

Anne Daly and Helen Leon-Interviewed By Katrina Fuller-6-21-84

KATRINA FULLER: Today is June 21st, 1984. My name is
Katrina Fuller, and I'm interviewing Anne Daly and Helen
"Le-on"?

ANNE DALY: Leon.

KF: Leon. At --

HELEN LEON: Sixty-one Waverly Place, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

KF: Thank you. Mrs. Daly, could you state your age and your
date of birth, please?

HL: Oh, no, we don't tell our age.

KF: No?

HL: (laughs) Say over 70.

AD: I was born on July 26th.

KF: OK.

AD: And you were born when? March 18th?

HL: March 18th, 1898. I'll tell you mine. I'm 85. I'm 84, 85
-- 86. (laughs) [00:01:00]

KF: Mrs. Daly, could you tell me some background about your
family, your childhood?

AD: About my family?

KF: And your childhood.

AD: Well, my family consisted of my father, mother, and one
sister. There was just the four of us. And I went to St.

Mary's school and graduated from there. And then I went to Central High School. And I took a -- is this all right? Am I telling you all right? I took a secretarial course. And in January of the year that I graduated, they sent four [out with the class?] for practice. And one other girl and I held the job from January till June. So when I graduated in June I had a steady position. It was at the Bridgeport Brass Company. And they made me secretary to the sales manager. [00:02:00]

KF: Was growing up hard?

AD: Pardon?

KF: Was growing up hard for you?

AD: No.

KF: You never (inaudible).

AD: No. I wouldn't say, no. I had a wonderful mother and father.

KF: What about your neighborhood?

AD: My neighborhood was -- I went to -- well, let me tell you this. I went to St. Mary's school, if you want to (inaudible). And then to Central High. The neighborhood now is pretty -- it isn't very good. But I lived on [Booth?] Street. And it's down near St. Mary's church.

KF: Is that the -- what side? East side?

AD: On the east side. On the east side of Bridgeport, yes.

And at that time the neighborhood was not bad, but it's pretty bad down there now.

KF: Was there a lot of ethnic groups, and was there difficulty of getting along?

AD: No. No, we had no troubles. No. In the house that I lived, it was a poor family house. German family lived on one side. [00:03:00] My parents are of Irish extraction. An English family lived downstairs, and a French family lived down the other side. We never had any problems. We had a very good relationship. They were all good people.

KF: Your parents' employment, was it enough to support the whole family during that time? Your family -- you know, like your income?

AD: Well, my father worked at Remington Arms in the factory. And he didn't have such a wonderful job. He worked in the ammunition division of Remington Arms. [Another question, or?] -- do you want me to tell you about my sister? Well, my sister, when she was of age, she became a secretary. And she worked for R.G. Dun Company. When I graduated from high school that year, [00:04:00] she went into become a nurse. And she was a registered nurse at Bridgeport Hospital. Her name was Mary [Callagher?], and she was a registered nurse at Bridgeport Hospital in charge of obstetrics. That's the baby department. And that was her

job. She never married.

KF: Well, could you tell me about -- getting back to the high school, what kind of activities did you have after school?

AD: After school? Not much. Not in my days, no. We didn't -- they had plenty of activity in Central High School. But I was never [asked to do?] anything like that. So I couldn't ride a bicycle or do those things. But they did have activity. And we had excellent teachers at that time.

[00:05:00]

KF: How were the schools managed?

AD: How were they managed? I went to a Catholic school, St. Mary's. And we belonged to St. Mary's church, and that's why we were permitted to go to St. Mary's. We didn't have to pay or anything like they do now. If you didn't belong to the church, I believe you did. But I went to St. Mary's, and I graduated from there. My parents did not have to pay. From there I went to Central High School. I walked back and forth every day, too.

KF: (inaudible). How were the -- you say you went to St. Mary's?

AD: St. Mary's school.

KF: OK. How was it supported? It wasn't supported by the government, was it?

