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TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW

JUNE 14, 2014

P R O C E E D I N G S

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Interviewer (Q): Unknown female

Interviewer (Q1): S

Interviewee (A): P

Interviewee (A1): H

Q That's way too -- there we go. It is Saturday, June 14th and we are here with P and H and I'll let you begin, S.

Q1 Okay. How long have you guys lived in this area in Fairview?

A1 I couldn't hear you.

A How long.....

Q1 How long have you lived in Fairview?

A Well, we first moved here in 1956, right? 1956, so our -- our dad -- and he died two years ago, he was 90. He drove home in the St. Paul, Minnesota rush hour traffic one night and said that's it, we're moving to Alaska. So we sold our house, we bought a trailer, we pulled a 30-foot trailer up over the ALCAN. It took us a little bit more than a month. How many flat tires did we have coming up the ALCAN?

A1 I can't remember.

A Twenty something or something like that. But anyway, that's when we first moved here so then right up here

1 at 13th and Gamble was Cordova trailer park, so we
2 parked our trailer up there. There were actually
3 several trailer parks in this whole area. There was a
4 big one by 15th, remember the H, they lived in a
5 big trailer park over by -- well, I guess where Ingra
6 is now, so a trailer park was kind of an affordable
7 type of thing that people could afford, so that's how
8 we started with a trailer. And then dad built what's
9 called a lean-to onto it, a little slope roof, extra
10 space.

11 So then we bought this house and this house is
12 only about half this size, but a lot of the houses in
13 this area were very small. I would say no more than
14 1000 square feet for sure, maybe less than that, 750.
15 That was the style of the day.....

16 Q1 Yeah.

17 Abecause no one wanted to pay to heat a bigger
18 house.

19 Q1 Uh-huh.

20 A So we took the frame of that old house and then built
21 this onto it. And I would say that would be about
22 what, like 1964 or '65, maybe -- maybe earlier than
23 that. Maybe '63 because we were living here when I
24 went to Junior High School at Central.

25 A1 We were living here, honey, when you started third

1 grade.

2 A Okay, well further back then that then. And that was
3 Denali School we went to and now, my daughter is going
4 there, little H, she's seven. But that's how long
5 we've been here.

6 Q1 Okay. What was the neighborhood like?

7 A1 We were the last house -- like the end of third
8 addition, there was nothing beyond this, nothing. And
9 we can -- I had a chance to buy that full acre across
10 the street where those condos are for \$2000 and I said
11 I'm not going to buy a swamp because there's a spring
12 over there for \$2000. It sold for \$2,000,000. There's
13 133 families living over there, but they're mostly
14 aged, there's no -- it's not a regular Cordova Court
15 where people run in and out half the night and -- at
16 9:00 o'clock, the lights go off and that's it.

17 A So -- so she could have bought that for \$2000 and what
18 it was, was it was a big -- it literally was a swamp.
19 It was big enough for us kids to have a raft on it,
20 which is made out of like.....

21 A1 Uh-huh.

22 A55-gallon drums tied together with a piece of
23 plywood over the top and then we'd skate on it in the
24 winter. So you probably couldn't develop it anymore,
25 it'd be considered to be wetlands or something like

1 that.

2 A1 The EPA would never allow that now. They would never
3 allow them to build there.

4 A But they did, they pumped it out and filled it in and
5 then built those condos. Now the other thing, at the
6 time, when we first moved here, Ninth Avenue up here
7 was the city limits. We lived outside of the city
8 and.....

9 A1 Yeah, we did.

10 A So the only street that was paved in town was Fourth
11 Avenue, everything else was dirt roads.

12 A1 Where the -- where the girls came in was a mud room.
13 We had this house and then one little room, the mud
14 room because at Cordova Street wasn't paved when we
15 moved here, it was all gravel and mud you can't
16 believe.

17 A But they still did do the dog races here and we watched
18 the dog races. The sled dog races every single year
19 come by here and we watched them for -- she has a party
20 here every year for people that come watch the dog sled
21 races, so that's been going on since way back then. Me
22 and my brother used to set up a little stand down here
23 and sell coffee and hot dogs, you know?

24 Q That's great. So the mushers come right on this street
25 here?

1 A Cordova.

2 Q Oh, okay.

3 A They go straight down and straight over the hill. To
4 this day, they do.

5 Q Yeah.

6 A I mean, it's still the race course, they come, you
7 know, right down the street here. So how the houses
8 were, you know, the park strip up here used to be the
9 airport.

10 A1 That's right.

11 A So what they did was FAA built a lot of these houses
12 over on that side and what was this called, this side
13 of Cordova, Pilots Row?

14 A1 This 11th Avenue from here to A was called Pilots Row.
15 And then after all the pilots died and just the women
16 lived there, they renamed it Menopause Row.

