

Paul Hardt
Narrator

Cole Steinberg
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Interviewer

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Transcriber

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Minnesota

CS: Cole Steinberg

PH: Paul Hardt

CS: This is an interview conducted as part of a larger faculty and student research project and initiated by Dr. Julie Luker of Concordia University, Saint Paul. Today is June 21, 2022, and I'm here with Paul Hardt. My name is Cole Steinberg, and I am an undergraduate student at Concordia University, Saint Paul. Today I'll be talking to Paul about what life was like growing up in the Twin Cities. During this interview, I'm going to ask you to reflect on your childhood life experiences as they relate to a variety of social topics from that time period. For the purposes of this interview, we have defined childhood as birth through 17 years of age. To begin, please state and spell your full name, including a maiden name, if applicable.

PH: My name is Paul Hardt, first name P-A-U-L, last name, H-A-R-D-T.

CS: Please identify your race and gender.

PH: I identify as a cis male, and I am white.

CS: Please state your date of birth.

PH: July 31, 1950.

CS: Finally, please share where you grew up, such as the name of the neighborhood or a nearby street intersection. Include any major moves you made during this time period.

PH: Uh-huh. Well, the first house that I lived in was in St. Louis Park on Zarthan Avenue. Then, we moved to Edina, and the address was 56th and Abbott. Then, up until the end of your date range, 17, I lived from 1956 until 1968 at 6211 Sheridan Avenue South, so that would be in West Richfield.

CS: Thank you. I would like to learn more about your family life. Let's begin with the memories you have for immediate and extended family. Please share some memories that you have about these relationships.

PH: Well, I came from a pretty conventional two-parent family. There were three of us boys, and boy, there are so many memories that I have about the family. Some of my very first memories are in the house on Abbott Avenue South in Edina. My dad worked downtown Minneapolis at Barnum Stationary where the Hennepin County Government Center is now, and

he would get up early in the morning. I remember seeing him, oh, gosh, in the dark of the early morning getting ready for work, and then a friend of his would pick him up, or my dad would take the bus to downtown Minneapolis, and that's where he worked. I would occasionally go down there as a kid and visit him, and then we'd go out for lunch to the courthouse drugstore. My mom was a stay-at-home mom until we were about six, and one of the strongest memories that I have that influenced my life is that she was a lifelong golfer, and she insisted, even when we were very young, to set aside every Thursday morning as a day to play golf. She had a women's group that she was a member of, and our grandmothers would come over. My father's mother, when they were still in Minnesota, when we were roughly about four or five years old, my father's mother would come over and take care of us, and then when my father's mother and my grandfather moved down to Florida, my mother's mother took over, and she babysat for us on Thursdays while my mom played golf. My dad was a World War II veteran, as so many of the dads were in those days, and today, we would probably say that he had a form of PTSD. It's never been really clear just exactly what the source of that condition was.

I do know from some sketchy military records that I've been able to find that he was close to the Battle of the Bulge in December of 1944, which was a horrendous, desperate situation for the Allies. My dad was a communications person, and oftentimes, these communications people were pretty close to the front because there had to be communication set up from the forward units going back to headquarters. Whether he was traumatized in that experience, I don't know. I do know that he spent some time in the veterans' hospital at Fort Snelling, and he received electroshock therapy, so he had some problems, for sure. Gosh, my mom started work when we moved to our Sheridan home in the summer of 1956. There was a company almost literally in our backyard on 62nd and Penn called Canteen. They were an early version of the company that used vending machines at various offices, and plants, and so forth. She had a little bit of bookkeeping and accounting background, and so she went to work while we were in school.

