

Nevada Test Site Oral History Project
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Interview with
Lilias Gordon

May 14, 2004
Las Vegas, Nevada

Interview Conducted By
Suzanne Becker

© 2007 by UNLV Libraries

Oral history is a method of collecting historical information through recorded interviews conducted by an interviewer/researcher with an interviewee/narrator who possesses firsthand knowledge of historically significant events. The goal is to create an archive which adds relevant material to the existing historical record. Oral history recordings and transcripts are primary source material and do not represent the final, verified, or complete narrative of the events under discussion. Rather, oral history is a spoken remembrance or dialogue, reflecting the interviewee's memories, points of view and personal opinions about events in response to the interviewer's specific questions. Oral history interviews document each interviewee's personal engagement with the history in question. They are unique records, reflecting the particular meaning the interviewee draws from her/his individual life experience.

Produced by:

The Nevada Test Site Oral History Project

Departments of History and Sociology
University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 89154-5020

Director and Editor

Mary Palevsky

Principal Investigators

Robert Futrell, Dept. of Sociology

Andrew Kirk, Dept. of History

The material in the *Nevada Test Site Oral History Project* archive is based upon work supported by the U.S. Dept. of Energy under award number DEFG52-03NV99203 and the U.S. Dept. of Education under award number P116Z040093.

Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in these recordings and transcripts are those of project participants—oral history interviewees and/or oral history interviewers—and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Energy or the U.S. Department of Education.

Interview with Liliias Gordon

May 14, 2004

Conducted by Suzanne Becker

Table of Contents

Introduction: birth (1938) childhood in Michigan, family background, education, early work with General Motors	1
Education and travel in Europe, marriage and family	3
Atmosphere at the Presidio (San Francisco, CA) during the Cuban missile crisis (1961), move to Las Vegas, NV (1963), children, description of Las Vegas in 1963	4
Memories of underground tests at the NTS (after 1963) and of atmospheric testing (1952-1954)	6
Work for Adjutant General's Office, Sixth Army Headquarters (Presidio, San Francisco, CA)	7
Education: return to college (late 1960s)	8
Formulation of thoughts concerning war and the NTS, and solidification of resistance to nuclear testing	9
Involvement in NTS protest movement and ERA: Mother's Day, the Nevada Lenten Experience, Peace Links, People of Faith for Social Justice, Catholic Worker, Pace e Bene	11
Talks about Peace March for Nuclear Disarmament (1980s)	17
How activism influenced career as teacher and librarian at Bishop Gorman HS	19
Opening channels of communication: Peace Links and visit of Soviet women to Las Vegas, NV	21
Political beliefs of her children, military service of Jeffrey Allen Gordon	23
Opinion of general consensus of Las Vegans re: work at NTS, her "apolitical years," and growth of political thought	27
Evolution of beliefs from Cold War advocate to peace activist	29
Impressions of peace activist Louis Vitale	31
Thoughts on resumption of nuclear testing	33
Arguments against nuclear waste storage at Yucca Mountain	34
Conclusion: opinions on apathy and need for involvement in antinuclear protest movement	36

Interview with Liliias Gordon

May 14, 2004 in Las Vegas, NV

Conducted by Suzanne Becker

[00:00:00] Begin Track 2, Disk 1.

Suzanne Becker: *Great. So I guess I just wanted to begin by getting just a little bit of background about you, where you grew up, where you came from, family, basically your roots.*

Liliias Gordon: Well, I grew up in Michigan. I had a mother who lived to be almost ninety-five. She was a Canadian citizen 'til the day she died.

Where in Canada was she from?

Edmonton, Alberta. My father was born in Revere, Massachusetts but his family were mostly Canadians, so they went back to Canada after his birth. And I was born in 1938. I'm sixty-five years old. And I was born in Michigan. I'm the only one of the family, I tell them, of my other two sisters that can be president, because they were both born in Canada.

Are you making that run soon?

Not soon. My father died, when I was about five-and-a-half, in an industrial accident during the war and my mother remarried—

During World War II?

World War II, yes, *the* war. During World War II, he was working on the gyroscope project actually. And an interesting sideline—I don't know if you want to include it—

Absolutely.

My mother wanted an investigation done into his death because she suspected and several other people suspected sabotage. But my father's brother, one of my uncles, talked her out of it, saying that since she was at that time in the country illegally they would probably deport her. We think

since then that he was a Nazi sympathizer and that that's why he did not want the investigation made. But that's family lore and I don't know that there's any justification for that.

What was he involved in? What was he doing? In the military?

My father?

Yes.

He was working on the gyroscope project. He was a journeyman steamfitter. He was working and he was blasted out of a steam tunnel and burned rather severely and died a few days later of his injuries.

My mother remarried. I had a stepfather for the rest of my growing-up years after about age eight or nine. We moved from the country into town. I went to California for two years for my first two years of high school because I had a lot of allergy and ear trouble. Went back to Michigan, finished high school. I worked a year at General Motors tech center and then went back to California to start college.

What were you doing at GM? Just—

I was pretty much a messenger girl with the styling division. They made us dress up and look good because it was a tourist attraction. Not a tourist attraction so much as they had a lot of industrial people going through because it was new then, the General Motors technical center, and the styling division was kind of the pearl there.

What is the styling division?

That's where they designed the cars, in secret studios that we were never allowed in.

Only to bring messages to.

Only to bring them to the door. Yes, it was all very hush-hush.

When I graduated from high school, I was an exchange student. I left home and I was in Germany for ten days with a host family but they ran out of host families for all of the students so I went to Denmark and spent six weeks with a student group there called Lisle Fellowship. The sponsor of my exchange program was Youth for Understanding, which started in Michigan and was very small at the time. Now it's quite a large group. Then I spent the six weeks in Denmark with Lisle Fellowship and another week in Copenhagen at a girl's apartment, just kind of walking the city, and then a week in Stockholm, Sweden, walking the city again, mostly because we didn't have any money to do much else. That started my lifelong desire to travel and I've been doing it ever since.

I went to California, went to college for a year, left college and got married and had three children, and they were all born in the San Francisco Bay area, one in Oakland, two in San Francisco at the army base, the Presidio there.

What is your husband's name?

