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TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW

JUNE 26, 2014

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): H

Q Okay, so today is June 26 and I'm here with H. How long have you lived in this area?

A I've lived in this particular neighborhood since 1981, so about 35 years more or less.

Q Okay.

A I'll let you do the math. And I've lived in Anchorage probably about 45 years altogether.

Q Okay. How have you seen the neighborhood change or grow as each year?

A It's changed in a lot of ways, there's been a lot of new construction, different -- there's been a couple of different waves of -- economic waves maybe and social changes that have occurred over the past few decades.

When I first moved here, there were -- it was like the Pipeline era was going strong in the late 70s and there was a lot of construction and such going on.

Q Uh-huh.

A So there was just a lot happening in Anchorage and the neighborhood, there was a lot of building going on. Shortly after I moved in, we had the big crash when the

1 price of oil dropped in the mid 80s and everything kind
2 of -- you know, the whole city kind of became kind of a
3 ghost -- I mean, a really -- it was quite the
4 depression in Anchorage.....

5 Q Uh-huh.

6 Afor about -- oh, about five years there. And so a
7 lot of vacant apartments and homes and foreclosures.
8 You know, it was a pretty dead time for Anchorage at
9 that time.

10 And it kind of started recovering, oh, I don't
11 know, maybe about 1990 or about the time of the spill
12 in the Gulf of Alaska on the Exxon. That was like --
13 it seemed like that was the real turnaround in the
14 economy.

15 Q Uh-huh.

16 A Just that spur of the economic stimulus, it seemed
17 like, of that. That event seemed to have really kind
18 of changed the dynamics. It went from a depression and
19 we started growing all of a sudden just for one reason
20 or another.

21 But it also affects the neighborhood, the
22 (indiscernible) of the neighborhood, and what's -- you
23 know, and what's going on in the neighborhood. There
24 was a time in the 80s I -- no, maybe the 90s when there
25 was kind of a crack epidemic and it really affected

1 some of the neighborhoods, Fairview and Anchorage.
2 Fairview and Mountain View in particular.

3 Q Uh-huh.

4 A But it just seemed like we just had all kinds of drugs
5 and prostitution problems at that time. But it seemed
6 like that was like just a wave that -- that crack
7 epidemic was just kind of a wave that kind of washed
8 through the neighborhood and really -- really kind of
9 brought it down I would say for a number of years
10 there. And I -- that seemed to have gone away and it
11 made a comeback in this neighborhood and the drug
12 problems aren't so bad and it's -- there's young
13 families moving in to the neighborhood.

14 And maybe use the word gentrification a little bit
15 going on in Fairview.

16 Q Uh-huh.

17 A So and that's 30 some years I've seen it kind of go
18 from just really booming to a big crash and then going
19 through the drug thing and then now. It's just been
20 slowing getting better and more desirable I think, and
21 you know, just general -- in general.

22 Q What are some of the things that you think have really
23 made a difference in helping it besides like having
24 families and things moving in? Do you think that like
25 it's community -- like everybody in the community

1 getting together saying let's see what we can do to
2 make our community better? Do you think it has to do
3 with like the city's administration or anything like
4 that? Like what do you think really contributed to
5 that upswing?

6 A Just a whole combination of factors I think. I think
7 the -- I think there's a general movement, people want
8 to live near downtown and it's kind of across the
9 nation. I think there's more people and especially
10 young people that want to live in the downtown area and
11 they don't want to live way out in the suburbs anymore.
12 And so that's part of it.

13 The prices are a little cheaper, you can acquire
14 properties. A lot of young families or young couples,
15 they find an affordable place to buy a place, a soon
16 family home maybe or a small property building. So I
17 think it's -- because it is generally still a poor
18 neighborhood, I think the demographics are going well,
19 but you know, all the social indicator of things are we
20 got the lower income, and you know, more social
21 problems probably in this neighborhood.

22 But I think the Fairview Community Council, which
23 I'm a member of, has always been a little bit
24 (indiscernible) and they've really been a strong
25 advocate for projects in the neighborhood that have

1 improved, whether it be parks or street projects or
2 cleaning up the neighborhood or encouraging businesses
3 and encouraging letting the administration and the city
4 know that we're here and that, you know, we're an
5 active group of neighborhood activists and residents
6 who are very interested in the neighborhood. And it's
7 a combination I think of support from the city and
8 neighborhood activists.

9 And just generally, it's just, despite all that,
10 it's just economics of what's going on and the general
11 economic sphere is what makes things happen.

12 Q Uh-huh.

13 A Probably is the underlying thing that makes a driver of
14 things.

15 Q Do you have any other interesting stories from living
16 in this neighborhood for so long, whether it's quirky
17 neighbors or crazy things that happen or even
18 experiences you've had or anything like that?

19 A Oh, I like (indiscernible) let's see, well, my neighbor
20 J -- my neighbor, J, he's a hunting guide and he
21 went -- lives here in the summertime and he goes to
22 California in the winter, but he's like an old grizzly
23 bear himself, but he lives in this little shack next
24 door and it was a true little shack from probably the
25 40s. And this lot next door was he let everything just

1 grow wild and the trees were -- there was like forest
2 right next door. He's still around, he -- we traded
3 some property and he lives about a block away now, but
4 -- and now we own the property, we've kind of cleaned
5 it up a little bit. But oh gosh, J is -- well, just
6 a real interesting character, he's probably about 80
7 years old now, still carrying on and still goes out on
8 hunts.