We used to walk to school. It was a long, a suburban block of about two city blocks. We walked up to Sheridan Elementary School at 64th and Sheridan, and we had some great experiences there. My mother's mother was a widow. Her husband had died in 1949. She lived on 42nd and Bryant, and was a wonderful person, and we used to ride our bikes from 62nd and Sheridan all the way down to 42nd and Bryant. Those were the days when we were free-range kids, so we used to ride our bikes everywhere. We rode them to the Richfield pool on Portland and 66th. We rode our bikes to Southdale. We were very close to Southdale. Southdale opened in the fall of 1956 just as we had moved into our Sheridan home, so as I said, we used to ride our bikes all over the place. It was a fantastic place to grow up. Like I said, there were three of us boys, me and my twin brother, and then our older brother, Ross. Ross was about two or three years ahead of us in school, and we all went through the Richfield schools. We all went to Sheridan, and then we went to West Junior High, and finished up at Richfield High school. How's that?

CS: Pretty good. Did you have any family pets?

PH: Yes. We had, other than the occasional turtle or goldfish, we had a rescue dog. We got a beagle from the Humane Society in—oh, gosh—I think about 1958 or '59. His name was

Skipper. He was a fun dog. We loved him. Part of the reason that he was a rescue dog is that he was a runner. We had to be really careful. As a matter of fact, he got loose in about 1964 and got hit by a car, which was a very tragic experience. We all were very, very broken up about that, but as luck would have it, he had been mated with another beagle earlier in the year, and the mama beagle had puppies, and so we got Skipper Two, and he looked just like his daddy. We had Skipper Two until my folks eventually moved into a condo in the early to mid-'70s, and they still had Skipper Two, so Skipper Two was about 10 or 12 years old when he went to cross the rainbow bridge.

CS: Okay, thank you. Next, please describe the ways in which your family's economic status influenced your childhood.

PH: Yeah. Well, good question. My dad did not make a lot of money. He was a retail manager at Barnum Stationary in downtown Minneapolis, as I said. Retail managers, they don't make a lot of money. My dad was not college educated. Both my dad and mom went to the University of Minnesota, as so many of the kids from the '30s did, but they didn't last. I think between the two of them, they may have had a couple of years of college education, and then they got married in September of 1939, so my mom was 20 when she got married, and my dad was 23.

My dad started out as a retail salesperson at a men's store in Dinkytown, and my mom did various kinds of part-time work. I've got photos of her out on the street at about, oh, I don't know. Seventh and Hennepin, or 7th and Nicollet in front of a hosiery store that she worked in from 1940 and 1941. Both of them worked in retail. They had a grab bag of talents and skills, but those were the days when if you had two parents working, you could put together a pretty good living. They owned their own home. We never rented. We always had enough to eat.

We took almost yearly vacations. When my father's parents moved down to Florida, we would almost always take driving trips down to see them every summer. Now, my grandparents helped us financially to do that, but still, there was some expense that my folks had to incur. When I went to the University of Minnesota in 1969, tuition per quarter was about \$150 a quarter. *[Laughter]* My folks paid that. Oh, man. Those were the days. I think I bought my own books. I got married in 1970, so I was only 20 at the time, so I sorta followed. I would say I moved up a notch on the economic scale. I got a college education. I became a teacher. My ex-wife, she worked at the telephone company, and then she did various kinds of jobs, too. We were a middle-class family, and we did okay.

CS: Good. Now I would like to know about your experiences with religion, such as Catholicism, Lutheranism, *et cetera*. Describe what you can recall about your family's religious practices when you were growing up.

PH: Uh-huh. Well, I come from a very eclectic kind of religious background. One of my mother's grandfathers was a Norwegian Methodist minister. He left the ministry when he came to the United States in the 1880s. On my dad's side, I'm descended from a Universalist Unitarian minister from the 1840s all the way up to the 1870s and '80s. I would say there's a religious, and then there's sort of a—I would call it sort of a para-religious or a quasi-religious strain to our family. My folks, my mom, got a Bible when she was a girl from a congregational church, and so

she went to a congregational church in South Minneapolis, and then they were married, I believe, from that congregational church in 1939. They weren't very religious, and they didn't do an awful lot of going to church.