AD: No, it was supported by the church. And you had to belong

to St. Mary's church in order to go to St. Mary's school.
If you were not a parishioner, you would have to pay,
[00:06:00] I suppose. I don't know. But my parents did
not have to pay.

KF: You told me that -- you could tell me something about the
Korean --

AD: About what?

KF: The Korean War?

AD: The Korean War? Well, my oldest son graduated from St.
Charles school. And then he went to Fairfield Prep school,
and he graduated from Fairfield Prep. And he received a
four-year scholarship to Yale University. He graduated
from Yale University, and he went into the Korean Conflict,
they called it at that time. He did not have to go, but he
went in.

HL: He enlisted.

AD: He enlisted, yes. And while over in Korea, he was wounded.
And he ended up at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington DC.
It's run by the government. [00:07:00] And he --

HL: He was bleeding inwardly.

AD: He was bleeding inwardly, and he was operated on twice,
Helen. The bleeding started again, so he was operated on
twice. He got wonderful care there. And it's a miracle
that he's alive, I would say. While he was recuperating,

they sent two young men from Yale to interview him. Because, remember, he had not worked. He went right into service. And he decided to go into the brokerage [real?], because he thought the hours would be flexible. The day he walked out of the hospital, he had a job to go to, and he's worked ever since. And he's in the investment business now in New York City.

KF: Do you know -- why did the Korean Conflict start?

AD: Why it started? Why did it start, Helen? I guess they were --

HL: Well, the communists -- [00:08:00] North Korea was trying to take over South Korea, I think. And --

AD: The United States felt toward the South, isn't that right?

HL: Well, yeah, they didn't want communists to take over Korea. So that's why they went over there.

KF: Was it hard for you during that time? With all of that going on, did it affect you?

HL: No. No I don't think it did. No, we didn't mind it.

AD: And when my was wounded, my other son left college -- I have a second son -- and enlisted and went to Korea. But he never saw active service as my older son did. He was at headquarters most of the time, [Russell was?].

HL: My son was over there, too.

AD: I was just going to tell you. Her son was in Korea, too.

HL: Signal Corps. He enlisted when he was 18. [00:09:00]

KF: Mrs. -- well, are you Ms. or Mrs.?

HL: Mrs. Leon.

KF: OK. Mrs. Leon, could you tell me something about the experiences that your son had during the time when he went to Korea?

HL: Well, it wasn't very pleasant over there. They had to live in dugouts and eat canned food. And on vacation they had a few days off, and he'd go to Hong Kong. That was the best part of it. He was there two years, and he came back.

KF: When he came back, he was better? Was he able to [adjust?]?

HL: Well, he was all right. He wasn't hurt or anything over there. But he had beautiful hair, and he lost his hair over there on account of wearing those [pakas?] on their head. You know, those fur caps they have to wear? It was cold. But he never talks about it.

AD: No, neither does [Russell?]. [00:10:00]

HL: It wasn't too good, but it wasn't too bad either.

AD: Then he went to work.

HL: Yeah, then he came back. He went to work.

KF: Mrs. Leon, could you give me some background about how the times were during World War I and --

HL: World War I. My husband was in the first one.

AD: So was mine.

HL: Yeah, in the First World War. My husband was in the five major battles in Germany and France. And he was gassed. But that was before I was married to him.

AD: The same with me. Both our husbands were in World War I.

HL: They enlisted in the First World War. And they were very patriotic then, in those days. They were very patriotic.

AD: They came back safely, but I don't know too much about the background of World War I, because that was before I met my husband.

KF: Could you tell me, did it affect [00:11:00] you in any way?

AD: Did it affect me?

HL: No.

AD: No, no, not really, because I didn't know my husband, and she didn't know hers at the time that they went in, I don't think.

HL: No.

AD: No, we just had a normal life, I would say.

HL: Normal, happy life.

AD: Normal, happy life. We never had too much money. My parents never had too much money.

KF: It seemed like it would affect you a little, because you were in America, and all of that is going on. Seems like you would go through some changes or something.

HL: No.

AD: No. It didn't -- no, not really.

KF: Could you tell me something about World War II?

AD: World War II.

