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TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW

JUNE 6, 2014

P R O C E E D I N G S

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Interviewer (Q): Unknown female

Interviewee (A): Male

Interviewee (A1): Female

Interviewee (A2): Female

Interviewee (A3): Male

Q So today is the 6th.....

A Uh-huh.

Qof June and we are sitting here with B and
do you prefer.....

A J.

Q J?

A Or R.

Q B and J.

A And E.

Q And guests. How long have you guys lived in this area,
Anchorage?

A Well, we came here when we were born, so really
that's.....

A1 All three of us.

A '60 -- a while back, 65 years ago and B, 66
years ago and M is 67 years ago.

A1 No, I'm 59.

A2 And I moved in her back yard 20 years ago.

1 A (Intelligible).

2 A1 And she lived in -- she was born and raised in Chiknik
3 (ph) a million years ago, so you got a lot of Alaskans
4 her. Okay.

5 Q So can you guys talk about this neighborhood?

6 A Oh, yeah.

7 A1 Okay.

8 A This is a neighborhood when we were growing up in here,
9 is now called -- is designated by the city as being
10 Fairview, but in our day, it was not Fairview, it was
11 close to Fairview. So I had a patient one time whose
12 daughter, she's an older woman, her (indiscernible) I
13 said, you know, you're from Anchorage and we were
14 talking and then she said yes, she said we lived on
15 10th Avenue. I said where on 10th Avenue, she said
16 well, up by A Street. Yeah. I said really? She said
17 yeah, mom would not let us -- would not have let us
18 play with those kids that lived down on the other side
19 of Cordova. That was me.

20 A1 Well, we had everybody to sign up on 15th and Eagle and
21 that was an entirely different neighborhood even though
22 it's not (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

23 Q Entirely different?

24 A1 Yeah. Yeah, different gangs.....

25

1 A2 Yeah, we would bring home kids from school that
2 were.....

3 A1 I know. But I didn't start hanging around here until
4 about 5th grade I think. No, before that year, it was
5 almost a year that -- yeah, between here and 15th,
6 there were some very sketchy areas. There was a
7 really old and dilapidated trailer park on 13th and
8 Denali.

9 A2 Uh-huh.

10 A1 And then.....

11 A There's also one on 10th and Cordova and 11th and
12 Cordova, a little trailer park there.

13 A2 Uh-huh. There was a lot of swamp.

14 A Uh-huh.

15 A1 And then.....

16 A In the swamp.

17 A2 Uh-huh.

18 A1 You guys interviewed Mrs. C yet?

19 Q No.

20 A1 Oh, she was -- she lives in the building that was
21 built over the swamp where I always used to skate and
22 she was a substitute teacher. Everybody was thrilled.

23 A2 Marvelous.

24 A1 When you look in the window and there was Mrs. C
25 (ph). She always referred to herself in the third

1 person. Mrs. C (ph) would like you to do this.

2 A2 Okay. So Mrs. C (ph), you're going to meet her

3 tomorrow, but I had this big Easter party, you know, a

4 million kids and so on. I was trying to get their

5 attention, nobody would pay any attention to me and

6 Mrs. C (ph) stood up and she went, and I went

7 (makes noise), it's all right now, you will listen and

8 they all listened and I didn't know what to do. I

9 started laughing and I says.....

10 A1 Mrs. C (ph) would like you to listen.

11 A2 Yeah, and she's so cute. Okay.

12 A We only have big memories of growing up here because I

13 think the old man found a house that was close to a

14 school and that was close to his work.

15 A2 Actually, there was no school, it was a woods and they

16 didn't.....

17 A It was a rumor of a school.

18 A2 Yeah, but they.....

19 A What year was Denali built?

20 A2 M went to the.....

21 ((Crosstalk))

22 A2first year -- M went to the first year, so

23 that was 68 years ago. No, it was -- she six, okay,

24 so it was 62 years ago and they built the school over

25 here. Yep.

1 A '50 -- 1952. Right, the school.

2 A2 Yeah, and there was the first -- yeah, because I
3 remember going to an Easter egg hunt there. The
4 Kiwanis Easter Egg Hunt and I remembered going there
5 and I remember not finding an egg, M was walking
6 -- I hadn't found any eggs and -- and I just cried and
7 had blonde curls and this man came and said little
8 girl, turn around, and there was an egg and that was
9 like magic. No, so we -- yeah, I mean, there was
10 like -- you know, it was like woods.

11 A Well.....

12 A2 And then it was made into a school and M went to
13 the first -- the first year, she went to first grade,
14 the first year it was built. And when they finally
15 turned it into a new school, tore it all down and made
16 this Montessori school there, it's like sister-in-law
17 and brother were involved in that and they were
18 heavily involved in that and they got all, you know,
19 the teachers and.....

20 A Well.....

21 A1 So we thought if they were tearing down the school, we
22 had to throw a party of 15 years.

23 A2 Yeah, 15 years.

24 A1 We called it the Denali Finale. M came up with
25 the name. And maybe you can help me.

1 A3 Somebody tried (indiscernible - away from microphone).
2 A1 There was a neighborhood that we had -- we really had
3 everybody, one of the first low income subsidized
4 housing was where the graveyard is. The graveyard was
5 there, but the -- there was.....
6 A They didn't use it as a graveyard yet, and when they
7 did.....
8 ((Crosstalk))
9 A1 Went all the way around the edge, it was L shaped on
10 9th and up Denali was.....
11 A2 The housing project.
12 A1Willow Park.
13 A2 Yeah, Willow Park Housing Project.
14 A1 She had really, really, really poor -- it was a really
15 diverse school, you had really poor kids, you had.....
16 A2 That's what they had and I was telling them.....
17 ((Crosstalk))
18 A2before you got here and we didn't -- you know, we
19 didn't have this on tape.
20 A2 (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech).
21 A2 But when R -- our youngest brother, when he was
22 five, he went to the -- he went to the Head Start at
23 Denali and he loved it because they had breakfast and
24 they had little boxes, you know, with breakfast
25 brought in.

1 A Hot, hot, hot, not.

2 A2 And they had breakfast for those poor little kids in
3 the housing project.

4 ((Crosstalk))

5 A2 And dad well, if they'd only brought him shoes, it
6 would be (indiscernible).

7 ((Crosstalk))

8 A2 Without government -- and he'd get up early in the
9 morning and he'd lovingly go to Kindergarten because
10 he loved it because, you know, he's got all this -- he
11 go to eat over there.

12 Q What did your guys' parents do as.....

13 A2 Our parents were both physicians. Our mother was the
14 first -- was the first born certified psychiatrist in
15 Alaska and our father was a GP, a general
16 practitioner.

17 A (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech) toxic.

18 A2 Who.....

19 A (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

20 A2 Who would look out of his office window down there on
21 6th and I and say.....

22 A1 That guy's going to die.

23 A2 Yeah, that guy's going to die. No, you don't. Poor
24 (indiscernible) O.....

25 A1 He was the coroner on the streets of Anchorage for

1 many, many years and he -- mom would say Jim, do
2 something with the kids. And he'd take J and I to
3 autopsies.

4 A2 Yeah, that's our father. Well, he didn't know how to
5 interact at all.

6 A1 And that explains a lot.

7 A I wasn't going to say it.

8 A2 That's why he took T to the Wayne hotel.

9 A1 T (indiscernible).

10 A2 T -- the Lane Hotel fire. That was another story,
11 but my brother, T, he was like 11 and the Lane
12 Hotel was a hotel downtown and it was mainly.....
13 ((Crosstalk))

14 A2 My first effort in (indiscernible).

15 A1 M, this is very good. So anyway, T -- he took
16 T to the.....
17 ((Crosstalk))

18 A2 Well, he took my brother T to the Lane Hotel fire
19 and it was mainly out of town Natives and they -- and
20 they used to gather there and they -- a lot of them --
21 you know, people burned up and it was awful.

22 A Good entertainment for.....

23 A2 And my father was there -- and my father brought my
24 11-year-old brother and had him walk around with a guy
25 who was -- they didn't know -- they couldn't identify

1 these people, so they were cutting off their boot and
2 they were all burnt to death and -- and he but off
3 their hands and tied a little thing around their
4 hands, you know, to identify, you know, them.....

5 A Well.....

6 A2 to try to -- and T held the bucket and it was
7 like a Kentucky Fried Chicken bucket that he was
8 holding. And he became a vegetarian after that and so
9 he should have.

10 Q Really?

11 A2 Yeah, that really happened.

12 A Don't believe a word of it. Well.....

13 Q Well, wouldn't you?

14 A2 I mean, my father didn't see anything wrong with it.
15 My mother goes that's not right. That is right, T
16 told me.

