

081 Gerald Sperling

Please note that any items that were difficult to transcribe are marked with an **[indiscernible]** tag.

[0:00:00]

Interviewer: The date today is the 30th of October. I'm sitting in my kitchen with Gerry Sperling, who's on our history committee. First, I just want to say thank you very much for coming and agreeing to be interviewed.

Respondent: My pleasure.

Interviewer: And Gerry, you lived at 27 Lippincott from 1943 to '54, which is pretty much ages five to sixteen.

Respondent: Mm-hm.

Interviewer: And now you're living on Borden Street.

Respondent: I live on Borden Street. **[0:00:30]** Basically I would guess two minute's walk from the house that I was raised in there.

Interviewer: Uh-huh. And when did you move back to the neighbourhood?

Respondent: In the neighbourhood, we bought the house in '06. It would be '07.

Interviewer: So 2007.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: And you're still here. Okay. I'm going to ask you the same question for both generations. Do you have any idea what brought your parents here, and then the next question is **[0:01:00]** what brought you back to this neighbourhood? So let's start with...

Respondent: Well, what happened is my father would **[indiscernible 0:01:09]**, and we were living in rental housing off the Danforth. What's the name of the street? It'll come to me. **[0:01:30]** And sometime in '42,

'43, we were evicted by the landlord. I guess he wanted to do something else with the house or something. I can't remember the exact, but it was quite a tumult. And my parents, my father, his parents owned his house on Lippincott Street.

Interviewer: So this house was – in 1943 you moved in.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: But your [0:02:00] family already owned it.

Respondent: They owned it. Yeah.

Interviewer: Whoa.

Respondent: Okay? So I think that's what happened.

Interviewer: Did you move in with your grandparents?

Respondent: No. Well at some point we were living – see, with my father's brother, older brother – had an auto parts place on the Danforth and that's why we were on the Danforth. I think we probably moved around, you know, because I would have been – let's see now. So Maxine would have probably just been about born when that happened. There'd be the baby, and then it [0:02:30] was me. And we just – I do remember being in the other house at the time of the great Toronto blizzard.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: Because I can date it pretty well.

Interviewer: I don't know. I wasn't living in Toronto.

Respondent: Well, but you can find that out. There was a blizzard such that everything stopped, and like the roads – I remember playing in the middle of the street [0:03:00] in snow up to here, right?

Interviewer: Being up to your bellybutton.

- Respondent:** My bellybutton. Yeah. [Laughter] More, right? Because I was a little kid, right? So anyways, about that time we were evicted and that's how we ended up in that house, I think. That's my...
- Interviewer:** Moving in with your grandparents.
- Respondent:** No. I think we took over the house. I think the grandparents lived there.
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh. So those were the circumstances. You needed a place to live.
- Respondent:** That's right. I didn't think a lot about it at that time, but I know, you know, that's what happened. **[0:03:30]** So that's how we ended up in that neighbourhood.
- Interviewer:** And what about you, all these years later, what brought you to this neighbourhood?
- Respondent:** This is very funny actually, for me anyway. I lived for thirty-seven years in Regina, and I married my second wife, Maggie, **[0:04:00]** in 1987, but we'd been together since about – since 1983. She was a very prominent journalist in Toronto when she came to Regina. This was kind of a – that's another whole story, right? Which was in about '83. And sometime in 2005 or 2006, **[0:04:30]** we were in Toronto and I was visiting our daughter, Shoshanna, who lives in Parkdale on O'Hara, and I happened to notice a house across the road that they were showing, right? And you know, I – was a certain stage in my life where, you know, I – I'd been away from Toronto a lot, but I always came back because I always had family here, and when I **[0:05:00]** – not only family, but I had been very active in ACTRA, and so I had meetings to come down here for a variety – and also, you know, academic meetings and things like that. So I said to Maggie, "You know, we should think about maybe renting an apartment in Toronto, you know, so we can come down," and she said to me, "You told me when I moved **[0:05:30]** to Regina that we would only be there for three years, right?" And it was a strange coincidence. My kid brother, who happened to be present in 1983 when I made that commitment, said, "No, it was two." So

there was virtually no reason for me – it was not reason. There was no way I could say anything. [0:06:00] Right?

Interviewer: There was a witness.

Respondent: Yeah, there was a witness. The thing is that she had been raised in Toronto on Concord Avenue actually, right? And she'd been on Concord Avenue, and she lived all around downtown. She was a Toronto person. When she came in 1983, what was she? Thirty-seven? Thirty-eight? She didn't have a driver's license. She couldn't drive, right? Because of course she – downtown, she took the streetcar, took cabs, right? Whatever. [0:06:30] The subway. So it was a kind of a break for her. Now she did some of her best work there in Regina because that's the sort of person that she is. What is it? Five books there, right?

Interviewer: After two years she didn't say, "Our time is up"?

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: After three years she didn't say, "Our time is up."

Respondent: What happened – that's a whole other story. What happened was the year that she came, a guy approached me in the hall at the university, a Chinese guy, and he said, "I have sabbatical [0:07:00] coming." He didn't know that, but he said to me, "How would you like to go to China?" So I said, "Hm, that's interesting." So I phoned Maggie up and she was not – hadn't moved yet, right? I said, "How would you like to go to China?" "Oh, that's fine. Yeah, sure." It turns out she always had an interest in China. So what happened was that she came, we sort of got settled, and then at the end of '84, I [0:07:30] left with the oldest son, Adam, for China. Maggie was writing her Thatcher book at that time, about the Thatcher murder and all that, and so she didn't come until June with the littlest girl, Carrie May. And we stayed close to three years in China.

Interviewer: In China.

Respondent: So, you know, when she says twenty-five years, we have to take off the China years. It was different from that. But anyway, [0:08:00] I

never argued about it. And because I was – it was funny. I took an early retirement at the university at the end of '99, like in December '99, and I had before that, I had already set up this film company. We were already making documentaries in Regina.

Interviewer: In Regina.

Respondent: Yeah. Documentary films. And I realized that, you know, I can do that here as well as there, and...

Interviewer: [0:08:30] Well I guess the same applies to her since she's a writer, that she could write there.

Respondent: As opposed – yeah. But she wanted – it was the city that she missed, right? She had been to the theatre, and the symphony, and the AGO, and the ROM, and all that stuff, right? That she wanted to get into. And of course, we wouldn't have moved back had we not moved downtown. I mean I wouldn't have done it. You know?