17 A That's right, because the -- a lot of famous pilots for
18 Reve Aleutians Airways lived there afterwards.

19 A1 There was C, B, P and then at the
20 very end of that street, lived a dentist. I can't
21 think of his name.

22 A But then the R lived down there and that was.....

23 A1 Yeah.

24 ABR son. See, the R family.....

25 A1 Oh, and.....

1 Afrom R Aleutian Airways lived right down here.
2 A1 We were one of the houses -- or the pilots. You're
3 right.
4 A And then when you got to this street, it was the
5 railroad, the railroad workers lived here, so the --
6 when we leave -- you saw that kind of green shed out
7 there? Well, that guy worked for the railroad, and
8 every day, he'd bring home two or three railroad ties.
9 Well, eventually, he had enough to build that shed
10 that's all built out of railroad ties bolted together.
11 Q Wow.
12 A And they had a big yard down there where they were
13 creosoted those pilings for the rails, but he'd get
14 them before they were creosoted. So that -- near that
15 wall is that thick over there, it'll be there forever.
16 My dad and I put a new roof on it.
17 A1 You should take the girls over there.
18 A We will, we'll show you.
19 A1 If they want to, it'd be very interesting and on the
20 door, there's a first -- remember that garage door
21 opener? But every time it went by, the door would fly
22 up.
23 A It would -- then they'd key their (indiscernible) and
24 open the garage door before they had code for the --
25 that's right, that was one of the first electric --

1 that was C put that in, right? Old man C.
2 A1 Uh-huh.
3 A So -- and then, you know, what happened here then is
4 people moved on, my parents bought these lots next to
5 them. And so that's why when we came, you know, we had
6 a little over here on 10th Avenue, but once we had the
7 daughter, it was too small, so that's why they said
8 well, we'll give you a couple lots, come in here and
9 build your house here, which we did about five years
10 ago. That -- that house is a new house only about five
11 years old.

12 So this house next door was still in pretty good
13 shape, so they jacked that up and some young couple put
14 it on a truck and hauled it off to the valley. They're
15 still living in it. But that tells you kind of how
16 small these houses were.

17 Q Uh-huh.

18 A So we were here during the earthquake, that was 1964,
19 and inside that cabin, it was a record player, I was
20 like 14 or 15. I had just gotten this new Beatles
21 record and we were playing it. All of a sudden, the --
22 you know, the arm started jumping up and down and you
23 felt this (makes noise) like that and it was a serious
24 earthquake. So we looked out and that was -- that
25 field is open over there and the ground was coming like

1 waves of the ocean, snapping the poles apart, you know,
2 sparks were flying, the electricity everywhere. So my
3 dad said get out to the garage, it's a solid concrete
4 slab and it was enough it was knocking us between the
5 walls of that hallway and that's a pretty big hallway.
6 It went on and on and the woman next door was screaming
7 and dad went over and said what's wrong, what's wrong.
8 She said well, I just turned on the garbage disposal,
9 this woman from Finland, and just at the moment she
10 flipped the switch, the earthquake went off. We
11 thought she was dying or something had fallen on her or
12 something, but.....

13 Q Did this house hold up?

14 A It did. There's a couple little cracks in the
15 foundation and I don't know, what, a few jars of jam
16 fell on the floor or something, but we didn't have too
17 much.

18 A1 Yeah, that day.

19 A But they turned the -- you know, the electricity was
20 off for a while and the gas, but when they turned the
21 gas back on, so about a week later, we hear this huge
22 boom, look out this window and here's a roof about 200
23 feet in the air. Well, those people that apparently
24 the earthquake had broken a gas pipe and one of the
25 kids I went to school with, they turned it back on and

1 some spark set it off, blew the house up, blew the roof
2 in the air. Well, the kids were sitting watching TV
3 with the windows. They got blown out of the house all
4 the way to the fence, but the parents weren't so lucky.
5 The roof came right down on top of them and killed
6 them. So I'm trying to think of what else from the
7 earthquake.

8 A1 Well, the earthquake, we went out to the mud room, my
9 husband said we'll all be safe out there. We all got
10 out there and all the (indiscernible) we had on top of
11 the roof and they smacked (indiscernible) thing down on
12 us. And P kept saying I don't want to die yet, I
13 don't want to die yet.

14 A It was really, really scary, I want to tell you and it
15 went on for almost five minutes.

16 Q1 Oh.

17 A It was big, so -- but then, you know, at that time,
18 what was driving the economy here was a lot of military
19 construction. The bases were being built, our dad, he
20 worked on the white Ellis sites and so he was out of
21 town a lot working building a distant early warning
22 system and he worked quite a bit on the bases. They
23 had a lot of construction out there, he was a sheet
24 metal worker and engineer.