9 Let's see, we've had all kinds of -- oh, some of
10 the homeless people and some of the street people have
11 given us some interesting experiences over the years.
12 Well, for instance, one time, the -- a lady decided she
13 -- she just defecated in front of my car in my driveway
14 and I said what are you doing, what the heck are doing?
15 I was really mad and I said get out of here. And she
16 had a can of beer sitting on the ground next to her,
17 anyways (indiscernible) funny story, I don't know, but
18 she had a can of beer sitting next to her and I was so
19 mad, I just -- I kicked the beer across the street, you
20 know, across the alley and she just didn't finish what
21 she was doing and she just went running for her beer.
22 Pants still down, you know, just -- she grabbed her
23 beer and she ran off down the -- pulling her pants up,
24 ran down the street, you know, down the alley. So
25 yeah, I guess that's not too funny, I was just -- that

1 was something that just occurred to me.

2 Yeah, we got a lot of interesting characters
3 though come to the neighborhood. Most of the neighbors
4 themselves are just pretty average people. We got a
5 lot of -- but we do have a lot of transients though
6 come through, you know, the street people, you know,
7 and homeless folks. And typically, they don't cause
8 any problems, they just go about their business on
9 their way to the liquor store or back to wherever,
10 sleeping out in the woods, you know? But they're
11 really not that much of a -- too much of a -- if they
12 are an issue, you have to (indiscernible) but they
13 don't rob your house or assault people, you know. And
14 they assault each other, I suppose, that's a
15 (indiscernible) issue, but the average person is pretty
16 safe, you know, but.

17 Q Did you move up with family when you first.....

18 A Yeah, my father was in the Air Force.

19 Q Okay.

20 A And so we came up when I was probably in high school I
21 guess, so we came up because of that.

22 Q Uh-huh.

23 A And then stayed since then, since high school.

24 Q Which high school did you go to?

25 A I went to West High. West Anchorage, yeah.

1 Q West High?

2 A Yeah.

3 Q What kinds of things did you used to do when you were a
4 teenager when you first came here? Like what kind of
5 things did you guys do for fun and what kinds of things
6 do you remember experiencing when you were young?

7 A Let's see, there was a lot -- well, let's see, bike
8 riding, going camping, went fishing with my father,
9 hunting and fishing with my father. That was kind of
10 fun. There used to be a lot of rock concerts that they
11 used to go to. Anchorage use to have quite a few rock
12 concerts and I'd go to those, those were always a
13 highlight of, you know.....

14 Q Where did they hold those? Was it down at the 4th
15 Avenue Theater or.....

16 A That had it.....

17 Qdifferent places?

18 Asometimes down at West High. We had an
19 auditorium, there wasn't too many venues back then.

20 Q Uh-huh.

21 A There was a place on Fireweed, it's -- I believe it's
22 now Arctic Furniture on Fireweed and A Street. There's
23 a Quonset hut building there.

24 Q Oh yeah.

25 A I believe it's a furniture or office supply place and

1 that was a concert -- they had concerts in there, it
2 was just like a big open, a Quonset hut that was.....

3 Q Uh-huh.

4 Aquite large, but they had concerts in there.
5 Hatcher Pass had a concert up there one time, which was
6 a disaster because of the traffic and there was no road
7 going up there.

8 Q Yeah.

9 Q1 Uh-huh.

10 A At the very peak, it was almost like a Woodstock
11 experience. It was just too many people in a bad
12 place, you know, but it was a lot of fun, but -- so.

13 I don't know, back then, it was just -- it was a
14 lot smaller town, I guess, and probably got into the
15 usual teenage drinking and driving trouble. You know,
16 I never got in trouble over it, but it was one of the
17 things that we did. I suppose teenagers still do that,
18 go out and drink and drive, parties and all that.

19 But it was a pretty fun time, it was -- we're
20 talking about -- and I'm talking about like 1970, right
21 around there, early 70s.

22 Q1 What do you remember from being in West High? Any
23 stories from that high school?

24 A Well, let's see, West High was the original high school
25 in Anchorage, it was -- I think it used to be called

1 Anchorage High School, but it was the first one. And
2 let's see, it was kind of the rich kids school back
3 then because of a lot of politicians kids and richer
4 kids went there. I was a base kid, so we -- we're not
5 in that group, but it was the kids that lived in
6 Turnagain and downtown area there, you know, and
7 probably overwhelmingly white back then, which now, I
8 think it's very mixed, a very mixed school.

9 And so the demographics have changed. Well, and
10 Anchorage as a whole I'm sure, you know, but of course,
11 but it just was lily white back then, I can -- you
12 know, just like only a few Black students and a few
13 Hispanic and Native. But it was probably like 95
14 percent white school, the students.

15 But you know, a lot of those -- the big school
16 rivalry was between East and West High School back then
17 because they were the other -- Dimond was probably a
18 new school at that time, but basically, it was East and
19 West, the two schools, you know, that were just -- and
20 all the sports and everything was just big rivals,
21 (indiscernible) the only two schools and so. I went
22 there in my Junior and Senior year at West High School.