Interviewer: But you said you were looking at [0:09:00] property across from your daughter.

Respondent: I just looked at it, but I wasn't thinking of moving there. I was thinking my idea was at that time, you could talk about, you know, sort of renting an apartment, sort of keeping it or subletting it or whatever, right? I mean it was just a thought. Because I really enjoyed coming back to Toronto since she was here, and you know, she had a baby boy and all that stuff, so I was – you know, I was interested in doing that, and I sort of [0:09:30] shared that, but I didn't expect to pull up stakes. As a matter of fact, the thing that happened, once I'd made the decision, took a year for us to come, we bought the house.

Interviewer: This house?

Respondent: We bought this house virtually. In other words we...

Interviewer: You hadn't seen it.

Respondent: We saw it on TV, right? We watched it. We bought the house and we had a friend who was here who knew, you know, something about real estate and he was very [0:10:00] keen to sort of help us and so forth, and he said, "Do you want to live above College, not below College," right? He was living on Oxford actually at that point. Close to Spadina. And I said, "Well that's okay. That sounds good to me." And he found this house, and why was I saying that? We bought [0:10:30] it – we looked at it virtually. It had been – it turned out that the house had been totally renovated completely, right? Like down to the bare walls, right? And the finished basement put in, and the top floor, and an extension on the back, and all of that stuff. And it was semi-detached, and it turned out to be about two-thirds the size of the house that we had, and maybe under that, in Regina [0:11:00] where I had lived, where I bought in 1970. I bought that house and it had three floors as well, but it was lots of space, and space outside, and so forth. So you know, that's what – you know, that was the only condition that I made, but I had been working. I'd been doing all of this stuff, and...

Interviewer: So the condition being what?

Respondent: What?

Interviewer: You said that was the only condition that you made.

Respondent: I just said, you know, we want to live downtown.

Interviewer: Oh, that was it.

Respondent: That was it. [0:11:30] That was the only condition I made, that I wanted to live downtown. And it was very funny that – it happened one time that I was getting my car washed in Regina. Kind of detail washed, and a friend of mine, a colleague at the university, called me up and he was with Roy Romanow, who had been Premier. And I knew him very well, you see? We travelled with him to Ukraine, and you know, I'd been [0:12:00] involved in television. You know, freelance television doing a lot of interviews, and mini-documentaries, so we knew each other quite well. And politically we knew each other. So I was on the phone and he said, "Well you know, Roy's here and he wants to talk to you." I said, "Fine." So he

says, "I understand you're leaving." I said, "Yes." And he said to me, "Always remember this." He says, "It's the end of an era."

Interviewer: Oh. So he felt it was Regina's loss.

Respondent: Yeah. **[0:12:30]** Well Saskatchewan. He was from Saskatoon, but he – you know, it was the end of an era, he said.

Interviewer: Beautiful, beautiful sentiment.

Respondent: Yeah. Very nice. He was a politician, right? He knew what to say, [laughter] knew the right thing to say. But it was – you know, it sort of made me feel – and I guess the thing was I had been there and I'd done that. I mean I really had quite a good time in Regina for those thirty-seven years, right? Minus the three years in China.

Interviewer: Right.

Respondent: So...

Interviewer: **[0:13:00]** Let's come back to...

Respondent: So we're back here.

Interviewer: To Borden Street.

Respondent: So we bought – that's why we bought the house. We bought it virtually, and it was two Portuguese contractors who had – their notion was they were just a little bit too early. They were going to get, you know, a million and a half dollars for this, right? So they put a lot into it. Didn't quite finish it. I guess they thought, well, whatever they thought. **[0:13:30]** And then it was on the market for a year-and-a-half, right, after all that.

Interviewer: Oh, so they wanted a lot for it.

Respondent: Yeah. At the time. Yeah. And they, of course, weren't getting it, and the market wasn't what it had been. I don't know what it is now, but...

Interviewer: But it was in good condition. Beautiful condition.

Respondent: Oh, it was practically new.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Respondent: I mean it was absolutely, absolutely new. So.

Interviewer: So let's come back to your growing up in this neighbourhood. When you lived on Lippincott...

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: ...who lived in that house [0:14:00] with you? Was it just your family?

Respondent: No, no, no. We had – this is interesting too. We had tenants who lived on the second floor. Eunice and Murray. And she was involved in the carnival business. She would always go to Florida in the winter, but she was [0:14:30] – she was, you know, around for the summer. And so we rented to them on the second floor. I had a room on the third floor when I – at some point I outgrew whatever room I was in.

Interviewer: So before that, your whole family lived in the first floor.

Respondent: Well, I'm just trying to think. No, I think we were up – we sort of shared the second floor. They had a kitchen facility up there, right?

Interviewer: Okay. So...

Respondent: Kitchen [0:15:00] facility, and a bedroom, and whatever, but you know, it's a big house if you go in and you look at it now. And there was one room up there on the third floor, which became mine.

Interviewer: And what about bathrooms?

Respondent: There was not a bathroom on the first floor. There was a bathroom on the second floor, which I guess we shared, eh? It was one bathroom.

Interviewer: So it was your family and that other couple.

Respondent: The other couple, yeah.

Interviewer: You shared the bathroom.

Respondent: Yeah. I remember them quite well because when I was about eleven, I guess, **[0:15:30]** she traveled in the carnival. She did mainly foodstuff, right? And so she sort of hired me. And I went and I worked all summer, very hard actually.

Interviewer: At what ages? When did you start?

Respondent: Well I started about eleven, and I worked there eleven, twelve. I worked until I went to university, I think. I would work in the summers, yeah.

Interviewer: So you started at a young age...

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: ...and until sixteen, or seventeen, or eighteen you worked there.

Respondent: And I made – it was good for – I can't remember how much, but it was – for me **[0:16:00]** it was a lot of money, right? And she – I guess she could trust me with the carnival, and it was a very interesting experience because they travelled all over the place, right?

Interviewer: Yeah. Did your family ever take over the room that they had been using, or did they live there as long as your family lived there?

Respondent: Those people? No, they didn't take over the room. No. I don't think they – they left it with them until they left at some point. I can't remember. They'd left, I think – maybe **[0:16:30]** not – did I work – because there was one other – because I used to work at the Exhibition with them. I'm trying to think of what was the last time I worked for them. It would be probably when I was seventeen or eighteen, all right? So they lived in the house and we lived in the

house with my sister and my brother. My brother came in '48, right? So – and he was a latecomer because, as I say, he's ten years older than me, right? Or I'm ten years older than him.