KF: Or changes that it took in America?

HL: Oh, yeah. I don't know anything about that. [00:12:00]

That was in '42. Around '41, '42.

AD: No, this is the Korean Conflict that our boys got involved.

HL: The other was the -- with Japan. And they -- airplanes came over, you know? And dropped it on Hiroshima.

AD: Yeah -- go ahead. Finish and then I'll say something.

HL: And then that started war. That was Roosevelt's time. He was our president. And that started the war with Japan. And then when Truman got in after that, I think he was the one that dropped the bomb on Japan.

AD: World War II, I worked for a man, and his name was William L. Hawkins. He was head of the Chamber of Commerce. And he was a hero in World War II. He's written up in Guadalcanal Diary. [00:13:00] And he had quite a bit of service --

HL: He was one of the first ones to --

AD: Yeah. He was the first man to land on Guadalcanal. That's right. This Mr. Hawkins that I worked for in the Chamber of Commerce. He was really a hero.

KF: What about during the Vietnam War?

AD: What?

KF: Vietnam War?

AD: Oh, Vietnam. Nobody in our --

HL: No, that was only recent. We don't know much about that.

AD: Nobody that we knew was in it.

HL: But I guess it was something that never should have been.

AD: Yeah.

HL: We never should have gotten into that affair at all.

AD: That seems to be the consensus of opinion, that we were foolish to get into it.

HL: But when we did get in it, we should go into win, not to come back and lose so many men over there for nothing. That was terrible. One of the worst things that ever happened in this country.

KF: What kind of changes [00:14:00] took place to America during the time of the Vietnam War? What kind of major changes did we go through or come through?

HL: Well, there were quite a few -- students were rioting out in San Francisco and out in California. They didn't like it. No one was in favor of it.

AD: Was it hard to get a job in those days?

HL: No.

AD: I didn't think so.

KF: Was there a lot of demand for jobs then during the time?

HL: No.

KF: It was the same?

HL: Things were just normal, I think. There's always a lot of jobs when there's war on, you know.

AD: Where do you go to school, young lady?

KF: Bassick High School.

AD: Bassick? It's a good school. My husband was connected to the school system. He liked Bassick very much. He said it was the best high school of all the high schools.

[00:15:00] Of course, I went to Central, and I thought that was pretty nice. But he said Bassick was very good.

KF: Could you tell me something about Central High School during the time that you were --

AD: When I went? Well, we were up on --

HL: Congress.

AD: Congress Street. And at the end of my second year, we moved across the street to the new school. And I had very good teachers. I liked to learn [too?]. I took a commercial course. And I walked back and forth home. I wasn't getting rides as my kids did. I had very good teachers. I had (inaudible). And as I say, in January the year I graduated I went out to do work. And when I [00:16:00] graduated I had a steady job in June at the

Bridgeport Brass Company.

KF: What kind of subjects did you take in Central High School?

AD: Well, typing, shorthand, English, French. What else did I take?

HL: Math.

AD: Math, yes.

KF: What was the requirement in order to get your diploma?

What did you have to --

AD: You had to have a certain average in order to -- the average was 75.

KF: Seventy-five?

HL: What is it now?

KF: Two hundred.

HL: Oh, that's different. They mark you --

AD: They mark them different.

HL: See this was -- 75 would be equal to --

AD: I had an average of 89 when I graduated. I liked what I had. I took English, typing, shorthand, math, and French.

[00:17:00]

HL: Each subject is marked. You're given a mark for each subject. And then they're totaled, see? And then they're averaged. And that's the way you get your average. But now it's -- they mark differently.

KF: Did you get letter grades? Do you have a report card?

AD: Yes.

HL: Oh, yes.

KF: And you got letter grades, like A's and B's? Because now we get number grades, like 95 or 98. And at the completion of high school, in order to graduate you have to have 200 points. And for every subject you take in high school, you get a number of points. Like for English you get --

AD: I don't remember how many points. But I don't think they would have sent me out in January if I wasn't doing well. They sent four of us out, and only two of us kept the job. The other two girls gave it up. But I stuck it out, and this other girl did. And then when I graduated, as I told you, I had a steady job at the Bridgeport Brass Company. And I wasn't there very long when they -- I went to work [00:18:00] for the sales manager. And I liked typing, and I liked shorthand and English.