My dad went to church a little bit, but this is where sort of the quasi or the para-religious comes in is that my father's father was a very active freemason, and they didn't go to church a lot, but as I said, both my grandfather and my grandmother, my parents of my father, were very active in freemasonry, and there's a religious element to that. There's some Bible knowledge, and there's some other stories and so forth that go along with that. I think that that—and it's also a very universal kinda religious context, so anyone from any religion can become a mason, so I've been in Masonic lodges where there were Buddhists, and Hindus, and Catholics, and Protestants and so forth, so I stopped going to church after I was confirmed in the Methodist church in about 1964, and I didn't really go to church at all after about 1964.

Then, my ex-wife and I decided after we started to settle down and I was working, that we would start to go to church again, and so we started with our old, conventional, traditional congregational church, and then we moved into a neighborhood where there was a Lutheran church literally in our backyard, and that's where we went for a while, but yeah. I was confirmed in, like I said, the Methodist church, and that's about it.

CS: Okay. Now I'd like to learn more about the neighborhood in which you grew up. If you moved during childhood, you may wish to reflect on more than one neighborhood. This is fine to do, but please indicate as you do it. Please describe what comes to mind when thinking about the neighborhood in which you grew up.

PH: Well, the very first neighborhood where I grew up was the St. Louis Park neighborhood, and I really don't remember very much about that neighborhood at all except that there was a family kiddie corner from us, and they were very close to my parents, and they had one adopted child, and we got to know them very, very well, and as you may note in your interview, St. Louis Park was a pretty heavily Jewish neighborhood, and I would—this neighbor that was kiddie corner from us in St. Louis Park was Jewish, a mixed religious couple. The mother was a Lutheran. The father was a Minneapolis Jewish person, and I would say that that quite strongly influenced my attitude about people of other religions because we were very close to that family. They were beautiful, beautiful people, and we always used to celebrate Christmas with them, even though the father was Jewish, but he was a great guy, and we just loved him.

That was St. Louis Park. Like I said, I don't remember very much about that neighborhood at all. I was so small. Then we moved to Edina, 56th and Abbott, and the one memory that stands out for both the 56th and Abbott neighborhood and the 62nd and Sheridan neighborhood was kids. There were—well, I wouldn't say hundreds of kids, but there were scores of kids on all of the blocks that we lived on in Edina and Richfield. Well, we were in the midst of the Baby Boom, and every house had at least one child, if not two or three, and so we had kids all over the place. We had nice playgrounds, and as I said earlier, we were free-range kids. We could walk to Southdale, or we could take our bikes to Southdale. We could take our bikes to Bloomington.

I have a friend of mine, a dear friend who I play golf with every once in a while. He lived on—oh, I'm gonna say about 75th and, I don't know, 3rd Avenue, let's say, 75th and 3rd Avenue. He would walk to Normandale Boulevard and about 76th, which is a couple of miles to start with, and then he'd hitch a ride to Minnesota Valley Country Club. He was 13 or 14 years old at the time, but it was amazing. We had great schools. Richfield had wonderful, wonderful schools. We had great teachers. We used to do school plays, and we had band and orchestra, and we did some singing, and it was a fantastic environment to grow up in. We were so blessed with all the great resources that we had, and crime was practically nonexistent at that time, so the kids.

CS: Oh, go ahead. Sorry.

PH: No, that's fine. Well, yeah. Another memory that I have is, as I said, my dad was a World War II veteran, as were so many of these other fathers in our neighborhood, particularly on Sheridan, I knew. None of them ever talked about their war experiences, generally speaking. What I found out later in life, after talking to people who I grew up with, and then we all went our separate ways, but then we would get together for funerals, or reunions, or whatever, but what I found out was that there was a lot of hidden problems that people were having, alcohol problems.

As I said, my dad suffered from depression and PTSD, and many of—my impression is that many of the other fathers in our neighborhoods had severe psychological problems due to the war, so that was definitely something. It was behind the scenes. We didn't talk about it. No one really delved into what our fathers' war experiences were, but as I said, I discovered, and as many of my contemporaries discovered is that many, many of our fathers has psychological issues, and it explained a lot of the alcohol problems that people had in our neighborhood. There was a lot of drinking goin' on, and I think that a lot of these poor guys were anesthetizing themselves, trying to forget what their war experiences were.