Interviewer: [0:17:00] Yeah. Gerry, would you tell me at that time, when you were three, five, eight, twelve, what made up the neighbourhood? Who? Where were the people from? And what languages were they speaking?

Respondent: Okay. In that neighbourhood, it was predominately Jewish. Really quite predominately Jewish. As I said, on Oxford, there were some black people. There were some, what you call it – white people, right? [0:17:30] Anglo-Saxon people, working class people who lived, I think, right next door to us, right? I remember I had a friend there. I remember going in. I would like to them because they would be having French fries with ketchup. [Laughter] Wasn't something that my mother cooked a lot.

Interviewer: So that was a delicacy for you.

Respondent: It was a delicacy for me, right? But it was primarily a Jewish neighbourhood. There was a delicatessen right across College, which was a big [0:18:00] street for me to think about. Where you get a hot dog for a nickel, I remember that. And I became conscious of the – of other nationalities aside from the blacks when I went to high school, when I went to Harbord because even in the public school where most of the teachers were Anglo-Saxons, my grade eight teacher was [0:18:30] Mr. Gang, and he was Jewish, you know?

Interviewer: Oh, even the teacher.

Respondent: Yeah. Right. He was. Yeah. Great voice, short guy.

Interviewer: [Laughs] The teachers – I mean, excuse me, you said there were some black families, there were some Christian families. Did you as children interact? Did the parents interact with each other? What was that?

- Respondent:** I don't remember much interacting with the blacks. [0:19:00] I remember, you know, just being there, you know, and they were in my classes. I didn't think much about that. And I certainly had that guy where I went to get the French fries, he was a friend, right? Next door, a young friend I hung out with, right? Next door to me, right?
- Interviewer:** What about languages?
- Respondent:** There was a lot of Yiddish, you know? You heard Yiddish, right? I never really learned it. I went to Hebrew school then I learned Hebrew, right? [0:19:30] But I didn't use a lot of it, but you heard it. I went to the Brunswick Talmud Torah, right? And it was at a – I mean I have some interesting memories there because the classes were after school. I guess the younger ones went from four to six and then the older ones went from six to eight, so if you were going from six to eight in the winter, right, [0:20:00] it would be dark, right? And there was still rationing of the electricity then. I do remember that quite well, in that we would have these classes by candlelight, right?
- Interviewer:** Oh, so six to eight you weren't supposed to use the electricity?
- Respondent:** That's right. I guess that's it, you know? There was some rationing. I just remember that very well.
- Interviewer:** Was there rationing of food too? Do you remember...
- Respondent:** I remember the rationing stamps, you know? I remember those. But I have no real particular memory [0:20:30] out of that.
- Interviewer:** Talking about those years remembering the rations, do you remember the end of the Second World War, or were you too young?
- Respondent:** Oh, no, no, no. I wasn't too young. My father'd been away, you see, so he left in '42. He only came back once, I think, on leave. He got special leave when we were evicted, so it was a big deal and I had another [0:21:00] – my father's cousin, I remember going to Union

Station as he got off and they marched off. He'd been in the army too, you see? My father'd been in the Navy. So no, I was...

Interviewer: Your father had been in the Navy.

Respondent: In the Navy. Oh yeah. Yeah. He was away. He was in the Navy from '42 to '45, yeah.

Interviewer: So your family was evicted, your father was able to come back, help with the move, and he disappeared.

Respondent: And then he went back, yeah.

Interviewer: So he was gone for a lot of years.

Respondent: That's right. And my mother was English, [0:21:30] you know, from England. And so she came over here in '36, so you know, she wasn't – you know, it was his family, not her family, although she had a brother who showed up too at some point. So yeah, I remember the end of the war. I remember the parades and all of that stuff.

Interviewer: You do remember that.

Respondent: Oh yeah. Yeah. Yeah. And yeah, very much so. I do.

Interviewer: Do you remember your father being away? Was that significant? [0:22:00] Or was...

Respondent: Oh yeah. Yeah, well – I mean I can't remember. I can't say I remember missing him, but I do remember him coming back. And there were a lot of pictures actually of him around, and I remember Maxine didn't give me those. I never asked her. I should have asked her because, of course, it's his house, right?

Interviewer: Did he talk about being in the Navy?

Respondent: Oh yeah.

Interviewer: He did.

- Respondent:** And when I went to university at the U of T, I joined [0:22:30] the – what was then called the UNTD, the University Naval Training Division, and I became an officer. But I did it, I think, because of my father. Yeah. Right...
- Interviewer:** Well, you chose the naval piece of it.
- Respondent:** And you know, we travelled, I travelled in ships to Europe and, you know, the west coast and all that stuff, so it was fun, and it was something that I think he was happy about. At that time we were living in Downsview, right? [0:23:00] So then – your other question – a couple of memories I just wanted to share.
- Interviewer:** Please, please, please. Of course.
- Respondent:** About the school.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** So I wasn't as a – I wouldn't say undergrad. A public school student. I wasn't really being very academic. I was interested and yappy, I guess. But...
- Interviewer:** Interested and yappy?
- Respondent:** And yappy. [Laughter] [0:23:30] But there's one memory that really stuck with me, and I had to be in grade two, I think. Early on in my time and in the school there. So – and I crossed the road, College, and that is – as I mentioned before, that was a big road for a little kid.
- Interviewer:** It's still a big road.
- Respondent:** Yeah. You know, for...
- Interviewer:** Especially for a seven-year-old.
- Respondent:** Yeah. And I had to cross to come up [0:24:00] Lippincott to go to school, right? And I crossed the road, and I found two BB Bats. You

know those? They were like caramel candies. They were on a stack, and we called them BB Bats. And I think they were wrapped. Somebody had dropped them and I found them, and I found a quarter as well.

Interviewer: Wow. And that was a lot of money.

Respondent: Yeah. So I went. I think I may have eaten the BB Bats. I have a feeling that **[0:24:30]** I may – I can't remember. But I went to the school and I told my teacher, right, that this is what happened, right? And she sent me to the principal, right? So you're going to get a notion of what it was like, get a notion. And the principal asked me where I'd got the quarter from, and I said I found it in the curb. And he didn't believe me. He thought I'd stolen it. Right? **[0:25:00]** Thought I'd stolen it. And he pressed me very hard on this, and I guess for whatever reason, sometimes kids don't know how to lie, right? You know? You know? And especially since I'd told him that that was the thing...