[00:05:00] My husband's name at the time—I'm divorced now—my husband's name was Henry R. Gordon. He was in the Judge Advocate General's Corps of the United States Army. Had worked for the Atomic Energy Commission before he went into the army, and when he decided to resign his commission he sent out resumes to most of the Atomic Energy subcontractors. An interesting sideline, again I don't know if you want to include it, is the fact that he had several appointments for interviews and one day we came home late from visiting my sister across the bay and I looked out my kitchen window at the headquarters building. I had worked for the Adjutant General's Office in the Sixth Army headquarters building and so I knew what the rooms were, and there was a light on up on the third floor and I said to my husband, *Either some janitor's in trouble for leaving the light on or we are because that's the war room.* And the next day the Cuban Missile Crisis broke. All leaves were cancelled so

we were a little concerned about what was going to happen when Hank got out of the army if we did not have a job. Fortunately, that was just a short-term thing, but then he was able to go ahead and have his interviews.

I was just curious about, with the Cuban Missile Crisis, how the atmosphere on the base was and—

Well, for the first time since World War II there was a guard on the gate. There had not been a guard on the gate during the Korean War. The base was still open. It at that time was part of the tourist route in San Francisco, but they had huge spotlights that if you came in at night they shone right on you and you were looked over fairly carefully. However, most people entering were not stopped.

But it was tense. We didn't know, number one, if Hank would get any leave to go for his interviews or if, number two, he would even be released from the army. Of course, if things had escalated he probably would've been kept in the army. He was in the Judge Advocate General's office at the time.

But again, he did have his interviews. He was hired by Holmes and Narver. We spent two months in California, in the Los Angeles area, but we knew they were sending about two hundred people up to Las Vegas to open their office here and so I think Hank went in every day and begged them to send him to Las Vegas because we did not like Los Angeles.

So he was transferred here. We spent a month back east while he went to a procurement law course, and then we came to Las Vegas and settled in.

And at the time you had the three boys?

I had all three of my children.

What are their names?

Their names are Jeffrey Allen, Scott Douglas, and Andrew Patrick. Jeffrey was born in Oakland and Scott and Andrew were born at the Presidio of San Francisco, Letterman Army Hospital.

And they were quite young when we came here. Andy was nine months old. So this was 1963. I think it was March 3rd that we came here, so I count that as my anniversary year. We flew back from the Washington, D.C. area and lived in an apartment for a couple of months till our house was finished and then we moved into our house.

What was Las Vegas like in 1963?

It was very small. There was a two-lane highway out of town in four directions. I should say there *were* two-lane highways out of town. They were named after where they went and they still are, kind of: Boulder Highway, the L.A. highway, the Salt Lake highway, and the Tonopah highway. They were none of them four lanes; they were all two lanes. You could get almost anywhere in town in maybe fifteen minutes. After a while, you began to know so many people that you almost never went somewhere without running into someone you knew. And it was a fairly decent place to live. The humidity was much lower then. And I still consider it a good place to raise children. Our children were involved in school and athletic activities most of their lives, and two of them still live here. One of them would not move back here for anything.

[00:10:00] *You mentioned that you have a son that lives in New Mexico?*

He lives in Albuquerque, and he is also an attorney and does quite a lot of work for the Los Alamos lab.

Really.

Yes, he does most of their employment law. And so we've maintained our connection.

Was he in the military also?

No, he was not. My oldest son was the only one who was in the military, and he went into the army for two years, I believe it was, and then the Army National Guard. He is no longer in the guard and I'm glad. He is probably not but his wife was not very happy with the time the guard took so he resigned.

Wow. So upon moving to Las Vegas, I'm just wondering what some of your initial impressions were and particularly like memories of the test site and activities and sort of what you thought about, all of that.

I was very apolitical at the time. I was very concerned with raising three children and keeping a marriage together, so I did not do an awful lot then. My memories are of occasional tests. When we moved to Arabian Road and had a swimming pool, we used to go out and watched the water slosh back and forth in the swimming pool when there were tests.

Really! And that was from the underground.

Yes, I believe by then they were underground. In fact, they were all underground after we came.

Yes. I'm not very good with dates so I don't remember any—

Nineteen sixty-two, I think, is when they stopped.

Yes, we were just after that. Another thing I forgot, when I was in high school out in California I was living up on a ridge between Hayward and San Leandro area and Castro Valley, and we were right on top of the Hayward Fault. But I can remember early one morning before daylight having the curtains open in my bedroom and seeing the sky light up as if it were daylight, and that was an above ground test. It would've been somewhere between 1952 and 1954.

I'm not quite familiar with the geography of California. How far is that from the test site or from Las Vegas? It seems like it's pretty far.

It's a good long way because it would take, at that time without any freeways much, it would take about twelve hours to drive up there.

So that's a good distance.

It's a good distance. It's probably over five hundred miles. But we were told it was a flash from an above ground test.

Really. What did you think about that?

I was just fascinated by it at that time. And you must remember then I went to work—I guess you don't remember because I didn't tell you. One of the things I did when I lived in California after I finished school, after I spent a year in college, I went to work for the Sixth Army headquarters. As I said, I had worked at the Adjutant General's Office. One of my jobs there was to run a quarterly troop strength report, and that meant that I had a list of what troops were required in every unit in the Sixth Army area, and then I would get a list, a report in of how many actual people there were in each grade in each unit, and I would have to consolidate all that into a report that told us what units were up to staff and what weren't. One of the units that I did a troop strength report on was Camp Desert Rock, and years later on Palm Sunday one year, and I don't remember what year it was, we were down at—we used to be allowed to go in over the cattle guard and go down a ways on the road, and they had set up benches with just lumber and rocks and they set up a card table as an altar and we had a Palm Sunday service on the grounds of Camp Desert Rock. And I sat there thinking, my God, years ago I used to run troop strength reports for the unit that was here, and it was amazing to me to feel that I had come full circle. We had walked down that road carrying palm branches and singing, and there I was sitting on the grounds of Camp Desert Rock.

And initially when you ran those reports, you probably thought nothing of it.

No. I was a military employee, I had been, and that was part of my job and I was very politically [00:15:00] unaware, I guess is what you would say, at that time.

How did you come to be a military employee?

Those were the jobs that were available. I put in a lot of applications and that was one.

And I'm assuming that that's how also you met your husband.

Yes, I did. I met him at the Presidio and we were married on the Presidio.

Oh wow. So I guess I'm sort of curious as to what was the turning point when you sort of became a little bit more political and aware of things at the test site, and you also mentioned that you're a former teacher and librarian?

I went back to college after my children were born and I was very much a housewife and raising small children. I had my children fairly close together, like three within three years.

Wow, you must have been very busy.