CS: Yeah, okay. Next, I would like to learn about the values shared by your family and your neighbors, values, or principles, or standards that helped guide behavior. What memories come to mind that demonstrate what these values were for your family and your neighbors?

PH: Sure. Good question. Well, there were a number of shared values, and they were quite apparent, so it was pretty easy to pick up on what those shared values were. Well, gosh, goin' down the list, hard work. Everybody had jobs. Mothers worked. Fathers worked, and so that was very definitely a value. We were all expected to do our bit around the house, cleaning up after ourselves, and then eventually getting little neighborhood jobs and jobs at grocery stores doin' carry out, and so on, so hard work.

I would say another one is, I wanna say—I don't know—patriotism. They were all veterans, but in terms of politics, there was quite a variety. We had some democrats in the neighborhood. We had some republicans. It didn't get really intense political views until the war in Vietnam, and then those divisions became very, very pronounced, so that was—but up until then, there was a lot of tolerance for different political points of view. We had an FBI agent who lived in our neighborhood, and I found out later in life that all of our families had been investigated by the

FBI to make sure that there weren't any communists or gangsters who lived close to this FBI agent.

CS: Wow.

PH: We didn't find out—I didn't find that out until I was about 60. That was all hidden. That was all hidden, so patriotism, hard work. Education was another very important value to all of the families in our neighborhood. Everybody went to school. We had a few families that sent their kids to Catholic school. There wasn't any Lutheran school around anywhere near, but the Catholics, there was St. Peter's over on Portland, and there were other Catholic schools the kids went to, but by far, the largest number went to our public schools. So, education was—whether it was in a Catholic school or a public school was very, very highly valued.

I would say respect and courtesy were very important. We were taught very early on that we should address the parents of our peers in our neighborhood as Mr. [Valner 00:28:12] or Mrs. [Valner], or Mr. Wallace. Eventually, that sorts loosened up, and then we would address them by their first name, Ray, or Doris, or Les, or Eliza, or other folks, but being respectful and courteous, I would say, was quite definitely a value there. Of course, everybody complained about paying taxes, but there was, particularly in Richfield and I know in Edina, too, is that school levies would pass regularly. People paid good tax money to support the schools. They paid good tax money to support the infrastructure in Richfield, the streets.

In Richfield, they built a beautiful municipal pool in about 1959 or '60. Edina had built a beautiful municipal pool back in about 1958, and we could ride our bikes over there, but as the traffic got heavier and the street crossings became more dangerous, we did not ride our bikes over there. We would get a ride from our parents, and so there was a lot of pressure in Richfield to be as good as Edina, and so they passed a bond issue to build a municipal swimming pool. We built a new city hall in about 1965 or '66. Like I said, everybody complained about paying taxes, but boy, we had wonderful amenities, and so people were willing to do that.

I would say another value was family. Family was very important to people. I wouldn't say that we were—from what I have heard and observed, I wouldn't say we were an Italian or a Middle Eastern-style family situation. I lived in Ecuador for four years, and I experienced a little bit of family clan situation down in Latin America, and so our—while family was important in our neighborhood among the families, it wasn't nearly as strong a value as in Latin American countries or some of these other cultures, but family was important. You did things as a family, and you did trips as a family, and you went out and at as a family, and went to church as a family, and so I would say that that would be another value that was very important.

CS: Okay. Now, I'm going to ask you all about leisure time. Describe some of the ways in which you, your family, and your neighbors engaged in leisure time when you were growing up.

PH: Sure. Well, okay. Like I said, my mom was a golfer, and she was a devoted golfer. She went just about every Thursday, and then we would go out and play golf, too, on a weekend. My father's father was a teaching professional golfer, and particularly when they were in town, we would go and play golf, and so that was a very important activity. My older brother, Ross, he

loved baseball, and he was in Little League, which was a huge thing in Richfield and all of the suburban communities back in the 1950s and '60s.

