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TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW

JUNE 19, 2014

P R O C E E D I N G S

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Interviewer (Q): Unknown female

Interviewer (Q1): Unknown female

Interviewee (A): D

Interviewee (A1): D

A By the way, the bathroom is end of kitchen, first door on the right.

Q1 Okay, thank you.

Q Okay. So today is June 19th and we're here with D and D?

A1 Uh-huh (affirmative).

Q How long have you guys lived in Anchorage?

A1 Sixty-nine years.

A And I've been here for 10.

Q Okay. And where did you come from originally?

A I grew up in the Midwest, mostly Missouri, a couple hours south of St. Louis on a farm way out in the country.

Q Okay.

A So.....

A1 (Indiscernible - voice lowered).

Q Yeah, well.....

A He's a little nervous, so.....

1 Q We're.....

2 A I actually rent from Dennis next door, so.....

3 Q Okay.

4 AI've known him for the 10 years I've been here, so
5 I said I'd pop over and help him out.

6 Q Well, thank you for doing it because we do need to do
7 this in pairs and it's so much easier if you guys
8 paired yourselves up than if we tried to.

9 A1 Oh yeah. Well, should I start?

10 Q Yeah, sure.

11 A1 I have 10 pages of notes, you can stop me any time.
12 I'm starting with people because I had a paper route.
13 I delivered papers for the Anchorage Times and I
14 delivered to the houses or buildings from 6th to 14th
15 and from Gamble to A Street. And so my awareness of
16 people is mostly in the Fairview area except for other
17 well known people that will probably come up.

18 And one of the things that stands out in my mind
19 now is -- is a resident that's been there so long is
20 the difference in the feel of Fairview, the difference
21 of a proposition people wise of Fairview. Fairview has
22 a significant change since the early days.

23 I ran free as a kid, there was very little danger
24 when I was a kid. I mean, I ran all over the place and
25 nobody worried about anything. But today, I have to be

1 careful when I go out to the neighborhood
2 (indiscernible - loud traffic). The building across
3 the alley, I think the police are there three or four
4 times a month and large of people will walk down the
5 alley and it's the whole feel of the area's different
6 that I was -- than it was when I was a kid.

7 And the composition of the neighborhoods are
8 different. Down at the end of -- on 9th and Cordova in
9 that house across from this one, a lady named Helen
10 Fisher lived there. She had two boys, were maybe three
11 or four older than I am and she was respected, she was
12 looked up to, she was one of the leaders in the
13 community. She signed the State Constitution, she was
14 on the Constitution of a convention. I think there's
15 only six ladies, 40 some men and she lived right here
16 in this neighborhood now which would not happen now
17 because the composition of the neighborhood.

18 I was writing my -- I'm just kind of writing around
19 in this, so.....

20 Q That's fine.

21 Ariding my bike down Fairbanks Street two, three
22 weeks ago, and at the back of the hotel, there must
23 have been eight or 12 towels hanging on the window.
24 There's bars on it now, there used to be no bars, but
25 there's bars and there was towels hanging on the bars

1 and they were on the ground and I had a flashback a few
2 -- I think it was the 70s when CR Lewis who was running
3 for Governor and (indiscernible - dog) President of the
4 John Birch Society and went to my church that was a
5 pastor. He used to try to get me to join the John
6 Birch Society, and so every month, he'd take me out as
7 his pastor and we'd sit over in the restaurant over
8 there and he would try to make a pitch to get me to
9 join and I'd say no and then (indiscernible - dog).

10 And I thought man, nobody like that would go into
11 that place now. I went into the front of it, the rugs
12 are bare, there was crowds of people hanging outside.
13 It's just so different now than what it used to be.

14 R M, he used to live down on the house on
15 10th -- 11th and Cordova, just walked by there the
16 other day and asked the man whose living there now if
17 he knew R. And he was a Superior Court judge,
18 again another highly respect guy. I took piano lessons
19 from his wife and I'm just -- we were never
20 (indiscernible) and if she says there's going to be
21 prizes; if you do real well, each of you will get a
22 prize. And I remember practicing and practicing, it's
23 like I wanted to do real well and I didn't know what
24 the prizes were going to be, but I wanted one. And she
25 handed out the prizes and there was some super cool

1 stuff, you know, from the perspective of a kid and then
2 she said and D, I've got a very special prize for
3 you. And I was so excited and she gave it to me and it
4 was a crossword puzzle book. I almost cried. I was so
5 hurt and upset and then for her to say it was special,
6 she had no idea who I was or what I would enjoy. And
7 ever since then, I've never -- I don't like crossword
8 puzzles.

9 On the house on this side of the alley on 10th and
10 Cordova, on the corner, two brothers lived -- I can't
11 remember the second one because he was kind of gruff,
12 but the brother I remembered is named R. And the
13 G owned the only bakery in Anchorage at the time
14 (indiscernible - traffic) where the office store is
15 on.....

16 A1 Oh, Office Depot.

17 A Office Depot.

18 A1 Yeah.

19 A So the lefthand side of the street and they would bake
20 bread in the morning and they would let it cool on the
21 cooling racks before they would slice it. And mom
22 would send me up there to get the bread before it was
23 sliced and then I'd bring a big un-sliced fresh bread
24 and we'd slice it real thick and put butter on it and
25 oh man, it was so, so good.

1 And R was a real people person and liked kids and
2 I'll tell a story about this in a -- let me get to a
3 different place, but he used to tell the kids, if we
4 brought him cardboard boxes, which he said he needed to
5 use to pack his bakery products in, that he'd give us a
6 donut. So all the kids in the neighbor -- every time
7 you saw a cardboard box, you know, a lot of times
8 (indiscernible) if you saw a cardboard box, you'd save
9 it and you'd to up there, and if R was there -- you
10 couldn't get it from the other workers, but if R was
11 there, you could get a donut.

12 And I just realized, when I was thinking about
13 this, I thought oh, I'm -- up to last week that he must
14 have really used those boxes to delivery baked goods.
15 I just realized he never used them, he just was trying
16 to get us to do something so we didn't get free donuts,
17 we had to do something.

18 And you were just at the -- you want to tell them
19 what you saw at the store?

20 A1 Oh, I was either at Lazy Dog or down at the Ozarks, and
21 I saw an old wooden box that said Gilmans Bakery on it,
22 but they wanted -- it was either \$200 or \$400 for it, I
23 mean, it was just crazy insane. They wanted -- and it
24 wasn't even like put together, it was like collapsed.

25 A But what that says is they had their own boxes and they

1 didn't need my boxes and I -- I took a picture off the
2 web of their bread. There's actually a picture with
3 their loaf of bread in there.

4 Q Oh, cool.

5 A Those are all pictures that I just grabbed real quick.

6 Q Oh, thank you.

7 Q1 Oh wow.

8 A There's a picture of this house 61 years ago, it --
9 with Christmas decorations on it.

10 Q Okay.

11 A There's pictures of quite a few of the things that I
12 would be talking about. And then going back to people,
13 there was a whole segment between 10th and Cordova and
14 10th and A that was airline people. In fact, this was
15 the airline neighborhood and Ray Petersen was the
16 President and founder of Northern Consolidated
17 Airlines, he was the CEO of Wayne Alaska Airlines. And
18 he was inducted into the Alaska Aviation Heritage
19 Museum and just a great guy. He wasn't home very
20 often, but when he was home, he was always friendly, I
21 love flying and anytime he had anything to say about
22 flying almost of any kind, I was ready to listen.

23 He had a son, I can't remember his son's name, but
24 it seems to me I babysat for one of the -- for his son
25 one time, but I can't remember the details. And then

1 next to him, over a house, was R R, he founded
2 Reve Aleutian Airways and he too was inducted into the
3 Aviation Hall of Fame. He had an older daughter J
4 who I knew, but I was too much younger than she was to
5 actually know her well, but I knew enough to say hi

6 Janice. She married the bush pilot, D S and
7 eventually moved to Talkeetna and we homesteaded in
8 Talkeetna, we still have the original 168 acres that we
9 homesteaded up there.

10 And I flew with D and that was before he married
11 -- no, that was after he married her, but I didn't know
12 who he had married until finally someone said you know
13 who he married and then I realized oh, that was the
14 older sister that I didn't know very well.

15 She had another sister named R R and we
16 went to the old Denali school, not this building, but
17 the building before this building. And she was really
18 good looking and I'm gay. I didn't know I was gay back
19 then, but I knew I didn't like girls and the girls
20 didn't like me because I didn't like them. The other
21 guys and I went -- and so they all got together and
22 went to my first grade teacher, Mrs. P and told
23 Mrs. P that I had kissed all of them. And I still
24 remember J smirking at me. I got called into the
25 principal's office, my mom and dad had to come in for a

1 meeting and I don't know to this day whether they still
2 -- whether they believed I didn't do that, but I didn't
3 do that. I remember just being so furious with her and
4 angry at her.