23 Q What was it like moving up here from -- where did you
24 guys move here from?

25 A Well, it was a military family.....

1 Q Right.

2 Aso we came from Florida. Florida, so it's not
3 warm, one climate to up to here and so it was quite a
4 -- you know, a lot different and I -- it seemed very
5 remote back in those days and I suppose it still is
6 geographically, but back then, it seemed even more so.
7 It was so much smaller, and you know, you used to just
8 hop in a plane so easily as you do nowadays.

9 Q Uh-huh.

10 A But yeah, it was a big contrast coming up here, just
11 smaller population and the climate and just the
12 lifestyle.

13 Q What kept you here?

14 A I just like the whole -- I just like the place. I like
15 the people here, I -- my family is here, of course, my
16 partner's here, my job. You know, I worked Alaska
17 Communications, I worked 30 some years so
18 (indiscernible) the family and just lucky -- you know,
19 it's home.

20 Q Did you -- so when you guys came up, did you say you
21 drove up?

22 A No, I didn't say. Yeah, we drove, yes.

23 Q Okay.

24 A Yes, the Alcan.

25 Q How was that driving up?

1 A Well, it was -- let's see, my brothers -- one brother,
2 sister, a dog and my parents, so five of us. It was a
3 long trip from Florida. I mean, it was just -- you
4 know, it was like -- I think we took -- well, we
5 probably took 10 days, two weeks and the Alaska Highway
6 was -- that would have been in 1970, that trip. I
7 don't think very much of the highway was paved, so it
8 was gravel and -- for the most part and services were
9 far and few between, you know? If you saw a gas
10 station, you probably went and filled up,
11 (indiscernible) gas stations.

12 Q Just in case you didn't see another one?

13 A Yeah. Yeah, you didn't know. Well, I mean, you kind
14 of knew where it -- yeah, but you couldn't always count
15 on it being open or even having fuel, I guess, but
16 yeah, so -- and that was the last, I haven't driven the
17 highway since then, so it's been 40 some years since
18 I've.....

19 Q Wow.

20 Adriven the highway. I know it's paved now.

21 Q Did your family do any like gardening or anything when
22 you guys moved here or is that some -- like is that
23 something that you ever got into?

24 A Yeah, I do a lot of gardening. My family, no.

25 Q Okay.

1 A They didn't. Let's see, well, we lived on base, and so
2 they don't normally have garden spaces up there at the
3 housing, or at that time, they didn't.

4 Q Uh-huh.

5 A So there was no opportunities to do that, but I enjoy
6 gardening, I garden.

7 Q What kinds of things do you grow?

8 A I have a vegetable garden, I have lots of flowers and I
9 like to grow trees and shrubs, and you know, mow lawn
10 and I belong to a couple of gardening clubs. Let's
11 see, I volunteer up at the Alaska Botanical Gardens as
12 well as within my neighborhood -- at the neighborhood
13 level, I'm like the beautification director for a long
14 time for Fairview Council. We had a beautification
15 committee when we -- oh, we just had volunteers and we
16 worked in the parks and we did little projects,
17 planting projects throughout he neighborhood, so been
18 pretty active in that, doing that kind of thing.

19 Q1 Is -- do you think gardening is pretty popular in the
20 Fairview area?

21 A Fairly so, yeah. I mean, I think so, yeah.

22 Q1 Uh-huh.

23 A Starting to see more and more people. There's a
24 community vegetable plot, community garden over at one
25 of the parks. There's -- yeah, I think there's a fair

1 amount of pretty serious gardeners in the neighborhood.
2 There's not enough, there's a lot of folks that don't
3 do anything, especially at some of the apartment
4 buildings or they don't do anything other than just the
5 real basics.

6 Q Uh-huh.

7 A But yeah, I think it's a pretty, I don't know, popular
8 thing for folks.

9 Q One of the things that has come up in a lot of the
10 Fairview interviews we've done so far is like
11 relationship between the community and the businesses
12 in the community.

13 A Uh-huh.

14 Q And whether or not people frequent them, so is that --
15 do you try to keep -- do you try to support the
16 businesses that are staying in the Fairview community
17 or do you tend to go shopping outside of the area or is
18 it a mix of both?

19 A That's a mix of both, but I do most of my grocery
20 shopping is at the local Carrs store down the street
21 here. My credit union and my bank are both in the
22 neighborhood. The post office, I keep my box in the
23 neighborhood. A couple of the local restaurants I
24 frequent. But I wish we had more -- some coffee shops
25 or something like that, you know, I would probably

1 frequent those, but we don't really have a coffee --
2 you know, a coffee hang out shop. Starbucks or
3 anything, but yeah, I mean, I probably do most of my
4 shopping just for the convenience of the distance
5 and.....

6 Q Uh-huh.

7 Aplus I really enjoy my local store. I'm up there
8 just about every day and I -- you know the people --
9 the clerks and the people that work there, you get to
10 -- and some of them -- a lot of them have been there
11 for years and years, so you kind of know. It's nice
12 when you have a kind of established -- well, you know
13 their names and.....

