh-huh.

20 A1 .....there's a whole bunch of different little shops up  
21 here.

22 A Yeah.

23 A1 But I'm personally very supportive of all the  
24 businesses. I can do any business up here first. I'll  
25 pick these stores first.

1 A I miss China Town.

2 A1 I know.

3 A That's the thing I miss the most is China Town. If

4 you've ever -- I don't know if you guys like Chinese

5 food, but make a point of coming to China Town. When

6 you come inside the interior, it's like -- they

7 literally bus the China Airlines people to China Town

8 because they've got the most authentic Chinese food.

9 They have two menus. They have your American menu.....

10 A1 Uh-huh.

11 A .....and then you can ask for the other menu, which

12 you're not going to be able to read, but it's got

13 pictures. If you really want to go to super authentic,

14 but God, their food is so good. And you know, we've

15 been off the hill for five years and it doesn't matter

16 how many times I walk in there, they're like oh, how

17 you doing, you still working at the University and I'm

18 like I graduated now, thank you. (Indiscernible).

19 A1 (Indiscernible).

20 A I've been coming there since I was pregnant with L.

21 L knows them, they love it when L comes in

22 there because.....

23 A1 And.....

24 A .....she's been coming in there since she was a baby.

25 A1 Yeah, and we know the -- I know the owner of the

1 (indiscernible).

2 A (Indiscernible). Uh-huh.

3 A1 And the -- her name is K, she's wonderful.

4 A And W Framing, how long has he been up, since the

5 50s?

6 A1 Oh, forever and I take all.....

7 A 60s or something?

8 A1 .....my business over there and I take all my alter --

9 you know, if I have to alter clothing, to L

10 and.....

11 A Uh-huh.

12 A1 .....and I know H at the liquor store, you know, so

13 it's -- the people here are.....

14 A It's a very eclectic unusual community and everybody

15 feels very community minded here, much more so.....

16 A1 They do have (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

17 A .....then most communities that you see.

18 A1 They do and we've got (indiscernible) that just

19 (indiscernible).

20 A (Indiscernible) bakery thing?

21 A1 Yeah. And the new coffee shop, but it's family

22 oriented where they want kids and moms and dads to come

23 in with their children and hang out.

24 Q (Indiscernible) on channel 2 for Alaska Bites or

25 whatever.

1 A Was it? (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech).  
2 Q (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech).  
3 A1 That sounds really familiar because.....  
4 A Oh, I'll have to check it out.  
5 Q Because it was a really big deal because everybody was  
6 bringing their kids in and the kids were like playing.  
7 A1 Okay, then that might be Busy Beans.  
8 Q Yeah. Yeah.  
9 A And it's a bakery?  
10 A1 It's -- no, she -- well, she doesn't do bakery, she  
11 does -- it's a coffee shop and she sells bakery items  
12 and she sells -- she does sandwiches and whatnot, but  
13 yeah, I wish a bakery would come up here. Oh my gosh,  
14 we would love it. The community up here would.  
15 Q Uh-huh.  
16 A1 We would be all over it.  
17 A Yeah.  
18 A1 Supporting it.  
19 Q Dying for another Fire Island Bakery.....  
20 A1 Oh.  
21 Q .....type thing to come up here.  
22 A1 The community up here would just go gang busters all  
23 over it and I'm sure -- and then the Elmendorf folks,  
24 I'm sure, would be coming to.....  
25 A The base is really, really good about supporting the

1 businesses here in town.

2 A1 Yeah, we've got an active -- right now, Government  
3 Hill's in the middle of doing a neighborhood plan. We  
4 get our neighborhood plan and we put it together in  
5 front of PNC and now we're working on doing the  
6 finishing product of it and.....

7 A I'm glad to hear that that's getting finalized because  
8 when I was on the community council, and we started the  
9 committee there and I had so many meetings with the  
10 various -- the committee and oh my God, I mean, it was  
11 just fights over whether we're going to regulate people  
12 getting fences or not having fences.