HL: I imagine the 200 points today would be equivalent to 70, an average of 70 in our day.

AD: Oh, we always got more than 70.

HL: Or 75. Well, that's a passing mark.

AD: I guess what you're saying is correct, Helen.

HL: That's the passing mark. But most of us got in our nineties. We were good scholars.

AD: Well, I mean, school was important to us. Very important.

HL: We didn't fool around in school.

KF: Well, what about other teenagers? Did they get involved in alcohol or anything?

HL: Nothing like that.

AD: No, not in my time.

HL: You never ever heard of such a thing as drugs or drink. Never heard of it.

AD: And even when my boys were growing up, and her boy, there wasn't so much [00:19:00] of it. It's so prevalent now. As I say, I had two sons, and she has one.

HL: I'd say it was within the last five years it seems to have gotten real bad. But before that it wasn't bad at all. They never even heard of it. Why, you could even go out with a felon, he wouldn't even get fresh with you. (laughter) They never thought of it.

KF: Not today.

HL: They respected girls in those days.

AD: A lot of respect, yeah.

HL: There was a lot of respect in those days. You don't see it today.

KF: Well, what about religion? Did it play a very important part in your life?

HL: Yes.

AD: Oh, yes.

HL: Very important.

AD: Religion was very important. We're both Catholics. And religion was important.

KF: Was it influenced in the school systems, and --

AD: Oh, no. Not in the school system. Oh, no, no. But our parents were Catholics, so we went to a -- well, I went to St. Mary's, which was a Catholic grade school. And then to high school. And --

HL: But they had prayer in school. [00:20:00]

KF: Yes, prayer in school.

AD: Prayer, oh yes.

HL: They did have prayer, and we'd begin with every class.

AD: Yeah, that's right. We did.

HL: And I think that was very good. Very good.

AD: Yeah, well, I agree with that.

HL: They should have it today.

KF: But they took it out of the schools. So you feel that if that was to be put back in, the school may be a little more -- better.

HL: And they ought to do away with a lot of the studies that they have, and just teach reading, writing, and arithmetic. And then they'd know something.

AD: When they come out.

HL: Yes.

AD: It's advanced, Helen, to this point where they have studies that we didn't have. Of course, if you take a college course, it's a different story.

HL: Oh, I mean in grade schools today. They just should have good reading, writing, and arithmetic. And nothing --

AD: Writing was very important.

HL: Yeah, we had --

AD: Penmanship.

HL: The (inaudible), the penmanship. We had to write. We can hold our pen right and write this way, you know.

[00:21:00] No fooling then. We were all good writers.

Everybody was a good writer then. You had to be. We're still good today.

AD: In other words, we can read each other's writing.

KF: Was there a board of education?

AD: Oh, yes. There was always a board of education.

KF: What was their job? What did they do?

AD: Well, they --

HL: Recommended the teachers, I think.

AD: Yes, and also the studies in the different schools.

HL: They had to make up a curriculum.

AD: A curriculum, yeah.

KF: How long was the school day in the schools?

AD: How long was the school day? From 9:00 to 3:00, I think it

was. You mean in grade school? From 9:00 to 3:00.

HL: And an hour for lunch. [00:22:00]

KF: Fifteen minutes now.

AD: Fifteen minutes?

KF: Or less. How long was the school year? Was it like the same?

AD: Yes. Yeah.

HL: It was nine months, I think.

AD: From September until June.

HL: Yeah. I think it's nine months.

AD: September, October, November, December, January, February, March, April, May. Ten months, Helen. [Well, until first of June?].

HL: [But then you have?] July and August, yeah.

AD: Yeah, that's right. You're right.

HL: Part of June, July, and August. And part of September.

KF: Was there any prejudice or unrest in the neighborhood? Or was there --

AD: No.