17 A Okay. Yeah. Then it must be true.

18 A2 A really good story about dad when he was coroner one
19 time, this cop told me. (Indiscernible) came down to
20 announce this guy dead, he had shot himself through
21 the chest in the basement, it was a concrete basement.
22 Dad went downstairs, there was this guy in a big pool
23 of blood and he leaped over there and he landed on the
24 guy's chest. Went down there and yeah, he's passed.
25 He was just -- this cop was just shocked that he would

1 leap over and land on the guy's chest so he wouldn't
2 get his shoes bloody.

3 Q Does that sound like (indiscernible)?

4 A2 He was an old hand, he'd been doing it for years.

5 A There's a fair amount of -- if you were to pRably
6 gather.....

7 ((Crosstalk))

8 A Modest about a hyperbole.....

9 ((Crosstalk))

10 Aassociated with some of the (indiscernible -
11 simultaneous speech) just -- it's sort of -- this is
12 where a hyperbole went on vacation here
13 (indiscernible) so it's kind exact hyperbole. So just
14 -- yeah, it's -- I find that highly impRable
15 although the story of the young 21 or 22-year-old S
16 T at the bar up here on 5th Avenue, which is
17 called the.....

18 A1 Polar.

19 A210 Club.

20 A2 Yes.

21 A1 The one that's on.....

22 A2 Oh, A's 210.

23 A No, there's.....

24 A1 No, the one that's on Eagle, that's the Polar Bar.

25 A Yeah, that's the Polar Bar. That was the Polar Bar,

1 that was a different story about that, but the 210
2 Club is around the -- by Cordova, kind of.....
3 A2 Alice's 210, it had (indiscernible - simultaneous
4 speech).
5 A Cordova and 5th Avenue and.....
6 A2 (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech) under the table.
7 A the -- someone was enamored of this young woman
8 who was a singer at the bar and shot her to death, and
9 so the old man went over there to pronounce this woman
10 dead. And this I do know because there was some
11 reliable police officers had been patients of mine and
12 they had told me they were part in this famous thing.
13 Her name was -- her stage name was Rose Dawn.
14 A2 I was going to say.
15 A And the old man went in and looked -- went over and
16 looked at her and pronounced her dead and he came back
17 over and the bartender had set up a shot glass on the
18 bar and poured it full of whiskey and the old man shot
19 the whiskey down and then filled out the forms. He
20 put his hat on the bartender on the bar and went over
21 and did that. When he came back, there was a shot of
22 whiskey glass and he (indiscernible) the shot down and
23 he told us that story. He would relish in that story
24 because, you know, it's a young girl and.....
25 A2 And she was a very beautiful woman and he said it

1 saved the state a lot of money, that's what he told
2 me.

3 A By shooting her?

4 A2 Yeah, somebody shot her, but -- and then he shot
5 himself.

6 A No. No, that's not true.

7 A2 Well, why would it have saved the state a lot of
8 money?

9 A Well, that, I don't know, that state -- saved --
10 saving a lot of money, this policeman is one of the
11 people that arrested the guy that shot her. Yum, this
12 is very good.

13 A1 Well, he might have shot himself and not died.

14 A Anyway.....

15 A1 What's inside?

16 ((Crosstalk))

17 A The old man came to Alaska about 1945.

18 A2 That's why I said M said it was '46, I said I
19 think it was '45.

20 A Well, he didn't get his license up here until 1947,
21 but he was in practice here in 1945, so I don't know.
22 '46 maybe, I don't know. Anyways, so I have his
23 license, so there's a date on it, but those things
24 kind of float around. And he came to Alaska, I think,
25 in large part, because he realized that he could not

1 practice medicine the way he wanted to practice
2 medicine in Chicago where he was from. He was --
3 there was a lot of stuff going on in medicine in
4 Chicago that was enlightened and great, but a lot of
5 other stuff that was sort of more corrupt. And the
6 old man didn't want that part of it and he had been in
7 Chicago and he practiced there before the war and
8 before he went into the Army and he knew that some
9 aspects of it really stunk, he didn't want a part of
10 it.

11 So when he was in practice in an Army hospital
12 toward the end of the war, when (indiscernible)
13 hospitals in Melo Park, California, a place called
14 Dibble Army Hospital, he had a ward -- probably 60
15 patients or 50 and they all crammed into these
16 barracks -- kind of barracks buildings that they built
17 in rows and rows and connected them with a bunch of
18 ramps and stuff. And that was the hospital and mom
19 had a ward in this hospital too, that's where they
20 met. And mom was -- she was working as clin -- just
21 in clinical practice, and so -- but one of the
22 patients on his ward, and this story goes back now --
23 will go back in time, get the little harp string,
24 makes a little noise and then you go back in time, to
25 a time before -- between World War I and World War II.

1 It was a colonel -- it wasn't a colonel, it was a
2 major -- captain or major. Promotions were slow,
3 people were stuck in rank and people stayed in the
4 Army for various reasons, but it certainly wasn't for
5 glory because there was no glory and there was no
6 money.

7 And because a series of Republican Presidents
8 held -- withheld all the funds from the Army, the
9 Army's really in serious trouble, blah, blah, blah.
10 And then, you know, FTR and World War II and all that
11 stuff. But during that period of time, there was a guy
12 named Fighting J C who was -- didn't go to
13 World War I, but was in this -- what they called the
14 Brown Shoe Army that they all had -- wore brown shoes
15 in those days and they changed to black in World War
16 II. And he was advanced up in the chain of ranks and
17 he was an infantry colonel who had a brigade or
18 something.

19 Anyway, some group of men, but he also had -- and
20 he had this beautiful southern bell wife named R
21 and he would also -- was quite vane and handsome and
22 also had psoriasis. The psoriasis that this guy had --
23 you know, if you know about the heartbreak in
24 psoriasis, psoriasis is a disease that affects people
25 in various parts and this guy, unfortunately, it's kind

1 of red raised issue that's kind of a rash that kind of
2 scabs over and looks terrible, but nobody knew exactly
3 what to do with it then and certainly -- but they --
4 they realized that, if you were out in the sun, that
5 stuff would disappear and also if you got radiation,
6 radiation treatment, then it would also disappear.

7 So FJ would get a flare of his
8 psoriasis on his face unfortunately and he would go get
9 it radiated and it would go away. And even in those
10 days, they knew that you couldn't get radiated too much
11 because it was kind of bad for you, Madam Curry was one
12 of these examples. So he would -- when he transferred
13 posts, he would tear out those sheets of paper in his
14 records, he would take them -- and when you were in the
15 -- an officer in the Army in those days, you could take
16 your own records to the next post. The medical records
17 is one jacket and the regular records was another one
18 and he took them to the next post. They don't do that
19 anymore because they have computers, but -- and I did
20 that when I was in the Army in 1970.

21 So he would tear out those pieces that show that
22 he had the radiation to his face and then, when he had
23 another flare, he'd get radiated and -- so by the time
24 he got up here, he had a battalion of irregular scouts
25 that were their forward scouts for the Invasion of

1 Attu. And these people were miners, trappers, outdoors
2 men, woodsmen, various people that they trained up with
3 automatic weapons and tactics and then sent them out
4 into battle and they were like the forward scouts.

5 After this battle, he -- Colonel C (ph)
6 came back to Anchorage, but he was starting to have
7 trouble by then with radiation with the upper face and
8 neck and he started getting cancers. And so he was a
9 patient of dad's and Colonel C (ph) had -- those
10 men built him a house out of cottonwood trees. I'm
11 sure it's not there anymore, but they harvested out of
12 the Army land down at Eagle River. And he's down and
13 the old man's ward and he's dying of cancer and he says
14 doc, you ought to go to Alaska, it's a great place, you
15 ought to go. And the old man had been waiting for
16 someone to point in some direction and here is this guy
17 telling him he should go to Alaska because he's got no
18 connection with Alaska, he's from Chicago. Yeah, he
19 would do it and oh, by the way, doc, when you're up
20 there, could you take care of my house for me, which he
21 rented to, you know, various people. And I don't know
22 whatever happened to that.

23 Anyway, that's how he ended up there. That's a
24 story I know. I read some of it -- letters that were
25 connected with it, I think, so that's how we got to

1 Alaska. Some other person's vanity and yeah, skin
2 disease.

3 A2 So they bought this house in 1946 and they -- and it
4 was a little tiny house and they built -- this part was
5 built, it was built from here out. It's got one
6 supporting wall in the whole house. I know because I
7 tried to get it.