Yes, I was, and moving to a totally strange community. I knew absolutely no one here when we moved here. So life was a bit of a struggle. And then I went back to college, and I had started out my first year in college majoring in political science, and I changed my major to English and education because I thought that would be a better profession for a mother with children. And I went in and I didn't even know the local jargon. One of my first teachers kept talking about "your bag" and the other students were talking about "your bag" and I had no idea what they were talking about.

Was this still in the 1960s?

It was in the late 1960s, I believe. And I asked one day and he said, What are you, a housewife?

And I said, well, yes.

And he said, well, that's your bag.

That was my explanation. So I had a lot to learn. Students in those days would go down and picket the post office as antiwar demonstrators because that was the only federal building in town.

The post office down by campus?

Downtown. No, downtown. Right downtown. The old post office building right near city hall. And they would go down and picket the post office as their part of antiwar demonstrations.

I had ideas in my head and I didn't talk much about them and I just kind of kept them to myself, but I was formulating my thoughts regarding war and things like that. I had three sons and I was concerned about that. When I had worked at the Sixth Army headquarters, a couple of the officers that I knew there had gone to Vietnam as military advisors, MAGs. That was our involvement in Vietnam at the time. Again, as military employee and a military wife I was not particularly antiwar, although I was concerned. The turning point for me, I think, was seeing—I really don't know; it was a gradual thing.

One of the landmarks I remember is seeing the movie *Coming Home*. And I walked out of that and someone who was obviously very disturbed by the movie and was an acquaintance of one of the people I was with said, Well, what did you think of that? and I said—this was at a time when things were kind of hot in Central America, which has gone on—I could pick a year and it could be any year—but I remember saying, Well, I think if things get any tougher or any hotter in Central America, I want to take my sons and go to Canada. They were teenagers at the time, so it was quite a bit later.

Now, did you have a dual citizenship because—?

No, I've always had just American citizenship. I've often thought that I could probably go to Canada and claim citizenship based on my mother. I don't know. I don't know what their laws are. I've never looked into it because I would not give up my American citizenship.

At that point, though, I was feeling very strongly about sending my sons off to a war that I didn't agree with. I had a teaching assistant in one of my classes and her name was Cynthia Cunningham and I think, listening to her and talking to her and getting to know her as a friend, I [00:20:00] began to really solidify my feelings about the test site, especially the test site. One of the things that I was concerned about with the test site was the fact that when they did underground testing, if the wind was blowing toward Las Vegas they didn't do it, and I thought to myself, Gee, that's interesting. They cancelled the test today because the wind's blowing toward us. What happens when the wind's blowing in other directions? And I really didn't know much about Downwinders at that time but I was questioning in my own mind what was going on.

I also remember at the time that some time, and again I'm not very good with years, the dump at Beatty was open and they were putting a lot of things there, supposedly dry waste. There were rumors about the people of Beatty going down and digging up tools that had some radiation, and the fact that there was concern about—they used to say Beatty didn't need street lights; it lit up on its own. And these were jokes but to me they didn't sound very funny. And I do remember an incident when a truck went through town, supposedly carrying dry waste to Beatty, and it was found out to have been carrying wet waste and had been leaking. They said there was no radiation leak, but the fact that a truck that was supposedly carrying dry waste came through our town, number one, was carrying waste that shouldn't have—that incident stuck in my mind for a long, long time because number one, I don't trust big business to follow the rules, which they weren't. Number two, in following the rules I don't trust them to package waste as carefully as is required. Obviously if a load went through here dripping there was a problem.

And it came through Las Vegas dripping?

Yes, it went through on our highways. And again, I don't remember what year that was but I remember reading it in the paper. Those were things that really solidified my resistance to not only nuclear testing but when they proposed the dump, and that's why I'm opposed to it to this day.

I started getting involved in the demonstrations at the test site, and again I don't know what year that was. One of the first ones was the demonstration when we were allowed on the site and we carried our palm branches down. I don't know that that was the first one I went to but it was certainly one of the earliest. That one stands out in my mind, and another one that stands out in my mind is one that was done on Mother's Day. And my feelings were fairly well-known at Bishop Gorman High School where I taught and was the librarian. And one of the students came up and said, Are you going to the test site on Mother's Day?

And I said, Yes.

And she said, Would you take me with you?

And I said, If you have your parents' permission.

And I will not give her name because that young lady's father was very involved politically in Nevada politics. They said she could go. I've often wondered what they felt about it because I don't remember frankly what his stand was on nuclear testing, and I'm sure he's opposed to the nuclear dump at this time.

And is he still in politics right now?

He's not in public office now but he's still, I'm sure, very involved. But he does not hold a public office at this time.

So his daughter and I went out and it was a Mother's Day demonstration. It was a Mother's Day activity run by women for women, and one of the things that stands out in my

mind is that Martin Sheen, who has been very generous in lending his name to the anti-testing stand, came in to the tent. There was a big tent there that we were having speeches, and he came in very quietly and he came up the side and sat down on an empty chair, very unobtrusively, and I was so impressed because he did not take away anything from what the women were doing. He [00:25:00] very obviously was there to lend his support, not for his own aggrandizement, and I was very impressed with that, because he did come in so quietly. They called him up to the stand and introduced him but he very much deferred to the women that day. He was one of the first to walk across the cattle guard and be arrested. And as I said he was very generous in lending his name and his prestige to these—mostly what I did in the early days is I opened up my house to people who came for the Nevada Lenten. It was called the Nevada Lenten Experience or something like that in the early years [Lenten Desert Experience became Nevada Desert Experience].

Nevada Lenten?

It was run with Lent and they did a forty-days' thing. And people came in and out of town and I offered what beds I had available whenever I could, and floor space. One day I was introduced to a young person and I said, Well, welcome to my house, and he said, Actually I slept here last night. He had come in after I went to bed and left before I got up that morning. So I never knew who was there. Sometimes I was even not in town. Because it was during Easter week, we had the week off usually from Gorman and I went to my sister's in California quite a bit.

Oh. But you had just opened your house for folks to use?

Yes. This was after I was divorced.

Do you mind if I ask what year that was?

Nineteen seventy-six was the year I got my divorce. And I moved into a house on Palma Vista Avenue then. And it was a large house and as my children grew older and graduated and went off to college, I did have more room so I made that available to them. And I began to have back trouble so I didn't do as much going out to demonstrate. And that was my way of supporting them.

That sounds like it's a very involved way, though.