14 Q Uh-huh.

15 Q1 Uh-huh.

16 Ayou know, and I like that. You know, I mean, so
17 whenever possible, I do try to support local.

18 Q Do you think there are more businesses in Fairview now
19 than there were in the past or fewer or do you think
20 it's about the same and maybe -- I mean, I know that a
21 couple like -- a lot of people talk about Lucky
22 Wishbone because that's been here forever.

23 A Uh-huh.

24 Q And of course, the Carrs has been here for a long time,
25 but what about some of the other places? Are they kind

1 of new or have they changed, those kind of things?

2 A Boy, that's -- I suppose it's about the same amount,
3 just a different mix. I mean, some of them have been
4 here for many years and there's always a few new ones
5 here that come up and come and go. Good question, but
6 I think it's about the same.

7 Q Okay.

8 A You see kind of a turnover of different types of
9 businesses. I don't -- I haven't seen a big influx of
10 new businesses I can't say.

11 Q Uh-huh.

12 A And part of it's due to the fact that our main business
13 corridor, which is Ingra and Gambell, is possibly going
14 to be a freeway.....

15 Q Uh-huh.

16 Adown the road, and so a prudent investor is not
17 going to build something and start a business in that
18 whole corridor without knowing when and what they're
19 going to do.

20 Q Uh-huh.

21 A So there's a lot of disinvestment or disincentive to do
22 anything. So a lot of the businesses are kind of just,
23 I don't know, not really investing in new stuff. You
24 know, they're not -- or a lot of times, I don't think
25 people are moving in because of that uncertainty, so

1 it's kind of -- until we find out more about what's
2 going to happen and it might be 20 years down the road,
3 but it's still.....

4 Q Uh-huh.

5 A (Indiscernible) by that as the corridor where there's
6 probably going to be a freeway and so it's going to be
7 like a swatch of destruction going down.

8 Q Uh-huh.

9 A Probably down Hyder Street, you know, down the middle
10 there.

11 Q Yeah, one of the interviews we were at, they were
12 talking about how most of the places along Hyder are
13 empty now because nobody knows what's going to happen
14 with that yet.

15 A Yeah. I mean, at one point, it was kind of -- it was
16 really growing almost fast tracked, there was a lot of
17 planning going on and it went through a lot of the
18 preliminary planning and they've kind of identified
19 like corridor, but then they got -- I think Governor
20 Parnell kind of put a kibosh on it for the foreseeable
21 future, something that he did and I can't even tell you
22 what it was.

23 Q Uh-huh.

24 A But it's all been just kind of moth balled, the whole
25 idea. I think they decided it was too expensive. It's

1 needed, they think, but it's too expensive I think and
2 it's -- so it just kind of (indiscernible).

3 Q Uh-huh.

4 A Yeah. And so a prudent investor would really think
5 twice before putting some money into the -- into that
6 area, so.

7 Q1 Uh-huh.

8 A I'm afraid we might not be seeing any real investment
9 other than just short-term or maybe somebody open up a
10 -- I don't know, a (indiscernible) lot or something,
11 you know, and (indiscernible - voice lowered).

12 Q Were Ingra and Gambell as busy when you first started
13 living in Fairview that -- as they are now? Was it
14 kind of the same set up or was it a little bit
15 different?

16 A How was that? I -- they had -- it was the same setup.
17 Oh, there's more traffic now, yeah, there's definitely
18 more traffic. And maybe it's because during rush hour,
19 the people commuting out to the valley.

20 Q Uh-huh.

21 A It's a heavy -- and Ingra gets a lot of traffic going
22 toward the Glenn Highway, so.....

23 Q Uh-huh.

24 Ayeah, there's more traffic, but I think the same
25 number of lanes when I first got here, I think, was

1 already split out into that two-way.

2 Q Okay.

3 A Couplet (indiscernible). Good point.

4 Q That's kind of been one of the common themes that a lot
5 of people talk about is just how traffic patterns can
6 really affect the cohesiveness of the community.

7 A Uh-huh.

8 Q So do you think that that kind of divides Fairview a
9 little bit because you've got the people who live on
10 one side of Ingra and Gambell and then the other or do
11 you think it's been around long enough that, as a
12 community, you've kind of been able to bring yourselves
13 in to be kind of one?

14 A Yeah. Well, I'll say everybody's perception is going
15 to be different on that because I'm.....

16 Q Uh-huh.

17 Ainvolved in the council and I know people all
18 around the neighborhood. I have more personal
19 connections with a lot of the folks that live over
20 there.

21 Q Uh-huh.

22 A Now maybe your average resident who doesn't have any
23 reason to go beyond, you know, go over there to the
24 east part of Fairview. So I think it is a physical --
25 probably is a physical barrier to some aspect. I mean,

1 the -- that corridor there, all the traffic and it's
2 probably different for everybody.

3 Q Uh-huh.

4 A I have to say, you know, it's -- some people would feel
5 it as a whole, which I do.

6 Q Uh-huh.

7 A And others -- some people don't even consider this
8 Fairview.

9 Q Uh-huh.

10 A When they say I live in Fairview and I -- and find out
11 well, what part of Fairview, oh, that's Fairview? You
12 know, they think this is more of downtown or.....