13 A1 And what we did was.....

14 A I mean (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

15 A1 .....we virtually got some -- this was the -- you know,  
16 the tip of the devil's sword, but (indiscernible)  
17 measurement of helping the community was they had to  
18 bring in somebody to pay for a neighborhood plan. And  
19 we kept -- the budget was really low, but we brought in  
20 a lot of volunteers and we've gotten a great person  
21 from the city of Anchorage, her name is J, she works  
22 in the south addition downtown and she was a wonderful  
23 advocate and also mediating the folks together.

24 But we also got the Air Force, they got two people  
25 from them who have really been participating because

1 they're very interested in how we're trying to lay this  
2 out. And it's been a positive process even though it's  
3 been a bit of a -- a little bit of a downer because we  
4 have to include what happens if the bridge comes in.  
5 A Well, the bridge has definitely taken a major toll on  
6 the community. I mean, everybody's definitely gotten  
7 together and done really good to try to fight it, but  
8 it's taken it's toll on people and I think the only  
9 thing that I would say that's good about it is -- well,  
10 they own the house right next door. At one point, this  
11 house had a big (indiscernible) on it, they were going  
12 to cut us out. They're like no, no, no, we're going to  
13 cut the house next door to you and we're just going to  
14 do pile driving every six months, you guys will be fine  
15 and I'm like what? Well, no worries, we'll get you a  
16 hotel for six months. A hotel for six months, are you  
17 kidding me?  
18 Q (Indiscernible).  
19 A So they bought this house and it's just sitting there  
20 empty and vacant, but the good thing is, the place next  
21 to it, which is that red hotel that used to be just the  
22 worst flop house of all kinds of craziness going on in  
23 the room and they've taken that over and that's  
24 completely vacant now.  
25 A1 Yeah, and that just -- which is so unfortunate because,

1 you know, since I've been living on the hill, you know,  
2 for the 16 years, I've seen different ownership of that  
3 place and when I did first come into the -- up into  
4 Government Hill, there was definitely some issues with  
5 the owner and some prostitution that was being brought  
6 into the place. Then they got a new owner and the new  
7 owner was wonderful. So she started bringing in the  
8 new people from the military who couldn't find housing,  
9 so there was military families coming in and then every  
10 year, we would have this nursing -- summer nurses that  
11 would come up from the lower 48, they would stay at the  
12 hotel, they would bring their dogs. Everybody in the  
13 community got to know them because, of course, we're  
14 very dog friendly here in Government Hill.

15 So everybody got to know the nurses every summer  
16 and then they would return -- that's probably B  
17 trying to get in the house.

18 A It's actually W.

19 A1 Oh, is that W?

20 ? I can't get it.

21 A Is it B trying to get in or out?

22 ? Yeah.

23 A1 So and then that woman sold the place to the last owner  
24 and then we ran into a lot of problems with the  
25 clientele that was staying there. A lot of criminal

1 activity, police were visiting.....

2 A It was constantly, somebody abusing somebody else.

3 A1 Two to three times a day, so the community was kind of  
4 -- at that point, Government Hill was glad to see that  
5 the folks pulled out of there, but I still have  
6 heartburn over it because I know there's a housing  
7 shortage in Anchorage. Those are efficiency units.....

8 A Yeah.

9 A1 We've got maybe under -- just under 50 efficiencies  
10 that could be a perfect -- for a single person or a  
11 couple who are just starting and it would be a great  
12 place for them to live, and unfortunately, it's closed.  
13 And I just -- it's -- I think it's unfortunate.

14 A Yeah. I'm glad that they don't have anymore  
15 prostitution and abuse and drug usage going on.

16 A1 Yeah.

17 A The other bad thing that was going on was when the city  
18 decided that they were going to clear out the homeless  
19 population out of the whole -- near the Bean's Café  
20 area when they did this whole cleanse thing. And the  
21 result was, is the homeless went somewhere else.