Usually, as I said, I quite often wasn't home. In fact, one time they had a party at my house and I was in California. They had asked my permission to have people come over. It made a gathering place for them, kind of away from the center, and a chance to, I'm sure, relax more.

How many people on average, do you know, used to come here?

Used to stay there?

Yes.

Oh no, it wasn't very many that would stay overnight. Maybe five or six. Again, I don't know how many slept on the floor in the living room. That's one of the advantages to being deaf in one ear. You don't really hear a lot.

I have a question, if we could go back for just a minute.

Certainly.

I'm just curious. You said the Mother's Day demonstration, the one that you attended at least, was organized by women. Do you remember any of their names offhand and if they're still involved and still in the area?

No, I don't. I'm sorry, I don't.

That's OK. I'm just curious.

My biggest contact was with Cynthia Cunningham, and I was very involved. She would just kind of drag me into some few things. We worked on the Equal Rights Amendment. I didn't do a lot. Then again I was struggling with a marriage and small children so I hadn't learned yet how to budget time very well. I remember one demonstration, and this was after I was involved with Peace Links. Cynthia was the president of the Peace Links organization here in town and through my knowledge of her I joined Peace Links. And one time Betty Bumpers, who was the founder of Peace Links, came out and was part of a demonstration. And another woman, oh, what's her name? Wasserman. I have it in my book. Is very involved with the UN, and I did not hear from her this year but in other years I've heard from her and she's been very involved with the UN and antinuclear testing. Hannah Wasserman, from New York, came out with Betty and I've kept in touch with her through the years. Betty Bumpers is the wife of former Senator Dale Bumpers [00:30:00] of Arkansas. She's still involved quite a *bit*. We've disbanded Peace Links. She felt that their mission was over and that other groups were able to take on some of their projects. But she still keeps a network going of people she's in contact with, and I had a long talk with her this spring and as always she's so inspiring. Of all the role models I've ever had, I think Cynthia Cunningham and Betty Bumpers were two of the major role models for me. They're just women whom I admire extremely.

Cynthia was also involved in a group that met on Monday mornings, and they started out working on the Equal Rights Amendment. They were called People of Faith for Social Justice, and it was a group of lay and clergy from many different denominations who would meet early in the morning and they were working to pass the Equal Rights Amendment. When that fell through with a great thud, they kind of drifted away. Most of the clergy were busy with other projects and things and there was a nucleus of mostly women who continued to meet, and I used

to hear stories about their meetings and the things they discussed and the books they read, and for years envied them tremendously. Since I've retired and after I had some family responsibilities, I've been able to join the group, and we meet Monday mornings. Not every Monday morning but as many as we can all get together. We read a variety of books and things and discuss them. And lately we haven't been reading any books. We've been bringing in a lot of publications off the Internet and things and discussing them. And we do a lot of letter writing, phone calling. Some of the members have protested our involvement in the Gulf War, down in front of the Federal Building. And we're all involved in different things but we still keep those meetings going.

How long have you been involved in that group?

With that group?

Yes, with the Monday morning group.

Probably about the last maybe six or seven years, off and on. I'm gone quite a bit. I'm trying to remember exactly but I really don't.

That's OK.

Time just runs on with me. I'm not particularly conscious of years. But I think it's been a good five or six years. Do you want to turn that off for a minute? Can you stop it?

I can—

Pause it.

Yes.

I have to think back—

[00:33:15] End Track 2, Disk 1.

[00:00:00] Begin Track 3, Disk 1.

—got involved with it.

Right. How many people are involved in the group at this point?

At this point, we just lost one a few weeks ago, one of the long-time members, and we've gained a couple and we have some who come intermittently. The nucleus of us, I would say, is one, two, three, four—six or seven of us are the most faithful about being there and then maybe three or four more that come occasionally. And one moved away not too long ago to be near family. I'm sixty-five and for a long time I was the second youngest member of the group so you can imagine attrition is setting in. I think we have a couple of younger ones now. As people retire they can start coming to the meetings. So we have another teacher who came in this year who's retired but she has a lot of family responsibilities so she doesn't always make it. Most of them I knew through Peace Links, and many of our different projects I would run into them.

And are they also involved with test site issues or—?

Yes. Yes. Sister Rosemary Lynch is I'm sure a name you have. Sister Rosemary Lynch lectures and does workshops on nonviolent protests, and she goes all over the world doing that.

I actually think Mary Palevsky talked with her last week, so—

Oh, did she? She's in the Monday morning group, and Sister Klaryta [Antoszevska], who is another Franciscan nun, and she mostly works with refugees but she's also involved in our group. Some of the names that I will give you later for you to contact are also in the Monday morning group, are also involved in other activities too, as well. A lot of us are involved with Catholic Worker, either as volunteers or contributors. That's feeding the homeless but they're also nonviolent people. And a lot of the people who work with Catholic Worker also work with Peace Bene which is the Franciscan group. Sister Rosemary is on their board.

Has that been a fairly large part of what influenced your activism as well?

The Monday morning group?

The Monday morning group and sort of the social—

The network.

Yes.

Yes. Yes, very definitely. When the Peace March came through—you would not remember that I'm sure—there was this grandiose march for nuclear disarmament.

That was mid-1980s, I think, was that, or—?

I can give you the exact date if you want to pause that again. I have that. I have a file.

OK. I'll get it after we're done.

OK. The Peace March started out, we got T-shirts and we were going to march with them through Las Vegas, and they bogged down in Barstow. They started out with this huge operation that was way beyond their ability to fund. And so they almost disbanded and they sat in Barstow and we had contact back and forth with them. And this was the great Peace March for Nuclear Disarmament. And so we had been expecting to accompany them through Las Vegas and they didn't come when we planned on it. So when they finally did reorganize and come through, most of us who are always involved in a lot of other activities had commitments for that afternoon when they marched down the Strip, that there was just no way we could be there. And that was a source of great frustration, of course.

But a friend of mine, my neighbor, housed one of the marchers who had to come into town because he had an ear infection, and she housed him for a while and then had family [00:05:00] coming in to visit so I said I would house him at my place, and he was still not in real good shape from this ear infection, and the wind was blowing a lot—it was early spring—so he did not march on the Strip. And when they marched out to around Apex and put up their camp, a

friend and I drove him out then to the camp. That was an amazing experience because when you come up over that hill there's a flat area to the right, just before the turn-off where the old Las Vegas Boulevard used to come in to I-15, or does come in, I guess you'd say. Anyhow, there was this huge colorful array of one big tent and then I think it was three medium-size tents and then all the individual colored tents around them, because they had little villages, and we helped this guy find all his belongings that had just been loaded in the bus or the truck and brought from Barstow where he had left the group. And so we just kind of wandered around and saw what was going on.