25 And it was kind of funny because later on, I had

1 to take up a career in explosives and blasting. I
2 worked as a commercial diver out of Dutch Harbor and I
3 specialized in explosives. So when they came to
4 demolish those old things, I got paid to go in and blow
5 them up and take them down. We laughed about that
6 quite a bit.

7 But -- so at that time, then a huge development
8 here was the first supermarket in Anchorage came in,
9 that's Carrs. Carrs store was the first supermarket in
10 Anchorage, and boy, that was really a big deal. So
11 that was on Gamble Street and then they had a permanent
12 like little circus around and remember, they had a
13 merry-go-round going there all the time? Right on the
14 corner of 13th and Gamble was a fireworks store that
15 operated all year round, you could get fireworks. Back
16 then, you could get the big stuff, M80s, cherry bombs.
17 I mean, there was no regulation whatsoever, so we could
18 -- we could buy that year round. We never lost any
19 fingers, but kind of dangerous, but.....

20 A1 I shopped there when it was a Quonset hut, I've seen
21 Pop Carr.

22 Q1 Yeah.

23 A Yeah, the old man. So then they came in and they --
24 they put the freeway through there, it knocked out a
25 lot of the businesses, you know, difficult to walk

1 across the street. There was no consultation with the
2 neighborhood, they just came in and bulldozed it and
3 set it up, so to that day -- like to this day, it's one
4 of our biggest deals is they try to reconstitute that
5 street as kind of a livable street. And so we formed
6 this Fairview Business Association, that's one thing
7 that we're working on, widening the sidewalks, getting
8 the utilities off the sidewalks so they can plow the
9 snow and things like that.

10 But that was -- that went through at that time.
11 Well, before that, it was just a two-way street, and so
12 on that side of town, down by Chester Creek, that's
13 down by where the Senior Center is now down there.
14 That was called East Chester Flats and it was a Black
15 ghetto. It was these little like shanty town type of
16 places, thought it was the red light district,
17 speakeasies, you know, gambling afterwards, buy
18 marijuana before it was illegal and that was all down
19 there.

20 And that's part that I think should be documented
21 that very few people know about. Now the guy here on
22 Ninth and Gamble, the old Black guy that owns the used
23 car lot there, I went by and talked to him as we were
24 organizing this business association. He knows a lot
25 and he remembers a lot, so if we could.....

1 (phone ringing)

2 A1 Excuse me a minute, girls.

3 Q1 No worries.

4 Q That's okay.

5 Q1 Go ahead.

6 A1 Hello? Hi.

7 Q Start the recording again.

8 A Yeah.

9 Q There we go. Oh, good.

10 A So anyway, that was the deal and there was something,
11 you know, that C C said something about
12 they red lined that whole side of town, that they
13 wouldn't -- the banks wouldn't loan anybody any money
14 or something like that and there was some -- some women
15 down there who would -- somehow or other, she got some
16 property, she was one of the first ones to come out of
17 there. I don't know the story about that, but the
18 interesting thing is, right at 15th and Gamble now
19 where the Aces headquarters is, that entire area, there
20 was a huge military dump so left over from World War
21 II, all the old military airplanes and everything.
22 Huge B25 bombers, grove masters, the whole deal.

23 And of course, as kids for us, we'd ride our bike
24 up there. This was kids paradise and there was a lot
25 of rats in there so we'd go in, we'd have pellet guns

1 and bb guns, we'd go down there and shoot rats. I'm
2 not sure if they actually excavated that and took that
3 stuff over or just filled over the top of it, but there
4 was a huge military surplus dump there at one time.

5 And then once that was taken out, was formed the
6 first Black bar in Anchorage called the Brief
7 Encounter. Remember when the Brief Encounter went in
8 up there, that Black -- so anyway, that -- you know,
9 the economy, at that time, was really just kind of
10 struggling along, but it was federal spending, it was
11 military spending, the building of the base, and you
12 know, all these things that were kind of driving it.

13 Then we had a big boom in like 1971/1972 when it
14 looked like the pipeline was going to happen, but then
15 it got held up in lawsuits by environmentalists, block
16 the pipeline. So then there was some really bad years
17 because people had kind of overbuilt thinking the
18 pipeline was going to go through. But then they --
19 they pulled it out and they said all right, we're just
20 going to override all those environmental laws and
21 we're just going to say that NEPA, the National
22 Environmental Policy Act, does not apply to this
23 project, so they did. The vote was 49 to 49, they had
24 to haul Spiro Agnew out, he was being -- he had
25 actually.....