13 Q Uh-huh.

14 Asouth addition if you're on this side of Gambell
15 and Ingra. And they think east, that is Fairview, so
16 there is a little bit of a -- yeah, that -- I mean,
17 that's a little bit of division there because of the
18 highway probably.

19 Q What kind of the perception do you think other people
20 have in the neighborhood? Like for example, when you
21 say I live in Fairview.....

22 A Uh-huh.

23 Qdo you get any kind of strong reaction from
24 people, do you get weird questions or is it just kind
25 of okay, and leave it at that?

1 Q1 (Indiscernible - voice lowered).

2 A Most people have a -- probably a negative connotation
3 with Fairview, they think of the bad things or a lot of
4 people's perception of Fairview is what they see at
5 13th and Gambell.

6 Q Uh-huh.

7 A Because that's all they see, they're coming and going
8 (indiscernible) Gambell. And let's face it, it's a lot
9 of rundown properties on those -- both of those --
10 those streets and there's a lot of rundown people as
11 well.

12 Q Uh-huh.

13 A They're all up there, so that kind of really drives the
14 perception of the neighborhood I think and people think
15 of drugs and street inebriates and problem, you know,
16 rundown properties. So yeah, I mean.....

17 Q Uh-huh.

18 Ayeah, most people -- although I got to say I have
19 had -- there's been quite a few people that have, over
20 the time have said hey, (indiscernible) some neat
21 things happening over there. They see some of the road
22 improvements or street scape improvements and our
23 little gardens here and there. A few new apartment
24 buildings or homes that are built, so I have had people
25 say hey, I went through Fairview and it's

1 (indiscernible) as I had perceived. You know,
2 they.....

3 Q Uh-huh.

4 A Once they kind of get around and drive around a little
5 bit, they -- they're -- I think it's better than they
6 perceive once they get away from Gambell and Ingra.....

7 Q Uh-huh.

8 Acorridor. If that's all you see, then you're not
9 going to have a very good impression, but if you get
10 around a little bit, I think you -- a little nicer
11 impression I think of the neighborhood.

12 Q Do you know of any like legend or lore stories that are
13 kind of centered in Fairview, ghost stories that --
14 from the Fairview area?

15 A No.

16 Q No?

17 A I can't think of anything.

18 Q Was the.....

19 A I can't help you on that one, no, I don't think so.

20 Q1 That's okay.

21 Q Was the rec center here when you first moved into
22 Fairview or were you here for when that was built?

23 A I don't know. I don't know when that was built. I
24 want to say -- it probably wasn't here, but it's been
25 here a long time though, so.....

1 Q Yeah, because I don't think we've talked to anybody yet
2 who have talked about oh, I remember when it was built
3 or anything like that.....

4 A Yeah.

5 Qso that's why I was curious.

6 A Yeah, I don't remember when it was built. I don't. It
7 was probably in the -- probably in the 70s.

8 Q Uh-huh.

9 A And see, I moved -- see, that was in 1981 when I moved
10 in, so it probably was.....

11 Q So it was probably already here?

12 A I believe it was here, yeah. I think. It's a nice
13 facility, we -- it gets a lot of use.

14 Q I was about to ask like if you think it gets used a
15 lot.

16 A Yeah.

17 Q What kinds of stuff go on there?

18 A Well, they've got -- I mean, a lot of youth and teen
19 activities in that gymnasium there and there's lots of
20 little -- a lot of clubs and organizations used,
21 various ones, like Fairview Community Council uses it
22 several times a month and there's other civic groups
23 that use it, so I think they have a pretty full
24 calendar over there of events and uses, yeah. Yeah,
25 it's a nice facility to have in the neighborhood and

1 our community council has often gone to bat trying to
2 get extra funding for the -- for upgrades or just basic
3 maintenance things because it's getting to be a pretty
4 old building, so sometimes -- I think they fall under a
5 Parks and Rec.

6 Q Uh-huh.

7 A Runs those and their budget has always been cut and so
8 it's a challenge, you know, for the Parks and Rec folks
9 to keep things in good shape, you know?

10 Q Uh-huh.

11 A Keep programs going and such, but -- and just basic
12 maintenance, but yeah, it's a much used and appreciated
13 facility I'd say.

14 Q Do you tend to drive your car more or walk more when
15 you're going out to do things, like go to the bank or
16 the store?

17 A Oh, I tend to drive, yeah. Or else it's a fairly walk-
18 able neighborhood. I mean, it really is compared to
19 anywhere in Anchorage.

20 Q Uh-huh.

21 A But I'll walk or bike for pleasure in the neighborhood.

22 Q Uh-huh.

23 A But if I'm doing most -- sometimes I'll walk up to the
24 grocery store.

25 Q Uh-huh.

1 A But typically, I drive, I got to say.

2 Q And I ask that because so many people said oh, it's

3 such a big walking like community and that kind of

4 thing, so I was just curious.

5 A Yeah. Yeah. It's -- for Anchorage, it is, it's very

6 walk-able.

7 Q Uh-huh.

8 A This downtown area, you know, everything's you know,

9 fairly condensed compared to you don't have to --

10 compared to most parts of town and so it's pretty walk-

11 able. And maybe it's just I'm getting older and I just

12 don't walk as much, but.....