And that was pretty much the last of my contact with the Peace March until they went to New York and then they marched down toward Washington, D.C. And I was fortunate enough to be able to go to Washington, D.C. and met some friends there who had formerly lived in Las Vegas, and we all stood at the park under the Nevada sign. They had all the states that they had marched through, they had little stakes there, and you could just stand there and hope to meet people you'd met. I never did see the guy who stayed with us. I couldn't find him, but another couple of people came and stood under the Nevada sign, and a young man who had fallen in love with a young girl when they were in Las Vegas came by and found them. And so we all talked and he was very interesting. He had done the entire march on an artificial limb, except for about two weeks when they had him doing clerical work on the bus while the blister on his stump healed. He had a blister that I guess just covered the whole end of his stump, and until that healed he rode on the bus, but the rest of that march he made. I invited him to come back to Vegas. I knew he was going to come back to see that young lady anyhow. So he contacted me when he came to visit the young lady, and I had him as a guest speaker at Bishop Gorman High

School, and we brought the government classes into the library and he spoke to them. So it was very interesting.

Do you know if he's still involved in things?

No, I don't. I've lost track of him now. I am not a good letter writer. E-mail has helped me to keep track of people a little better, but I've lost track of a lot of people that way.

I'm curious how your, actually, activism fit in with your teaching and if they informed one another in any ways or if it inspired your teaching or if it got worked in there in any way, shape, or form.

Well, I wasn't teaching in the classroom at the time. I was running the library and media center. My teaching was pretty much limited to teaching reference and research, freshman orientation, that sort of thing. It was well-known at the school that I was of a liberal bent. It was well-known that I did go to some of the demonstrations. I did not flaunt buttons and things at school because I don't feel that's appropriate. If the opportunity arose, I did tell people what my beliefs were. I was also a field deputy registrar of voters, while I worked at Gorman, for quite a few years. As students turned eighteen I encouraged them to register to vote. It was well-known that I was a Democrat but the law requires that you register anyone who asks you to register them, and I believe very firmly in that. I am pretty much a law-abiding person. In fact I have three sons and as each of them turned eighteen I registered them to vote and the first two registered Republican [00:10:00]. I felt like a total failure at the time but the fact that they felt comfortable in doing so is something I'm proud of. My third one finally registered Democratic and I was thrilled.

Where is he, just out of curiosity?

He is here in town. He's also an attorney. Two of my sons are attorneys. And he is still a Democrat. My middle son who is registered Republican is rather apolitical. I don't think he

votes, which is much to my dismay but I keep working on him. And Jeff's politics you'd have to discuss with him because I know you've met him.

Where were we? Oh, when I registered students to vote—in fact most of them did register Republican because Bishop Gorman is a school that has a great many professional people's children going there and there for the most part a lot of them are fairly conservative.

Where is that located here?

Right now it's located on Maryland Parkway between Oakey and Sahara. It's a Catholic high school, one of the only two in the state, and they're starting a major building project soon to move out near the beltway, I think Russell and something.

So when I registered and if the students were not decided what they wanted to register as, I did not try to influence them to register Democratic, but if they would ask me, well, what's the difference? I stated my preference and I said, Now you have to realize that I am a Democrat so I'm going to put it in a much more favorable light, and I would tell them what independence did and something, and I usually said that as a Democrat I protest against the testing at the nuclear test site and that sort of thing. So I did make my views known. And I believe very firmly in covering both sides of a question. I was a debater in college for one year and so I feel very firmly that you have to look at both sides of a question. So when I bought material for the library I bought material on both sides of many questions. And so those were the ways my activism showed up in my career.

Great. How long were you with Bishop Gorman High?

Twenty-two years. I taught English for two years and I ran the library and media center for twenty.

Great. I think one of the initial times we met you mentioned something about one of the Soviet women came through?

That was part of Peace Links. Peace Links national had sponsored a visit by quite a few Soviet women, and one day I was talking to Cynthia Cunningham at public radio and she said that they were going to have three Soviet women come to visit Las Vegas, and she said, I'm trying to come up with different things for them to do because I know they're doing this, this, and this in other communities.

And I said, well, if they visited schools, did they visit any private schools?

And she said, I don't think so.

And I said, Don't you think they need to know that we have a choice? Sometimes it requires sacrifice on our part but we can send our children to alternative schools.

And so I talked to my principal and he was willing and we had a visit from the three Soviet women. And there was quite bit on television about it. We made the news and of course that was a plus for Gorman in many ways. It's always nice to have your name in the news. I don't know if they received any protests about us hosting Soviet women. If they did they didn't mention it to me. But I don't think so. I think pretty much it was a very favorable thing.

Who were the women?

One was a medical doctor from Moscow. One was the head of education in Uzbekistan, the minister of education. And the third woman was a seamstress from Leningrad. But she was also, and here's where my bad memory comes in, I can't think of the name for their governing body, **[00:15:00]** but she was a member of the Communist Party, of the governing body. And she was very much in charge. She said something in Russian and the minister of education of Uzbekistan—we were talking, we were at a member's home, we were picking them up to go to a

dinner, and we were just socializing and she said something in Russian and the others jumped up and moved immediately. It was just one, two, three, you knew who was in charge. And we took them to a dinner. There were maybe four or five—no, I can't remember now. I think there were three dinners, but we took two of them to one dinner, so maybe there were only two dinners. And just spent a social evening with people.

What was the overall purpose for them being here?

At that point I think we were just trying to open the channels of communication. If there was an overriding agenda, I've forgotten it now. This was quite some time ago. But I think it was more opening channels of communication: What can we do to keep our countries from going to war? We were also—gosh, I've forgotten so much about that visit. I don't remember what else they did while they were here and—no, I just really don't remember. These are some of the blanks I have in my memory from having heart surgery.

Do you at all remember what their views were about the test site and about testing that was going on here at all? Was that a stop on their tour?

I don't think so. I don't think so. I should've gotten out the videotapes and reviewed to see if there was anything that would remind me of what went on, and I will do that and get in touch with you later if I—

OK. Just curious.

Because I think somewhere in that mess I have tapes of some of the news broadcasts that were made then. They were just brief blurbs but I have copies of them.