Interviewer: And that time we were very afraid of authority.

Respondent: Yeah. So this guy, Mr. Manning, he got the strap. You know, you remember the strap?

Interviewer: I remember **[0:25:30]** that strap.

Respondent: That strap, right? He got that strap and he gave it to me.

Interviewer: Oh.

Respondent: Bam.

Interviewer: Oh, Gerry.

Respondent: So you know, I was frightened and so on, and I remember telling my father, you know. And he was working. He was a mechanic, so he was building his business, and he was – he would fix cars actually right on the street, right?

Interviewer: So he had a business right on the street?

- Respondent:** Yeah. You know, people would drive [0:26:00] their cars, you know, in those days to get them going and so on. And I told him and he went to the school. I don't know what happened. I really don't know what happened, right? But I'm sure he was very, you know – I think it was anti-Semitism. Of course, the school was full of Jews, right? Right, at that point. So I remembered actually receiving the strap, and I remember what that was about.
- Interviewer:** In grade two.
- Respondent:** Yes.
- Interviewer:** And because he didn't believe you.
- Respondent:** That's right.
- Interviewer:** But you said you – of course, you have an understanding of what that might have been [0:26:30] about.
- Respondent:** Yeah. I think that – I think that I remember hearing something about it, and it was – my father was a rather stoical person, slow to angry – to anger, but you know, when he got angry he was...
- Interviewer:** But you're saying to me, Gerry, that your father believed you.
- Respondent:** Of course. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** Well because often at that time, a principal was in such an elevated position for us who were blue-collar kids. That [0:27:00] the school was right and the teachers were right, but your father believed you.
- Respondent:** Yeah. And so it was an incident, and I never – I don't remember anything else happening because, of course, it obviously – I mean there's kind of a logic to this, right? To whatever happened to me, right? And then this sense of, "Well he said he told you? He told you he had this and you think that what he did he told you because you stole it?"
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm. That's a very moving [0:27:30] and very troubling story.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: But I'm still pleased that your father knew that his son had found it and he believed you.

Respondent: And he wasn't taking any of that. And anyway, so that happened. That was one – a very memorable thing for me. I mean I had a – I mean I had a really nice time as a kid. As I said, I was a yappy kid. I was short, and beautiful, and all of that. [Laughter] And curly hair and everything. And **[0:28:00]** I had friends, and we went to the synagogue. It was called the Londoner Shul.

Interviewer: Where?

Respondent: On Spadina Avenue. Spadina south of College on the east side. Was a great, big building.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: A great, big building. And we would walk to it through – along Oxford when we went for the High Holidays, or for bar mitzvahs, or for whatever. **[0:28:30]** And my father – it had a big upstairs and everything like that, and he did – one of the things that he did was he put the eyes in the lions. They had wooden lions, and the eye – and there was a bulb, I guess. I remember he did that, and he became president of that synagogue, right? And that's where I had my bar mitzvah, was there. Right?

Interviewer: Mm-hm. Mm-hm.

Respondent: Was there. So **[0:29:00]** we would go to – that's where we would go to synagogue. We would walk along Oxford, and I remember for me it was like a long, a long walk. I'm a little kid, right?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Respondent: You know? It was a long walk. And – right? And then the other thing was that we – you would – once a year we would go to

Kensington and that's where I would get my clothes, right? My – you know, the suit that I would wear for the High Holidays, and...

Interviewer: So there was one store? Or were there a lot of stores where you could buy...

Respondent: Well I just remember [0:29:30] the one that we went to. I remember the guy very well because he was a hopeless alcoholic. He was quite amazing.

Interviewer: Do you remember his name?

Respondent: No. I can't remember his name. I can't – I just remember that he couldn't stand up, but he made nice clothes. You know? [Laughs] It was always interesting. And, you know, for a little kid, you know, to remember, you know, and that's where I got my suit, I guess, for my bar mitzvah. So you know, so that's [0:30:00] what happened on that street, and right across the road was Union Kosher Sausage. Right across. If you go to Lippincott now and you go south, and you're on the west side, there is a condo development there. Kind of a real upscale condo. But for many years, I would say at least fifty – well it was here when I came still – fifty years, it was called Union Kosher Sausage. It's now called [0:30:30] Chicago 58, and it's in Woodbridge. And I usually go up there once a year to get briskets and stuff like that. Hot dogs and salamis. It's a wholesale place. And so we always had that stuff. My father was always – he would go across and he would get that, so that was a memory for me. The other memory was right next to the – where the fire station is now, the fire station had been there, but where the new fire station is – you know, this old building, [0:31:00] just south – you know, on Bellevue there. Yeah. There was – it was Blue Ribbon Tea and Coffee. I think they had storage or something, but there was chocolate. He'd get chocolate in great big – very thin, wooden boxes lined with silver paper, and they put them out when they were done with them, but of course, the kids could go, and there'd be little pieces of chocolate.

Interviewer: Oh.

Respondent: Right? Right?

Interviewer: Oh, so you were just [0:31:30] taking little pieces of chocolate...

Respondent: The little pieces of chocolate.

Interviewer: ...and eat them.

Respondent: We could fill up on them. Yeah. You could fill up on pure chocolate. I mean it was just pure – I don't know. I guess they took it and made it into something and made it into chocolate bars, but that isn't what was in the bottom there. And the fire station was a very important, you know, location. You know, for us. We knew, you know, the bell and all of this stuff. And it always had the right time then, I sort of thought. So that was public [0:32:00] school. I remember Mr. Gang in grade eight, and when I went to Harbord, I don't know what changed actually. I don't know what happened, but I guess it was just the atmosphere of the place or whatever. I sort of got interested in school, right? I always keep saying I'm fooling around, but I really got interested in school, and I studied with my friends. And then it was an incredible place to be actually, Harbord Collegiate at that time.

Interviewer: Because of what?