1 Q I'll go ahead and.....

2 A She's so popular, she's got a bigger social schedule
3 than I do.

4 (Pause tape - phone ringing)

5 A So they pulled Spiro out -- Agnew out, he was being
6 forced out of office because of extortion in New
7 Jersey, actual criminal charges were brought against
8 him. But he had time for one more vote, and as the
9 Vice President, he gets to break a tie if there's a tie
10 in the Senate. So he came in and that was the 50th
11 vote to put the pipeline through.

12 Q Oh.

13 A So the pipeline went through and then things really
14 started happening. That really was the spark plug for
15 the development of the rest of Anchorage and all these
16 other stores and everything like that, but you know,
17 back in the day, this was around this area of Gamble
18 Street in here and downtown, that was the commercial
19 center of town. And Fireweed was just a trail out
20 there, Fireweed Avenue when we first got here.

21 A1 Uh-huh.

22 A And I actually went to see the school here, there was
23 one school, Anchorage High School, so that was down
24 there today where the Eagan Center is. An actually,
25 the anex there where they've got the visitor's center,

1 that was part of the school, that's where you'd go in.
2 So they had combined Junior and Senior High School
3 there, so I went to that school down there for like 7th
4 and 8th grade. Then by 9th grade, they had built the
5 Central Junior High, so then I went over to Central
6 Junior High.

7 That was the year of the earthquake, so my biology
8 teacher got killed, she lived in Turnagain. And the
9 earth -- you know, people in the houses, it was
10 sliding, the earth was opening up and slamming shut.
11 She should have stayed in the house, you know, you're
12 supposed to stay in the house, get under a doorway,
13 that's the strongest part, but she ran out, the earth
14 opened up, down she went, closed back in. They dug for
15 her for a long, long time. They got the biggest
16 equipment, the biggest, longest backhoe, they never did
17 find her. You know, who knows how far, you know, down
18 in she actually went.

19 But then what they had to do is they were double
20 shifting, right? We had to double shift schools
21 because some of the other schools had been damaged
22 during the earthquake, so we had to double shift. I
23 don't remember exactly how that worked, but we'd go to
24 school the first half of the day, these other kids
25 would come in the other half a day to make up for the

1 damage of the earthquake.

2 Q1 So when was West High School put in?

3 A I'd say like '60 or '61, something like that around
4 that time. Yeah.

5 Q1 So is that where you went to high school?

6 A I went to high school at West and I graduated in '67.
7 And it was a pretty good school, West was. And then
8 next one was East and then they built all the rest of
9 these, you know? It still amazes me how much
10 construction is going on here, you know? Everywhere
11 you turn around, there's something new being built, it
12 just doesn't stop.

13 So I don't know, can you remember anything else
14 about the neighborhood, mom? I know the O over
15 here, they have nine daughters. That was O,
16 you met J, that's the -- she's not the daughter,
17 she's the granddaughter I guess you'd say.

18 Q1 Now is that the J O who does the columns
19 paper?

20 A Uh-huh (affirmative).

21 Q1 Yeah.

22 A Yeah.

23 Q1 That's the one I met.

24 A Yeah.

25 Q1 Like when I was 17.

1 A Yeah.

2 Q1 She don't -- she won't remember me though, it was just
3 a one-time meeting.

4 A Yeah. So they're still around. You know what, I
5 wonder if they'd want to talk to R -- I mean, to
6 B O. See, B would remember so much
7 of this stuff and she's quite a character, I'll tell
8 you that.

9 Q That's (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

10 Q1 Yeah, we had -- we interviewed B and J last
11 week.

12 A Okay. Oh, okay.

13 Q1 Yeah, so that was good.

14 Q They got to go to a birthday party. I was at work, but
15 they got to go to a birthday party.

16 Q1 Yeah, it was a birthday party and they came home from a
17 funeral, so they were celebrating two things.

18 A Oh.

19 Q1 So a big spread of food and.....

20 A1 I'll pick up what P forgot. At 13th and Cordova
21 when we brought a -- we brought the camp -- the trailer
22 up here. My husband was a sheet metal worker and they
23 were on strike so he had to go out of town to work, so
24 he said walk around the neighborhood, and if you find a
25 lot you like, a house you like, buy it, so I did, I

1 bought this place.

2 Another thing, honey, you forgot, was the Henshaw
3 gravel pit. The gravel pit for the whole house -- the
4 whole town was on 13th and.....

5 A Cordova.

6 A1 Uh-huh.

7 A So that was Alaska Aggregate Company, K H,
8 that's the guy who owned it. So they had -- any
9 concrete that was made in town was -- that was it.

10 A1 Yeah.

11 A Big gravel pit, you can still see some of the holes
12 there where the central gravel pit was and that was
13 also a great source of entertainment for us as kids
14 because they'd always have that big equipment in there
15 and that's where we'd play baseball. So now growing
16 up, Chester Creek down here where we had a gang of
17 kids, not like today's gangs, but just a group of kids.
18 But Chester Creek was all split up, we had from C
19 Street to Gamble, another group of kids had further
20 down this section, another group of kids had further
21 up.