8 A And B knows where that is.

9 A2 Yes, I do.

10 A1 I don't think she does.

11 A2 Yes, I do.

12 ((Crosstalk))

13 A I have vague memories of when this house was -- I had
14 a.....

15 A2 Yeah, I do know.

16 Aslanted -- the back stairs were a part of that,
17 the way you got out the back stairs. There were two
18 bedrooms upstairs.

19 A2 Yeah, but they were off the shoot. The shoot. There
20 was a stairway up in the shoot area and there was two
21 -- and it was like a little -- almost like a barn and
22 it had two bedrooms upstairs. My parents slept
23 downstairs and we only had -- we had a bathroom and
24 then they built -- they had the nursery.....

25 A First addition.....

1 A2 The nursery added on and -- and the bathroom back there
2 and then they built it all out here.
3 A1 What do you want to know about (indiscernible).
4 A You really don't want to know about.....
5 ((Crosstalk))
6 A2 (Indiscernible) what you want to know.
7 Q Any.....
8 A1 (Indiscernible) to tell you.
9 Q I mean, anything really, like what was it like growing
10 up here.
11 A Well, it was a really bad neighborhood.
12 Q What stuff did you guys do, how is it different now.
13 ((Crosstalk))
14 A2 It was not a bad neighborhood.
15 ((Crosstalk))
16 A Well, I mean, like right down the road, thlived
17 right down the road.
18 A2 That's right. (Indiscernible).
19 A No, he lived across Cordova. I understand that, but it
20 was still in what is now called Fairview.
21 A2 Judge M.
22 A It was not called Fairview.
23 A2 Mr. G.
24 A The other side of Cordova.
25 A2 Yeah. The B B.

1 A That was the good side of Cordova, this was not.

2 A1 See, that's what we were (indiscernible - simultaneous
3 speech).

4 Q So there's a good side and a bad side?

5 A They lived -- they are from the other side of the
6 tracks.

7 A1 No, there wasn't. It was all pretty -- I mean, we had
8 -- I had.....

9 ((Crosstalk))

10 A1 A lot of Eskimos lived here and a lot of the kids came
11 home with me, right across the street from the school.

12 A Did they live in Igloos?

13 A1 It was very democratic -- I mean, very diverse
14 neighborhood.....

15 Q Uh-huh.

16 A1back then.

17 Q (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

18 A1 Mostly, the diversity came from the Eski -- the Alaska
19 Natives.

20 A2 And some of it came from the Black people because.....

21 A1 There was hardly any -- but we.....

22 A J R (indiscernible).

23 A2 There you go and Verna R. That R family.

24 A Oh yeah.

25 A2 They had like 16 kids.

1 A1 What about t?
2 A And the B.
3 A2 And the B.
4 A1 The B were our favorites.
5 ((Crosstalk))
6 A1 The B went to Fairview Elementary.
7 A2 That's right. No.....
8 A1 Oh no, actually, no.
9 ((Crosstalk))
10 A2 W B went to Denali.
11 A1 A went to Denali.
12 A2 That's right.
13 A3 (Indiscernible).
14 A But Denali was -- it was on the borderline. The
15 borderline for Fairview.....
16 A2 In those days, everybody had thousands of kids. I
17 mean, the average number of kids was five.
18 A There was nothing else to do.
19 A2 That's what -- yeah.
20 Q So did you guys know your neighbors pretty well?
21 A2 Yes.
22 ((Crosstalk))
23 A2 As long as they had children.
24 A Well, we had -- there were like a series of Boo
25 Radleys. Everybody here has read To Kill a

1 Mockingbird.

2 A2 Uh-huh.

3 A Remember Boo Radley was trying to spend the summer
4 trying to get Boo Radley to come out of his house?

5 Q Uh-huh. Yeah.

6 A Yeah. In Alaska, you never see anybody except from the
7 waist up. (Indiscernible) lived in their garage, you'd
8 never see him and he won't come out because it was cold
9 and nasty.

10 ((Crosstalk))

11 A2 What was his name that was building his garage, Mr.....

12 A Mr. M (ph).

13 A2 Mr. M (ph), the one that taught me the
14 word.....

15 A (Indiscernible). Come on, M, cough it up. You can
16 do it.

17 A2 Okay, so my sister S -- we had a swing set out in
18 the back and it was -- it was all, you know, Mr.
19 M (ph) who lived down the alley, I said.....

20 A1 He was -- he was an immigrant, he was from the old -- I
21 think he was from the old country, wasn't he?

22 A He was from -- he was from Czechoslovakia.

23 A2 He worked like -- like a son-of-a-bitch. He dug out
24 his whole basement.

25 A By hand after work.

1 A2 (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

2 A Every day, he'd go down there and dig and dig and dig.

3 A1 That's what my grandfather did up at 8th and D.

4 A Yeah.

5 A1 And then he invented -- and then he put together a

6 little railroad so that it could (indiscernible) one

7 card, it would go down because my father's family home

8 was at the corner of 8th and D. And it would come --

9 it would go down into the crawl space and he would fill

10 it up and he would put the ladder there and he would go

11 back outside and put the little lever (indiscernible -

12 voice lowered) and then he'd come back up.

13 A3 Oh, that's cool.

14 A2 Well, Mr. M (ph) built this swing set out here

15 and he -- and he.....

16 ((Crosstalk))

17 A Because.....

18 A2 And he welded it.

19 A Because.....

20 ((Crosstalk))

21 A B, tell him why, because?

22 A2 Well, because S jumped up and down underneath the

23 swing, you know, there was kind of this (indiscernible

24 - simultaneous speech).

25 A1 No, we were having an Olympics and we were seeing how

1 far we could jump.....

2 A2 And S jumped in the middle.....

3 A1 Swing and jump and whoever jumped the furthest and

4 S jumped and the ground caved in.

5 A2 Well, and she was fat. And she went right down, it was

6 an old crib.....

7 A Oh, you told me about this.

8 A2 Yeah. It was an old crib, a cess pool.

9 A Cess pool. Ooh, those cess pools. You've heard....

10 ((Crosstalk))

11 Athis literary term and you don't know exactly what

12 it is, but around here, there was no city sewer and

13 what people did is they built -- they just ran their

14 pipe out under the ground to a little crib of logs in

15 the ground and then they covered it over the top and

16 then all your sewage ran into this thing and sort of

17 seeped away.

18 A2 Yeah, but this was an old one.

19 A There were two -- there were three of them in our back

20 yard.

21 A2 And one underneath the driveway. My father's car went

22 in there.

23 Q Oh.

24 A3 It was more than one collapsed, right?

25 A2 Yeah, my father's car went down in one of them and he

1 was very annoyed.

2 ((Crosstalk))

3 A2 It was in the middle of the night and I.....

4 ((Crosstalk))

5 A2 So Mr. M (ph) came over and he -- he -- he --

6 he dozed it in and he covered the whole thing up.

7 A1 And then there was another one under the.....

8 A Brought in gravel.

9 A2garage.

10 A In his trailer, yeah. Same deal.

11 A2 Uh-huh. And there's one that, you know.....

12 A When they filled up, they didn't have any pumping,

13 sewage pumping, they just built another one down in the

14 hole.

15 ((Crosstalk))

16 A1 They had just (indiscernible) just lying around, you

17 know, still.

18 A2 Well, but Mr. M (ph) committed.....

19 ((Crosstalk))

20 A2 Ended up committing suicide.

21 ((Crosstalk))

22 A2 And he had two sons, Kenny and.....

23 ((Crosstalk))

24 A V.

25 A2 V.

1 A How could you forget V.

2 A2 Well, I don't know, because he was kind of retarded.

3 ((Crosstalk))

4 A He was not retarded, he was normal.

5 ((Crosstalk))

6 A T was really smart.

7 A2 T was very smart.

8 A Compared to -- to V, he was a really smart.....

9 ((Crosstalk))

10 A3 Told you guys. You're not going to get as irritating

11 an interview as this one, I'll tell you.

12 ((Crosstalk))

13 A Ruthie went to a -- some kind of sale and she was

14 selling things at -- in front of a grocery one time for

15 some cause and somebody brought up a little box of

16 puppies and she ended up bringing one of the puppies

17 home. S. S grew up, you know, one of those

18 100-pound dogs, them real fine, long hair that comes

19 out and goes everywhere. And nobody could

20 (indiscernible) S around the house (indiscernible)

21 S was in the back yard on a chain. V came

22 into the yard, started playing with S, S bit

23 him. That was great because that was the end of S,

24 but before happened, S ran around in front of a car

25 and got hit by a car and mom paid 1000 bucks to put an

1 artificial hip in S.