5 And when I delivered the papers to R R, he was
6 always sitting at a chair like this and you open the
7 door, he's over in that corner sitting there usually
8 with a cigarette in his hand. I think he smoked a pipe
9 too. And he didn't talk very much, but he --
10 especially with me, I was just the paper boy, but every
11 once in a while, like R, he'd talk (indiscernible)
12 and any time he'd do that, I'd listen.

13 He told a story, I can't remember, but I was trying
14 to put it all together, but it was either him or it was
15 one of his pilots flying down on the chain in real bad
16 weather. And the story, I mean, he just -- he'd get
17 all tensed up the way he was telling it. And the
18 weather's horrible and he's communicating with the
19 tower somewhere on the ground and they're telling him
20 the weather is not good enough to land and he needs to
21 turn around and it's not going to be safe. And he
22 stretches the story out and he -- the guy is saying you
23 got to go back, you got to go back. Either Bob or his
24 pilot says I just landed at the end of the runway. And
25 I went phew. He was safe. I mean, that story.

1 Going back to D S, D flew -- a friend of
2 ours who homesteaded the homestead 160 next to our 160
3 off the Talkeetna River to drop us off because my
4 friend who was an adult, a dad (indiscernible -
5 traffic) do some geo chem prospecting for gold I think.

6 And D dropped us off on the Talkeetna River and then
7 flew off and left us for two days I think and we only
8 had taken enough food for two days. And at the end of
9 two days, the weather turned bad and D couldn't get
10 in. And I don't know how old I was, I was a teenager,
11 but we were older and I remember how afraid was, we
12 were stranded out here and it's a long ways away. And
13 B P was the name of the fellow that doing the
14 prospecting. I remember how he was telling us it's
15 going to be okay (indiscernible) all he left was a
16 couple Hershey bars, we were breaking the Hershey bars
17 and sharing that.

18 I think he got there a day and a half later and --
19 have you ever heard of Evil A?

20 Q Unh-unh (negative).

21 A Did nobody not tell you about Evil A?

22 Q No.

23 A Yeah. Well, Evil A was a really good friend of the
24 O family and she was B's mother. And the
25 O's would always go every summer up to their

1 homestead, which they called Fish Lake. It was an old
2 railroad station that they didn't stop there anymore
3 and the P had homesteaded the land, and when they
4 homesteaded it, they got the station.

5 A1 This is by Talkeetna, right?

6 A Yeah, by Talkeetna.

7 A1 Yeah.

8 A And she was a character. She would call down to
9 Talkeetna and she would ask for a pound of raw
10 hamburger and a case of beer and the section foreman of
11 the railroad would load that on his section car, bring
12 it down to her and she would (indiscernible), she would
13 put two pieces of white break, put raw hamburger
14 between two pieces of white bread and eat that raw
15 hamburger sandwich and eat it. And she used to be over
16 at the O's and I envied the O kids so much
17 because I wanted to go to Fish Lake. I was hearing all
18 these stories about Fish Lake, and of course, the
19 O girls knew that I wanted to go and they told
20 those stories.

21 B was a part that (indiscernible - voice
22 lowered). And finally I got to go, and when I went,
23 Evil A probably thought I needed to grow up a
24 little bit and she said why don't you come and work
25 this summer bringing me my wood supply and that's how I

1 found out about her sandwiches. I mean, oh that --
2 anyway, I got sidetracked.

3 The B is another family that stands in my
4 mind. They had the first, what do you call it, I wrote
5 it -- they sold fresh flowers and vegetables and the
6 only place in town to get it. And they were on 4th and
7 A. They had a couple greenhouses there and then they
8 had the really neatest house, it was white, it had a
9 picket fence around it, the flowers were beautiful.
10 You'd go into the greenhouses and oh, it was fantastic.

11 A1 What's at 4th and A now?

12 A I don't know. I didn't write it down. They're
13 probably still over there. Oh, it was always -- this
14 house, it's always had flowers around it and she would
15 go there and get the flowers and (indiscernible -
16 traffic) the places were so beautiful.

17 Another family that lived over on 10th was named
18 S H, he started -- I think it's called
19 color art printing now, it was the only place in town
20 besides the Anchorage Times where you could get
21 anything printed. And they had these (indiscernible)
22 type machines (indiscernible) what they are, they
23 melted the metal and they made the letters and then the
24 -- and it smells all hot and there's a vat there and
25 then the machine stamped out the letters in a line, so

1 you just could print not just with individuals, but you
2 had to put it all together, but it would stamp it out
3 and it would put it together so they could print line
4 by line by line and that was big. Big stuff.

5 So another person in the neighborhood was involved
6 in (indiscernible - traffic) good for the community I
7 guess. Anyway, he stands out in my mind. He -- his
8 son went to school with me, his son was in Cub Scouts
9 with me, Steve was the Boy Scout master and really nice
10 guy, friendly guy, loves kids.

11 And then Dr. O -- did B tell you
12 anything about her dad?

13 Q Yeah, a little bit.

14 Q1 Yeah.

15 Q Yeah.

16 A Okay.

17 Q Uh-huh. Yeah, we heard a couple stories.

18 A He was a cool guy. He was gruff, but he had a heart of
19 gold. I don't think I ever saw him without a cigarette
20 in his hand. He was coming home one day and I'd been
21 riding my bike down the alley and I had a dog named
22 Shishmere (ph) and she tried to go between my bicycle
23 and this old clunker car that was on the side of the
24 alley and the bumper had been broken and bent out and
25 it was real sharp. And my dog ran right by it and just

1 ripped his hole side out, big -- oh, I mean, almost the
2 entire side of his body on that side and it was hanging
3 over and it looked like fat on the -- it was awful,
4 just awful, awful.

5 And I started screaming and yelling and crying and
6 came in through the back gate here to get to my dad and
7 Dr. O was coming in the steps. He didn't have
8 deck and he's walking in the steps, back door. And he
9 looked over and he said what in the world's going on
10 and what's wrong and I told , Shishmere (ph), he's
11 dying, I killed her. And he just came there -- there
12 used -- there's still a gate here, we don't use it
13 anymore, but there used to be a gate between our two
14 properties. He came through the gate and he saw her
15 and he was just in his clothes coming home from the
16 office. He picked her up and took her and carried her
17 over there. The O had a station wagon he
18 drove, he put her in the station wagon and me in the
19 station wagon and we drove to his office, which I don't
20 know if it's -- it's really just a (indiscernible)
21 restaurant down at that end of town.

22 And he went in and he just put the dog up on his --
23 not an operating table, but you know, the table that
24 they -- kind in doctor's offices. And he had this old
25 nurse and they all wore uniforms then, they didn't

1 dress like -- she had the hat on and dress stuff and
2 she was older with gray hair and she just -- you can't
3 do this, Doctor, you can't do this, Doctor, not in
4 here. He just -- he told her to shut up.

5 And he sewed Shishmere (ph) and shot her full of
6 something, I don't know what and brought us home and my
7 dog lived. I just loved him so much after that. He
8 shot me full of so much penicillin, he loved
9 penicillin, he thought that would cure everything in
10 the whole world. I bet I got -- I don't know, I got so
11 many penicillin shots from him, I finally became
12 allergic to penicillin and (indiscernible) I think
13 because he gave me so much of it.

14 His wife, V -- did B tell you about
15 V?

16 Q A little bit.

17 A Okay. She was a psychiatrist and practiced under the
18 name of -- I don't think she practiced much, but she
19 did practice, V W and she had a friend
20 named J P who was a psychologist in town. And
21 they were real close and Jim was over there like
22 several times a week and M didn't like him and my
23 sister didn't like him.

24 And they all together and decided that they were
25 going to do something mean to him and what they did is,

1 they wrote -- typed out this phoney bill from Hewett's
2 (ph) Drug Store and they put all kinds of crazy things
3 in it and embarrassing things in it and so much -- they
4 made this big, long list and they just mailed it to
5 him.

6 And I think they said something like you're
7 delinquent in your bill and you got to pay and then it
8 was a letter that as something else. And he got it and
9 I don't know how all this works together, but I know
10 what happened.

11 He got it and he brought it over to show it to
12 V, and in the O's livingroom -- I hadn't
13 been in their house for a long time, I don't know if
14 it's the same, but they used to have this fireplace. Is
15 the fireplace still there, if you.....