Do you remember what their whole take on it was, with the war on testing and—?

Well, this was definitely a sinful city and they showed them visiting a casino, I remember, and they were not very impressed. But we were not able to do a lot of one-on-one discussion with them, at least I wasn't, and so I really don't have any feel for what they had to say.

Just curious. Another thing that I'm curious about, if you don't mind me asking, was you mentioned that as you registered your kids to vote and two of them registered Republican, and I'm sure as they got older they became more politically aware and active as well, and just wondering how that worked between you guys or if they had any thoughts—

One of my sons who is registered a Republican and votes tends to locally vote very much Democratic, and I think a lot of that is because over the years I've known some of the people who were holding Democratic offices and so he's known about them or known them personally, and I think some of it is they just agree. I think he's basically very liberal about a lot of things and just has some conservative ideas, and that's true with all of us, sure. Jeffrey is my only son who was in the military, and I used to think it was kind of fun that when he was living at home and I would have any of the protesters staying at the house, he always managed to have some item of his National Guard uniform around. Of course he was doing drills and going for meetings and things, but if he pressed his uniform or shined his boots they kind of would be in the downstairs area rather than up in his room. One time my neighbor and I were looking at—he had two pair of army boots that he had polished for his National Guard drill that weekend [00:20:00] and they were sitting in the middle of the living room floor and Patricia, who's another one who's gotten me into a lot of things, said, We ought to stick some flowers in it. So I went outside and somewhere I had a sprig of narcissus and I planted them in one of the boots. Well, the next morning when he came down early he very carefully took the sprig of narcissus out of the boots that he wanted to wear that day and put them in the other pair. So we've had to

agree to disagree. We don't do a lot of discussing of politics and my stand. I did promise him that when he went to work for Bechtel that I would, one, not get myself arrested until his clearance came through at least, and I never had any intention of getting arrested but I told him that, and I also told him that if I was out at the test site demonstrating at the gate and he happened to be going in I wouldn't yell, Hi, son. And that was kind of a running joke with us. But we had to finally come to a stand that we respected each others' beliefs and we respected each others' sincerity of belief and that we would just agree to disagree. He still tries to talk me into things occasionally and I just tell him that this isn't going to work. But he is also the one, I don't know if you've seen the patio on the west side of the building on Flamingo where the history museum is, the new test site? There's a patio with memorial paving. Well, he's the one that put the brick there with my name on it, and it says "Lilias Gordon, Peace Activist." So even though he tries to argue me out of my views occasionally, I know that he respects them. And I'm very proud of him and of the job he does. I was proud of his job in the military and I'm proud of what he does at Bechtel.

And what did he do for the military while he was in?

When he was in the army, when we invaded Grenada he called me—he was at Fort Bragg at the time—and he said, I just wanted you to know I'm still at Fort Bragg. I thought you might be worrying.

And I said, well, I said, I knew you weren't part of any of the units that went in but I also know you tend to volunteer, so yes, I was a little worried.

And he said, well, I'm still at Fort Bragg.

And a few days later he called and said, well, you hit the nail on the head essentially. I am on my way to Grenada.

And I knew at that point there wasn't a lot of shooting going on and what shooting was going on was at the troops that were up in the jungle trying to locate the illicit transmitters. And I also knew that when he finished basic training he went to Massachusetts and was trained in operating a direction-finder Jeep. So I knew what he was doing in Grenada. And he wrote me a letter that said, Don't worry, Mom, they only shoot at officers. He was a private at the time, I believe. And I wanted a great big sign on his back, "Private." But I also knew he'd been shot at. He said, They haven't shot at me yet, and I knew darn well he had been. And he admitted to me when he came back, yes. Yes, they'd shot at his Jeep and they'd shot at the house he was billeted in. So again I didn't agree with why we were in Grenada. I was very much opposed to it, not just because I had a son in the military but because I was opposed to the whole reason. And I'm proud of what he did. So it's a very mixed feeling.

When he was in the National Guard here he went to officer training school and he was commissioned and one of his jobs in the National Guard was as commanding officer of the Seventy-Second Military Police Unit that had gone to the first Gulf War and their mobilization grade was like a D or a D-minus or something dreadful. They were not very well prepared. When they came back they put Jeff in charge of them as commanding officer and I believe their next mobilization grade was an A-minus. He did wonderful things with them. He was very caring about his troops. I remember he had some minor surgery done at one time and I went over to see if he needed anything during the day—his wife was at work—and he told me that he was going [00:25:00] to a funeral and I said, You're supposed to be home resting, and he said, Well, this is one of my troops and he lost both of his parents in an accident, and he said, I'm going. And he was in a lot of discomfort and I talked him into taking a pain pill and then I said, Jeff, I will drive you to that funeral if you insist on going but you can't drive yourself because you're on drugs, and he looked at me and he

went and called this staff sergeant and said, Will you pick me up? So he went to that funeral, even when he really wasn't supposed to, but that's the kind of commanding officer he was. And again I am pretty much anti-military but I also respect the job they do and I really respect the job he did. So again I have a lot of dichotomies in my life.

Yes. Yes. I think that's very interesting. Is that a difficult thing or like you said, you just sort of accept it?

I didn't like him being in the military but I knew that's what he wanted to do. I didn't like the son that was a mountain climber either, going out to the red rocks every day after school pretty much and climbing mountains. But he's in Peru climbing mountains right now and gives me a lot of credit for encouraging and tolerating his obsession with mountains.

Which son is that?

Scott. The middle son. And I believe people have to do what they really want to do in life, and if I don't agree with it that's my problem, not theirs.

That's a great philosophy.

So I've tried to not hold my children back. I take great joy in the things that they share with me, the things that they love that I love, and I don't have a lot of grief with our differences. As I said, I'm proud of the job Jeff does at Bechtel, and if that's the job he wants to do, then I support him.

That's great. Absolutely.

But I expect them also to accept what I want to do.

Yes.

And they are for the most part, they really are. Jeff would like me to agree with him but he knows that I don't.

I'd like to go back just a little bit. I know you said you got to Las Vegas in 1963. Just wondering if you are at all familiar with sort of the history of activism at the test site and any early activism that was going on, because I've heard about things in the 1950s and just curious if you're familiar at all.

No, I'm not. I used to read about it quite a bit and these are some of the things that I have major gaps in my memory. I'm amazed at how much I've been able to remember because when you've been on a heart-lung machine it takes away brain cells so I struggle for names and words and I just have a lot of gaps in the things that I remember. And I was an English major in school and juggling three children and a husband when I went to college and so a lot of things passed me by in those years. So I just really don't remember too much about it.