2 A2 Well, she didn't know what else to do.

3 A (Indiscernible) confused times.

4 A2 I know, but she wanted to.....

5 ((Crosstalk))

6 A3 They had artificial hips for dogs way back then.

7 A Yeah.

8 A2 Our mother.....

9 ((Crosstalk))

10 A2always wanted to have pets. My father didn't want

11 to have cats because he thought we (indiscernible -

12 simultaneous speech).

13 A He knew that no one would take care of them.

14 A2 Nobody would take care of the pets, so he said he had

15 asthma.

16 A Yeah, he was allergic to dogs and.....

17 A2 That's right, and cats.

18 Acats.

19 A2 And chickens and everything, so.....

20 ((Crosstalk))

21 A So anyway.....

22 A2 So we never had any pets.

23 Awe usually (indiscernible) speaking, the

24 neighborhood was very (indiscernible) in those days,

25 and E can probably speak to this better than I

1 can, but in those days, there were no supermarkets in
2 Anchorage.

3 A2 There was too.

4 A1 Yes, there was. Piggly Wiggly.

5 A2 There was Piggly Wiggly.

6 A No, no, no, there was no Piggly Wiggly up there.

7 ((Crosstalk))

8 A Our parents did not go to any of the grocery stores,
9 but there was a grocery store every three or four
10 blocks. There was one on Gamble Street, 9th and
11 Gamble, there was one on.....

12 A2 What do you mean, there wasn't any.....

13 A There was one on 9th and A, there was one on 9th and C.
14 That was just this neighborhood and there was one over
15 where the Bishops Attic is on Gamble Street and
16 (indiscernible) there was another little one that
17 turned into Carrs.

18 A1 It's where Carrs is.

19 ((Crosstalk))

20 A3 They're like little fruit stores, like.....

21 ((Crosstalk))

22 A It would have regular gro -- regular refrigerators that
23 you went and got your -- but E can address this
24 point because her father was a grocery man and he would
25 delivery food to these places to -- for -- yeah.

1 A2 Well, C Street Food Lion was really big. It was a big
2 store.
3 ((Crosstalk))
4 A1 In the 60s, yeah.
5 A Yeah.
6 A1 In the 60s.
7 A3 How much time did you allot for this, an hour and a
8 half? Not enough.
9 ((Crosstalk))
10 A2 But we went to the commissary. We -- we got our food
11 from the commissary, we got all our clothes from the
12 PBX.
13 A When -- when -- in those days, it was real curious
14 because now, of course, those big (indiscernible) of
15 people buying fish and you can buy fish, Copper River
16 stuff comes and everybody can buy it, you can buy
17 halibut.
18 A2 Yeah.
19 A You can buy local fish, rock fish and cod and things.
20 In those days, the fish never made it to.....
21 A2 Oh yeah, you had to get it.....
22 A The tubs would -- they'd build the tubs, they'd fly
23 them down to Seattle, they'd never see it. And it was
24 really amazing because every once in a while, one of
25 dad's patients would bring him a fish and he'd bring it

1 home and we'd eat it. But -- but.....

2 A1 People didn't -- didn't individually fish for salmon

3 like they do now like combat fishing on the Russian

4 River. That's.....

5 ((Crosstalk))

6 A1 That's from the later -- well, my dad fished at Ship

7 Creek, my dad grew up here. And.....

8 A2 Ship Creek was.....

9 A1 He -- he fished.....

10 A2clogged with cars and old refrigerators and.....

11 A1 He fished in Ship Creek and.....

12 A2beds and -- remember that?

13 A1(indiscernible) in Chester Creek.

14 A2 Yeah, you couldn't fish in Ches -- well, maybe down by

15 the inlet, but you couldn't fish in Ship Creek, it was

16 full of junk. It has now been re-cleaned.

17 A Cleaned, yes. Well.....

18 A1 Yeah, but they -- combat fishing on the Russian River

19 was always.....

20 ((Crosstalk))

21 A1 That's when it started.

22 A There was a hooligan run in Chester Creek once. B

23 N told me about it when he was a little kid, he

24 was up here. And he said they'd go down there and try

25 to net the hooligan in Chester Creek.

1 A2 And we want what (indiscernible)?
2 A Yeah.
3 A2 Remember hanging off the railroad bridge that went over
4 Chester Creek into.....
5 A Yeah.
6 A2the lagoon.
7 A With that big rope?
8 ((Crosstalk))
9 A2 And daring each other to jump off the -- yeah.
10 A No, you'd get on those ropes when.....
11 ((Crosstalk))
12 A After a little while, you'd kind of stop and then
13 somebody would throw you a rope and they'd pull you
14 over to the shore and you'd climb out on the slippery
15 mud and climb back up and you'd bring -- towing this
16 big rope this big around.
17 A2 We'd go down on the mud flats and we'd skate?
18 A Yeah.
19 A2 Remember, B used to do that. E.
20 A1 We -- basically, we were mostly unsupervised as
21 children. Every -- but that was because.....
22 ((Crosstalk))
23 A1everybody's mother -- for the most part,
24 everybody's mother was home. And so there were always
25 eyes looking out and everybody's parents knew you

1 and.....

2 A Yeah.

3 A1even in -- in you know, 15th and up in there,

4 yeah, we -- we were out, we would go out in the morning

5 about 9:30 or 10:00.....

6 ((Crosstalk))

7 A1 We would come in for dinner and lunch when we'd get

8 hungry and dinner.....

9 A2 Yeah.

10 A1and then somewhere around 10:30, 11:00 o'clock at

11 night and we just sort of (indiscernible) all summer

12 and it was.....

13 A2 It was so much fun.

14 A1fun. And I mean, unsupervised.....

15 ((Crosstalk))

16 A2 I'm so sorry kids nowadays can't do that.

17 A Well, it is terrible.

18 A1 It was totally different.

19 A I was five years old, going into Kindergarten. Five

20 years old. Okay, J, go walk up to Ms.

21 Christiansen's house and so Ms. Christiansen's

22 house.....

23 A2 Yeah, you told me about your kindergarten experience.

24 Ais on 11th and -- yeah.....

25 A2 I would spend most of my kindergarten experience

1 looking into a corner.

2 A So nothing's changed in 60 years?

3 ((Crosstalk))

4 A I walked -- well, let's see, this is Cordova, so one,
5 two three, four, five blocks by myself. I was five and
6 I walked (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

7 A2 It was very optional. Nobody -- if you wanted to, you
8 could send your kids to kindergarten, that was usually
9 private.

10 A1 Yeah, it wasn't.....

11 A The house is still there.

12 A2 Went to a church or something like that.

13 ((Crosstalk))

14 A2 I went to kindergarten at Presbyterian Church downtown.

15 A1 But I mean, there wasn't -- there wasn't.....

16 A3 (Indiscernible) Catholic.....

17 A2 Mrs. A. No, Mrs. A, C A.

18 A1 Mrs. A, I remember her. Where do I
19 remember.....

20 A2 Kindergarten.

21 A1 But most of the kids in Fairview.....

22 A2 I learned how to make a triangle. I didn't know how to
23 do a triangle roof because we had a flat roof. And
24 then one day, I had to make a triangle, and you know,
25 it took a lot of okay, go like this. I remember making

1 -- the day I made a triangle.

2 A The.....

3 A2 A roof.

4 Q It was kindergarten?

5 A2 Yeah.

6 A The neighborhood -- the neighborhood's are very curious

7 because this neighborhood on this side of Cordova

8 Street had it's own things and it's own -- but

9 basically, they (indiscernible) so we sort of were a

10 gang. And over across the street of Cordova.....

11 A1 We weren't very cohesive though. I mean, we tried our

12 own little.....

13 A Yeah.

14 A1sub gang.

15 A Yes.

16 A2 Yeah, but the guys -- people down the street, the

17 C.....

18 A1 There was so many kids back in those days.

19 A Yeah.

20 A2 J C.....

21 A1 There's all kinds of Eskimo kids and.....

22 A2 No, then there were the -- the -- the thugs, A

23 H.....

24 ((Crosstalk))

25 A2and J G(ph).

1 A J G and A and D S.
2 A2 J S was -- no, he was just retarded.
3 A1 Allan Hurley was never a thug.
4 A He was normal, B.
5 A2 And his sister was L S and she got hoof and
6 mouth disease and we all thought that was hilarious.
7 A I told you. Was I lying?
8 A2 Poor L.
9 A Across the street -- across the street, there were --
10 poor L. There were two little houses.....
11 ((Crosstalk))
12 A1 Hey, tell the stories about our neighbors.
13 A2 Okay, so I'll have to tell you.....
14 A3 Sing a song.
15 ((Crosstalk))
16 A2 No, no.
17 A No, no, no.
18 ((Crosstalk))
19 A They want regional commentary.
20 ((Crosstalk))
21 A2 S lived across the street and there was a little
22 turquoise house over there and they were a nice family
23 and they had this kidney shaped pool in the back and it
24 was all full of water and it was blue -- kind of blue,
25 you know?