Respondent: [0:32:30] Well, it was competitive and it was Jewish, you see? It really was completely. I mean ninety percent. I went to the fiftieth anniversary about five years ago of our graduation. I came down – we came down actually. Maggie and I came down, and it was one Japanese guy, you know, and one Ukrainian guy, right? One [0:33:00] woman who came – she didn't come until grade eleven, and she told the story of coming back to school, you know, during the High Holiday and the teacher said, "What are you doing here?" [Laughter] "What are you doing here? Go home. It's the High Holidays," right? And there, there weren't Jewish teachers. I don't remember having a Jewish teacher there when I was at Harbord. So there was sort of that atmosphere. Then as you [0:33:30] moved on, all these guys were going – yeah, they were going into medicine, right? If they couldn't get into medicine, they were into dentistry, and then they were into pharmacy and so forth, and I wasn't interested in any of that. I wasn't interested in law either, but

I was sort of interested in studying and so forth, so I went into political science. But it was – you know, they had a good orchestra there. Very, very smart...

Interviewer: And you played the tuba.

Respondent: I played [0:34:00] the tuba. There were two of us, right? We played the tuba.

Interviewer: Do you still play it?

Respondent: No, but I made a movie called "Gerhardt the Tuba." When I was very – in connection with the fact that there was going to be a festival. What was it? A convention of tuba players in Regina. They meet every – in another city. A thousand.

Interviewer: Whoa.

Respondent: A thousand tuba players. Can you imagine?

Interviewer: Oh.

Respondent: [0:34:30] And so I was very – and I thought we were going to make the movie, and I found the tuba player in Russia, and we flew him from Moscow. He wanted to come to it, of course. He was happy, and he stayed in our house, and the movie was about tuba. It wasn't about the guy. So we did it all from the perspective of the tuba coming off the – and then meeting a nice euphonium and having a relationship. [Laughs] All this stuff. The funny thing that we did. [0:35:00] So I always had a...

Interviewer: So you have a connection with the tuba.

Respondent: With the tuba. And so school was, you know, was very fulfilling, I think, you know?

Interviewer: Beginning in high school?

Respondent: Yeah.

- Interviewer:** You had a kind of awakening in high school.
- Respondent:** Yeah, right.
- Interviewer:** But you said it was – part of it had an edge. I mean with all these intelligent Jewish kids, and it was competitive.
- Respondent:** Oh yeah.
- Interviewer:** You got caught up in it.
- Respondent:** Oh yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. You know, I knew what I could do and what I couldn't do. I could handle the math, but not the way they could. **[0:35:30]** I remember when we went to this reunion and this Joe Lipmann came, and he was so, so smart. He was so – I mean math, you see? Anyway, he was head of the department at the University of Michigan, or was it Indiana? Indiana University. Somewhere there, head of the department. So there were some very, very smart guys. And there had been smart guys beforehand. Stephen Lewis was there. HE was a **[0:36:00]** contemporary. Or maybe – but...
- Interviewer:** Yeah. I know a lot of very successful people came through Harbord Collegiate.
- Respondent:** At that time. At that time.
- Interviewer:** It's kind of Montreal's Baron Byng.
- Respondent:** That's right. Yeah. And so – and a whole bunch of other people. And we went – then, of course, it was at the time that there was the big move north, right? So I moved when I was finished grade twelve, but I finished my grade **[0:36:30]** thirteen at Harbord.
- Interviewer:** But then you went to U of T.
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** So you lived down here, and then you moved up there and then came all the way down to the university.

- Respondent:** Yeah. Well York wasn't there yet, I don't think. It wasn't there. And I was very glad that I didn't go to York, right? But yeah.
- Interviewer:** Would you talk about some of the changes? While you were living here, were there some changes that were happening, or have the changes happened since you left and came back?
- Respondent:** The major changes were **[0:37:00]** people moving away. That I do remember very well.
- Interviewer:** And what was that about? They were here and they moved. Why were they moving, as far as you understand?
- Respondent:** There always had been Italians down here. I think it was the move for space. I actually do think it was a move for, you know, big, big lawns, and big streets, and...
- Interviewer:** Yeah. **[0:37:30]** Wider homes.
- Respondent:** Wider homes, bigger homes, and all of that, and newer homes, right?
- Interviewer:** Uh-huh.
- Respondent:** Those are old houses, right?
- Interviewer:** And I guess it was also a feeling of we're succeeding.
- Respondent:** That's right.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** That's right. That's right. The guy that really knows this, you know, have you read – what's his name now? Harold Troper.
- Interviewer:** I know him very well.
- Respondent:** You know him, right?

- Interviewer:** But did he live here?
- Respondent:** No, I don't think he lived here, but he – I went to one of his lectures [0:38:00] at JCC. He gave three of them; I could only make it to one of them. But he actually talks about...
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm. He studied them.
- Respondent:** ...the movement. He's studying it, right? Or he's writing a book about it, right? It was rather interesting.
- Interviewer:** Let's come back to the neighbourhood. And I'm going to ask about certain parts of...
- Respondent:** Okay.
- Interviewer:** ...I wanted to talk a little bit about the kinds of games that you played as children.
- Respondent:** Uh-huh.
- Interviewer:** And the front porch, the front street, the back lanes. Where you all hung out, and played, [0:38:30] and how you used those places and spaces.
- Respondent:** Okay. We played a lot on the street, and we played stick hockey. You know, with a ball. And on the street. Sometimes we played – in the winter we would play with a puck. We played stickball with a tennis ball, baseball in the summer. Again, in the street or at the [0:39:00] schoolyard, right?
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm. The back lanes, did you use those at all?
- Respondent:** I don't have a great memory of the back lane. I don't have a great memory of doing much. I mean we had a dog. I had a dog. I know – no.
- Interviewer:** What about front porches? Was that something that was used at that time much?

Respondent: Not by us, you know? Not by us.

Interviewer: [0:39:30] How about the work? What kinds of work were the men doing? And the other is were some of the mothers working? And the third part – two obvious questions – the third part is were there any cottage industries? Were some people working from their homes?

Respondent: Well I told you, my father I think started. He had been in the auto parts business with [0:40:00] his brother, worked for his brother up there. But I think when he came down here and after the war he wanted to be on his own. He didn't want to be dependent upon him. And so he – and he fixed cars in the street, and he gradually became successful with – he had two partners. [0:40:30] Seymour Sokalov and Jack Kirnuk, and they got into the replacement brake business, wholesale, but they were on the manufacturing side or the rebuilding side of brakes. I'm not certain how it works now, but you know, the brake shoes – what happens is when the asbestos wears off, what you do is you just clean [0:41:00] that piece of steel, right? And you clean all of that off, and then you put that on again. It's the same thing with the wheel cylinders. They're all made with steel.