16 Q Yeah, I think it's still there.

17 A Okay. Well, it -- on one side of it, there was this
18 place where you could stack wood, and then behind it,
19 you could crawl in that place where the wood used to be
20 stacked if there wasn't any wood there and you could
21 get behind the fireplace.

22 And M and L used to hide in there and play
23 and just there was conversation, there was
24 (indiscernible - voice lowered). And J and V
25 must have known they were in there because they started

1 discussing this letter that J had received and they
2 said it was a federal offense, anybody writing a letter
3 like that was going to go to jail and they just made up
4 all this stuff until M and L were just
5 absolutely terrified. And he said you can come out now
6 and (indiscernible - voice lowered).

7 Also in the neighborhood was one of the only two
8 dentists in town, his name was Dr. R, he had a
9 daughter named A. And A and I went to school.
10 I don't know why our family didn't go to him for
11 dentistry. Instead, we went to this other guy and he
12 was a big, huge man, he had the biggest hands I've ever
13 seen and he was a lousy dentist. He could barely get
14 his hands in your mouth to do stuff.

15 He was doing a root canal on me. I'm sure --
16 anyway, I went into shock and ended up on the floor in
17 his dentist office. And to this day, that was at least
18 50 years ago, if I get in a dentist chair, I just start
19 to shake because I remember that old guy and what he
20 did.

21 S M lived in the neighborhood. He
22 too went to the -- as a delegate, the (indiscernible)
23 convention. He was in the Senate, he was in the House
24 of Representatives. Seems to me he was a photographer
25 or something, I think he's known for pictures for some

1 reason. I can't -- didn't know him and
2 (indiscernible). But he also lived over there on 10th
3 and Barrow.

4 Going to -- back to B, I gave you the
5 newspaper, the actual article.....

6 Q Uh-huh.

7 Afrom this. B and my sister L went to
8 the park, and while they were up at the park, a guy
9 pulled up in this car and he said hey kids, come on, I
10 want you to go with me, I want to take your picture.
11 And my sister wanted to go and B said oh, no, no,
12 no, you're not supposed to get in the car with
13 strangers, don't go.

14 And he convinced my sister to go and he had, I
15 guess, two or three other kids in the car and they took
16 off and left B at the park. And she came running
17 down 10th Street screaming and yelling L's been
18 kidnaped, L's been kidnaped and she said up at the
19 park strip. And I just talked to my sister this
20 afternoon because I can't remember what made me go to
21 the hospital, but she swears I did. I hopped on my
22 bike and I rode up 10th Street on my bike, I went to
23 the hospital. She said I saw her -- they were at the
24 back of the hospital having pictures taken. She says I
25 yelled at her L L H, you get home

1 and she started bawling and crying and I put her on my
2 bicycle and pedaled and brought her home.

3 Well, it got reported to the police and you see the
4 article there. The guy eventually got fired because he
5 had taken kids without their parents' permission. She
6 said I saved her that day, so I'm her hero for doing
7 that.

8 This is just kind of -- this is silly stuff.

9 Q No, this is good.

10 A Oh, okay, because it seems kind of silly.

11 Q1 Feel free to jump in, S though.

12 A Yeah, my.....

13 A1 I've only lived in Anchorage for 10 years and my take
14 on now versus like what he talks about is I grew up in
15 a very small town, 2800 people, and I feel like what
16 he's talking about is like what I experienced when I go
17 back home now. Everyone knows each other, everyone
18 looks out for each other, you know, it's not expected
19 that you're part of the community, it just kind of
20 happens.

21 Q Uh-huh.

22 A1 Everyone's related to each other down there, probably
23 more so than it was here. And just seemed like some of
24 the stuff that goes on around here -- I mean, I love
25 living in this neighborhood, want to buy the house, you

1 know, and stay here for a good, good long time. I see
2 a lot of potential here, but there's just a lot of
3 undercurrents that make me go hmm. You know, which
4 for the times like when Dennis talks about when people
5 took care of their stuff and knew each other and were
6 walking down the street screaming and hollering and
7 drunk, and you know, whatnot, so I see -- yeah, I see,
8 I guess, both sides of what goes on. I mean, I guess
9 we do too and you grew up here, so.

10 A (Indiscernible - voice lowered). It's nice to have
11 B here and other people who are still here from
12 the old days. I mean, it gives you a sense of still
13 belonging even though things that are different.

14 Some of these things, obviously, don't relate to
15 the immediate (indiscernible) to Fairview, but the
16 O's had another friend named K and I
17 can't remember his first name now, but he was a real
18 good friend who was over there a lot and he built a
19 lodge at Portage Glacier. And back then, the road back
20 in there -- have you ever been to Kennecott or
21 McCarthy?

22 Q Unh-unh (negative).

23 Q1 Uh-huh (affirmative).

24 A Have you?

25 Q1 Yeah.

1 A You know the bridge you go over with the deep -- I
2 can't remember the name of that.

3 Q1 Uh-huh.

4 A Well, in the old days, it didn't have those guardrails
5 on it, it was just flat.

6 Q1 Oh, okay.

7 A And you had to drive over that thing.

8 A1 In the wintertime nonetheless, right?

9 A Yeah. It's almost 300 feet down. Well, there's -- you
10 know, several -- if you've been into Portage, there's
11 several places where you have to cross water and when
12 we went in there, it was just these big wide boards and
13 you had to line your tires up to go over it. If you
14 fell off, you fell off.

15 Well, anyway, even though that was the case, he
16 built a lodge back there behind a little knoll and used
17 to close it up each winter and then go open it up again
18 in the spring. And he closed it one winter and he went
19 back the next spring and it was gone. The wind had
20 come, you know, the winds come down in there and it
21 picked up the whole thing and just blown it off. I
22 remember him saying he found pieces of it a mile away
23 in a canyon somewhere. He was (indiscernible - voice
24 lowered).

25 When we came here, dad was a pilot for United

1 Airlines, he was co-pilot for United Airlines. He used
2 to fly between San Francisco and Honolulu and I
3 remember we went to see the film High and Mighty, which
4 is a story about a DC4, which is what he flew, going
5 between San Francisco and Hawaii and it had passed the
6 point of no return and they can't go back to San
7 Francisco and they throw the seats off and the
8 (indiscernible). Oh man, I just ate that up because
9 that was my dad.

10 Well, he got offered a Captain's seat with Alaska
11 Airlines and so he quit United Airlines, and in 1946,
12 he brought us up here. And at that time, the
13 International Airport wasn't there, and so everybody
14 landed at Merrill Field. I know -- I remember he'd fly
15 DC3's in there, DC4's in there, and if the weather was
16 bad, then they'd go to land at Elmendorf because
17 Elmendorf had a longer airstrip.

18 That was just a couple years after they changed
19 from Alaska Star Airlines to Alaska Airlines. It was
20 way back in the early days. And we used to go to
21 Merrill Field, and Christmastime, they'd give all the
22 employees a turkey. That would be our excitement, oh
23 go to the airport, we're going to get our turkey.

24 The airlines struggled a lot back then. I've got
25 pictures of some airline stuff in the stuff there that

1 I gave you. Dad was involved, somehow, in a -- in
2 giving testimony about a lawsuit that was going on as
3 far as he was going to have control of Alaska Airlines.
4 As a young kid, I didn't understand that very much, but
5 I know he went to court and there was a court case and
6 the airline was just struggling. I know he used to fly
7 between Anchorage, Unalakleet, Kotzebue and Nome, that
8 was his route.

9 And a couple times, their credit was so bad he
10 couldn't fill the airplane up with gas and he'd get the
11 aircraft there and he wouldn't have the fuel to bring
12 back to Anchorage, and so he would write a personal
13 check to pay for the gas (indiscernible) the Alaska
14 Airlines airplane and then hope that the airline would
15 get their money so (indiscernible - traffic).

16 (Indiscernible) my wife is buried there now and my
17 mom is buried there. It was right on Fairbanks Street
18 and 7th and it's right over the -- where the airplanes
19 take off. To me, that's really cool. So I'm going to
20 be laying in my grave and the airplanes are going to be
21 flying over the top of me.

22 Q That's cool.

23 A1 Which is where M G was broadcasting from this
24 morning. She was kind of parked down by where all
25 those grave sites are this morning.

1 A Oh, really?

2 A1 Channel 2 news lady.

3 A Oh, cool. Have you gone to the -- what do they call

4 that thing that they do?

5 A1 They're doing the Solstice Graveyard Walk.

6 A Have you ever done that?

7 Q1 No.

8 Q Oh no.

9 A Oh, you got to do it.

10 A1 They go to like 10 different graves and there's a story

11 for each one.