13 Q1 You talked about hunting with your dad?

14 A Uh-huh.

15 Q1 Do you have any stories of hunting with him?

16 A I didn't like hunting. I went with him a few times,

17 but I was -- I just -- I didn't like it, I went along

18 with him. I enjoyed the camp outs and the hiking and

19 bonding with my father, but I always felt sorry for the

20 animal after he shot something. I never shot one, I

21 was just -- went along, carried things, you know?

22 Carry a backpack and.....

23 Q1 Big game hunting?

24 A Well, moose.

25 Q1 Moose?

1 A Moose, yeah. And -- but I didn't like it really, that
2 part of it.

3 Q1 Uh-huh.

4 A But.....

5 Q Did you guys go far out of town or close by?

6 A Well, that was back -- again, that was.....

7 Q Yeah.

8 Aa long time ago that we did that. The Kenai
9 Peninsula or up in the valley would be usually.

10 Q Uh-huh.

11 A Yeah, so not terribly far, you know, but he was a
12 pilot, my father was, a North Slope pilot, a flight
13 instructor. And so we often went fishing and we would
14 fly out to remote places and go fishing whenever there
15 were -- and he always knew where they were catching
16 them, you know, word would get around and he'd fly out
17 to his little streams and get away from big crowds and
18 it was a lot of fun, we did that all the time. And if
19 there was (indiscernible) or relatives came up, we'd go
20 out fly seeing, you know, a lot and then -- Alaska is a
21 pretty neat place from the air, you can get to some
22 places that you can't drive to and there's some really
23 beautiful places that -- so I kind of miss that. But
24 the hunting, I didn't. After a few times of that, I
25 said dad, I don't want to do this anymore, I don't like

1 it, so we'll go to the grocery store and get our meat.

2 Q Are there any major -- were there like road or building
3 construction projects that you remember, like just
4 having vivid memories of, like a lot of people talk
5 about when Minnesota got patched through, were bigger
6 or things like that.

7 A Uh-huh.

8 Q Are there any that kind of stand out in your mind as
9 things you remember experiencing?

10 A Through the neighborhood or.....

11 Q Well, just in Anchorage in general since you've lived
12 here?

13 A Oh yeah, well, the project 80s buildings, the State had
14 a lot of money and they built the Performing Arts
15 Center and the Eagan Center and the Library and
16 probably the coastal trail. That was a big thing,
17 getting the coastal trail, that was big. They said
18 Sullivan down here, the Sullivan was another one of the
19 project 80s deals, I think. But that period was quite
20 the construction boom back in the late 70s and into the
21 80s, there was a lot -- a lot of things were happening,
22 it was -- it was amazing that Anchorage just seemed
23 like it just really grew very quickly and a lot of new
24 roads were going in and it was -- the Anchorage bowl
25 started to fill in, all these places, little

1 subdivisions where it used to be just little roads
2 became major four-lane roads all over.

3 Yeah, but I mean, it's been interesting just
4 seeing the town grow so fast just in one half a
5 lifetime, you know?

6 Q Uh-huh.

7 A And so yeah -- but yeah, big changes. I guess, I mean,
8 really, Anchorage used to almost end at Sears, I mean,
9 the built area. Almost -- Northern Lights was almost
10 like the southern edge of town.

11 Q Uh-huh.

12 A I remember that and there wasn't much out beyond that
13 other than like the Seward Highway and a few other --
14 you get beyond that, and it was people living in
15 homesteads. I mean, there was still a lot of
16 homesteads on the hillside area and in south Anchorage
17 and in east Anchorage, just that -- not too many
18 decades ago, you know?

19 Q Uh-huh.

20 Q1 Uh-huh.

21 A It was -- of course, we're pretty filled out now, I
22 guess, mostly Anchorage bowl.

23 Q1 Did you know people that were homesteaders?

24 A Oh, let me think. No. I don't think -- I can't -- let
25 me see, no, I can't say I did. I know a lot of roads

1 around town are named after the homesteaders. Let's
2 see, I think like Debar Road and.....

3 Q Oh, okay.

4 ATurpin. There's O. I mean, most of these
5 roads that have named, attached to somebody's name,
6 they were homesteaders. I (indiscernible) on the
7 different -- it was probably on Muldoon, you know,
8 somebody named Muldoon that lived out there, you know,
9 but so -- but I can't say that I knew any, you know,
10 personally, but. I don't know if there's any of them
11 even left, you know, any of those big properties left.
12 I suppose there are a few here and there, but here and
13 there around town and where they still have some
14 acreage. The K were another one.

15 Q Uh-huh.

16 A Klatt Road, yeah, comes to mind. Yeah, there was a
17 bunch.

18 Q1 Were you -- did you stay in state for college?

19 A I was out -- I went back to Florida and went to college
20 for two years there. And kind of missed Alaska and
21 came back, so I did not finish school down there and I
22 didn't -- I continued up here, but I didn't finish my
23 college education, but I -- well, I started school
24 here, but then just kind of gradually went into start
25 working and less schooling and more working, you know?