Interviewer: You know a lot.

Respondent: Well I worked in the factory. Yeah. No, I wasn't in that way the way he was, you know? I was always a disappointment with him that way, but anyway, I did learn enough of that, and so the result was that there was – you know, then the explosion, after the explosion of the economy after the Second World War, [0:41:30] there was a need for these rebuilt parts, and these guys got into it in a very big way, and they became very, very successful. And it wasn't – it's not necessarily that Jews were involved in it. There obviously were some, but they did very well, right, at that. So that's what – he did. My mother – as we grew up, she did go out to work. She was [0:42:00] very good. She didn't go – to a friend who had a lighting place on the Queensway. She would go out there, she would drive – she learned how to drive.

Interviewer: I bet there weren't too many women driving at that time.

Respondent: And she wasn't really a great driver, [laughter] but she would drive, and she would go out there, and she would – was a great salesperson, right? But for much of the time, as I recall, she was a housewife, but she wasn't satisfied with that, you know? **[0:42:30]** She wasn't satisfied with that. Very interesting, very, very humorous person, right? At her funeral, my brother told this story, which was about him, which I could really identify – we had a little dog. And by this time that we'd moved up north – but he came home one day and she would make chopped liver. She was not a – she wasn't a great **[0:43:00]** cook, but she made stuff that we just – and I always would eat whatever she put in front of me. And the rest of them were always – my brother and my sister were a little bit upset about that. They just really didn't like her bread pudding, but I always would eat it and say it's wonderful.

Interviewer: Was it wonderful?

Respondent: No, it wasn't wonderful. [Laughter] But I always said that, right? And of course, she would make it again.

Interviewer: Thanks to you.

Respondent: Thanks to me. So anyway, but this is his story. And so **[0:43:30]** the story is they came home from school, high school – he went to Downsvie, I think, or Bathurst Heights. I can't remember. Downsvie, I think he went, and he came home and she had this chopped liver and she said, "Taste this." So she – so he picked it and he took a spoon. He says, "How is it?" She says – he says, "Very good." She says, "Okay. Good." She took it and gave it to the dog.

Interviewer: Oh. [Laughs]

Respondent: And he tasted it for the dog. [Laughter] **[0:44:00]** You know, **[indiscernible 0:44:00]**. [Laughter] But it was a joke, but yet it wasn't a joke.

Interviewer: Very funny story. Very, very funny story.

- Respondent:** Very funny. So...
- Interviewer:** But she was ahead of her time. She drove, she preferred to be out working, and she did work.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Oh yeah. She did work. She worked for this guy for years at the Queensway. She was a good salesperson selling lamps, lanterns, and all that stuff. So I remember that very well. And she would drive to [0:44:30] pick me up in university. She'd come down from Downsview. She sort of liked doing that. We'd go out, and we always talked a lot, you know, and then she always talked, and she talked a lot, and she had a lot – and you know, she kept her British accent.
- Interviewer:** You know, there are more questions I want to ask you, but before our time ends, I just want to ask if there's some other stories – because I know you were thinking about this. Are there any stories that we haven't touched on yet that you don't want to [0:45:00] miss telling me?
- Respondent:** Forget. Yeah. About the neighbourhood. About the neighbourhood.
- Interviewer:** Stores in the neighbourhood?
- Respondent:** Stores.
- Interviewer:** Characters in the neighbourhood?
- Respondent:** Well, like I said, I remember that place to get the hot dog from because – up the street. I think it was ten or fifteen cents, but that place it was a nickel. [0:45:30] I want to talk about – there's one story that happened with my father and his brother-in-law. My mother's brother – who was a scoundrel, right?:
- Interviewer:** Hm.
- Respondent:** One of those guys. The maiden name – interesting for a scoundrel, right?
- Interviewer:** Now we call them a psychopath maybe.

- Respondent:** No.
- Interviewer:** No?
- Respondent:** [0:46:00] No. A scoundrel.
- Interviewer:** Okay. Okay.
- Respondent:** No, no, no. He wasn't crazy at all.
- Interviewer:** Yeah, yeah.
- Respondent:** No, no. He was a...
- Interviewer:** A scoundrel. It's a good word. It's not used very much anymore.
- Respondent:** No, no, no. That's what I'm thinking about. He – I think he married or he lived with an Italian woman called Betty, and he had a [indiscernible 0:46:22] Blind River. It's way up north, way up on the – north at the end of Lake Huron, right? [0:46:30] And there'd been uranium mines up there, so I think he made money. But he was – you know – and I remember him wearing very thick glasses. He was very tall, interestingly enough. But I don't know what happened. My father was working on a car in the street. I remember just seeing this from afar, and then hearing the story. And I guess the brother came over [0:47:00] and was talking to him. My father must have said something to him and offended him, and he pulled out a gun, right?
- Interviewer:** Oh my god.
- Respondent:** Right? Right? He pulled out a gun. And my father just got up and took the gun off him and punched him out, right?
- Interviewer:** Oh, that's quite a brother-in-law, brother-in-law relationship.
- Respondent:** Right. Right.
- Interviewer:** Oh my god.

Respondent: He was, you know, he was always on the edge of whatever he was doing, right? So [0:47:30] his name was – see, my mother's name was Paysner, but he took the name Payne. Payne. P-A-Y-N-E. Right? Paysner. So that was one thing. I have vague memories of that.

Interviewer: Did that happen here?

Respondent: Right on Lippincott Street.

Interviewer: On Lippincott.

Respondent: On Lippincott Street. Right. I have a second-hand memory, but everybody knew about it, right? It went from Harbord Collegiate where – we used to swim – [0:48:00] it was a pool there, right? And you would have physical education in swimming with no bathing suits. It was naked, right? And I guess there was a...

Interviewer: I guess it was boys had the pool, and then girls was another time.

Respondent: Another time.

Interviewer: Not together.

Respondent: Not together. No, no. No, no. Not together. And the name of the teacher, the phys ed teacher, was a guy called Caldecott. Talking about the Second World War, the point is that all of this was soon enough after [0:48:30] the Second World War that, you know, every November 11th, these guys would show up in their uniforms, right, for the marching and whatever.

Interviewer: The teachers.