HL: No, nothing like that. No one ever got prejudiced.

AD: We didn't even know what it was. (laughter)

HL: We didn't know a thing about it. We were really dumb. Unsophisticated.

KF: Was there any prejudice in the school system? [00:23:00]

AD: I wouldn't say so. It was a nice school. There was no prejudice.

HL: Oh, no.

AD: Or in high school, even. No, absolutely never.

HL: Children were children, and nationalities meant nothing.

AD: No, we thought everybody, you know --

HL: Was the same.

KF: Mrs. Leon, could you tell me something about the movies? You said --

HL: Oh, yeah. When I was younger, you could go to the movies for \$0.05. The afternoon for a nickel. And there was a girl that -- Mrs. [Ford?] used to play the piano, too, for all the silent films, you know. And then later on they had [brought in that?] nickelodeon theater on Main Street, the Palace. And then they had shows here, too. They had the New York shows here at the Lyric and the Globe. And of course, the Majestic and Palace, they had Vaudeville and movies --

AD: That was very nice. The Majestic [00:24:00] and Palace, those theaters downtown. They're closed now.

HL: They never should have been closed. They're beautiful theaters.

KF: Where are they located?

HL: On Main Street.

AD: Main and Congress. [Near?] Main and Congress. And let me tell you that a couple years ago they had a meeting, and I attended it. And they thought of reopening maybe one of the theaters. But the only people that would be interested in opening the theater would be the banks, because they'd have to put up a lot of money. And evidently --

HL: Because it's heavily mortgaged.

AD: We went into the Majestic Theater. The one on the corner - - the second one is the Majestic, isn't it? We went into it, and I was amazed at how good it looked when we went in, the day we went in. I went in with the Chamber of Commerce with my boss.

HL: They're beautiful theaters.

AD: In very good condition. But nothing was done, because at the time I heard if -- the banks would be the ones who would put up the money to open that again. [00:25:00] But years ago, I'm telling you, those two theaters were filled.

HL: Oh, they were mobbed.

AD: We went there all the time. My husband and I went, and all the young people. We loved it.

HL: How much was the -- it was about \$0.50 to go there then, I think.

AD: Yeah, it was really nice.

HL: And there was a line up going into some of the shows.

AD: Oh, yeah. We used to go -- all the way up Congress Street.

HL: Yeah, they had *Gone with the Wind* there. It opened up there, *Gone with the Wind*. You had to buy a liberty bond, you know, to get into one performance. And then down on -- there was another theater down below State Street, that they -- Broadway shows were there, and Evelyn Nesbit came there. She was married to Thaw.

AD: She's too young to remember that.

HL: Thaw, her husband, killed -- Thaw killed [00:26:00] an architect. He was the architect on that building, [recording stage?] building on State Street.

AD: You have a good memory.

KF: Was there any famous people that arrived from here? Like discovered any -- famous people were discovered?

HL: Bridgeport famous people?

KF: Yeah.

HL: I don't know of any. Anyone president, or --

AD: Buckingham is considered famous.

HL: Well, our mayors were --

AD: Were considered -- Buckingham was considered famous.

HL: Buckingham was mayor then and Mayor Wilson. They were real good majors.

KF: Did they do a lot to help --

AD: Yes, they did.

HL: Yes, they did.

AD: A lot, yeah.

KF: What are some of the things that they did?

HL: Buckingham did a lot of charitable work.

AD: And they were both very good men. [00:27:00]

HL: Who else was good besides -- I don't know anyone that could compare with them. John T. King was --

AD: Oh, yeah, John T. King was --

HL: -- the leader of the Republican Party in those days.

AD: He was quite a man.

HL: Oh, he was handsome. He backed Mayor Wilson for mayor.

Oh, he was a famous man, John T. King was.

AD: Oh, yes.

HL: He was known, nationally known.

KF: What did he do?

HL: He was head of the Republican Party. He was also in Congress, I think. He was chairman of the Republican Party. National chairman, I think. He was famous. He lived down at Seaside Park.

AD: Had a home down there.