1 Q Uh-huh.

2 A2 And so one -- they went on vacation, we put these signs
3 up, liver lodge on the house, kidney (indiscernible) on
4 the -- that pool in the back. It was about the size of
5 this table and intestinal dump on their garbage can. I
6 mean, we were terribly original. And they came back
7 and.....

8 A1 That's (indiscernible) demons.

9 A2 But they came back from vacation and Mrs. Sawyer cried
10 in the front yard and it was horrible. We were all
11 over here going -- looking out the window waiting for
12 this big, you know, and oh, it's going to be really fun
13 and she cried and we all didn't know what to do.

14 Q Oh.

15 A Well, we were making fun of the kids because the kids
16 got excited about this little pool that their dad made
17 in the back yard out of concrete. Yeah, and they took
18 little signs, they mimeographed them in his office on
19 pink paper, said Kidney Creek, you know, one quarter
20 mile and they put these things on around the
21 neighborhood and we kind of looked and said well, this
22 is really pretty cool, but this is stupid. We'll fix
23 them. We were terrible, we were demons. We were
24 demons. We thought our parents -- reflexively, I
25 think, we thought our parents were insane, but the

1 neighbor who lived right over here.....

2 A2 Oh, God.

3 Ahe was somehow sane and normal and their family

4 was normal and we wanted to be normal like this normal

5 family. But it turns out that we were so wrong about

6 that because.....

7 A2 Well (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

8 Ahe's -- he's dead now.

9 ((Crosstalk))

10 A Well, (indiscernible) was crazy, he was totally crazy.

11 A2 No, but -- okay, so I went over there and L

12 H was my best friend and she was right across the

13 fence in the back yard. And I went over there and she

14 showed me -- she took me into the bedroom and she

15 showed me this stuff, and of course, my parents didn't

16 have anything quite so exciting. If they did, they

17 certainly didn't have it. She showed me this -- let's

18 see, the ice cube trays that were boobs, boob ice cube

19 trays. Jane Mansfield hot water bottle that you fill

20 up with water, you know, and then the breasts got huge,

21 had this big head. This -- it was like.....

22 A1 (Indiscernible).

23 A2 That was.....

24 A (Indiscernible) don't change.

25 A2a little boy.

1 ((Crosstalk))
2 A2 A little boy with a -- you know, he didn't have any
3 pants on and when you pushed his button, pee came out
4 of this penis and put out -- I mean, it was water and
5 he put out the cigarette, okay? But L was showing
6 me all this stuff and I was like.....
7 A It's a famous statue, B, it's in Brussels, I've
8 seen it.
9 A2 I was fascinated, all right, and I.....
10 A (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech).
11 A2 And a bare naked lady lamp that went around and around.
12 So I went home, of course, bearing tales and my
13 mother.....
14 ((Crosstalk))
15 A2was like.....
16 ((Crosstalk))
17 A2what were you doing in their bedroom?
18 A Oh, oh.
19 A2 Well, L took me in there -- well, what were you
20 doing in their bedroom, you have no business being in
21 anybody's bedroom. These are adults and they can --
22 you're -- blah, blah, blah, to the point, you know,
23 where I was like okay, whatever. So what else did they
24 have?
25 ((Crosstalk))

1 A1 Let me tell you something about Regional, like I.....
2 ((Crosstalk))
3 A1 I had a friend named E C that used to come over
4 here and E -- one time, she said your family eats
5 such weird foods. We used to have artichokes and stuff
6 like that and then when I worked on the pipeline in the
7 70s, I went to go -- I was on a Glennallen route, I was
8 on a fuel truck and I ran into E C. E
9 C and you remember when you said we had really weird
10 foods at our house, she says yeah, you did. We had
11 things like artichokes.
12 A Oysters.
13 A1 We didn't have oysters.
14 A Capers. Curry.
15 A1 Oh, we had artichokes, our mother liked artichokes.
16 A We had -- no, we had those. We had oysters, I remember
17 that night, L G (ph) brought all those oysters in
18 from the flight from Paris.
19 A2 But we would bring kids home from school because we
20 lived right across from there and.....
21 ((Crosstalk))
22 A2we would come home for lunch.
23 A Oysters, these are great, what the hell?
24 A1 And then V who was in my 5th and 6th grade class,
25 she was an Alaska Native and she was really big for her

1 age. She already had her period in the 6th grade.

2 A Oh my God.

3 A1 She was such a sweetheart, but she was so passive and
4 (indiscernible). Come on. V.

5 A Get violent. Yeah.

6 ((Crosstalk))

7 A Anyway, there was a certain section, it was really
8 amazing. There was a certain section, the
9 neighborhoods were very, very small. Very small, like
10 two blocks.

11 A1 And everybody had at least five kids.

12 A Yeah.

13 A1 That was the average.....

14 A And so.....

15 A1family.

16 A So the C and.....

17 ((Crosstalk))

18 A1 Bions of children.

19 A And the M's, the C's and the B, the
20 P's and the R over there was a different
21 area. We never really interacted with those people.

22 A2 No, we didn't like them. We called them named and.....

23 A Yeah.

24 A2we were not very nice to him.

25 A Yeah, there was that, but I interacted a lot more.....

1 A2 (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech).
2 Athan you guys did, but -- and I was just, you
3 know, like a year younger. These funny, weird
4 (indiscernible) that everybody accept as being reality,
5 but really wasn't.
6 ((Crosstalk))
7 A The (indiscernible - simultaneous speech). There was a
8 whole bunch of kids that lived.....
9 A2 Yeah, the Hollands were boys, remember?
10 A Yeah, they were boys, but they were.....
11 A2 Remember Fenscoff.
12 Atwo -- they were two blocks away. BF
13 (ph)?
14 A2 Yeah, we used to.....
15 ((Crosstalk))
16 A1 I didn't know what to do, so I slapped him across the
17 face and I ran like hell. That was BF
18 (ph).
19 A That was BF (ph). That -- he was.....
20 ((Crosstalk))
21 A2 I love BF (ph).
22 A3 What did BF (ph) do to make you slap him?
23 A1 I forget what he did.
24 ((Crosstalk))
25 A1 A big, fat red headed kid that.....

1 ((Crosstalk))
2 A2 I know he was in my 5th grade class and I ran into him
3 at the 35 class reunion, I was so glad to see B
4 F(ph).
5 A1 You guys, tell the story about -- who was that guy,
6 that Black kid that became a bouncer at PJs.
7 A2 Oh.
8 A And then an owner of PJs.
9 ((Crosstalk))
10 A1 And I was there at his death bed.
11 A2 Yeah, he died of.....
12 ? (Indiscernible) Maloney.
13 ((Crosstalk))
14 A1 Tell them the story about R and B H.
15 (Indiscernible) was from Fairview.
16 A2 He went to Denali School.
17 A1 No, Hs lived on this side of Gamble.
18 ((Crosstalk))
19 A1 They lived on this side of Gamble because the dividing
20 line was Gamble.
21 A3 So technically.....
22 A The dividing line was Gamble.
23 A1 Yeah, back in the old days between us and Fairview....
24 A2 Was Gamble.
25 A Was Gamble Street.

1 A1was Gamble. That was kind of like.....
2 A (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech).
3 A1 Gamble was kind of like the homesteads out there.
4 A Yeah.
5 ((Crosstalk))
6 A2 People (indiscernible) their houses from.....
7 ((Crosstalk))
8 A2 They built their houses from.....
9 ((Crosstalk))
10 A2 Oh my God.
11 A1 Yeah.
12 ((Crosstalk))
13 A Inexpensive is the deal. It was economic divisions,
14 but they -- they were -- they had lots of septic -- or
15 these cess pool things long after most of the city got
16 -- got plumbing, you know, got city sewer.
17 A2 Yeah, they didn't get -- they didn't.....
18 A They were -- it was economically disadvantaged area of
19 Anchorage. It was and -- and we would sort of -- well,
20 we had city sewer, that was a big deal.....
21 A3 B.....
22 ((Crosstalk))
23 A2 So tell the story about L (ph) H.
24 A Okay, so L (ph) H, I remember the -- I
25 remember the confrontation because I was L (ph)

1 H's age and he was with his friend J Right
2 and these two kind of lanky Black kids. And M kind
3 of confronted them about something.