Respondent: The teachers. Yeah, yeah. They were Veterans, right? The male ones were Veterans. So I think it was Major Caldecott. He'd been a Major. In the pool, he was there one day, he made an anti-Semitic remark, right? And two of these guys got out of the pool and threw him in the pool. [0:49:00] That was the end of the incident, right?

- Interviewer:** Was he wearing nothing? Or was he in uniform?
- Respondent:** No, he was in his uniform. That was it. I just remember.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** He was dressed. He would have been dressed.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** And he would have said something like – but nobody would stand for that, you see, in this neighbourhood, right? They just wouldn't. You couldn't get away with that, right? I mean if you went out to play hockey, or not hockey – or football or something with other schools, you'd run into anti-Semitic remarks [0:49:30] amongst the kids, and there might be fights and so forth. But inside, we didn't...
- Interviewer:** I guess you didn't have much because you were ninety percent Jewish.
- Respondent:** That's right. That would not be the issue, you know?
- Interviewer:** But you're saying it was around at the time.
- Respondent:** Oh yeah. No, no, no. Yeah. But you know, growing up in it, I mean after when I'd been – given the age when I came up, you know, everybody was Jewish. You didn't think about it. You know? At all. You know, except in [0:50:00] the High Holidays, you know, and other times. So I'm just trying to remember – that was one or two memories that I had. Yeah. What else? I got the – when I graduated, I got the senator from high school at Harbord, I got this – the Kroll [0:50:30] Prize in history for grade thirteen. I remember that very well. I got ninety-nine.
- Interviewer:** Whoa.
- Respondent:** And given my handwriting, I don't know how you can manage that, right? But terrible handwriting. There were very good teachers there.

Interviewer: Mm-hm.

Respondent: You know, it was a very – I guess for somebody who wanted to teach it would be a very inspiring place because everybody wanted to learn, right? They wanted to get out and they were, you know – and so that was good. So let's see **[0:51:00]** now. What else around here?

Interviewer: Was the neighbourhood safe? I mean you talked about anti-Semitism, and that's not good. But in terms of safety?

Respondent: Yeah. I think it was a safe place.

Interviewer: Mm-hm.

Respondent: I think it was a safe place. You know, I don't recall – you know, I don't recall the locking of the doors or anything. I don't think there was much of that.

Interviewer: So people left their doors unlocked during the day.

Respondent: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah.

Interviewer: Uh-huh.

Respondent: Yeah, yeah, yeah. I don't remember even carrying a key actually. **[0:51:30]** I don't remember – even when I went to high school or anything.

Interviewer: Mm-hm.

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: Did people have cars when you were a child in this neighbourhood?

Respondent: We did. Yeah, we did.

Interviewer: Oh, your father.

- Respondent:** The truck. Yeah. He was in that business. Yeah, we did. You know, I don't recall about other people. Spadina Avenue was quite different than it is now. **[0:52:00]** Right? They were all Jewish shops up and down, whether they were hat shops, or clothing shops, or whatever. It was just a lot of – you would always talk – my mother would always talk about people – Spadina Avenue, because they were always bargaining, and yelling, and so forth, right?
- Interviewer:** And Kensington Market, how much did your family – other than going to buy you a suit every year...
- Respondent:** No, they would shop there.
- Interviewer:** They'd use – oh.
- Respondent:** They would shop there. They would – there was always some place to go and buy, **[0:52:30]** you know, different kinds of food. Food was very important, right? Yeah.
- Interviewer:** And the university, did it have any influence on your family at that time?
- Respondent:** Well there was no question that I would go to university. It was just never a question, you know? It was very – I just sort of slid into it, right? I just went to university. I didn't know quite what I wanted to do, but **[0:53:00]** I just slid into it and I was there for four years.
- Interviewer:** And Central Tech, was that here at the time?
- Respondent:** Oh yes.
- Interviewer:** So who went there, and who went to Harbord Collegiate?
- Respondent:** Yeah. There were three local, if you'd use that term, high schools. There was Central Commerce. That's where women went to become secretaries, right?
- Interviewer:** Where was that?

- Respondent:** Where is that?
- Interviewer:** The other side of Bathurst?
- Respondent:** Yeah. I think so. You can find that. **[0:53:30]** Central Commerce.
- Interviewer:** Okay.
- Respondent:** And then there was Central Tech, and Central Tech at that time was just that, right? Although they did have grade thirteen, but it was – I think maybe they only had one or two classes of grade thirteen.
- Interviewer:** So it was a hands-on getting your training.
- Respondent:** That's right, you know? Training, automobiles, carpentry.
- Interviewer:** So it's quite similar now.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Similar. And it's a very old building. It's older than Harbord, you know? As you can see it right now. And I go out there now. I take my dogs up there and I walk up there, and I know it. **[0:54:00]** And it's kind of nice for me coming back actually because, you know, it was part of my experience then, and now I go and I exercise, and I'm up there a lot. It's a big, big – it's an amazing schoolyard.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** Huge.
- Interviewer:** Yeah.
- Respondent:** Right? Huge. Kind of an Olympic size.
- Interviewer:** So Gerry, considering you grew up here and now you're here at this stage of your life, what are some of the most glaring changes that have happened?
- Respondent:** **[0:54:30]** To this neighbourhood?

Interviewer: Yes.

Respondent: Yeah. Just give me a look just to see. Maggie's doing supper, so that's good. Well the ethnic composition is quite, quite, quite different, right? There were always Italians around, you know? Not in large numbers in terms of living in the neighbourhood, right? The ethnic composition, it's changed quite **[0:55:00]** substantially. There weren't many...

Interviewer: So what was it and what is it now?

Respondent: Well it was largely Jewish. I just felt it was a – I always just had – my friends had – my parents had Italian friends in the grocery business and so on. There were no Portuguese at that time. There were none, right?

Interviewer: They came later.

Respondent: Yeah. They were just not there. They were not. The Chinese were in Chinatown, right? There were a lot of Chinese, and we always went to Chinatown **[0:55:30]** on Sundays for Chinese food. [Laughter] Always.

Interviewer: Yes. Lunch, supper, both?

Respondent: It would be supper, right?

Interviewer: Uh-huh. Uh-huh.

Respondent: Chinatown would be an early supper. Not every Sunday, but we went often. Often. And then there were – so that was – the big ethnic mix was much different than it is now. I mean I think it's for the better.

Interviewer: So who's here now?

Respondent: **[0:56:00]** Here now?