22 A1 They moved.

23 A And so there were some that came up here and they had  
24 not one, but two different -- a rape and an attempted  
25 rape in this greenbelt here that they had a lot of

1 homeless coming up into this area. One was a homeless  
2 man where he beat a homeless woman in those woods and  
3 then there was one of our residents who was just out  
4 jogging, a homeless guy like just literally just  
5 bizarre, barely ever happens, that kind of thing, like  
6 just grabbed her and tried -- like literally was going  
7 to try and rape her, and thankfully, she kicked the  
8 crap out of him from what I hear.

9 A1 So our community council, of course because we're very  
10 focused on the safety of our neighborhood, we got  
11 fairly aggressive on trying to do a cleanup.

12 A Uh-huh.

13 A1 And we -- fortunately, at the time, the city then had  
14 appointed some great police support in trying to get  
15 the homeless population out of the community and that  
16 lasted one summer.

17 A Yeah. It was like literally one summer and the  
18 community.....

19 A1 It was just one summer.

20 A .....rallied and went that's not happening.

21 A1 And we watch out for, you know -- because we take such  
22 a honor ship of our parks and our greenbelt, we got  
23 people actively walking and reporting. Government  
24 Hill, we have an active neighbor application, it's kind  
25 of a watchdog and some of the communities in Anchorage

1 have -- are using it and I know Government Hill's  
2 active in it, Rogers Park is active in it, I think  
3 there's a Hillside community is active in it and it's  
4 become -- that's my husband.

5 ? (Indiscernible) Government Hill, we're high on  
6 Government Hill, we're (indiscernible).

7 ((Crosstalk))

8 A1 The Government Hill slogan is, we're high on Government  
9 Hill and there's so many bumper stickers.....

10 ((Crosstalk))

11 ? You want a bumper sticker?

12 A1 I have a bumper sticker if you want one.

13 A Fred finally made me take mine off because it was just  
14 like do they not get it, so they -- it was really  
15 funny, it was like a weird generational thing, so we  
16 would try to have a conversation when we'd be in this  
17 group community council meeting and we're trying to  
18 explain to the older residents like.....

19 ? Huh?

20 A .....we're.....

21 ((Crosstalk))

22 A And they're like what's the problem, we are high, it's  
23 up high, we're up high on a hill. Like that's not  
24 really what that means, guys. And they're like what  
25 else could it mean, that's always been our slogan, it

1 will always be our slogan and we're like okay, I guess  
2 that's what we're sticking with and we stuck with it  
3 and we're like all right.

4 A1 And I had a sticker on my van for many years.

5 ? I liked it.

6 ((Crosstalk))

7 A1 And people loved it, they thought it was very fun.

8 A Yeah. It was really funny though trying to explain to  
9 the older residents that that might be taken a little  
10 differently.

11 A1 But we were more like God, you guys created this in the  
12 70s, what did you think it meant?

13 ? In the 70s. Groovy.

14 A1 Like they probably were high and they didn't even know  
15 it. Yeah.

16 ? I told her she could jump on the trampoline, I hope you  
17 don't mind.

18 A Oh, no, no. That's fine.

19 ? I figured it'd be better than.....

20 A Oh yeah.

21 ? .....being stuck inside.

22 A1 So.....

23 ? It's nice to meet you both.

24 Q1 Nice to meet you.

25 ? Don't fall asleep on Government Hill. Have you gotten

1 to the bridge yet?

2 A1 Yeah.

3 ? Okay, cool.

4 ((Crosstalk))

5 A I just think Government Hill's very entertaining. Like  
6 if you go to the far east end and you just keep driving  
7 and driving and driving to the end, all of a sudden,  
8 you'll see a gate and there's just trees, but they're  
9 potted trees. And the city owns some property on there  
10 and that's where they grow a bunch of their trees. And  
11 it's just a lot of weird, quirky stuff around the  
12 neighborhood like that. T B is an old -- he  
13 knows so much about Government Hill. He is -- he used  
14 to be a reporter, he's a retired reporter.....