12 A And they act it out. The guy gets up -- oh, there's

13 some -- did you know Walter Hickel is buried standing

14 up?

15 Q No.

16 A Oh yeah. Did you know that -- is it an arm or a foot?

17 A1 It's a foot.

18 A Yeah, don't tell anything. There's a foot buried over

19 in the grave and that's all that's in there and they

20 get these actors and they act -- you follow them around

21 and they go to the grave site and then they do a little

22 play by the grave about the person that (indiscernible)

23 watching, it's great. You'd enjoy it.

24 A1 Yeah.

25 Q That's cool.

1 Q1 That is cool.

2 A Anyway, that's where I'm going to be buried. My wife's
3 there, my mom's there and I'm going to be there over
4 the runway, which means (indiscernible).

5 Those are people. When I think of my neighborhood,
6 I think of those people because I was doing my papers
7 every day and interacting with them and that was my
8 world as far as those I had contact with.

9 Then there's some places -- you know where Central
10 Lutheran Church is up on 15th and Cordova?

11 Q Uh-huh (affirmative).

12 A Oh, I remember when that building was built. If you
13 look at it now, that top part that's all brown and
14 yucky and it's got green stains coming down the cement,
15 that used to be pure copper. It was beautiful when
16 they first built it, shiny on the side. Now it's so
17 dingy and awful, you think oh, that's so bad.

18 Anyway, before that building was there, K
19 H had his Alaska Aggregate yard there. He was
20 the mayor of Anchorage for one term, I think. And
21 there was big piles of rocks and big piles of sand and
22 big piles of gravel and he had a phoney kind of river
23 thing that went through it, I guess, to wash the rock
24 out. He also had a fence all around it with no
25 trespassing signs on it.

1 But if you were a kid, if you were a boy, oh, that
2 was just a fantastic place to play. And we took care
3 of the fence in an area and we used to get in there and
4 try to dam the water up that was floating down and oh,
5 we'd just -- had so much fun in there.

6 Now it changes and gets sad. We used to go
7 outside to California once a year. Every year, we'd
8 see our grandparents and we were always gone for a
9 month. And in the house -- so O's house, they
10 used to be called H and then in the house next to
11 that, the third house down, there's a family named the
12 M. And they had two sons, D who was my age
13 and his younger brother, T. And D and T
14 liked playing in there too, we would go down there and
15 we would play.

16 Well, while I was gone, D took T down
17 there and they trespassed and they went in there, and
18 for some reason, T dropped a match inside of the
19 half open 55-gallon gas drum and it exploded and he
20 caught fire and he ran all the way from 15th and
21 Cordova down here trying to get home. And until
22 somebody saw him, and you know, threw him down and
23 (indiscernible) he burned to death. And that's a sad
24 story, but that's what was there before the Central
25 Lutheran Church was there.

1 And then Carrs, we -- the Carrs now at 14th and
2 Gamble, do you know what we call it in the
3 neighborhood?

4 Q Unh-unh (negative).

5 A We call it ghetto Carrs. And you'll see it referred to
6 now in the paper as ghetto Cars. C

7 (indiscernible), do you know C?

8 Q I've talked to him a couple times.

9 A Okay, he calls it the Carrs of the People.

10 Q Carrs of the People.

11 A But.....

12 A1 I don't like D going there by himself.

13 A Oh, it's not good. Another renter who lived there went
14 there and saw a lady slashed in the face with a knife
15 in the parking lot. It's the only Carrs store, as far
16 as I know, that has a full-time security guard with a
17 police station right next to it. I mean, it's a scary
18 place.

19 But man, when that building went up, it was
20 beautiful, it was the most wonderful grocery store in
21 Anchorage. And it was the first store to have fresh
22 produce. Can you imagine not having fresh produce? We
23 -- everything we had, it was -- it was canned,
24 everything was canned. And there was a place down on A
25 Street, I don't know where, it was on this side of the

1 street on A Street called the Co-Op, it was just a
2 tiny, little narrow building and you could join them,
3 and if you joined them, you -- you know how these
4 companies that let you order fresh fruit and they bring
5 it up and it's all fresh?

6 Q Uh-huh.

7 A That's the only way you could get fresh produce, you
8 had to join the Co-Op and there a fee to join it and
9 then you ordered what you want and they flew it up on
10 Alaska Airlines and so you had fresh corn and you had
11 fresh (indiscernible - voice lowered). But if you went
12 to the grocery store, everything was canned.

13 Well, that ghetto Carrs was the first store in
14 Anchorage to fly stuff up and so you could pay for it,
15 which was fresh lettuce and fresh beans and all that
16 stuff. They were also the first store in Anchorage to
17 use coupons. Everybody coupons before and he started
18 that out.

19 He also was the first store to have pictures of
20 the product. He would -- it just wouldn't be
21 Campbell's soup for sale, there'd be a picture of the
22 Campbell's can in the paper. And you know, it was so
23 cool to see those ads because nobody else did it.

24 And I just enjoyed going to that place as a kid.
25 Almost got a job as a box boy there and I don't know

1 why I chickened out. But then a year later, down here
2 on the corner of 9th and Cordova, the first Safeway
3 went in. And then the first -- whatever the drug store
4 was and I got a job as a box boy at Safeway.

5 But when I went to work at Safeway, they said we
6 are not like the Carrs store, we don't call our baggers
7 box boys, we call them courtesy clerks and you're not
8 to refer to yourself as a box boy, you are a courtesy
9 clerk. But I remember Carrs.

10 A1 Oh, the brainwashing started back then, huh?

11 A L C ran for Governor against B E and my
12 wife worked in L C's campaign office and she was
13 a Republican and L C was a Democrat. And they
14 -- I'm sure she was kidding, I'm 99 percent sure she
15 was kidding, but my wife, sometimes you weren't sure.
16 She used to tell me she was a spy for E and L
17 C's campaign office. Anyway, L lost to E and
18 I don't know if it was because of my wife or not,
19 but.....

20 And then there's places that nobody seems to
21 remember that just irritates me to death and I don't
22 know why they don't remember, but everyone I've talked
23 to can't so far. On 9th Street, between Gambell and
24 Karluk, on this side of the street was the Alaska
25 Potato Chip Company. They were really there although

1 everybody doesn't remember and their potato chip bags
2 were blue and white with a picture of the Alaska flag
3 on them and they were really good potato chips.
4 They're gone now and nobody seems to remember them and
5 I don't know why.

6 And then in that same location, after the Potato
7 Chip Company was -- the Matanuska Maid Dairy. Does
8 anybody remember that?

9 Q I don't know if I remember the building, I remember the
10 company.

11 A Okay. Well, they had a building there and we walked
12 down from Denali school to get a tour through it. And
13 I remember the creamsicles sticking in these prongs of
14 something or other, they made them freeze and I
15 remember we all got a creamsicle after the tour and I
16 remember M W, who was the kid delinquent, went
17 into the cold room and pokes holes in the milk cartons
18 in the cold room and I caught him and he told me, if I
19 told Mrs. (indiscernible) -- anyway, told me he was
20 going to beat the snot out of me. I never told on him.
21 Chicken.

22 But that used to be there and I can't find people
23 who remembered being there, but it was. I guess not
24 for a long time, but it was there.

25 And then on the corner of Gambell and 9th, right

1 on the corner, there was a place called Verne's Family
2 Market and my paper route ended there. There was a
3 gasoline station across from Verne's Family Market, a
4 Chevron station. And after I delivered to the Chevron
5 station, which was as far as I went because route ended
6 on this side of the street, I'd go on the other side to
7 Verne's and I'd buy french apple pies and teaberry gum
8 and cold gum and blackjack gum and a lot of this stuff
9 you can't even get anymore because they don't make it.
10 And it's gone, I think it turned into a knit shop and
11 then something else, what, a car dealership or
12 something. Anyway, that was a part of our
13 neighborhood.

14 And then up this way, at the other end of my
15 route, at 9th and A was the 9th and A grocery, and for
16 some reason, I don't know why, they had ice cream.
17 Verne's didn't have any, you couldn't get ice cream at
18 Verne's and you couldn't get popsicles at Verne's, but
19 you could get popsicles and fresh packed ice cream at
20 the 9th and A grocery. I'd go there to get popsicles,
21 and every once in a while, dad would send me up there
22 for a hand packed quarter of strawberry ice cream.

23 I went there one time to buy some popsicles and
24 I'd stolen my mom's grocery money. I must have been
25 pretty young because I don't remember what the

1 dimension -- how much it was, it was paper money. But
2 it must have been at least a \$20 or a \$50 bill because
3 I gave the guy a \$20 bill or a \$50 bill and I tried to
4 buy popsicles with it and he said where did you get
5 this money and I said I took boxes to Gilmans bakery
6 and R G gave me the money, which of course,
7 (indiscernible - voice lowered).