22 Well, at that time, it was a very productive
23 stream. There was none of these dams or anything like
24 that and it was really full of fish. There was a lot
25 of salmon and trout and everything like that and we'd

1 just tell mom, we're going camping, we'd take, you
2 know, a little bit of stuff with us. How long would we
3 go camping down there? Four days, up to four days.
4 Can you imagine it now? Us 10, 11 years old, we're
5 going camping. We'd go down for four days and then
6 come back and we had built tree forts down there and
7 everything else.

8 And then they came in and decided they were going
9 to develop the whole thing, some developer bought it
10 up. They came with a bulldozer and ran a channel right
11 down that thing, took all the fishing holes out of it,
12 basically destroyed it, this habit for a stream. And
13 we -- us kids were so mad about it that one of the kids
14 went up and actually sabotaged the bulldozer, poured
15 five pounds of sugar into the fuel tank. Well, sugar
16 in a fuel tank is going to freeze the motor out, but
17 that didn't stop them.

18 But then somebody came and said no, this needs to
19 be a greenbelt for the city, so the city bought the
20 property, otherwise, they were going to develop right
21 up to it, kind of like they did down by Valley of the
22 Moon Park with houses right up to it.

23 Q1 Uh-huh.

24 A That was the plan, to go all the way up the creek, but
25 that didn't happen, so we had that section there. And

1 then further out where now the college -- University
2 Mall is, that was the howling dog farm, E M
3 howling dog farm. He had this huge homestead out
4 there and that's where he kept all his dogs and ran all
5 his dogs. He had a big race track there.

6 Well, we'd go -- and so it had to be -- yeah, it'd
7 be Central Junior High. We'd go in the morning, we'd
8 take our shotgun to school with it, put it in the
9 locker. When school was out, we'd hitchhike out there
10 because it was good rabbit hunting, we'd go out rabbit
11 hunting after school. No one thought a thing of it,
12 you know, we'd -- you know, and we'd never think of
13 hurting anybody. I mean, we were taught gun safety and
14 respect for guns. From day one, nobody thought a thing
15 about us bringing a gun to school or hitchhiking out
16 there to go rabbit hunting at the school.

17 Q1 You're not the first one to talk about keeping a gun in
18 a locker at school.

19 A Yeah.

20 Q1 To go out after school.

21 A Yeah, it was just no big deal and we ran a trap line
22 down here and we trapped ermine and that's when it was
23 Jonas Brothers down here had a big fur trading right
24 across the street from the -- now the Captain Cook
25 Hotel. Right now, it's the flashcube building, the one

1 that looks like a flashcube, that was Jonas Brothers
2 Furriers. But the inside was just like a museum. You
3 know, they had everything and we would sell them those
4 ermine pelts, 25 cents apiece for them to make a coat
5 out of, and so we had a trap line down there.

6 And the other thing we'd do is at Ship Creek down
7 here where the dam was, you can see where those salmon
8 were swimming. Well, we were expert fishermen at
9 snagging, you weren't supposed to, but we did. All the
10 kids snagged, you know, big trouble hook, go out there,
11 bring them in and we'd take them over here and they had
12 a bar over here called the Broken Mirror. Well, what
13 they would do is they'd buy that fish from us and then
14 they'd smoke them in the kippers and sell them at the
15 bar. We'd take that money and we'd go down to the
16 Light Spot to buy a hamburger. This was a big deal for
17 us. Fourth -- when it was on Fourth and C Street down
18 there by the Hunter Bar and the Alley Cat Bar. Well,
19 those ended up getting torn down, they were bad places.

20 But yeah, we'd trade that and get the money to go
21 to the Light Spot and that's when E who owned --
22 she was still working there, she worked there almost
23 her whole life until she couldn't stand anymore.
24 Wouldn't really stand, but you know?
25 A1 Gilman's Bakery.

1 A Gilman's Bakery. So the Gilmans lived right across the
2 street, their bakery was up there where the Home Depot
3 -- Office Depot is right now. That was the only bakery
4 in town. They had a whole -- and when they came in
5 with that break slicer, I remember that was a big deal.
6 Oh boy, we get sliced bread now.

7 A1 And if (indiscernible) were real good and
8 (indiscernible), then we'd take them to the bakery.

9 A Because they had the bakery there, they actually put in
10 where they would make -- they were making donuts,
11 they'd make them right in front of you, right, at the
12 bakery.

13 Q1 Do you have any like favorite urban legends or myths
14 that sort of came around this neighborhood as you grew
15 up?