15 A1 Anchorage Daily News.

16 A .....with the Anchorage Daily News and.....

17 A1 Wasn't he (indiscernible) with -- no, it was the  
18 Anchorage News.

19 A I think he might have been with the Times at some  
20 point, but he was -- and he's written a couple of books  
21 that -- Alaska like stories based on, you know, the  
22 newspaper reports and things like that. He is just a  
23 wealth of information and M H too. God,  
24 she's been up on the hill, I'm guessing, since the 40s  
25 as well.

1 A1 And she's a teacher -- she was a teacher.

2 A Yeah. She's been up on the hill since the 40s and Ms.

3 S since the 40s. It's just -- it's amazing

4 how many residents are up here that have been like --

5 that came up with the railroad or something usually.

6 A1 Well, I would like to throw in too how I came up to

7 Government Hill and how I got my sister to come up

8 here.

9 Q Sure.

10 A1 So I had been living in Bootleggers Cove, which is just

11 downtown Anchorage and I sold my place and not really

12 sure what part of the community I wanted to move into

13 and I went ahead and called an old friend of ours of

14 the family, his name is B C, he was an old -- he

15 was an ex APD officer. Called up B and I said B,

16 what is the safest place for me to move to and I had a

17 newborn baby and a two-year-old. What is the safest

18 place in Anchorage that I should think about moving to

19 and he said Government Hill and I said where's

20 Government Hill? And so I had no idea that this place

21 existed and I had been living in downtown Anchorage for

22 years. And so that.....

23 A There's still a lot of people that don't know where

24 Government Hill is.....

25 A1 Don't know, yeah, and so.....

1 A .....here.

2 A1 .....I drove up here in my car and I just came up on  
3 the hill and it was like oh my God, I love this place.

4 A There's a (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

5 A1 And (indiscernible) to that -- I was trying -- I was  
6 just about to drive and I saw a for rent sign at this  
7 duplex, where we're at right now. And I went oh my  
8 God, and I called and that day, they had a rent app to  
9 me and it was a huge deal and it was just a perfect fit  
10 for my kids, I got to know my -- the neighbors, S  
11 and B that lived here for many years who were, you  
12 know, of course, Government Hill's really supportive of  
13 us, you know, watching out for everybody. S and  
14 B just kind of watched out for me and helped me out  
15 and what have you and C W lived in the  
16 house that's now C house. His kids were there  
17 and my kids were the same ages as theirs and they went  
18 to Hillcrest, so I got to know those kids and they  
19 would come into my back yard and play and what have  
20 you.

21 And so going on -- fast forwarding.....

22 A I was living in the main.....

23 A1 She was.....

24 A Well, I had been living all over the place, my husband  
25 and I.

1 A1 She was moving around.

2 A Yeah. We were in Fairbanks, then we went to Las Vegas,  
3 then.....

4 A1 And you called me.....

5 A .....we went to Maine, then we went.....

6 A1 I think you called me up and said I think I'm moving  
7 back to Alaska and I think I'm moving to Anchorage.  
8 And I said.....

9 A So I crashed here with my two children and me pregnant  
10 and my husband, so.....

11 A1 Well, I.....

12 A .....the house was very full.

13 A1 And I knew that my next door neighbor was going to be  
14 leaving, the renter. And we were just renting this and  
15 so I told her crash here and P will be moving soon  
16 back to California.

17 A So we took (indiscernible) right next door.

18 A1 And we lived next door to each other.....

19 A And in less than a year, the owner was like  
20 (indiscernible) we're selling.

21 A1 Yeah, (indiscernible).

22 A And we're like what? Stop, wait.

23 A1 So we decided to buy it.

24 A Uh-huh.

25 A1 So we bought this and J lived up here for about

1 five years?

2 A Uh-huh (affirmative). And (indiscernible) -- I think  
3 my oldest one was 16. It was a two-bedroom, 1000  
4 square feet. So my 16-year-old, I had -- and she was  
5 16 at the time and so, let me see, Mia would have been  
6 five -- no, he's.....