Yes. Just curious. You also mentioned I think in one of our last conversations that there were a lot of folks that were I guess against the test site or against testing but not necessarily active because they had either a relative or somebody in the family or a friend working for the test site. I guess I just wanted to get your sense, particularly as a long-term Las Vegas resident, about sort of what the general consensus among Las Vegans seemed to be, if you have any sense of that.

[00:30:00] I think the general mood is apathy, frankly. I would say if you looked at numbers, and I have no factual basis for this, but my impression would be that most of the protesters at the test site come from out of town. I think there's just a very small nucleus of people in town. I know there are a lot of people who have feelings about the nuclear testing that went on but they aren't vocal about them particularly. And some of that is just that they are not vocal people and some of it is that if they have—I've had several friends over the years, and acquaintances, whose husbands or father or people worked at the test site and they were either not vocal at all about

their feelings or if they said anything against nuclear testing it would be very privately, not anything really overt. And a lot of times you just didn't talk about it. It wasn't in the forefront for a lot of us.

I had a neighbor whose husband worked for the Atomic Energy Commission and they were older; he was getting close to retirement. He had spent quite a few years at Enewetak and really far away from home. At the time I knew her, he was working at one of the forward areas on the test site and staying out there during the week and just coming home on weekends. And he dropped dead of a major heart attack in the cafeteria out at Mercury. They were saving money, that's why he worked like that, they were saving money to retire and open a little grocery store in a desert town. What we talked about were how hard it was to be separated from your husband. Afterwards we talked about her regret that they were separated so much, for a future that never came. And these were the things we talked about.

My husband's mother worked for the AEC when she came out here. She was a secretary. She had worked for the Atomic Energy Commission when I don't think they were even the AEC; they were the Manhattan Project at the time, in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Some of Hank's earlier years, he still I believe has the identification badge that he had to have to get in and out of town because the whole town was sealed off. She worked there and then she worked in the Washington, D.C. area and then when she decided to come out and live near us, she got a job at the test site. We didn't talk about nuclear testing. We just talked about raising kids and things like that.

And I wasn't acquainted with people in the early years who were antinuclear activists, so on my own I just lived my own little life.

How did you feel about her working at the test site?

Well, I didn't like her being here to begin with but it wasn't because she was working at the test site; that had nothing to do with it. I had no opinion one way or another about the work she did.

This was in my, I would say, apolitical years. I voted but I was not an active political person. The *only* political campaign I was even involved in in the early years was when John Foley ran for lieutenant governor. When I registered to vote and voted in my first election, I voted Republican because I had grown up in a Republican household and that's all I knew. When I came to Las Vegas I registered Republican. And then John Foley was a friend of ours and he was going to run for lieutenant governor, and in those days you didn't have much of a vote in the primary if you were registered Republican because it was a heavily Democratic state. And I wanted more of a vote in the primary, especially so I could vote for John, and I was going to work on his campaign, and so I changed my registration to Democratic. And it was over the [00:35:00] years; again this was a very gradual thing that I began to really espouse a philosophy, quote unquote. And the Democratic Party, as my philosophy of political life grew, they fit what I wanted, what I looked for.

You mentioned when you first came out here your husband was, well, transferred out here, which is why you came out here.

Yes.

How did you feel about the job that he was transferred to do?

We were just thrilled that we could come away from Los Angeles. And I knew that he had worked for the Atomic Energy Commission, and this was in the days of the Cold War. I was very much in favor of the safety and security of our nation and I believed everything they told me. I'm one of those people that believed that above ground nuclear testing was probably safe. It wasn't until I began to learn more about it, and of course I began to question the wind direction, and

then when things began to come out about the Downwinders I was absolutely horrified. And that's when I began to really question how much can we believe what our government tells us? And—

Was that a sort of an interesting—again, like I said, dichotomy within yourself?

Yes, because I grew up in the 1950s in a world where Big Daddy in the White House took care of us and, Trust me, we'll do what's right for the country, and that sort of thing. And as I said my stepfather was a very rabid Republican and so I had that in the house. I knew what his beliefs were, very much so. My mother, as a Canadian citizen, did not have a vote. When he used to nag at her about her citizenship, she finally said to him one day, OK, Harry, if I get my citizenship, I'm going to register and vote straight Democratic and cancel your vote. And he never mentioned it again.

So that was the kind of atmosphere I grew up in. As I said I wasn't particularly political. We had political figures who came to town for Fourth of July parades and things. And I gratuitously insulted the Democratic governor of the state of Michigan one Fourth of July by racing up to my stepfather and telling him there was someone I really wanted to meet and he said, Oh, do you want to meet the governor? and I said, Oh no, I want to meet the leader of the pipe band, because I was thrilled with bagpipes—my Scottish heritage. And the governor happened to be standing right next to my stepfather at the time because he had been the grand marshal of the parade that my stepfather was the director of.

So my politics were very unformed. Very unformed. And as I began to question what I voted for and whom I voted for, then I began to really look at political philosophies. And as I said, as I got to know people in the town, as I began to branch out from my little circle of small children and carpools to school and things like that, then I began to develop my activism. And as

I said, my activism has really been very moderate compared to a great many of people that I know and respect in this town.

One of the folks that we're going to be talking to soon, and I just read a book called Burning Pilgrimage and they talk quite a bit about Louis Vitale. Have you met him or—?

I've met Louis Vitale but I can't say that I know him. I respect him enormously. He has been very good friends with many of the Monday morning group, and I believe he was part of that People of Faith for Social Justice group. Let's see, Sister Rosemary and Sister Klaryta in touch with him a lot because they're all Franciscans, I believe. And some of the others that would know him, some of the old-timers in the Monday morning group would know him.

[00:40:00] *What were some of your impressions of him?*

I only met him very briefly and I just know of him. I know of him as I've read quite a few of the things he's written. I know of him as a very dedicated peace activist who's very much opposed to nuclear testing. And just a very dedicated man, willing to put himself on the line for what he believes in, as are most of the others too. He's been arrested, he served a sentence here at the federal prison at Nellis. And he's a man of God, very much so. And I will say that I respect his devotion as a religious thing, and I don't always. I don't always respect that people are sincere in their beliefs, but him I would definitely say he's very sincere in his belief that this is what God wants him to do.