16 A Oh, I don't know. I can't think of any. Any haunted
17 houses or wild stories of things or whatever? I can't
18 really think of it. No serial killers or anything like
19 that. You know, it was a pretty quiet neighborhood
20 really.

21 Q1 Uh-huh.

22 A It was a great place to grow up as a kid.

23 Q1 What did you do? Where did you work or.....

24 A1 Sorry?

25 Q1 What did you do in Anchorage?

1 A1 I was just a teacher.

2 Q1 Teaching?

3 A1 At the school.

4 Q1 Which school?

5 A Denali.

6 Q1 Denali?

7 A She specialized in special ed, so -- well, a couple
8 times, I got in trouble at school, I can't remember
9 what, you know?

10 A1 I do.

11 A Probably talked back to the teacher. What did I do?

12 A1 Well, the principal (indiscernible) P, told him to
13 go out in the yard and pick a whole pail, a huge pail
14 full of rocks and bring it back in.

15 A To wreck my recess.

16 A1 So P found one big rock and brought it in.

17 A I waited until the end of recess and put one big ass
18 rock in there and brought it in. But the other thing,
19 and this was sad, was because what they did was they --
20 there was a girl called -- what was the girl there, the
21 one that had cerebral palsy? You taught her --
22 eventually, when they got an IBM Selectric typewriter
23 to where she could type and (indiscernible) better, it
24 turned out she was brilliant, but she would.....

25 A1 She was brilliant.

1 Ajust scoot up and nobody -- C. C.

2 A1 And then.....

3 A So what they would do for punishment is they.....

4 A1 Can you imagine for punishment.....

5 A To put you in with her.....

6 A1how that girl felt?

7 Abecause, at lunch, they'd make you sit by her

8 because she'd slobber all over her food, she had this

9 big rubber tube, she was (indiscernible) to.....

10 A1 That's (indiscernible) trying to think. I'm happy.

11 But I couldn't live in this house if it wouldn't be for

12 my son, P, and my daughter, J. He's such a good

13 cook, he -- every time he cooks, he brings a huge

14 tupperware for me for another two, three meals. And

15 does all my yard work and does all my snow plowing or

16 else I couldn't live here.

17 Q1 Did you ever garden here when you were younger?

18 A1 Just a potato garden.

19 A Dad did, but he wasn't much of a gardener and he just

20 had like a gravel pile out there that he -- I guess he

21 grew some rutabagas, but he never wanted a yard that

22 you could.....

23 A1 No, he didn't.

24 Amow, so he'd never fertilize it and it wasn't --

25 we -- he didn't want to pain the house. We had to wait

1 until he died. It was like a week later, we painted it
2 this nice, bright yellow -- mellow yellow is the name
3 of the -- because she always wanted a brighter house
4 and I took down some of the fences and I brought in
5 dirt, and you know, we just -- we made it nice. He
6 never wanted to, he thought it was a waste. Well, we
7 grew up in the depression, you know, that was the
8 thing. They looked at anything like that as complete
9 foolishness.

10 A1 He couldn't help himself.

11 A And you know, they'd have to pick up coal off the train
12 tracks to bring back so they'd have fuel and then fish.
13 He was a hell of a fisherman, so he brought the fish
14 for the family. Well, he got tired of cleaning them
15 and he had 12 sisters. They finally said you got to go
16 catch fish; if you catch them, we'll clean them. Well,
17 they came back with two gunny sacks full. They had to
18 clean all those fish, so -- but yeah, that was a big
19 family. There was actually 13 -- two brothers and 11
20 sisters, right, something like that? Big family.

21 A1 I still feel like we're on the other side of the
22 tracks. I'll tell you why. When C was running --
23 have a doggy park there, I went to that meeting and
24 they said what's -- what was your (indiscernible) I
25 told them, they said oh, you can't vote, you're on the

1 other side of the tracks.

2 A All the hoyty toytys over here.

3 A1 We're in east (indiscernible) according to them, so I
4 went to the meeting, but I couldn't vote.

5 A That was pretty bad, you know?

6 A1 The taxes are.....

7 A She's lived here her whole life, right next door to it.
8 I'm sorry, you can't speak on this matter, you're on
9 the wrong side of the road.

10 A1 Well, P, why don't you take them next door. And
11 those windows have (indiscernible). The little shed is
12 built out of railroad ties. We (indiscernible) chicken
13 coop from someplace.

14 Q1 Oh yeah.

15 A1 So why don't you take them over there?

16 A Old blown glass, you know, you see a lot of
17 imperfections in it and stuff like that, so that's
18 about it. I can't remember anything else here, you
19 know, unless you guys had any other questions.