Then even, so my older brother, I think he played American Legion baseball, too, when he got older towards late junior high or early high school. That was an important leisure activity. My dad was—he loved music, and occasionally, we would go to a concert or something. I know when I was, oh gosh, about 13 years old, once again, I rode my bicycle everywhere, and I rode my bike from 62nd and Sheridan to the Lake Harriet bandshell, and they had wonderful concerts there. They had the Lake Harriet Pops Orchestra, which was, at that time, made up of almost all what was then called the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra, so these were all top-rated, world-class professional musicians.

In those days, there wasn't the summer program for the Minnesota Orchestra, so all these musicians were available, and so there was the Lake Harriet Orchestra. Then, there were band concerts. There was a guy by the name of Elmo [Lunkley 00:34:37], I think his name was, and he conducted band concerts, and—oh, boy. I'll tell ya. That was a wonderful experience. It was safe, like I said. The band concert would start about 6:30 or 7:00, be done by 8:30, and in the summertime, I could still ride my bike home, and it was still light. Let's see. My twin brother liked to garden, and we had a little garden in our backyard, and he liked to do that.

My mom, going back to her, she was actually part of a women's group for many years, called the Bowling Green Women's Club, and it was called Bowling Green because in the wintertime, they went bowling, and in the summertime, they played golf. Like I said, they were the Bowling Green Club, and she was a devoted bowler and golfer. Well, we had a wonderful park program, summer park program, in Richfield for all the years that I was growing up. The parks and recreation people would set up a supervised park program every summer at the local elementary schools, and so we would walk up to the school, and there were games to play, and there were crafts and activities, and so that was a great way to spend our time.

Let's see. Well, like I said, we would ride our bikes to Southdale and just kinda wander around the stores and stuff. We would do that, and we would go swimming, so at first, we would go down—we would take our bikes, or our folks would drive us down to Lake Harriet, and we'd go to a beach there, and then when the city built the swimming pool, then we would go swimming in the summertime at the pool, so that was fun.

Occasionally, we as a family would take a trip up north to a resort up there, and we would do a little bit of fishing and so on. We weren't real big about that 'cause my mom was not real enamored with that whole thing, so we didn't do a lot of that, but I remember we did that a few times. We did go to camp. We went to a church camp for, gosh, four or five years on Lake—let's see. It's in Paynesville, Lake Koronis. That was a weeklong camp. We would do that, and we had fun for that. We would row boats, and swim, and once again, we would do some crafts, and then

there was some religious activities, too. There was something that flitted through my mind here. Leisure. Huh. Well, I can't think of it now.

CS: What television shows did you watch growing up?

PH: Television?

CS: Yeah.

PH: Oh, yeah. Well, that was a big deal. We loved our television programs. I would say the earliest television program—well, they were Disney-based, so Disney was early into the television thing, and I remember very, very well watching the Mickey Mouse Club on afternoons, and then there was the Disney once-a-week program where they would show some of their movies, and they would have nature stories and stuff like that. We watched a lot of Disney. Saturday night was sorta Western night, so I remember very well in 1956, '57, '58, we would watch "Gunsmoke," and then there was a show called "Have Gun, Will Travel," which was a wonderful series.

Then, when we got a little older and we could stay up a little later, there was a Saturday night movie. It started at about 10:30, and it was sponsored by the Taconite industry. *[Laughter]* They would do a long commercial at the beginning, okay, about all the wonders of the taconite industry, and then they would show a movie without interruption, so that was cool, okay? Then, later on, after the movie was done, then there was a local newscaster named Dave Moore who did a comedy news program called "Bedtime News." It was hilarious, and so that was fun. Let's see. Oh, gosh, there were so many television programs that we liked to watch.