HL: He had a beautiful home down there.

KF: Has Seaside Park always been like it is?

AD: It was considered one of the finest [00:28:00] parks.

HL: Yeah, it was nicer then. They even had a race track down

there.

AD: Yes, it's considered one of the very nice ones. And Beardsley Park up here was considered nice.

KF: Where was the race track located?

HL: Well, it's right in the center where there was a -- and later on there was an [ice pond?] there, right in the center of Seaside Park.

KF: Who fixed Seaside Park up like that?

HL: What?

KF: Who was responsible for --

HL: Oh, Barnum, of course. P.T. Barnum gave [it to the city?]. He owned all that land there, and he gave it to the city. And a statue is down there.

AD: That's where they have Barnum Festival Parade every year.

KF: When was the first parade?

AD: When was the first parade? I don't know when the first one, but it's been going on for years and years. There's a Bertha Tickey at the Barnum Festival office. She could tell you that. I'm a friend of hers. Bertha Tickey. And her office is right off Main Street downtown. [00:29:00] Barnum Festival, it's called. She could tell you.

KF: It was in honor of P.T. Barnum?

AD: Yeah.

KF: What about the circus that came (inaudible)?

AD: The circus?

KF: Yeah. Barnum & Bailey?

AD: Barnum & Bailey Circus.

HL: That's Barnum & Bailey Circus, yeah. P.T. Barnum was the man. And oh yeah, we had a famous man. Tom Thumb came from Bridgeport. He was famous in the Barnum & Bailey Circus. He was born here.

AD: Tom Thumb, yeah. And all the --

HL: Oh, we had another good mayor, too. Mayor McLevy. He was good. He was here -- I think he was mayor for about 16 years.

AD: Jasper McLevy.

KF: What did he do to help Bridgeport?

HL: Well, he didn't do much, but he didn't -- kept the taxes low for one thing. [00:30:00] Which, you know, one year when there was snow [coming?] down, people wondered why he didn't remove the snow. And he said, "Well, God put it there. Let Him take it away."

AD: That's true.

HL: He didn't believe in spending any money at all. He wanted to save all the money.

AD: He was a famous man, yeah.

HL: He was very good. I think he's one of the best mayors we ever had. McLevy was. He really was.

KF: When the Barnum & Bailey Circus came to town, where did they camp out?

AD: At Seaside Park.

KF: Is that where you went to go see [them?]?

AD: Well, they had the parade downtown. The parades were downtown. The Barnum Festival office now is off Main Street. I forgot the name of the street. It's right off Main Street, and just before you come to State. I think it's the street that's just [00:31:00] to the side. But it's listed in the phone book, the Barnum Festival office. And the girl's name is Bertha Tickey. She's running it.

HL: They have a place up near the school, high school, where you -- where they have the parade. [Isn't it, Anne?]? Is it up on the benches up there?

AD: (inaudible).

HL: Where do you get the tickets to go? [By the parade?], you have the tickets to go there --

AD: I get them from the festival society.

HL: Yeah, but where do you sit when you have the tickets?

AD: I have them at the stadium.

HL: Well, that's where it is. The stadium.

AD: The stadium at --

HL: That's where they have the parade. It comes --

AD: It comes in there for review.

HL: And what's the name of that high school there?

AD: Central.

HL: Central High School, yes.

KF: When the Barnum Circus came to town, where did they camp out?

HL: Well, the circus doesn't [00:32:00] come here anymore, Anne.

KF: When it used to come.

AD: When it did come here. I would say Seaside Park.

HL: No, there was a circus grounds on State Street, Anne.

AD: Oh, was it?

HL: Well, that's where their grounds were, way out there on State Street. Fairfield Avenue. Yeah, that's where it was. Fairfield Avenue, I think.

AD: So if you want to know more about them, contact the festival office, Bertha Tickey. She'll give you the information.

HL: But I don't think the circus comes here anymore. They have it in New York, but not here. It's not as large as it was either.

KF: What about Pleasure Beach.