8 And so he called mom and kept me in the store.
9 Mom came up to the store to get me and she have been to
10 the grocery store while I was there, she found out that
11 some money was missing, she didn't know where it was.
12 She had bought me popsicles, so I was taking the money
13 that I had stole from her trying to buy popsicles and
14 she was buying me popsicles. Oh golly. I was grounded
15 for two weeks, spent it in the bedroom there across
16 from the bathroom.

17 Another thing that nobody remembers that I
18 remember real clear. I tried to Google it and I can't
19 -- there's no reference to it, but where the bank is on
20 -- down the hill from 15th and Gambell, is it First
21 National, NBA? First National?

22 Q Yes.

23 A Right there, there used to be a huge airplane dump with
24 airplanes thrown in, just the wings sticking in the air
25 and the front of the airplanes sticking up, just huge

1 area of airplanes with, again, another fence around it.
2 And me and T and some of my friends, we used to go
3 through the fence. We'd go there and we'd get gas
4 masks and we'd get all kinds of stuff and we'd sit in
5 the airplanes and we'd pretend like we were flying. It
6 just used to be a great place to (indiscernible) really
7 play.

8 Well, I don't know why it was there, I don't know
9 what happened to it, but.....

10 A1 Has anybody else ever talked about that?

11 Q1 Unh-unh (negative).

12 Q No.

13 A Well, it's gone. They must have been saving it for the
14 (indiscernible) or something, I mean, why would they
15 have it all stacked there?

16 Q I don't know.

17 A But anyway, for a boy, it was a wonderful place, I
18 really -- there -- 9th and -- no, 10th and Eagle --
19 10th and Fairbanks, there used to be a place called
20 Peacock Cleaners. It was a dry cleaning place that
21 nobody in the neighborhood used. I don't know why. We
22 all took our cleaning up to the only other cleaning
23 place, it was called Coles Cleaners, it was up
24 Fireweed.

25 And I've tried to think about why didn't mom and

1 dad -- why didn't anybody take their clothes to Peacock
2 when it was so much closer to them -- the other place.
3 And as I think about it, I guess maybe -- I used to
4 deliver papers and I used to walk behind it, and behind
5 it, there was trash and garbage and drums of the used
6 up dry cleaning stuff, it was really messy. I think
7 everybody just resented that it was there in the
8 neighborhood and just didn't want to do anything to
9 encourage it, so they didn't use it.

10 One time, they changed the books that -- you know,
11 the books with carbon paper and they'd write out, you
12 know, what you bought, then they'd give you a receipt
13 and they threw a whole bunch of them out and I took all
14 of them. And I used them for -- we gave speeding bikes
15 speeding tickets and police tickets and I'd pull out
16 the ticket and I'd hand it to them and I had so much
17 fun playing with that.

18 When we first moved here, Denali school wasn't
19 there, it was just forest and the street was just a
20 single lane dirt road and our lawn was huge, it ran out
21 -- oh golly, probably to the middle of the street right
22 now. And across in that school area, I forgot to tell
23 you, but D F -- over there, I don't know why,
24 I don't know why it was there, but it was, there was a
25 slide, a wooden slide and there was a sandbox. And it

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was just a wooden slide and sandbox in the middle of the forest. But we used to play around there and H F's son, D, had some caps in his back pocket. You know what a cap is, they used to have a cap gun? And he slide down the slide and set the caps off, burned his butt something fierce. And we just teased him to death. Again, that's just a story.

When they built Denali school, they had a maintenance shed that they built with a frame and then they -- this house, the ceiling is -- in this old house, this house is almost 70 years old, it doesn't have sheetrock, it has that old pressed paper stuff and they built the shed out of that and I broke into it. Can you tell that I'm kind of delinquent here? I broke into it and I used to hide in there and play after they left. And when the building was finally finished, before we moved in, my friend M, M and I climbed up on the Denali school roof and we were playing around up there. And I don't know whether he was a night watchman or somebody came up through this hatch in the ceiling. I guess he heard us running around up there and came out yelling, what are you kids doing in there and M stopped and (indiscernible) and instead, I ran right off the roof and fell down on the ground and tore the ligaments in my foot and I had to

1 go see Dr. O, he fixed me up.

2 But for years after that, I'd get out of bed some
3 days and my foot would just give out and I'd fall. But
4 that's a memory of Denali school. And I was the first
5 class in Denali school. We were going to school at
6 Chugiak -- no, Chugach Elementary, which is up on --
7 it's close to 15th and A somewhere up there, the
8 building is gone now, but that was the only elementary
9 school.

10 And so many kids were there, the building couldn't
11 take it and they brought in Quonset huts and they were
12 trying to keep the kids in Quonset huts and the
13 building and they finished Denali, and in the middle of
14 the year, we all got our books and our lunch pails and
15 we walked down from Chugach school to Denali school.
16 Denali school was awesome. Really, I mean, holy cow.
17 The bathrooms didn't have sinks, they had these things
18 you would step on it and the water would come out, you
19 know, like a big ole shower around it and the floors
20 had tile and there was a fish tank between the rooms
21 with real fish swimming around and it had the kind of
22 glass -- it was brand new there, you couldn't see
23 through it, you know, but it's -- it lets the light
24 through. That was all -- oh, it was just awesome.
25 Just awesome.

1 And the chalkboards were green and the chalk was
2 yellow, and at Chugach, the blackboards were black and
3 the chalk was white. So everything about the place was
4 just, you know, exciting.

5 And my mom was involved in the school and I don't
6 remember how. I don't know if she was President of the
7 PTA yet, but she had a key to the school. And I don't
8 know where she was, dad was gone flying, but I got that
9 key one time when school was over and I remember going
10 through the door that used to be here. The door and I
11 went in and there was nobody in there. And it was, you
12 know, two blocks long. And I remember walking around
13 in there, there was a room where they would get all
14 their paper, pencils and construction paper and that's
15 -- I loved paper and stuff and I remember walking -- I
16 didn't steal anything, but I remember walking in there
17 and I went to the bathroom, faculty bathroom. I
18 thought that was so cool, but those are some memories
19 of Denali school.

20 And then the only junior high school in town then
21 was up on 6th Avenue, it was called either Anchorage
22 Junior High or Central Junior High and it was an old
23 building that was also the library for town and it had
24 a connected auditorium, which was the only auditorium
25 in town. And in the library, there was this fire

1 shoot, which if there was a fire, you were supposed to
2 slide down to get outside. And I remember sliding, and
3 you weren't supposed to, but it was so cool to go up to
4 the library to the fire shoot and slide down.

5 And then during lunch when we had lunch, we were
6 supposed to be in the cafeteria, we would go down to, what's
7 it called, the store that you thought was something else? Ben
8 Franklin.

9 A1 Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah.

10 A And the Ben Franklin, it was newer than -- Ben Franklin
11 was an amazing place. I put a picture of it in there,
12 it doesn't look like anything, but it was brand new and
13 had loads of candy and stuff like that and we would go
14 there and (indiscernible). The picture says -- and I
15 can't tell what it is, but it says five cents. Can you
16 buy anything for five cents now? There's a picture and
17 you can just see part of the sign that said.....

18 A1 Yeah, there's -- they have signs I think hanging from
19 the ceiling that says what can you buy for nine cents.
20 It's like too crazy.

21 A I remember a pack of gum was a nickel and a coke was a
22 dime.

23 A1 Yeah.

24 A Golly.

25 A1 I feel really (indiscernible) Bazooka Joe was a penny.

1 A I've got a school memory from a literature class that
2 the building was an old building and a lot of the
3 classrooms were actually below ground level and the
4 only window in the school were those little tiny, you
5 know, windows in basements. That's all the classroom
6 had. But it had a really, really good literature
7 teacher and she made us read Bambi, the real story of
8 Bambi, which is a classic. It is an awesome story and
9 I remember reading it and being really just moved by it
10 and then comparing it to Walt Disney's Bambi. That's
11 when I really realized for the first time, if there's a
12 book and there's a movie, you want to read the book
13 because it was so much different.

14 And then I was in the last graduating class in
15 Anchorage High School, 1961. The next year, they
16 finished West High and Anchorage High School became
17 West High School. It was West and there was East, and
18 when I went there, there was two stories. After the
19 earthquake, they demolished the whole top story. I
20 think they lost the library too if I remember right.