Then there would be Saturday Night at the Movies. One of the networks started to show old movies on Saturday night. We watched that. I'm trying to think of some of our favorite television programs when we were—gosh, I'm kinda blanking. There were lots of Westerns, I know that, in the '50s. I wasn't that much into crime shows, so there was FBI and other crime-oriented programs. I wasn't that much interested in those. We watched a little bit of sports, but there wasn't a lot of sports on. I remember we did finally start to see some golf tournaments, and us being sort of a golfing family, we were very much into that. I remember very well watching some Masters tournaments in the early days of color television. That's about it for that, I think.

CS: Okay. No, that's good. Next, let's discuss your experience with schooling. Please describe what it was like going to school as a child.

PH: Well, it was a—we couldn't wait to go to school. We had this older brother who started going to kindergarten and first grade when we were three and four years old, and he would get on the bus. There'd be this big, yellow bus, and he'd get on the bus, and it was kinda boring at home. *[Laughter]* Our mom was not into crafts and doin' stuff like that, and I don't know even if that was a thing at that time.

Oh, I know. I was going back to leisure is that—sorry about this, but it did come back to me is that we were in Scouts for a little bit, and so we did some Scouting activities, not a lot. We were in Cub Scouts for maybe a year, year and a half, and then our Cub Scout den folded, and no one

wanted to step forward to take over as a den mother, and so, unfortunately, my Scouting career as a kid was pretty much cut short, but that was a fun—that was a fun activity.

Okay, so going to school, like I said, we couldn't wait to go to school, so then eventually—so I went to kindergarten at Edina school, which is no longer there. It's a big park. That was in 1955. Then we moved to Richfield in 1956, and we started going to first grade at Sheridan Elementary School, and we went through all six grades at Sheridan, and it was just—I loved school. There was only one, maybe two years where I had real clunker teachers, third grade and fifth grade. I did not like those teachers at all, and I don't think they liked me. That wasn't a great experience, but the other teachers that I had were wonderful, and I did quite well in school. I was an early reader. I was a very, very good reader, didn't do very well in math. I kinda liked science, but it wasn't a real favorite subject for me. Oh, gosh. Oh, okay.

One of the key characteristics of that time as far as school is concerned is that my mom insisted that both my twin brother and I be in the same class, and as a matter of fact, she frequently dressed us the same up until we were in junior high, but she was concerned about us boys comparing and competing and so on, so she insisted that we be in the same classes together. Yeah, we loved school, generally speaking. We loved our teachers. I did quite well. My twin didn't do quite as well at school, and my older brother struggled. I think today, we would probably say that he had some learning disability of some kind because he was slow to get to reading and just was not a real good student. I think he was much more interested in sports and that sort of thing.

In junior high, oh, wow, it was fantastic. We had these great teachers, and we had all these new opportunities, band, and debate, and drama, and getting involved in politics, and just all sorts of good stuff. It was a very, very exciting time to me. We had lots of wonderful, creative things to do. We had great teachers, and so we had very large classes. No surprise there. I graduated from Richfield High School in 1968 in a graduating class that had almost 900 students. My ex-sister-in-law graduated two or three years behind me, and her class had over 1,000 students, so we had huge, huge classes. There were two junior highs in Richfield. There was the East Junior High and West Junior High, and each of those schools had 4 to 500 students, so we had lots of students, lots of teachers, lots of opportunities to have fun and do activities, and so on.

CS: Okay. For our final topic, I'm going to ask you to reflect on local and global issues such as war, poverty, discrimination, social unrest, *et cetera*. In your opinion, what were some of the biggest local or global issues affecting the people in your neighborhood when you were growing up?

PH: Sure. Great question. Well, I would say the thing that hung over all of our heads throughout the '50s and into the '60s was the thought of nuclear war. We would see the old movies of the A-bomb tests, and we would see documentaries about what happened at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and we had what were called duck-and-cover drills. So, it wouldn't have saved any of us, but I suppose they felt they had to do something. They would train us to hide under our desks in the case of a nuclear attack. We were told that it could happen at almost any moment. There were

those Russians over there, and they had missiles, and we had missiles, and if somebody made a mistake, it was gonna be bad for everybody.