20 Q1 Well, I think we have a few more questions probably.

21 A1 Are there any questions?

22 A Go ahead.

23 Q Were any (indiscernible - simultaneous speech).

24 Q1 Did other people have gardens in the neighborhood,
25 like.....

1 A Yeah, there was a really big garden. The R had one
2 over here across the street and then they had -- we'd
3 go over there and raid it every once in a while, but
4 they had -- I would say almost like a quarter of a
5 block, but right over there, it's six and eight plexes
6 now. That was a pretty big garden, but I don't really
7 remember, little Marvin had a little garden, but you
8 know.....

9 A1 Gardening wasn't that big at that time. We didn't know
10 what to eat healthy and.....

11 A Well, and whatever you wanted to get, they'd bring you
12 in from the valley. You know, they had this potatoes
13 and carrots and anything you wanted, you could get.

14 Q Uh-huh.

15 A So.....

16 Q1 What was teaching like back then?

17 A1 It was a lot easier than it is now. The -- being a
18 teacher was the boss.

19 Q I like to think I'm the boss when I'm teaching.

20 A1 Now they aren't.

21 Q No?

22 A1 But I loved it. I figured that I couldn't teach full-
23 time because I have -- M was in the bush and so I
24 went to subbing, but I was a permanent sub. They knew
25 that they'd bank on me every morning and.....

1 Q1 How big were your classrooms?

2 A1 What?

3 Q1 How big -- how many kids did you have in your

4 classrooms?

5 A1 I'm trying to think, they were just, at that time,

6 trying to cut the size.

7 A Yeah, we had 30. Thirty was about the size of the

8 classroom at that time when I was over there.

9 A1 Honey, why don't you put a pillow behind your back.

10 Q Oh yeah, this pillow.

11 A1 Here. (Indiscernible) how does that feel?

12 Q1 That'd good. (Indiscernible) as much.

13 A Well, one thing is it was one teacher who had the whole

14 show. There weren't all these aids and special, you

15 know, people in the classroom and people being taken in

16 and out for, you know, special classes and stuff like

17 that. You had those kids all day. You were it. Back

18 then, they didn't segregate the kids out for special

19 education.

20 A1 Uh-huh.

21 A And now, it's more inclusive and I don't know if that's

22 better or not, you know what I mean, it's just -- I

23 guess, in some ways, socially, but.....

24 A1 The east wing of Denali School was wholly for special

25 ed and they were brought in from the base. There

1 weren't any locals, they were all from the base. Uh-
2 huh.

3 A And then, you know, racially, I would just say, you
4 know, this neighborhood is really integrated. You
5 know, I had a lot of Native kids as friends, J

6 T and all of them, and you know, the Black kids
7 that, you know, taught me how to do that hambones Black
8 rhythmic thing and all of that stuff, so I don't -- you
9 know, when I went into the Army in 1969 or '70 during
10 the Vietnam War, I didn't even know what kind of --
11 what racism was, you know? And then we had all these
12 guys from the southern states and stuff like that, I'm
13 like whoa. I mean, I just -- you know, we just didn't
14 have it.

15 I mean, it was very live and let live and -- but I
16 know I remember one thing that I wanted to remember and
17 that was that there was such a shortage of things when
18 you moved here that the most common sign that you would
19 buy is not a for sale sign, but a not for sale sign,
20 because if you had a boat out here or something like,
21 you had to put a not for sale sign on it, everybody
22 would be knocking on your door, can I buy your boat or
23 whatever, so there was a lot of not for sale signs.

24 And at that time, I could leave my bike right out
25 on the sidewalk here and nobody would touch it. Of

1 course, today, it'd be stolen in a heartbeat. So we
2 really didn't have, you know, much crime, it was really
3 -- we never locked the door, I don't think we even had
4 a set of keys for the door. Oh, it was really a
5 different world that way, you know, there was a lot
6 more social cohesion in that sense.

7 Q Well, it was a much smaller town I'm guessing.

8 A Yeah, I don't know, you'd have to look back at the
9 population to see. It was smaller, but it was a
10 different attitude. It was a different attitude. You
11 know, it was -- it was a frontier attitude, anybody
12 needed something, you'd stop and help them. Somebody,
13 their car is dead by the side of the road, you wouldn't
14 think of stopping. You'd automatically, anybody would.
15 A couple more would pull in, they'd say oh, you know,
16 fix this, take this and that, you know, we were on Lake
17 Louise and I remembered this Black family came by on a
18 boat and they -- their motor had died and I remember
19 dad taking the extra motor off our boat and saying
20 well, just take the motor and run with it and here's
21 our address, when you get to town, come back, and you
22 know, bring the motor back to us and everything. We
23 didn't think anything of it. Sure enough, a few days
24 later, here the guy had come, but he'd taken it to the
25 mechanic, had it all cleaned up and everything and

1 brought it back.