7 A1 He was.....

8 A No, he's in fourth grade.

9 A1 And you were pregnant when you moved up here.

10 A I was pregnant when we moved up here, so L, you  
11 know, she, you know, came home with us from the  
12 hospital and -- in there. But (indiscernible) decided  
13 to go finally, you know, we had the three kids, a  
14 teenager. I mean, no privacy whatsoever. My son  
15 peeing repeatedly on my daughter's dresser and crib  
16 when we brought her home from -- yeah. But it was just  
17 like it was just too much, so we ended up deciding to  
18 move and then M, her kids were teenagers at the  
19 time and she.....

20 A1 They needed their own rooms.

21 A They needed their space and she -- you had gotten  
22 remarried and so they decided to just bust open the  
23 dining room.....

24 A1 And made it into a temporary.....

25 A .....which was (indiscernible).

1 A1 .....single house.

2 A Hence, she had two kitchens.

3 A1 And -- yeah.

4 A She's the luckiest person.

5 A1 Yeah.

6 A And we just happened to find a place not far away just  
7 right on 15th and Fairview.....

8 A1 Yeah.

9 A .....and it worked out really well.

10 A1 Which would have been wonderful if J had stayed  
11 up in Government Hill, but as -- as she said, there's  
12 just not too many houses opening up.

13 A It's so hard to find a house.

14 A1 Yeah, it really is.

15 A And if you do find a house, they're usually really  
16 expensive. Usually really, really expensive.

17 A1 Yeah, it's just -- it's -- I would hate to move from  
18 here. I just love it up here.

19 A Uh-huh.

20 A1 I really do.

21 A I told her (indiscernible - voice lowered).

22 A1 It's a kid friendly.....

23 A Uh-huh.

24 A1 .....neighborhood.

25 A Well, it's not just kid friendly, it's just like.....

1 A1 And even for the elderly.....

2 A .....it feels like a community, you feel safe up here,  
3 you know, it's one of those things where you talk to  
4 people across, you know, their fence, and you know, you  
5 just don't see that in Anchorage.

6 A1 You just don't see that option anymore at all, period.

7 A It's kind of a bizarre anomaly that way.

8 A1 Yeah.

9 A Yeah, and I've had a lot of people say the same thing.  
10 They don't have that kind of -- they don't talk to the  
11 neighbors or that they can walk around or  
12 (indiscernible) business, sharing vegetables.

13 A1 Yeah.

14 A And fruit. Come here, please (indiscernible). You  
15 know, that kind of stuff, you just don't do that very  
16 often.

17 A1 (Indiscernible) sharing stuff all the time, the  
18 neighbors are sharing stuff with me all the time.

19 A Yeah. That's (indiscernible - voice lowered). I think  
20 the coolest thing I did was when we had the 90th  
21 anniversary celebration, I started doing research, you  
22 know, proof that Anchorage is -- or that Government  
23 Hill is Anchorage's first neighborhood and the coolest  
24 thing I found was pictures from 1914 when they pulled  
25 into Ship Creek and the first thing they did was they

1 cleared a spot for baseball and they're having baseball  
2 games constantly down there in Ship Creek. And it'd be  
3 tent city all around it, complete tent city and then  
4 (indiscernible) I was just flipping -- you know.....  
5 A1 Baseball.....  
6 A .....a baseball field and they're playing baseball down  
7 in Ship Creek area, it's just kind of neat and  
8 (indiscernible).  
9 A1 And (indiscernible).  
10 ((Crosstalk))  
11 A1 Because they needed some civility in a muddy area with  
12 railroad workers.  
13 A Yeah. Yeah, it's kind of a (indiscernible) to have,  
14 you know, (indiscernible) such historic value and  
15 (indiscernible - voice lowered) mindedness.  
16 Q Well, cool.  
17 A1 I don't think I have anymore stories.  
18 Q That's okay.  
19 A I'm sure I do.  
20 Q We have a few more minutes if you guys wanted to share  
21 any other thoughts. You were saying that the Koreans  
22 gardens (indiscernible) but does anyone garden over  
23 here ever?  
24 A Not like community.  
25 A1 Not a community garden and I'm trying to -- I'm back in