21 But I have some -- lots of really cool memories
22 from that building. It was -- they would never build a
23 building like that now. It was beautiful. They had
24 paintings on the walls, it was green. I don't know
25 what -- some kind of stone in the hallway. Well,

1 you've seen probably parts of it if you've been in
2 there.

3 Q Uh-huh.

4 A But it was beautiful, just beautiful. And two people
5 come to mind when I think of that. The band director,
6 I can't remember his name now because I'm starting to
7 get nervous. Oh yeah, J M. He was really
8 popular with the adults and he got the band to be
9 really good and the band traveled a lot, but he wasn't
10 real talkative with the students.

11 And I'll give you an illustration of -- one of the
12 guys -- you know, when you're in high school and you're
13 a guy, you start growing your beard and this fella let
14 his beard start to grow and J M was up in
15 the band room and the shelves where they kept the music
16 in, he kind of pushed this fellow up against the music
17 area stand and he said, you shave that beard off, you
18 can't have a beard and be in band. And.....

19 A1 And the guy said well, I don't see any rule that says
20 that I can't.

21 A Yeah. And J took out a Zippo lighter and he just
22 held it in front of his face and down under his chin
23 and he said, if you don't shave it off, I'll burn it
24 off.

25 And then there was a lady named Mrs. M and

1 she was the custodian and she was German and a lady,
2 just -- oh, I'm sorry.

3 Q No, that's fine.

4 A1 That's fine. I was going to get them out.

5 A Yeah, but that was shining in your eyes, I didn't even
6 know.

7 Q Oh, no, it was fine.

8 A She was almost a teacher, she was just a -- she was a
9 teacher. She was a custodian, but she was a teacher.
10 And everybody would say hi to her, everybody liked her.
11 If you said hi to her, she's say (indiscernible -
12 foreign language) and she's go on (indiscernible -
13 voice lowered).

14 Well, the girls were all gung ho about Marilyn
15 Monroe and about bright colored lipstick, and so they
16 would wear bright colored lipstick. And now I didn't
17 go in the girls restroom, but I heard about it. They'd
18 go into the girls rest room and they'd put the lipstick
19 on and then I don't know why, they would kiss the wall.
20 Have you heard the story?

21 Q Unh-unh (negative).

22 Q1 Unh-unh (negative).

23 A And so after a while, when you went out the main part
24 of the girls bathroom, there were all these kisses on
25 the wall and Mrs. B always had to clean

1 them up. And she got fed up with cleaning them up, and
2 so one time between classes, when there was a whole
3 bunch of girls in the restroom, she came in with her
4 mop bucket and she moved over to a toilet and she put
5 the mop down in the toilet and she took it out and she
6 rang it up in the bucket and then she started working
7 down the wall where all the kisses were. And the girls
8 screamed and they ran out of the bathroom and it was --
9 but they never kissed the wall again. She was a really
10 cool lady.

11 A1 Do you need to take (indiscernible)? You want
12 something to drink or.....

13 A No, I don't need anything to drink.

14 A1 I need something to drink, so I'll br right back.

15 A Am I going down the wrong roads with kinds of stuff?

16 Q No, you're -- yeah, actually, you have about an hour.

17 A Oh God, okay.

18 Q Which is okay.

19 A Does this have anything to do with Fairview? I mean,
20 is it the kind of stuff -- not.....

21 Q It definitely is touching -- I mean, there's no right
22 or wrong.

23 Q1 Yeah.

24 A Okay.

25 Q There's really no guidelines.

1 Q1 But before we actually do wrap it up, I would like to
2 hear more about how -- like you've said that you've
3 only been here for 10 years, but you love the
4 neighborhood, so what is it about Fairview that you
5 like so much?

6 A1 Having lived in bigger cities, I mean, you rarely even
7 see your neighbors. At least here, I mean, I was
8 telling D the other day, I mean, we've known these
9 people -- we've seen these people for 10 years and
10 we've yet to introduce each other. But we still say hi
11 and whatnot, I mean, living in a bigger city, I mean,
12 you just -- you don't know what you're going to get.
13 Here, it just feels much more -- like there's so much
14 potential for the close knit community and not that we
15 all have to be, you know, huggy, huggy, kissy, kissy,
16 but we have each other's back.

17 And like I said, I grew up in a very small farming
18 community, I drive in on one side of town and my
19 parents live on the other side and I don't stop, it
20 takes 10 minutes to drive through town, and when I get
21 to mom and dad's place, dad's sitting out on the porch
22 saying oh, I heard you were in town. Seriously? I
23 just literally got in off the highway 10 minutes ago.

24 So I mean, I see a lot of like where I grew up
25 here. The houses are generally smaller, a little

1 closer. You know, you got your little community
2 schools, the kids walk to and from school. I mean, I
3 bused in because we lived so far out in the country,
4 but I just see a lot of potential. And what I hear --
5 you know, there's -- especially talking, you know, like
6 with his sisters and other people about the way it used
7 to be, I mean, I've been doing some work over there and
8 like if you were to look at the yard, I'm trying to get
9 it landscaped and looking, you know, nice. And I think
10 other people are wanting to take pride in their
11 neighborhood.

12 There's a lot of outside influences that I don't
13 want to say hinder, but they don't help. I mean
14 literally, I got a bus stop in front of my house and
15 good Lord, I -- you never know what you're going to get
16 standing there sometimes. There was a lady that was
17 just screaming obscenities walking through the school
18 and there was little kids standing -- you know, summer
19 school, whatever they're doing over there.

20 A Well.....

21 A1 And there's no adult over there, but she's like
22 literally about ready to start beating the crap out of
23 the guy that she's with. I mean, she was throwing
24 stuff at him. I mean, those are little things, you
25 know, that we hmm.

1 Q And those are people from outside of the neighborhood?

2 A1 Yeah, they're.....

3 Q Right.

4 A1 I mean, there's all kinds of them, what, halfway houses
5 and you know, and I try to be civic minded and whatnot
6 and I understand that people need places to live
7 regardless of their circumstances, but on the other
8 hand, you know, I wouldn't let my kid outside with some
9 of the stuff that goes on out here sometimes. It's
10 just -- but you know, on the other hand, you know, we
11 got the Iditarod and all that other community type
12 stuff that just is totally, totally cool.

13 Q Uh-huh.

14 A1 You know, but like I said, I just -- I see -- you know,
15 and (indiscernible) for like what D talks about,
16 the cute little houses and people have known each
17 other, but on the other hand, there are times when I'm
18 just like -- we got some new neighbors across the
19 street, and no offense to the younger crowd, but
20 they're huge partiers.

21 Q Uh-huh.

22 A1 I mean, I'm up at 2:00 o'clock in the morning wanting
23 to scream at them shut the hell up, you know, this is
24 not a frat house, you know?

25 A Well, and there's.....

1 A1 I mean, they're pissing -- excuse my language, they're
2 peeing against the side of this rental house. I mean,
3 can you imagine what that's going to start smelling
4 like here soon?

5 A They do the same thing to bus people peed in your yard
6 while they're waiting for the bus.

7 A1 Oh yeah, they throw trash in my yard, but you get other
8 people that are there and they're super nice and super
9 respectful and.....

10 A It's not the people in the neighborhood.

11 A1 Yeah.

12 A It's the people from.....

13 Q Outside of.....

14 Aoutside the neighborhood. The neighborhood -- the
15 people in the neighborhood are cool, even the ones that
16 -- that apartment that I told you that has the water
17 problems?

18 Q Uh-huh (affirmative).

19 A I still like those people.....

20 A1 Yeah, they're so nice. I mean, they're loud at night
21 and they party a little bit too much, but they'll talk
22 to you and -- I mean, I don't know them personally, but
23 you know.....

24 A Uh-huh.

25 A1we all say hi and what's going on. And I mean,

1 they'll sit out there and do their little barbecues
2 and.....

3 A And we're not afraid of them.

4 A1 Yeah.

5 A And that's the deal with the rest.....

6 A1 But I mean, you get these people that do walk down the
7 street sometimes and I'm just like I need to pull my
8 dog inside, you know?

9 A We just had to share that. You just want to hear good
10 stuff?

11 Q No. Honestly, I was going to say bouncing off of that,
12 you obviously got to see a lot of these changes
13 happening. Were they mostly gradual, were they things
14 that you started to notice like.....

15 A Yeah, even as a kid, I noticed it when -- you know
16 where the cemetery is now?

17 Q Uh-huh (affirmative).

18 A From Cordova to Fairbanks and from Fairbanks to 6th,
19 they put in a huge apartment complex called Willow
20 Park, have you heard about that? And that's when I
21 really -- even as a young kid, begin to sense that
22 something was changing because it brought such a huge
23 number of people into an area. I mean, I don't know
24 how many people live there, hundreds.