1 Q1 Uh-huh.

2 A But I went to UAA for a couple of years. Well, it was
3 community college, Anchorage Community College.

4 Q1 Oh, okay.

5 A At that point before they merged or -- the community
6 college part of it went away though.

7 Q1 Uh-huh.

8 A But that's.....

9 Q Uh-huh.

10 Abeen a long time since that's been around.

11 Q What are some things that you would like to see for
12 your neighborhood in the future?

13 A Well, I'd like to see -- I'd like to see the business
14 area get a little nicer, like the Gambell Street
15 business area. I'd like to see that become kind of a
16 nicer grocery store or maybe a more concentration of
17 small businesses in that area. And I'd like to be able
18 to walk out to a coffee shop or, you know, or even a
19 coffee shop within the store, you know, the grocery
20 store. But I'd like to -- I'd like to see a little
21 business hug up there.

22 I'd like to see property owners take better care
23 of their property, not just single family, but multi
24 unit and we -- and actually take some pride in their
25 apartment buildings, you know? And they're not just a

1 money making thing, but it's something they actually
2 take real pride and the appearance of it, you know?
3 And I'd like to see more -- continue to see young
4 families move in and it's a downtown, it's a dense
5 downtown neighborhood and I'd like to see the best
6 things that you can get in that kind of a neighborhood.
7 You know, the best that there -- you know, I'd like to
8 see that for Fairview. Be the best it can be, but it's
9 going to take some investment and it takes interest and
10 people to have interest and people that want to be here
11 for the long-term and not just coming and going, you
12 know?

13 Q Uh-huh.

14 A We've had a lot of that, a lot of very transient in
15 some respects. It's kind of -- there's a lot of old
16 time folks here, but there's also.....

17 Q Uh-huh.

18 Aa lot of transients, so it's kind of -- it's real
19 mixed up that way.

20 Q Is that just because there's so many rental units
21 or.....

22 A Yeah, it's the rentals, but yeah.

23 Q Do you think it's also people buying like a starter
24 home and then moving or something?

25 A I've seen that happen, yeah. Yeah. I've seen young

1 couples move in over and over. I've seen young couples
2 move in a starter home, and you know, and they start
3 having children, they move for whatever it is, but they
4 -- yeah.

5 And maybe some areas aren't ideal for raising a
6 family. I mean, we have some problems in the
7 neighborhood obviously, you know, so maybe they
8 perceive it to be a nicer school, better schools in
9 other areas or they want a single family home with a
10 yard, you know.....

11 Q Uh-huh.

12 Aor a little bit more property, you know? So I've
13 seen that happen, I've seen a lot of young folks move
14 in, but they.....

15 Q Uh-huh.

16 A And sometimes they'll even keep their place, but
17 they'll keep it -- their original house as a rental,
18 but they'll move along to another home themselves, you
19 know? And then there's very few children in this -- on
20 the other side of Fairview, there's quite a few, but
21 this particular.....

22 Q Uh-huh.

23 A For blocks around, there's not hardly any children, so
24 it's young adults typically.

25 Q Yeah.

1 A And this (indiscernible), but I -- I can almost say --
2 almost literally no children for blocks around here for
3 whatever reason. I don't know why, but it's a lot of
4 young and middle aged single, a lot of single folks.
5 Young couples, a lot of single professionals. All
6 these townhouses across the alley here, those are all
7 -- they're all young professionals that live there that
8 work downtown. Several attorneys and people that work
9 for the State and the City.

10 But that -- that's the typical neighborhood, just
11 single or young couples.....

12 Q Uh-huh.

13 Awithout children in this particular part of the
14 neighborhood. Well, we were talking about what I want
15 to see in the future here?

16 Q Uh-huh.

17 A Yeah, I mean, I'd just like to see it improve more, you
18 know, just -- I've seen improvements, but it hasn't
19 been real fast. It's been -- I mean, there's been a
20 few setbacks (indiscernible) but you know.....

21 Q Uh-huh.

22 Aa few nice things and then a little setback here
23 and there. Things that happen, but I'd just like to
24 see the neighborhood just improve and be -- our motto
25 on the council is to create a -- sort of a neighborhood

1 of choice, that people choose to live here because they
2 like it, you know?

3 Q Uh-huh.

4 A And that's what we're kind of striving for is that
5 mindset I guess.

6 Q Uh-huh. What are your thoughts on (indiscernible)?
7 And I'm asking because it came up in one of my other
8 interviews and I'm just -- it's interesting that that
9 (indiscernible).

10 A I did not fight it when it came along, there was a lot
11 of opposition in the neighborhood.

12 Q Uh-huh.

13 A But the concept, I agree with. I don't think that's
14 the best location.....

15 Q Uh-huh.

16 Ain some respects just because of the -- just -- I
17 mean, it's just real busy, there's a highway on both
18 sides of it, you know, a real busy road and there's a
19 real concentration of social service, Brother Francis,
20 Beans Café, a lot of the agencies. I mean, it's almost
21 like a -- it's a (indiscernible) of social service
22 agencies and the people that use those.

23 Q Uh-huh.

24 A And there's a real concentration, so that might be
25 efficient and make it make sense, you know, in some

1 respects, to have these things close.....

2 Q Uh-huh.

3 Aand the support of agencies you know? And it
4 doesn't (indiscernible) liquor store (indiscernible).
5 Low budget hotels, halfway houses, I mean, there's all
6 -- so when that one came along and not only was the
7 idea controversial, what, we're going to give these
8 alcoholics housing, you know? And they can drink there
9 in our neighborhood, and you know, it's right next door
10 to our park, you know?