I'd actually like to ask you a little bit more about that but we're also getting down to the last couple minutes of this disk. If you wouldn't mind, I just want to switch it out and just take a few more minutes to wrap up and then I know you have to be going.

OK, I'll go get that picture too.

OK, great.

[00:41:28] End Track 3, Disk 1.

[00:00:00] Begin Track 2, Disk 2.

So could you talk a little bit more about—?

Father Vitale?

Yes.

As I said, I really didn't know him. I just briefly met him and I've read quite a bit of his writings. I respected the fact that his commitment to nuclear disarmament is a religious-based commitment and I respect the sincerity of his beliefs.

You mentioned you felt maybe others didn't respect that system?

No. I have a lot of contact, especially having worked for so many years in a parochial school, with people in the religious line, and for the most part I respect their dedication to their faith, but there are times when you suspect that their stand on things is more a political stand than a religious stand. And I don't get that impression from Father Vitale. I feel that his is very much a faith-based belief system. That was really what I was saying.

I sort of gather the impression that your belief system over time evolved. How much of that is a faith-based system and how much did that play into it?

None. None, really. It's more of a philosophical decision. Yes. No, I would say it's not at all faith-based. It's more an intellectual decision.

Yes. You also mentioned that you'd had a neighbor that was fairly involved and also lent her house out to folks coming through town?

Yes. Her name is Patricia Van Betten and she's very vocal.

And she's still involved?

Yes. She's in our Monday morning group.

OK. And I'd love to be able to talk with her at some time.

I'll give you names and phone numbers. I'm going to give you a couple.

OK. Do you have any general things that you'd like to add or that—?

Not that I can think of.

More perspective on this?

Do you have any more questions to—?

You've actually answered quite a few and I very much appreciate you taking the time.

Well, it's something I feel very strongly about. You can imagine that those of us who've been involved over the years are absolutely horrified at the thought of resuming nuclear testing, and that's been one of the major thrusts of our discussions. And it's an almost unbelieving horror that we would go back to this. And I just can't believe that our government would even put us in that position. I am very much opposed to it, and of course I'm very much opposed to the war too, so it all runs together. There are so many better places to put the money than into what we're putting it into right now. There was a time, and I'm trying to think of the name of the project, there was a time when they wanted to put a major project out at the test site—got to think of what the name of that was—and they were going to have things on train cars and they were going to run them back and forth, and it's one of those gaps in my memory that I can't dredge up. But I remember that having invested in property when we first came to town, one of the pieces of property that I had at the time would've become very, very valuable if that project had indeed gone through at the test site. But it was something to do with antiballistic missiles, I believe. It was something like that. And I was so much opposed to it because philosophically I [00:05:00] could not see it. And yet I knew that if it went through, I'd make a lot of money. And so I had to look at what my priorities were. And at that time in my life and to this day, my

priority is still I don't want my community involved in that. And that's why I'm so opposed to the nuclear storage—

[00:05:32] End Track 2, Disk 2.

[00:00:00] Begin Track 3, Disk 2.

I'm so very much opposed to the storage of nuclear waste up there, number one, because I don't trust the people who will be shipping it. I don't trust them to package it as is required. I'm sure they will cut corners. I know what big business is like. Number two, I think it's a danger to every community that that waste travels through. Number three, I think that the people who created the waste should be responsible for the storage and/or destruction of it. They're the ones who benefited from it and I think they're the ones who should store it. And I could go on forever probably with arguments against it. But I have grandchildren growing up in this town and I have two children who live here and I want them to be safe, and I don't feel that they will be.

Do you know if there is a lot of activity in town that's sort of gearing up or that is involved with—obviously there's involvement with Yucca Mountain but particularly now that they're considering reactivating the test site?

I don't know that there's a lot yet but I'm sure it will grow. And there will be the people that look to the jobs that will be created and I'm sure that they'll see it as a good thing. But I don't see it as a good thing for the community, even though it would create jobs. As I said, we lost one of our members, and so we haven't been able to be together for quite a while in the Monday morning group, and our last meeting was a memorial to Rachel Gibson. And so we haven't really sat down and discussed it but I'm hoping that in one of our next meetings we will. And I got a bunch of handouts from one of the members at the meeting Monday but I haven't had time since then to look at them, so I'm hoping I'll be able to at least scan through them before we meet on

Monday, to see if I have any questions about it. And I don't know what's in the handouts. A lot of it's about the war at this point.

I'm just curious, do you do any sort of reaching out to the community to get people more involved? I mean you as yourself or the group?

Right now I don't. I write letters and make phone calls to my government agencies. But as far as community outreach, no, we haven't. We've been kind of groping in the last few months for a project to take on, and one of the projects we were concerned with was the voting machines. And so that appears to be solved but we're not sure. We were informed by one of our members who's very politically active, and doesn't make too many of the meetings, that that question was solved, so we'll see. If not I'm sure we'll be up in arms over that. But right now we are not doing anything particularly active, as a group. Individually, I'm sure many of them are.

I'm curious, do you think that sort of given the climate of the country now with the escalation of everything that's gone on over in Iraq and the possible activation of the test site and Yucca Mountain, do you think at this juncture that there would be less apathy? I mean just personally, kind of what's your take on that? If things were to get going again, do you think—?

I don't know. I would like to think that there would be much more activity. I would like to think that we will get more people involved. I would like to think that *I* will get more involved on a personal basis because I don't feel that I'm doing enough right now and this has been kind of a quiet time for me as far as being involved. I'm older and I have some physical limitations and so I'm not as physically involved as I used to be. But I want to be. And so that I think will come. I just need to find a project or a niche. And I know that if things start up again at the test site I [00:05:00] will be out there. I haven't been out there with Nevada—the Desert Experience and I haven't been out for a long time for any of the demonstrations that have gone on out there. I

don't feel that they have been particularly, what's the word I want? Particularly effective at this time. There's not a lot of publicity about them, and it's always hard to get publicity here. This is not a town that is going to espouse—we're not going to vote ourselves a nuclear-free area here in this town and so we fight an uphill battle. But I think you'll see a great deal more activism if they do move forward with their plans for increased testing. And I feel that right now is when we should be active but I just haven't found a way to do that yet. But I will.

No doubt. Wow.

Anything else?

I absolutely appreciate your time. If I do have further questions, would be OK if I called you?

Certainly. Certainly.

OK. Yes, thank you so much for your time.

You're welcome. And I'm going to give you some addresses.

[00:06:27] End of Track 3, Disk 2.

[End of interview]