1 and draw some support of creating a community garden on  
2 Harvard Park Belt. You'll notice when you're going  
3 down Harvard Park, there's this big greenbelt and it's  
4 Alaska Railroad property. But it's just very wide and  
5 it would just serve a great spot for a community  
6 garden. It would just be perfect I think.

7 Q Yeah. Good.

8 A1 So I'm slowly -- I'm working the angle.

9 ((Crosstalk))

10 A1 Yeah, I know, I'm working the angle on it. We would  
11 have to get some support from.....

12 A Well, some people already have their own gardens. I  
13 mean, like alley -- your alley neighbor, my old alley  
14 neighbor straight across.....

15 A1 (Indiscernible).

16 A Oh, no, no, no, the other one. Alley next door and  
17 what's her name that used to run (indiscernible).

18 A1 D.

19 A Yeah, D. You know, he's got tons of raised beds,  
20 potatoes and stuff. Yeah, that girl's amazing. Is she  
21 still.....

22 A1 Yeah, it would be -- oh yeah.

23 A Is what's his name still around?

24 A1 Oh yeah.

25 A He's still alive?

1 A1 Uh-huh (affirmative).

2 A Crotchety old dude. He's so great, I like him.

3 A1 But the community gardens would be -- it would be a  
4 little bit of a challenge trying to get with -- between  
5 the Alaska Railroad property being able to get their  
6 okay and then getting that buy in from the residents  
7 that are just across the street because, of course,  
8 that would create more activity, but it would be  
9 perfect. I mean, we've got a big parking lot, Harvard  
10 Park near the tennis courts, which are used all the  
11 time, which are won -- they're more used now, they need  
12 to get repaired though.

13 A Right now?

14 A1 They just got repaired, the surface did.

15 A Oh, did they?

16 A1 Yeah.

17 A (Indiscernible - voice lowered).

18 A1 Yeah. So the one nice thing that we do up here in  
19 Government Hill and talking about our parks and stuff  
20 is that we got a great person, her name is Mavis  
21 Hancock, she's.....

22 A She's amazing.

23 A1 And she has been the driver to working with Parks and  
24 Rec, the city and creating a checklist. She works with  
25 the folks that each person is assigned the -- people

1           who own parks, so she goes to those people, she gets  
2           community (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).  
3       A       In fact, she owns the Quonset hut next door to her and  
4           rents it out too.  
5       Q       That's awesome.  
6       A       Yeah.  
7       A1      And she gets (indiscernible) list. We have -- every  
8           year, we do a cleanup, and when I say cleanup, it's  
9           hard labor. Last year.....  
10      A       But the thing is, we forgot to tell them about the  
11           square dancing club and the curling club down there.  
12      A1      We've got an active -- we've got two active clubs down  
13           there. The square dancing club.....  
14      A       The square dancing club's cool because that was built  
15           back in the 40s and when the railroad employees, you  
16           know, went -- everything just became a railroad  
17           community, they would do their teen dances down there  
18           and so they -- somebody's got lots of pictures of the  
19           various, you know, teen dances happening there.  
20                    And I think the curling club that was made there  
21           is the only -- it is the only curling club in town,  
22           correct?  
23      A1      Yeah.  
24      A       It's the only curling club in town and it's crazy, it's  
25           been here since the 40s also.

1 A1 They're very active.

2 A Yeah.

3 A1 But the sad thing though his that if the bridge goes  
4 through, that.....

5 A Those two properties are going to be gone.

6 A1 Well, not the -- not that one, but the curling club  
7 (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

8 A I thought -- no, the dance club though, if they put the  
9 other side in on phase two.....

10 A1 That's phase two.

11 A .....if that'll go to.

12 A1 Yeah, so there's going to be a lot more destruction  
13 after phase two if it happens because we'll lose Sunset  
14 Park, we'll lose a whole bunch of houses.