11 Q Uh-huh.

12 A That was -- so I mean, I can understand there was a lot
13 of heavy opposition to it. Not necessarily the
14 concept, but the location. But Fairview is yet going
15 to get another round of these, you know, but I -- I'm
16 generally in support of it though. I think it's an
17 approach that needs to be tried.

18 Q So since it's opened, have you noticed (indiscernible)
19 a change in foot traffic from the people outside the
20 community or like, you know, do they tend to hang out
21 more in that area? Do you still kind of see
22 (indiscernible _ simultaneous speech).

23 A It's such a small drop in the overall bucket that I
24 don't think that.....

25 Q So it hasn't really changed?

1 A Yeah, I -- no, I mean, that one little building is
2 nothing. I mean, it's just.....

3 Q Uh-huh.

4 A I mean, literally a drop in the bucket of the social
5 service population problem and.....

6 Q Uh-huh.

7 Apopulation, you know? Yeah, so no, I haven't seen
8 a difference, no. I don't live there, this is a little
9 bit far from there.

10 Q Yeah.

11 A That's not going to affect this location, I don't
12 believe. It's all -- as far as the patterns, I mean,
13 it's all about the liquor stores, where they're
14 located, where are the Carrs store, it's kind of the
15 hub. There's two liquor stores there.

16 Q Uh-huh.

17 A You've got -- and then you've got Brother Francis and
18 Soup Kitchen and then Beans Café and there's a traffic
19 pattern between these hugs, you know, that's.....

20 Q Uh-huh.

21 A And then you've got the woods still. Well, the
22 greenbelt.....

23 Q Uh-huh.

24 Aover here, that's where a lot of people sleep and
25 that's one of the -- that's the homeless over there and

1 woodsy area, so I mean, you've got -- there's a traffic
2 pattern that's kind of established in different places,
3 but it's -- it has all -- everything to do -- all the
4 jails down there, so they let them out of jail down
5 there (indiscernible). They're right there and they
6 were, you know.....

7 Q Uh-huh.

8 Awhen they're released. But I think it's about two
9 blocks from Brother Francis. But as far as
10 (indiscernible) goes, no, I haven't seen any -- and I
11 think it's a good program, so I think it's -- I have no
12 problems with it.

13 Q Uh-huh.

14 A And Rural -- is it Rural Cap, I think, that runs it?

15 Q Yeah, I think so.

16 A I think they're a top notch organization. They have a
17 lot of different social programs under their -- in
18 their agency.....

19 Q Uh-huh.

20 Abut I think they do a lot of good things, you
21 know, for folks.

22 Q You got anything else?

23 Q1 I don't think so, I think we covered the major ones
24 that we wanted to talk.

25 A I'm sorry I couldn't think of any ghost stories or

1 any.....

2 Q Oh no, that's fine.

3 A (Indiscernible).

4 Q No, I mean, not everybody does, it's just.....

5 A Yeah.

6 Qone of those questions.

7 A Or just a little fun things or anything, like I'm not

8 -- I'm sure I could -- when you leave, I'll probably

9 think of 10 things, you know, that I could have told

10 you, but.....

11 Q1 That was interesting, your stories.

12 A Yeah.

13 Q How about if we close with, if you could sell Fairview

14 to anybody today, what would you say about it?

15 A If I could sell it today?

16 Q Yeah, like if you could get somebody excited about

17 coming to live here.

18 A Yeah. I would tell them there was -- it's located

19 nicely, it's easy to get -- it's a central location

20 that's easy to get to downtown. The walk-able, the

21 (indiscernible) factor. I would tell them that there

22 was a lot of interesting, dynamic neighbors to meet of

23 all sorts of social income groups. The demographics

24 are really spread, I mean, as far as the different --

25 what's the word I'm looking for, the racial groups.

1 Q Uh-huh.

2 A Those kind of demographics, it's very diverse racially
3 and ethnically. I think that makes it very
4 interesting. It's not all just one.

5 Q1 Yeah.

6 A And it's not all poor and it's not all wealthy, but
7 it's just a working class, a lot of professionals. I
8 think just a real -- and I think it has a lot of
9 possibilities in the future. I think it's going to be
10 a pretty happening neighborhood at some point in the
11 future. I don't know if we're there yet, but I think,
12 at some point, Fairview is going to be a really
13 happening place I think, you know? Even where --
14 behind Spenard or something, I think we're next after
15 Spenard or something like that. Right now, it's all
16 Spenard I think, you know, so.

17 But I just think our central location near
18 downtown and the mix of uses, the business mix, the mix
19 of zoning, the single family all the way up to
20 apartments and condos I think makes it for a very
21 dynamic and mixed use -- a lot of possibilities for the
22 area, so I'm real optimistic for the future of the
23 neighborhood. I think it's going to be a pretty nice
24 -- it's not for everybody, but I think it's got its own
25 niche there I think in the future of Anchorage and --

1 well, currently for Anchorage.

2 Q Uh-huh.

3 A You know, so yeah.

4 Q All right.

5 Q1 Cool, thank you.

6 Q Yep, thank you.

7 A Thank you.

8 (Off tape)

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