25 Q Uh-huh.

1 A And all of a sudden, there was people that you didn't
2 know in the neighborhood and it just felt strange to be
3 seeing people that you didn't know. And I don't think
4 it's changed quickly, I don't think anything like this
5 does change quickly, it just goes slow. But it's sad
6 to those of us who remember what it used to be.

7 And I don't like it because it's -- C is
8 positive, C thinks Fairview's going to be turned
9 around. And he doesn't even like if you talk negative,
10 he just says that's -- but I've seen such a huge -- he
11 hasn't seen the change.

12 Q Uh-huh.

13 A I helped build the house he's living in we used to own
14 four houses over there. I helped build that house and
15 I remember things that he doesn't have any idea.....

16 Q Uh-huh.

17 Aexisted. And I look now, I have actual fear about
18 living in the neighborhood. I still love it, but I'm
19 still afraid.....

20 Q Uh-huh.

21 Asometimes. I feel like I'm monopolizing David and
22 cutting him out.

23 Q No, that's okay.

24 Q1 You guys had some nice back and forth. Is there
25 anything else that you were going to ask about?

1 Q What do you remember from the earthquake?

2 A I was gone, I was in school. My basement has still got
3 the crack clean across the basement that was caused by
4 -- when the earthquake hit. The guy that came and
5 inspected said it's going to be okay, so we never fixed
6 it. I was in San Jose when it happened, my wife was
7 here and we got the radio report, Anchorage is in
8 flames, is leveled and in flames. I just thought
9 everybody was dead and gone. There was no
10 communication, I don't know for how long, but when we
11 really, really wanted it, we couldn't get it. And I
12 think the next day, somebody had gotten out with a hand
13 radio and said that Anchorage was bad, but that he knew
14 that the two buildings, the towers and I forget what we
15 called it, but they were still standing and so that it
16 probably wasn't as bad as the reports had given.

17 But pick those pictures up, I'm sure you've seen
18 them. The only difference between the two, one's from
19 '48 and one's from '54 is those two buildings. The
20 rest of the town hadn't really changed that much
21 between that time period.

22 But that's really the -- that's the world I lived
23 in as a kid living in the neighborhood. The only paved
24 street, when I was a kid, was 4th Avenue. Everything
25 else was dirt. The tallest building, I think, was five

1 stories tall and I think it was the Native Hospital,
2 which isn't even there anymore. It used to be on the
3 bluff, those buildings are gone. So when the two 4-
4 story tall buildings came, that was something, I tell
5 you.

6 Q Yeah.

7 A I mean, we didn't have TV either. I think TV came a
8 lot later. I got invited when I went to California to
9 watch TV, I didn't know what it was. And then I saw
10 people watching, they didn't talk. (Indiscernible -
11 traffic) they didn't say anything because everybody was
12 looking, it just felt so strange.

13 There's a theater uptown called the Empress
14 Theater -- used to be a theater uptown called the
15 Empress Theater, it's a block down from the 4th Avenue.
16 The 4th Avenue was amazing. Have you ever been in that
17 building?

18 Q Uh-huh (affirmative).

19 A I haven't. Is it -- I always -- does it still have red
20 carpet?

21 Q Uh-huh (affirmative).

22 A Oh, God.

23 Q Yeah.

24 A Is it still pretty?

25 Q1 It's very nostalgic, I think that would be a good way

1 to describe it. It's not like super run down or
2 anything, but you can tell that it's older, but it's
3 still pretty I think.

4 A Do the stars still twinkle in the ceiling?

5 Q Yeah.

6 A Oh God.

7 Q At least the last time I was there, they did.

8 A They were so cool. Is the big picture (indiscernible)
9 picture, was it McKinley on the wall on the left?

10 Q I don't remember that specifically. It's been quite a
11 few years since I've been there.

12 A Oh, as a kid, it was so beau -- I remember in the men's
13 room, there was even rugs in the men's room with brass
14 railings. To use the urinal, you had to go upstairs on
15 rugs with brass railings. And I didn't like the 4th
16 Avenue because, if you didn't have a parent with you,
17 they made you sit in the first six rows. I used to
18 sneak back.

19 But they used to have serials at the Empress every
20 Saturday and I've got a picture of the Empress and
21 there's -- they didn't have a snack stand, but they had
22 a drug store on the corner, so you buy all your snacks
23 at the drug store on the corner and then you go into
24 the theater and watch the movies. And they had serials
25 every Saturday like Flash Gordon and Roy Rogers and Cat

1 Woman and Hop Along Cassidy.

2 And another thing I don't remember, has anybody
3 mentioned that the ball park that was downtown. I
4 think it's where the museum is now?

5 Q1 Unh-unh (negative).

6 Q Unh-unh (negative).

7 A I googled and tried to find it, it's a big baseball
8 park with a big stand at the end, all surrounded with
9 wood painted green. There was no way to get in there.
10 If I could have broken in, I would have broken in
11 because we never won any games. But it was too solidly
12 built and I never ever got in there to see what it was,
13 but it was there and it's gone and I tried to google it
14 and couldn't find it. There's no record of it.

15 A1 Could you tell me -- this is one of my favorites
16 because doesn't think he has a sense of humor,
17 but he really does, your story about the bear, your
18 friend from college?

19 A Oh, with the bear poop?

20 A1 Yeah, and the noises?

21 A Oh yeah. But that's in Talkeetna.

22 A1 Well -- well yeah, I guess it's too far away.

23 A One thing that I enjoyed as a kid and I had to research
24 this because I can't find any record of it. I finally
25 tracked it down, but I do it backwards. When we first

1 came up, it was war time, you know, just right after
2 the war and Anchorage was growing really fast and they
3 didn't have enough electricity for the city because it
4 was growing too fast. And they had this -- and I gave
5 you pictures of it, it was called the SS Sackett Harbor
6 and it was a boat that had broken in two out on the
7 chain and they hauled it in and they dumped it in the
8 mud flats out there beyond Ship Creek and then they ran
9 cables from its generating room and they used power
10 from that ship to heat Anchorage for several
11 (indiscernible - dog bark).

12 And there used to be a big, long wooden walkway
13 across the mud flats going into that ship and it was
14 kind of sitting on its side. And as a kid, I wanted so
15 bad to be able to go down that long walkway and get in
16 that ship and find out what it was like in there.

17 When they dug the sewers -- we had the sewer/water
18 line are in the alley there and then 9th Street, 10th
19 Street and Cordova Street, I got to sit in the -- with
20 the driver of the excavating machine and every once in
21 a while, he would say now look away and he wouldn't let
22 me look out, so I'd look away and then he'd say okay
23 and then I'd look back and I didn't know what was going
24 on until finally, I started to peek and he would just
25 -- he had a bottle of whiskey in his pocket and he'd

1 take a swig of whiskey and then he'd stick it back in
2 his pocket and then he'd say okay, you can look again.
3 But then I rode up and down the (indiscernible - cough)
4 at 9th and 10th and had a ball as a kid.

5 Dad had a temper and we had a nice green fence,
6 you can see what it looked like in the picture there
7 and he told the guy to be careful when he was digging
8 the hole down the alley because he didn't want him to
9 ruin the fence. Well, he busted the fence and my dad
10 went and got his rifle and he brought his rifle out and
11 he laid it on the fence by the walking area and he took
12 a box of shells and he started putting shells in his
13 gun. And this guy that broke the whiskey in and
14 everything, made me turn my head, man he shut that
15 (indiscernible) and he hopped off that machine and he
16 ran towards Gambell Street. Mom told me that dad
17 really wasn't putting the bullets in the gun, she said
18 she saw them falling to the ground, but I didn't see
19 them fall. And I thought he was going to shoot the
20 guy.

21 Have you heard of the lake George breakup, did
22 anybody tell you about that, have you heard a history
23 of that?

24 Q Unh-unh (negative).

25 A Oh God. Have you ever been to Knik Glacier?

1 Q Uh-huh, yes.

2 A Have you?

3 Q Uh-huh (affirmative).

4 A Okay. Well, you know how the Knik Glacier comes out.
5 It used to run into Mt. Roberts, and then when it ran
6 into Mt. Roberts, it backed up the flow of the river
7 that came out through there. I wrote an article about
8 it the (indiscernible) it's in there.

9 Q Uh-huh.

10 A But it eventually would break through, that's a picture
11 of the wall there about a week after it started to
12 break through. Icebergs 14 stories tall as big as the
13 buildings fell through there and the whole area was
14 flooded. You couldn't get out, you couldn't leave
15 Anchorage and go north, there was no way, the whole
16 road was blocked.