15 A A lot of historic stuff.

16 A1 Yeah.

17 A They're going straight for all the historic stuff.

18 A1 All the historic homes will be.....

19 A Yeah.

20 A1 .....demolished. Yeah, it'll be huge.

21 A And then Mrs. E, you know, up on the hill, I told  
22 you, you know, she's like 96. Her house is on the list  
23 to go.

24 A1 Yeah. So you know, we're -- it's -- I don't know, I  
25 just -- I love it up here. I can't even -- and we even

1 had some residents who had rentals and decided to come  
2 back (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).  
3 A I personally think it's the best neighborhood in town.  
4 S K.....  
5 A1 S K is our President of the community  
6 council.  
7 Q Uh-huh.  
8 A1 And she had two homes, one here and one just  
9 overlooking Westchester Lagoon.  
10 A Awesome, gorgeous house, FYI. Oh my gosh, gorgeous  
11 house. And then when she says I just didn't like the  
12 community.....  
13 ((Crosstalk))  
14 A1 So she redid her house here and.....  
15 A Lost her (indiscernible).  
16 A1 She sold the house over at Westchester and her and her  
17 husband are back in the community. And S's  
18 (indiscernible) still been very active in the  
19 community.  
20 Q I'm pretty sure I've been talking with her. I'm going  
21 to have an interview with her and M.  
22 A1 Oh, that's.....  
23 Q (Indiscernible)  
24 A Oh, so you do have M.  
25 Q Yeah. Well, she said M is out of town so we had to

1           wait until.....

2    A1     M and S are -- they're very active.....

3    A     Yeah.

4    A1     .....and they're great and I adore S K.

5           She's an amazing person.

6    Q     Uh-huh. She gave me her list this long of people to

7           talk to.

8    A1     She knows every.....

9    A     Yeah, she.....

10           ((Crosstalk))

11   A     Did she tell him Bs name too then probably?

12   Q     I don't remember, but you guys can give us any names

13           that you think would help.

14   A1     B B

15   A     B B you got to talk to her.

16   A1     If B's not on the list, you need to add her on

17           there.

18   A     Or just go see her house. If you go -- it's so cool.

19           She's just absolutely insistent that she is keeping it

20           exactly as it is. She's got the -- one of the original

21           houses before -- pre railroad, so hers was built in the

22           20s, if I remember correctly, so if you go all the way

23           down there, you'll see, right before you hit Browns

24           Point, like five, six houses.....

25   A1     Purple house.

1 A .....they're pretty -- they're called cottages, but  
2 they're all right along each other and several of them  
3 have been left and maintained and some of them -- but  
4 hers has got tar paper on the side and it's like this  
5 pinkish purple color and she's got so much weird stuff  
6 all over the outside of the house.

7 A1 She's very eclectic.

8 A Yeah, she is very eclectic, she's got.....

9 A1 She's got a (indiscernible) screen, a lot of historical  
10 knowledge.

11 Q Uh-huh.

12 A1 She likes talking about Government Hill.

13 Q She sounds like she's the B that I know, she  
14 (indiscernible)?

15 A No, I don't think so.

16 Q No, it's a different B?

17 A Yeah, Mountain Terrier Course because she works.....

18 Q Okay.

19 A .....at Artique and she works with the historical  
20 society.

21 Q Okay.

22 A And yeah, I think she might do some work with the  
23 museum sometimes.....

24 Q Yeah.

25 A .....because of her work with the historical society.

1 Q Okay.

2 A But (indiscernible).

3 Q It's not the same person.

4 A No, but she's super, super, super knowledgeable. Yeah.

5 Q Okay. Well, thank you so much for your time.

6 A1 You're welcome.

7 A You're welcome.

8 Q We're just over.....

9 (Off tape)

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