4 A2 You were spraying down a car or something or you were
5 spraying a driveway like Mr. H used to do all the
6 time. So you're imitating Mr. H.....

7 A We call that channeling J H. He would spend
8 hours standing on Cordova Street, which is
9 (indiscernible) and Cordova ended right at 11th and he
10 would be out there smoking a cigarette and in --
11 dressed in his white Alaska Airlines coveralls spraying
12 the water on the street ostensibly to keep the dust
13 down, but he was just insane.

14 A1 Well, he used to go across the street and mow the --
15 all the dandelions because they were.....

16 A Yeah, the dandelions (indiscernible - simultaneous
17 speech).
18 ((Crosstalk)).

19 A He had this little house, it was like half a lot right
20 over here, you know? It was like.....

21 A2 Anyway, J H was a pilot for Reve -- no,
22 Alaska. No, he was a pilot for Reve.....

23 A1 No, he was a pilot for Alaska Airlines.

24 A2 The reputation he had was that he'd go outside.....

25 A3 Alaska Airlines.

1 A2and look up at the sky and if there was any
2 clouds, he would call in sick.
3 A Someone else told me this story.....
4 A2 Anyway.....
5 ((Crosstalk))
6 A2tell -- tell the story about L (ph)
7 H.....
8 Arecently.
9 A2walking by.
10 A Oh yeah, so he walked by.....
11 A3 What's his name?
12 A2 L (ph) H.
13 AM sprayed him -- I came....
14 ((Crosstalk))
15 A M was spraying the driveway, I kinked the hose up.
16 M said, hey, what are you doing and I released it
17 and then she sprayed L (ph) H
18 (indiscernible) got him wet. He kind of confronted
19 M, I was back over here going oh, oh, shit.
20 A2 No, he confronted J, he was going to beat J up.
21 He immediately looked at the male, was going to beat up
22 J.
23 A M rose up.....
24 A1 Like a bear.
25 A2 And he -- and then, I sprayed him fully in the face and

1 then I ran like hell all the way back through all the
2 alleyways.
3 ((Crosstalk))
4 A And he was lumbering along after her, he couldn't catch
5 her. He was a much bigger kid, he was pretty fleet,
6 but M was a hell of a lot quicker and he was -- he
7 ran (indiscernible).
8 A3 A lot more scared.
9 A1 You know, at Holy Family, the last chance mass was 6:00
10 o'clock on Sundays and on Sunday night and on -- it was
11 usually the (indiscernible) Sunday morning and my
12 mother would stand at the door and say hurry up, we're
13 going to be late, we're going to have to stand up all
14 through mass. Hurry up, we're going to be late, we're
15 going to have to sit behind the Os because there
16 were all these children and Virginia, their mother's
17 arm only reached.....
18 A Three.
19 A1 so far and they knew it.
20 A (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech).
21 A1 I never (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).
22 ((Crosstalk))
23 A3 That's an awesome story.
24 A2 We had this.....
25 ((Crosstalk))

1 A2 One time there was this housekeeper, her name is M
2 H (ph) and M H (ph). Unfortunately, had a
3 psychotic break when she was upstairs mopping this room
4 at the end of the stair. My mother said, where's
5 M, I can't find her and I said -- I was eight, I
6 said well, she's upstairs talking to the mop. My
7 mother goes what? She's upstairs talking to the mop
8 and I went outside and I was at -- my mother went
9 upstairs and M H (ph) was indeed talking to the
10 mop and she had this schizophrenic break and they
11 didn't have any place, you know.....

12 A There was no -- there was no API.

13 A2 API or anything, and so.....

14 A And so what they did with people who.....

15 A2 They took them to Seattle.

16 Ahad psychotic pRlems, they would send them to
17 Morningside Hospital in Portland.

18 A2 In Portland.

19 A Come on.

20 A2 Okay, so.....

21 A Portland where J. L L came from, Langdon
22 Clinic. He was the first psychiatrist who went from
23 the states to Anchorage to organize things
24 (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

25 A2 Okay, so years went by and we went to church and.....

1 A (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

2 A2my mother drug us to church and we were not doing
3 very well and we were all there in the pew and rolling
4 our eyes and being absolutely awful and my mother goes
5 -- anyway, my mom would sit there and cover her head in
6 prayer and us kids would be awful. And all of a
7 sudden, things started to pick up when this lady walked
8 down the aisle and got up to the front and she goes, I
9 am not a dope, I am not a dope and she walked to the
10 front, and of course, those kids immediately focused,
11 was like yes. There's this woman.....

12 A3 Something's happening.

13 ((Crosstalk))

14 A2 My mother got up -- our mother walked to the front and
15 got up on the pew and we're like oh God, why does it
16 have to be her. She walked up there and she talked to
17 the woman and then they left together. (Indiscernible
18 - simultaneous speech) kids were like oh God, how
19 horrible is this. And we went out to the car after
20 church and my mother didn't come and pretty soon, you
21 know, after a while she came and she said -- we went
22 mom, is that M H (ph), she went yes and she's
23 -- you know, she's poor M and is sad and we all
24 went yeah, well, happened, why'd it have to be you. We
25 were mortified, you know, my mother (indiscernible) up.

1 So we came back here, life went on, and all of a
2 sudden, my brother T came downstairs and he goes
3 mom, there's a lady upstairs in your bed. My mother
4 walked up, she goes, really? She went upstairs and
5 there was M H (ph) climbed into her bed. She
6 came back here and she climbed into my mother's bed
7 and.....

8 A1 She was from Minnesota.

9 A2 And we had this.....

10 A She was.....

11 A2 It was different here, there was like a bunch of
12 drawers here that was like a cabinet thing.

13 A1 One time I threw up in one of those drawers.

14 A2 Yeah, M got up (indiscernible) and threw up in one
15 of the drawers full of linen.

16 ((Crosstalk))

17 A You know about this stuff because it's like family, but
18 you know, you don't remember.....

19 A2 M says.....

20 Athis kind of stuff until.....

21 A2there, all my pRlems started in there and she
22 pointed to my -- my sister P was four, she went
23 look, there's nothing in there but dish towels. My
24 mother made us all go outside. Uh-huh, okay, you kids
25 just go.

1 A M H (ph), yes, I remember her now. She lives
2 with.....
3 A1 She made the dress out of parachutes.
4 Aher niece.
5 ((Crosstalk))
6 A1 Out of survey silk.
7 A Yeah.
8 ((Crosstalk))
9 A She came from somewhere else, she lived with the Nemees
10 (ph) up on -- across the street from the.....
11 A2 Yeah, from Finland.
12 Afrom the Holland -- the Hollands up there on 8th
13 Avenue.
14 A2 Yep. And that poor woman.
15 ((Crosstalk))
16 A2 There was people up and down the street.
17 A Because there were nine kids, and when there are nine
18 kids.....
19 A2 They used to grow potatoes in their back yard and one
20 of my friends from Denali Elementary, her name is
21 P Fast, she is now a professor at UAA -- UAF.
22 She -- her mother was an Alaska Native and she married
23 a guy from Kansas and they had a homestead on 36th
24 Avenue.
25 A3 A homestead on 36th Avenue.

1 A2 And then after.....
2 A3 That's pretty cool.
3 A2her father died, the step brothers.....
4 ((Crosstalk))
5 A2bought -- screwed the mother out of all this money
6 and built this big used car lot or whatever they hell
7 they did. Those used car people. On 36th Avenue, she
8 wanted to.....
9 ((Crosstalk))
10 A2 Now she's a professor.
11 ((Crosstalk))
12 A1 When we were growing up.....
13 A It was woods.
14 A1there was nothing there.
15 A It was woods.
16 A2 She's now a professor (indiscernible).
17 ((Crosstalk))
18 A1 There was a -- there was a boggy lake there, but there
19 was.....
20 A Called Blueberry Lake.....
21 A1nothing.
22 Awhere the (indiscernible) mall is.
23 A1 36th where all that was. None of that.
24 A2 And she said she remembers, in fourth grade, where we
25 used to play on a playground and I used to play kiss

1 the boys.

2 A3 Not you.

3 A2 Well, I -- I was such a tom boy, I can't imagine doing
4 that, but I must have because she remembers it clearly.

5 A1 Oh, it was a way (indiscernible).

6 A2 She was always very reserved.

7 A1 (Indiscernible).

8 A Yeah, they were -- they were -- they were little tiny
9 neighborhood division.....

10 ((Crosstalk))

11 A That even (indiscernible) as far as I was concerned,
12 was the school where all the kids went and there were,
13 I don't know, 200 kids in that school and they were
14 always kind of tough kids. I remember one kid who
15 lived in Rabbit Creek area and they bus these kids in,
16 Rabbit Creek.....