17 And that used to happen every year, and so
18 sometimes you'd be in town and you'd want to go to
19 Fairbanks or you'd want to (indiscernible), but you
20 couldn't go to Fairbanks for days because it was
21 flooding like that. Oh golly.

22 Q Well, we have over an hour.

23 A Too much?

24 Q No, that was great.

25 Q1 That's fine.

1 A1 So what are your questions?

2 Q1 I mean, we didn't come in with anything specific. I
3 mean, this was great.

4 A Do you know what First Baptist Church is building down
5 here on 10th and L and how they got it? I used to play
6 organ for First Baptist Church and we had a building
7 that burnt down and we went to the carpenter's home,
8 started meeting there and then we started building a
9 church right where Kenny's parking lot is now and we --
10 it was just cement walls and it wasn't finished. We
11 started finishing the entryway and I remember G,
12 who was the pastor, he wanted the texture on the walls
13 to be textured and not just flat. And so as we were
14 painting, he had a whole case of burnt coffee from the
15 fire and he just brought over the coffee cans and he
16 dumped the coffee in the paint and we stirred it up and
17 we painted the walls and it gave it texture. But every
18 time you came in the building for months after that, it
19 just smelled like coffee.

20 And we never finished the building because
21 Penney's offered to build us a church if we would give
22 them a lot so they could build a parking lot there.
23 And the building there on 10th and L, it cost a million
24 dollars, which was a lot of money back then.

25 Q Uh-huh.

1 A JCPenney really built that building in order to have
2 the land where First Baptist Church is.

3 Oh, and I'll just make another thing. I work for
4 -- you know who C B was?

5 Q Unh-unh (negative).

6 A He owned ERA Helicopters, he brought in a big
7 construction company. He was a friend of W

8 H's, really good friend of W H's and I
9 worked at Merrill Field as a gopher, as an expediter.
10 And the secretary, C's secretary went for lunch and
11 she asked me to handle the phones while she was gone.
12 Well, W H had told T S and C B
13 that it was between -- he had to appoint a Senator, you
14 know, for -- he appointed T S obviously, but he
15 had to appoint a Senator and it was either going to be
16 T S or it was going to be C B.

17 And I was handling the phones when W H
18 called C B and I forgot you're not supposed to
19 say who's calling and I was nervous because I was
20 handling the phones and I said who's calling please and
21 he said this is W H. And so he told C
22 B that he wasn't going to appoint him as United
23 States Senator. C, he just -- he was so angry and
24 so upset because he'd been friends with W for
25 years, how could W do this and oh golly, it was a

1 terrible afternoon. I remember how glad I was when I
2 got to go home because things were just so
3 (indiscernible).

4 Q Wow.

5 A There's pictures of me in there on the Mayor's desk,
6 there's pictures there of me buying shoes. I think the
7 only reason that happened is because mom was, you know,
8 recognized as the first state -- or he wasn't first
9 state, first territorial PTA person. That was a big
10 deal back then. And dad got into the paper for making
11 several special flags and stuff like that. I don't
12 think that would have happened if -- I mean, who writes
13 a story about somebody buying a pair of shoes? But I
14 guess.....

15 A1 You'd be surprised, Dennis, there's entire magazines
16 that are just for that.

17 A Okay, well, I don't know the kind of stuff that -- to
18 -- when I was a kid, the Seward Highway stopped at the
19 Potter Marsh and things were just so different. So
20 different, but I love living here now, I love living
21 (indiscernible - dog bark). I wouldn't (indiscernible)
22 a repeat for my burial plots. (Indiscernible - voice
23 lowered).

24 Q Well, those were great stories.

25 Q1 Yeah.

1 Q Thank you.

2 A Thank you.

3 (Off tape)

4 Q (Indiscernible).

5 A A good friend named K and I told them I went to my
6 first bar, what, two years ago and it had to be
7 Bernie's and I told K, hey K, I went to
8 Bernie's and she said did you see the ghost? I said
9 no, what are you talking about and there's a ghost in
10 Bernie's and there must be stories about it somewhere.
11 K knows B real well and they were there after
12 hours, after the bar had shut down and there's an
13 upstairs Bernie's and a downstairs and they were
14 sitting over drinking by the stairs and K was
15 facing the stairs and B was here, and as he drank
16 and looked up, he saw this ghostly, glimmering lady
17 walking down the stairs and he was -- you know, he made
18 a face and he looked over at B and B looked
19 over and just took it casually and said oh yeah, that's
20 -- I don't know who and told K all about it.

21 But K swears up and down that there really is
22 a ghost there and that he saw her walking down the
23 stairs, having drinks with B one time.

24 Q Wow.

25 A That's the only ghost story that I know, but I go to

1 Bernie's and I look hoping maybe someday I'll see her.

2 A1 (Indiscernible) and I have yet to be there.

3 A You've never been there?

4 A1 No, I've never been to Bernie's.

5 A It's having trouble too. They do all kinds of stuff
6 where they'll let you in there now.

7 A1 Yeah. I guess that's -- that just bothers me, it just
8 seems like Anchorage has got so many big city quote,
9 unquote problems that you hear. You know,
10 (indiscernible) St. Louis and Milwaukee, you know,
11 Green Bay, you hear a lot of the same problems. Then
12 you hear D's stories about how it used to be, just
13 -- I don't know if it makes me sad, but it just makes
14 me, you know, wish that we all could -- what's Sandra
15 Bullock say, World Peace, that Sandra Bullock
16 (indiscernible) Miss Congeniality.

17 Q World Peace.

18 A I remember the TV, the news being late. They flew it
19 up on the Alaska Airlines flight out of Seattle, and if
20 the weather was bad, you just didn't have any TV news.
21 They played two of them the next day.....

22 Q Uh-huh.

23 Awhen they came in, but everything was kind of
24 delayed. And if there were weather problems or plane
25 didn't make it with a mechanical, you just didn't see

1 it.

2 A1 You know, what I find interesting is our perception of
3 ourselves versus the perception of like say the lower
4 48. I mean, when I announced to my family I was moving
5 up here, I mean, it was just silence in the room, and I
6 mean, literally, it was the line of igloos and nothing
7 up here but, you know, trees and moose. And when I
8 first visited Anchorage, I literally spent five days
9 down at the hostel downtown. I moved up here, I had
10 one suitcase, 90 bucks in my pocket, no job, no car, I
11 barely had a place to live, but I just -- I loved it so
12 much here when I visited that I came here.

13 But you know, my parents still are like so what's
14 really up there, you know? You don't think of
15 Anchorage -- I mean, people don't think of Anchorage as
16 like a big city, but I mean, we're what, 350,000
17 people? That's a lot of people living -- how long have
18 you guys been in one area?

19 Q I've been here for about 16 years.

20 A Oh, you've seen changes too.

21 Q For most -- about 10 years of that, I lived out in
22 Glennallen and then.....

23 A Oh wow.

24 QI've lived in here for the rest of the time,
25 so.....

1 A How did you like Glennallen?

2 Q I liked it. It's -- it was a good place to grow up as
3 a little kid.

4 A Was it?

5 Q Because you know, kind of bush life, you know, small
6 town, ride your bike down to the store, to your
7 neighbor.

8 A Uh-huh.

9 Q But then it kind of got harder when you get older
10 because everybody knows you.

11 A Yeah.

12 Q But I liked it, I liked the scenery and the quietness
13 of it.

14 A I had a friend that -- there's -- is there still Bible
15 College there?

16 Q Uh-huh (affirmative).

17 A He went to Bible College there.

18 Q Yeah, my dad worked there.

19 A Oh, okay.

20 Q Uh-huh.

21 A Do you know the L family?

22 Q Uh-huh (affirmative).

23 A Oh, (indiscernible).

24 Q Yeah, we lived in their house for less than a year.

25 A Okay. Well, L was best friends with my son, D.

1 Q Okay.

2 A And I talk to him about (indiscernible). What.....

3 Q1 I actually live out in the valley and I grew up out

4 there, so.....

5 A Did you really?

6 Q1I've been here my whole life, yeah.

7 A In Palmer?

8 Q1 In Wasilla.

9 A Oh wow. Well, you.....

10 Q1 Well, we drove -- we were one of the (indiscernible)

11 families that came to Anchorage a lot, and you know, go

12 to school the next day with like a new sweatshirt or

13 something, everybody was like where did you get that?

14 Oh, we got it at Fred Meyer. Where's that? It's in

15 Anchorage. Well, why would you go to Anchorage?

16 A1 Really? Wow. Because what's funny is -- and I don't

17 know if this is even appropriate to say is.....

18 (Off tape)

19

20

21

22

23

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25