I would say the one thing that I think was probably very reassuring to many, many people was the fact that we had a president, President Eisenhower, who had been a war leader, and it's hard to describe what I think was this very strong sense of trust in Eisenhower. All of the men, as I said, were all veterans, and Eisenhower had been the supreme Allied commander in Europe, and so many of these guys who were serving in Europe, they had a pretty direct experience with his leadership style and the fact that they had won, and he had led them to victory. They knew that Eisenhower wasn't gonna be stupid, and even though he was old, he wasn't—he was a very peace-oriented president. I think that this was very reassuring and helped to balance out some of our fears about nuclear war.

We had an all-white neighborhood. I had found out recently that there were redline policies in Richfield, and certainly in Edina, so there were large swaths of two of the neighborhoods that I lived in that excluded blacks. When I was at Richfield high school in 1965, '66, out of a school of about 2,000 students, I think we had—well, I could count the number of people of color on the fingers of my one hand, literally. Okay? There just weren't any people of color to speak of. So, the racial issues of the day were very much at a distance. Richfield was an inner ring suburb, so our border, our northern border in Richfield was directly on to the southern border of Minneapolis, and we knew that there were certain schools that had heavy concentrations of black students, South High School being one of 'em, Roosevelt being another. I don't think that Washburn had a big concentration of black students at that time. Once again, I think that that might have been a center of redlining there.

The racial issues were very much at a distance. I would say that lots of folks in our neighborhood were racist. They had very bad things to say about blacks and were very resistant to the Civil Rights Movement, so that was not a real good thing. Oh, gosh. Well, the sexual liberation movement of the mid to late '60s started to show up. There was a pretty good balance of boys and girls in our neighborhood, and there were the typical tensions at that time about dating and sex, and boy, I remember so well the—this is gonna sound a little weird to you, okay, but it made sense to a lot of people when I was in junior high.

Okay, so there was this dress style in my junior high years, so this would be 1962, '63, '64. The dress style for girls, it was called a moo moo dress, okay? It comes from Hawaiian fashion, and it's a loose-fitting, long dress. There's no waist to it, okay? So, it just kind of hangs there. Well, there was a little tempest in a teapot. Oh, there were dress codes all over the place for us kids, okay? Moo moos were forbidden. You could not wear a moo moo for the girls, and it was not real clear exactly why wearing a moo moo was forbidden, but the underlying, unspoken but still present issue was that moo moos made you look pregnant, okay? Yeah. This was a horrible thing. We were not to even talk about sex, or about pregnancies, or about anything like that, okay?

It was highly repressed, and it was just really a repressed time. There was no discussion about homosexuality, transgender issues, or anything like that. That was—oh, God. That would be really the end of topics to be talked about, which of course, meant that it was repressed and we didn't understand it. You know? It certainly didn't help, so let's see. Other social issues. Well, race, as I said, was one, gender issues definitely, nuclear war.

CS: Yeah, you hit a lot of the topics even that I would follow up with prompts to ask. It's pretty good.

PH: Uh-huh, okay. I would say that those are the ones that pretty much capture what the key issues were for a lot of people.

CS: Okay. I do have one prompt that I would like to add in.

PH: Sure.

CS: In general, how safe or unsafe did you feel in light of these issues?

PH: Oh.

CS: Yeah, go ahead.

PH: Well, okay. In big, broad world politics views, I would say that we felt a little bit uneasy. As I said, we were constantly being told about the nuclear war threat, and we did these duck-and-cover drills, and so on. There was this underlying sense of unease. On the other hand, in terms of our neighborhood and in terms of the neighborhood that we lived in, we felt very, very safe, and as I've said two or three times now, we used to feel that we could ride our bicycles almost anywhere. Yeah, we did not—we really were not afraid to get around. Now, maybe that was kinda foolish because there certainly were forces out there that could've made things bad for us, but we just felt very, very safe and confident about the world that we lived in, at least our own little world, anyway.

CS: Yeah. Okay. This is the end of our interview. Your responses are invaluable, and we really appreciate that you took the time to do this today. Thank you so much for participating.

PH: You're welcome. Thank you.