17 A1 Well, that's because.....

18 A (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

19 A1 That's because Denali School was the only school that
20 took mentally and physically.....

21 A That explains the O clan.

22 ((Crosstalk))

23 A1 They were not.....

24 A Yeah.

25 A1 I mean, this is long before mainstreaming, so.....

1 A And so this kid had frozen his, what, fourth finger
2 down to about here. This is fourth finger
3 (indiscernible) for some reason or other and it was
4 numbified [sic] and he would take his little
5 pocketknife out and carve on his finger. It was just
6 dead. For I don't know, a couple months before he
7 finally got it amputated. We were fascinated.

8 A2 I would be fascinated.

9 ((Crosstalk))

10 A I was like gee, that's amazing.

11 A3 I'm just fascinated right now.

12 A2 Well, I had a woman -- a gal -- a woman, I was in sixth
13 grade, there was this beautiful blonde in my room named
14 P. Our mother was pregnant and I wanted her to
15 name the baby P. Dead silence, my father goes
16 P, I had a nurse named P, we called her
17 horse (indiscernible). That's why (indiscernible). I
18 remember when she died in Dr. S's chair. She went
19 and got dental work done, Dr. S was his dentist who
20 put people out.....

21 A1 Oh yeah, yeah, I remember that.

22 A I remember that guy.

23 A2 Yeah.

24 A3 And she died while getting dental work in his chair?

25 A2 That's right, in his chair.

1 ((Crosstalk))
2 A1 Let's not go to that chair.
3 A2 My mother goes -- my mother said.....
4 A3 So much for the cleaning, huh?
5 A2 No, he was -- he -- he just suffered from -- well, he
6 wouldn't go to the hospital because he had a huge ego.
7 He wouldn't take the patient to the hospital. He'd do
8 it in his office and he didn't -- (indiscernible) you
9 know, their vital signs and so he had like all
10 these.....
11 A They didn't do anything in those days. They gave them
12 sedation, they sedated them or, you know
13 (indiscernible) out of it.
14 A3 How were they sedating him?
15 ((Crosstalk))
16 A1 The thing is about Fairview, there wasn't very many
17 Black people at all.
18 ((Crosstalk))
19 A2 Well, there were some because.....
20 A1 And most of those.....
21 ((Crosstalk))
22 A1 That's why P Fast.....
23 A2 And down in East Chester.....
24 A As opposed to.....
25 A1 And E H were unusual.

1 A2 Yeah, but when I was in third grade.....
2 ((Crosstalk))
3 A2we had to do these -- these things, you know,
4 about.....
5 ((Crosstalk))
6 A She most of the Alaska Natives are Eskimo as opposed to
7 other.....
8 ((Crosstalk))
9 A1 As opposed to Athabascan.
10 A Oh, Athabascan or Aleut or.....
11 A2 V J and she was.....
12 ((Crosstalk))
13 A1 The (indiscernible) were Aleut and the B (ph)
14 were Tlingit.
15 A2 Remember, B -- B, D and.....
16 ((Crosstalk))
17 A2 Now I went out to teach in Shaktoolik, I remember.....
18 ((Crosstalk))
19 A2going over to the -- walking down the alley and
20 seeing all these dogs and kids.....
21 ((Crosstalk))
22 A1 The Mosquito family lived up on.....
23 A2 I thought oh, my mom would take my dogs when I go.....
24 ((Crosstalk))
25 A1 Turns out that Eskimo people don't -- they chain their

1 dogs at all times. They don't let them go around. And
2 so when I took Fritz to Shaktoolik, everybody was
3 scared of him because he was vice trained and.....
4 A You're talking about your dog?
5 A1 Yeah.
6 A Oh, okay.
7 A1 And Fritz was like a person, he was a German Shepherd
8 and he was very smart and he....
9 A2 He wasn't like a person, he was a dog. He was.....
10 A1 But he was very, very smart.
11 A Bones was her dog, but he was a German Shepherd.
12 A2 Very calm.....
13 ((Crosstalk))
14 A1 We're always saying about there wasn't any Black
15 people, but there actually -- the number of Black
16 people that did live in Anchorage lived across Gamble
17 and lived in what was known as East Chester.....
18 A2 Flats.
19 A1which before the earthquake is where First
20 National Bank is where Chester Creek and First National
21 is.
22 A2 Uh-huh.
23 A1 All of that was -- was little houses -- lots of.....
24 A Cess pools.
25 A1 Lots of after hours places. It was a place where

1 (indiscernible) my father told me if you were white,
2 you were -- you could not go after 11:00 o'clock at
3 night.
4 ? What?
5 A2 Yeah, that's right.
6 A1 (Indiscernible) I would go.
7 A But.....
8 ((Crosstalk))
9 Q That was a pretty big community?
10 ((Crosstalk))
11 A2 It was a swamp.
12 A1 No.....
13 A Right across from the marina.
14 A2 Who (indiscernible) was still there and.....
15 Q Okay.
16 ((Crosstalk))
17 A Where the big First National building is.
18 Q Okay.
19 ((Crosstalk))
20 A It's right in that area, Crazy Horse too is shut down
21 now, that area right there.
22 A1 And non of the apartment buildings were there and Ingra
23 was not there yet, so it went from Gamble to.....
24 A2 It was a really bad place to build a house because it
25 was very soggy.

1 ((Crosstalk))
2 A1 Medfra?
3 A Medfra.
4 A1 Medfra, yeah. Went all the way to Medfra down -- down
5 in there and they were mostly -- mostly old shacks that
6 police sirens, fire sirens.....
7 A Yeah, and they.....
8 A1 All the time.
9 A (Indiscernible) upsetted us and.....
10 ((Crosstalk))
11 A1 Oh actually, urban renewal.
12 A Yeah.
13 A1 In the 60s after the earthquake.
14 A2 It's basically the Chester Creek valley.....
15 A Right.
16 ((Crosstalk))
17 A2 Most days, it was.....
18 A The red -- the big -- the red X.
19 ((Crosstalk))
20 A No, the Red Hen was one of them and the big X.
21 A1 And if you were desperate, you would.....
22 A3 Is that a bar, is that what you're talking about?
23 ((Crosstalk))
24 A After hours clubs.
25 A1 Yeah.

1 A Sure.

2 A2 And.....

3 A1 And gambling.

4 A Yeah, but in those days.....

5 ((Crosstalk))

6 A2 You know, they're still alive and well. I mean, you

7 know.....

8 A So.....

9 A2the mother finally died, she was like in her 90s

10 and the father died, he was an alcoholic and we were

11 fascinated by him and he got to subsistence fish even

12 when you couldn't subsistence fish because he couldn't

13 afford, you know, (indiscernible - simultaneous

14 speech).

15 A1 You know, there was no such thing.

16 A2 As I say, we were fascinated, one time he brought us a

17 yule log and us kids were.....

18 A1 (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

19 A2 Our kids were standing against the wall starting at

20 this guy wondering what he was going to do.....

21 ((Crosstalk))

22 A1 Because you know where the.....

23 A2 And he.....

24 A1old post office was in (indiscernible -

25 simultaneous speech).

1 A2 They went down to the swamp and it was like a block
2 down, it was in that.....
3 ((Crosstalk))
4 A2 Where that big huge apartment building.....
5 ((Crosstalk))
6 A1 We fished there.
7 A2 It on -- between 11th and 12th, there was a swamp with
8 some trailers.
9 A1 Yeah.
10 ((Crosstalk))
11 A2 And his brother D was seven and D got -- had
12 firecrackers and he lit the firecracker and he threw it
13 into an empty gas barrel and the thing was
14 (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).
15 A1 Right up on the top of Cordova and 15th.....
16 ((Crosstalk))
17 A On 12th.
18 ((Crosstalk))
19 A1 They still have gravel pits there.
20 A2 Yeah, in the swamp.
21 A It wasn't D anyway, it was Phil.
22 A2 D.....
23 ((Crosstalk))
24 A1 I looked up there and there was an Alaska sign.....
25 ((Crosstalk))

1 A2 D threw the firecracker into this big -- this empty
2 gas barrel.
3 ((Crosstalk))
4 A2 And it exploded and caught -- and this big huge.....
5 ((Crosstalk))
6 A And T burned up.
7 A2 And T burned up.
8 A1 We would walk to school and.....
9 ((Crosstalk))
10 A1 It was playing on the radio.
11 A When he burned up?
12 A1 And my mother had gone over to this Carol
13 (indiscernible) because it was.....
14 A Yeah.
15 ((Crosstalk))
16 A2 No, they were here having tea and Carol came in the
17 back door screaming, you know, that T had been
18 burned and her mother left and my mother left and mom
19 came back later and.....
20 ((Crosstalk))
21 A1 I remembered hearing that song all night long for some
22 reason. And.....
23 A2 When I was five and S was here and.....
24 A That was S, this is (indiscernible - simultaneous
25 speech). My parents took on certain.....