2 But you know, I don't know if anybody would do
3 that today, right? You'd think you'd never see it
4 again, but he just took the motor off and put it right
5 on there.

6 Q1 So when you joined the Army, were you stationed here in
7 Anchorage?

8 A Oh no, I was in -- I went to Oakland Army Base for
9 basic training and then I was military intelligence
10 agent and a North Vietnamese linguist.

11 Q1 That's so cool.

12 A During the war. I still speak Vietnamese. And I'll
13 surprise them every once in a while, I'll be yaking
14 away at this girl, walk by and say -- just throw
15 something and they're like hey, wait a minute. But I
16 interpreted for the court and I did some medical. You
17 know, people couldn't explain what was going on, so I
18 -- I still remember it.

19 A1 And he had a dishonorable discharge for.....

20 A No, I did not. I was a conscientious objector, that is
21 an honorable discharge.

22 A1 That's it.

23 A So what happened was T S -- you know, I was in
24 language school and the teachers who were there were
25 telling us all what was going on and it was like these

1 people were no threat to us, why were we even in the
2 war? And then when -- from military intelligence
3 school, we were all sent out to spy on civilians and
4 everything like that, which is totally illegal. They
5 have the, you know, armed forces spying on civilians
6 that were demonstrating and all of that.

7 And then I was actually recruited as a -- as an
8 informant to infiltrate one of these groups, which I
9 did. And then from all of it, I just got sick, I said
10 I can't -- you know, I don't want to kill these people.
11 Why? You going to kill somebody, you better have a
12 pretty good reason. So I said I'm a conscientious
13 objector, I'm not going to go. So at that time, our
14 pastor from the Central Lutheran Church knew T
15 S pretty well. Well, T S put me -- they
16 were going to send me over there anyway and the -- T
17 S stepped in, and through an act of Congress, put
18 a congressional hold on me until they couldn't send me
19 until I could get into the court, so I went into the
20 court, a rit of habeas corpus and the court ruled
21 unanimously in my favor. And I was honorably
22 discharged, mom, that is not -- that isn't like walking
23 away and not telling somebody, but if you say I don't
24 believe in killing people for moral reasons, that's
25 conscientious objector, so that's what I did.

1

And then later on, my brother D, he -- and he died -- went through the ice at about 140 mile an hour on Lake Iliamna, 20 years ago, 25 years ago. But anyway, during that time, they were going to draft him, so he said I'm not going to go. I talked to him, so he ended up being a counselor out here at the alcohol treatment plant, and you know, system out by the airport and he was one of the most effective they ever had. He had no training whatsoever, but he could relate to people and people would still come by, and you know, thank him for helping them.

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But the funny thing is, at that time, it was the lottery system, so you know, they would take your birthday and they'd draw, it was like Bingo, and this is how they'd set up the line. You know, if your -- this birthday is this day, you're going to be drafted, and every year, they'd go so far down the line. Well, he went into that because his number was number eight, but partway through it, they came back and notified us and said no, you don't have to -- you know, we checked on it and your birth certificate and you're actually number 256 because we always celebrated his birthday on July 7th or 8th, but what happened, he was born like 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning. Well, they forgot and put down the wrong time on his birth certificate, so he was

1 actually born that day and they said no, you're not
2 going to be drafted, you're number 256, so we
3 celebrated his birthday on the wrong day his whole
4 life, but it ended up maybe saving his life. So that
5 was Bingo for your life doing that lottery section of
6 the draft. Yeah, they got the wrong day. Yeah, we
7 laughed about that too.

8 But we've had a good life, haven't we, mom?

9 A1 Good life. The rest there is.

10 Q1 What do you think of Anchorage nowadays since it's
11 changed since the 50s?

12 A I don't like, you know, the crime and the stuff, like I
13 said, you know, people just stealing and breaking into
14 each other's house and stuff like that. But I think,
15 in some ways, it's gotten a lot better, you know, it's
16 -- you know, there's good restaurants, there's good
17 entertainment, there's -- you know, it's -- I like it.
18 I do like to leave a couple times a year, you know,
19 especially right in the middle of the winter, but you
20 know, I -- you know, I find it satisfying live here.
21 She doesn't want to go anywhere else.

22 A1 I don't need to. I live right on the street, but I'm
23 not afraid. We call it divine protection. You can't
24 lose it. You can't (indiscernible).

25 A All right. So let's walk next door and I'll show you

1 that place because at 11:00, I've a teleconference I've
2 got to get done here.

3 Q1 Oh, okay.

4 A1 Okay. So go ahead. And what about Hazel?

5 A She's out in the chicken coop.

6 A1 Tell her to come over.

7 A Okay.

8 Q1 All right, I'll go ahead and stop.

9 (Off tape)

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