HL: Oh, that was a lovely place at one time. They had a dance pavilion over there.

AD: Used to go to dances over there.

HL: Oh, yeah. It was very nice.

AD: Very, very nice. [00:33:00]

HL: Boats used to come in there from New York.

AD: But it hasn't been in use now for several years.

KF: But do they have things set up over there?

HL: Not anymore.

AD: Not anymore. They did have --

HL: I think the bridges aren't very safe to go over there.

AD: When my children were small, we used to go to Pleasure Beach quite frequently.

HL: A nice beach over there, a nice dance hall.

AD: Oh, yes. Many good times I had over there.

HL: (inaudible) owned it. And I think they sold it to the city for very, very little. I think it was less than \$50,000.

KF: [Mainwood Island?] (inaudible).

AD: About what?

KF: Mainwood Island?

HL: Glenwood?

AD: Glenwood Avenue?

KF: No, Mainwood Island

AD: Never heard of it. [00:34:00]

KF: Oh. Concerts? Anything about concerts (inaudible)?

AD: Concerts? We used to have concerts up here at Beardsley Park. And that -- also, but --

HL: Washington Park.

AD: Washington Park.

HL: They had band concerts there.

AD: They had band concerts years ago. Oh, yes, lots of them.

HL: Well, now they have symphony concerts at the --

AD: Klein.

HL: Klein Memorial.

AD: Klein Memorial. That's a good place.

KF: Who established Beardsley Park?

AD: Pardon?

KF: Who established Beardsley Park?

AD: Beardsley Park? A man by the name of Beardsley. That's true, isn't it?

HL: Yeah, he gave that land up there.

AD: He gave that land up there for Beardsley Park.

HL: His statue is up there, too.

AD: Right as you come into the entrance of Beardsley Park.

HL: That was a lovely park at one time, but --

AD: It's still nice.

HL: It's nice now, but [00:35:00] not as nice as it used to be. Quite a few tennis courts up there.

AD: You can't go in there unless you've got a sticker on your car.

HL: No. And they used to have a golf course there, but they

don't have it anymore. Now it's moved over to Park Avenue.

AD: They had a -- that was considered very nice.

KF: Do you know why they it Bridgeport?

AD: Why they called it Bridgeport?

KF: Yeah.

HL: Maybe so many bridges around, I would think. There's so many bridges around.

AD: I think so. I think you're right, Helen.

HL: There's Congress Street Bridge, Washington Bridge.
(inaudible).

KF: Do you know anything about [00:36:00] the skating rink that's on State Street?

AD: Yes.

KF: Do you know --

AD: The skating rink, yeah. I think it's run now by a private concern. Years ago it was run by an organization. The skating place on State Street.

HL: I didn't think it was there anymore. Is it?

AD: Yes, it is, Helen. Yes, it is there. Last time I came by I saw people going in. I think it's private enterprise now, as far as I know.

KF: But during the time --

AD: Yeah, you mean years ago?

KF: Yeah.

AD: I thought it was run by the city, but I'm not quite sure.
I'm not quite sure.

KF: Has it been here for a while?

AD: No.

KF: No?

AD: No. No. That's one thing I could do, though. I can't ice skate, but I could roller skate. One time when my grandchildren were here, we were down in the cellar roller skating. [00:37:00] And my husband came in. Nobody's in the house. And he went downstairs, and he gave me hell. He said, "You might fall." I said, "That's the only thing I can do. I can't ice skate. I can't ride a bicycle."

KF: Neither can I.

AD: How about you? No. I visited her one time, and she let me take a bicycle, somebody's, but -- no, I can't ride a bicycle. We never had one. My boys, of course, had one.

KF: Well, I want to thank you both for helping me in my research.

AD: Well, I hope we helped you a little bit.

KF: Yeah, you did. Yeah.

AD: I don't know exactly what --

HL: Is it different information than what you got from others?

KF: Yeah, it's more. You gave more information than --

AD: Yeah, that's good. We've been around a little bit longer.

(laughter) Quite a bit longer.

KF: Thank you.

END OF AUDIO FILE