1 ((Crosstalk))
2 A3 That's an interesting segway.
3 A They were the first.....
4 A1 It's not really the history of the town, it's just the
5 history of the American (indiscernible).
6 A (Indiscernible) they were these people that were sort
7 of.....
8 ((Crosstalk))
9 A (Indiscernible) or perma guests, okay? So S was
10 one of the first ones. The first one was a guy named
11 -- an unfortunate guy named DL (ph). Dale
12 Leavslly (ph) was somebody who lived with his parents in
13 the house when -- I don't think I was even born. Mom
14 was the kind of person who would -- that Dale and the
15 old man.....
16 A2 No, you weren't born.
17 Awould come home from work.....
18 A2 Because I remember him, so.....
19 Aand sit down and they'd.....
20 A2you weren't born.
21 Ashake out their papers, smoke their cigarettes and
22 drink their whiskeys sitting in their livingroom until
23 mom came with her house dress on and her apron and
24 announced dinner and they would go to dinner, the
25 dinner table and the dinner table was the same place it

1 is now in those days. But what would happen on this
2 day, and this is family legend of course, but D
3 L (ph), they would call dinner, they would be
4 there for 15, 20 minutes and pretty soon mom would call
5 dinner and they would come and sit -- and they would
6 stand behind their chairs and they all (indiscernible)
7 and they'd all sit down and he would sit down and they
8 would eat. Well, mom would call dinner (indiscernible)
9 the door with her little house dress on and call dinner
10 and DL (ph) would get up and go into the
11 bathroom.

12 A2 Go to the bathroom and (indiscernible - simultaneous
13 speech).

14 A And then close the door and he'd be in there for a
15 while.

16 A2 (Indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

17 A And they would stand there behind their chairs waiting
18 for DL (ph) to come out of the bathroom.

19 A3 And he would do what?

20 A And he wouldn't come out and then pretty soon.....

21 A2 And pretty soon, his dad would (indiscernible -
22 simultaneous speech).

23 A Pretty soon, they would say well, I'm hungry, I've been
24 working all day, we're sitting down and eating. And
25 somebody would start eating and then Dale would come

1 out of the bathroom and he'd sit down and eat. That
2 was like nobody said anything about it. This went on
3 for a while, and pretty soon, they would completely
4 finish their dinner and Dale would still be in the damn
5 bathroom.

6 ((Crosstalk))

7 A No one knows anything more about the Dale
8 (indiscernible) bathroom.

9 A2 (Indiscernible) reflux, mom said it stimulated his
10 gastro (indiscernible) reflux just by saying dinner's
11 ready. He would immediately have to go poop and it
12 took forever.

13 A Well, that was what was thought, but who knows?

14 A2 Who knows (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

15 A Come on, B. Jesus, B. Poor D. Anyway,
16 so he.....

17 ((Crosstalk))

18 A But then the other -- the next person that comes along
19 here is a guy named S. S, something S,
20 nobody knew his first name. His name was S, young
21 guy though, he was not that old. He was like.....

22 A2 He was a pilot.

23 A1 Now we say that.

24 A3 Oh, so this is where the tradition of pilots staying at
25 this house starts.

1 A Yeah. So S lived here and.....
2 ((Crosstalk))
3 Abut he became a perma guest, so a couple years
4 after he lived here, he just kind of lived here and he
5 ate and you know, kind of helped out. And he kind of
6 dealt with the little kids and he did some other
7 things, but he just basically lived here. So Anna, who
8 is mom's mother was up here and mom was just kind of
9 oh, we can't -- you know, she's pregnant with two --
10 with twins and.....
11 ((Crosstalk))
12 A S, you're going to -- and so Anna was assigned
13 this task by mom. She went to him and she said Mr.
14 S, you're going to have to leave, there are more
15 children in here and we don't have room for you. And
16 S went to the old man and said Doc, your mother-
17 in-law says I have to leave and the old man kind of
18 went oh yeah, well (indiscernible). S left, we
19 never heard from him again.
20 A2 Yeah, he never.....
21 A It was like two years living in someplace and he just
22 sort of disappeared because he was sort of the first
23 perma guest.
24 A3 So I'd like to say that explains the tradition of the
25 -- what'd you call it, perma guest?

1 A The perma guest, yeah.

2 A3 Perma guest that continues to this day.

3 A2 No, it doesn't.

4 A3 It does because this house is still rented out to a
5 wide variety of interesting and (indiscernible).

6 A But eccentric people.

7 A2 I know, but the thing.....

8 A3 And it's awesome.

9 A2about them is that they never had -- they never
10 reimbursed them, they never paid, they never ate, they
11 just ate and took advantage and they never.....

12 A3 We still have people like that that stay here
13 (indiscernible).

14 A Come on, B. You know you do.
15 ((Crosstalk))

16 A2 So what else you want to know?

17 Q Well, we're pretty -- like we're a little bit over
18 time, but I really want you to talk about the neighbors
19 again because I (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

20 A The neighbors?
21 ((Crosstalk))

22 A3 There's still some crap on the neighbors.

23 Q What was her name, Mrs.....

24 A2 Mrs. H.

25 Q Yes.

1 A3 Mrs. H.
2 Q Mrs. H.
3 ((Crosstalk))
4 A2 Oh, she had this pink boa, the white bathing suit and
5 the mules. The satin mules with the.....
6 A3 Explain what the mule is.
7 A2 Yeah, you know their wedgies, you know, that they were
8 covered with satin and they had -- and they had the
9 thing over the toe, you know, the middle in the front
10 and it was sat -- it was feathered.
11 ((Crosstalk))
12 A But Mr. H owned a couple of Hudson Hornets.
13 ((Crosstalk))
14 A And it was a big deal.
15 A3 Yeah, it was a nice (indiscernible).
16 A Big deal.
17 A2 Yeah, so.....
18 ((Crosstalk))
19 A2 Bob H and they were not married.
20 ((Crosstalk))
21 A2 But my mother didn't know what her name was, but she
22 just called her Mrs. H because -- what was I
23 supposed to do, I always yelled kids and you guys were
24 fascinated by her. Then the Hs built this
25 fence.....

1 A1 It was remarkably indolent, all they did was sit
2 around.
3 A2 And.....
4 ((Crosstalk))
5 A1 They were very interesting.
6 ((Crosstalk))
7 A And drink. They sat around and drank, yeah.
8 ((Crosstalk))
9 A They had their hair slicked back, you know, the big
10 (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).
11 A2 They built this fence outside their house and they have
12 the.....
13 ((Crosstalk))
14 A2 To keep us kids out, they had to.....
15 ((Crosstalk))
16 A2 They had 2x4s on the outside, and so of course, we
17 would climb up onto their fence and look down at their
18 dog.....
19 ((Crosstalk))
20 A2 They had a Pekinese.
21 A That's what B says, but you know, there's no --
22 we have very little evidence that he was actually a
23 pimp.
24 A2 Mom said he was -- that he brought his good Js here
25 and I only have our mother's word and our poor

1 mother.....

2 A3 And she's a saint, God bless her soul.

3 A2 Yes, and her - she wouldn't -- you know, she

4 wouldn't.....

5 ((Crosstalk))

6 A This beautiful 800 square foot dwelling.

7 ((Crosstalk))

8 A But anyway, he had a big dog, a big savage dog, it was

9 not really well (indiscernible - simultaneous speech)

10 ((Crosstalk))

11 A2 She had two, she had a brown one and a black one and

12 they were.....

13 A And so mom got pissed off at them and said look, you

14 got kids in the neighborhood, you can't have those

15 dogs.....

16 ((Crosstalk))

17 A And so he built -- he said well screw you and he built

18 a big fence.

19 A2 That's all right.

20 ((Crosstalk))

21 A2 I know this.

22 A I mean, property is a rare find.

23 A3 I told you ladies to start drinking.

24 A2 Well, R and I.....

25 A B, you have your house in this (indiscernible).

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((Crosstalk))

A3 Let's see, I started renting an apartment from you in
1993.....

A More of a home.

A2 Okay, so -- so turn this off, this is -- he lived with
my dad.....

(Off tape)