Interviewer: Yeah.

- Respondent:** So you have Portuguese, you have Chinese, you have Italians, you have people of many hues, right? Different sort of people. We can watch them going. My wife sits in the alcove where she does her writing and she can watch going by – Filipinos, whatever. I mean everybody's here, right?
- Interviewer:** So there's much greater diversity now...
- Respondent:** Much, [0:56:30] much more.
- Interviewer:** ...than seventy years ago.
- Respondent:** Oh no. Much, much more diversity.
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** Much, much more diversity than there was then. And the diversity also reflected in the, you know, the commercial establishments as well, you know?
- Interviewer:** Can you give me a brief overview? I know our time is coming to an end.
- Respondent:** Yeah.
- Interviewer:** What was here then and what's here now?
- Respondent:** Well I remember delicatessens, and I remember tailor shops, [0:57:00] drugstores, right? I don't remember all the – this number of restaurants, right? I just don't remember the – or bars, right? There weren't actually, you know?
- Interviewer:** That's a good summary. Restaurants and bars, because we have a lot of those now.
- Respondent:** Yeah. That's right. We didn't have those then. When did you come here?
- Interviewer:** Twenty-five years ago.

- Respondent:** Twenty-five years ago. Yeah. So that would be the big thing, **[0:57:30]** which is different for me, which is – what's the same, of course, that it's meant for walking, right? So I go to – you know, I went – when the YWHA was on Brunswick, it was next to the Brunswick Talmud Torah. I would walk there, right? So now when I go to the JCC, I walk there, right? You know?
- Interviewer:** This is a neighbourhood of walking.
- Respondent:** **[0:58:00]** That's right. That's right. And you know, I don't bother with the bicycles, but I hardly ever – I had filled this car up of mine once a month, if that.
- Interviewer:** Yeah. Okay. How would you describe this neighbourhood now?
- Respondent:** Well, there's ethnic diversity, which is good. There's also sociological diversity, and I mean it's sort of class diversity.
- Interviewer:** **[0:58:30]** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** Which I don't think it was before. I think it was – I mean there were people who were upwardly mobile, right, but they moved out when they – you know? But people were more or less the same in terms of the – outwardly in terms of their income – was more working class as well. Now you have this strange mix of – I'm not saying strange. Odd mix of – you have **[0:59:00]** students, right? You have yuppies, right? You have people like us who've come back who have some money, right? You have, you know, like at the corner of Van Koughnet there, that home for those...
- Interviewer:** Ex-psychiatric patients.
- Respondent:** Ex-psychiatric, or whatever, you know? They're right in this neighbourhood, right?
- Interviewer:** Yes. Yeah.
- Respondent:** You know? And you have the drug dealer across the road, **[0:59:30]** and so this is all together.

- Interviewer:** And I think it's subsidized housing right here, this apartment on the corner here. On the corner, Harbord and Borden. That big building. I think that's...
- Respondent:** Oh yeah, yeah, yeah. Subsidized housing, yeah.
- Interviewer:** And of course, the people who bought the homes here forty years ago, the Portuguese people, I have two people on this street, on this block, one bought two homes, one bought three homes. Probably at twenty thousand dollars, and one of them owns two, and one owns three [1:00:00] still.
- Respondent:** Well the Italian neighbour, she came from Italy. They bought that house in 1968. Now I don't know what they paid for it in 1968, but they – you know, he was a kind of a janitor, right? And she worked in a meat-packing place, right, for twenty years. I mean they don't have a lot of money, but they're [1:00:30] sitting on this, you know...
- Interviewer:** Yeah. They're sitting on a lot of money. [Laughs]
- Respondent:** Money. Right. And it's very – so they're very nice. It's very nice for us to have them as neighbours. They're very friendly.
- Interviewer:** And we have several – a number of those neighbours.
- Respondent:** Yeah, like that. Right? So...
- Interviewer:** Yeah. So that's part of the strange mix.
- Respondent:** So for me, so like I speak Chinese, right? So I can have conversations with all kinds of people on the street to the old people, right?
- Interviewer:** Mm-hm.
- Respondent:** [1:01:00] This is very interesting for me, and I also speak Russian. Now I have to sort of search a little bit to find Russian, but there are a lot of Russians in this city right now. A lot. You know? So anyway.

- Interviewer:** You know, it's just about five-thirty. We both have to move on...
- Respondent:** Move on to our lives.
- Interviewer:** Any closing remarks you'd like to make?
- Respondent:** No. [Laughs] I will think of something. I'm going to get you back that other photograph because – you'll see that it's clearly me. **[1:01:30]** But also it shows, you know, in the 1940s what a class looked like here, and the ethnic diversity – I mean I can tell you who's there, and what – or lack thereof, right? You know? And that's basically it. I mean I would say that I'm very happy to be back. I mean that – it took me a little while to adapt because in the sense **[1:02:00]** that I was – you know, I was already getting older, right? But when I was in Regina, as Larry Zolf said to me when I went there, "Sperling," he says, "You're going to become a big fish in a little pond." Right? And it was true, right? So – but I left. I said, you know – because in Regina to this day – because I have to go back. I have family there and everything, and I have an office there, wherever I go I run into somebody **[1:02:30]** I know, right? But it happens here too. It happens here too.
- Interviewer:** When I think of it, you moved into this neighbourhood seventy-one years ago, Gerry.
- Respondent:** Yeah. Yeah.
- Interviewer:** So that's why I'm so pleased to speak to you because you have colourful stories and...
- Respondent:** Yeah. There's a lot. But I think, you know, I'll have to think about – I mean high school I have more memories of than public school. I mean little things – well you know, the interesting thing now is that I do **[1:03:00]** take those two silly dogs of mine to the King Edward schoolyard. That hasn't changed since when I was there. I mean I played baseball in that location right there, right? And so it's an odd...
- Interviewer:** Time warp.

Respondent: Yeah. Time warp, right, [Laughter] for me to be there, and so, I mean, it's – I sort of – is the word "gratifying"? [1:03:30] Right? The expression I use is, "Who says you can't go home again?"

Interviewer: Lovely.

Respondent: Right?

Interviewer: So let's end on that.

Respondent: Yeah. Yeah.

Interviewer: I thank you very much. It's been a pleasure.

Respondent: No. Thank you for having me, right? And I'm sorry. I have to apologize about being late.

[01:03:47]

[End of recording]