

## Fordham University

## **Fordham Research Commons**

**Bronx Jewish History Project** 

**Bronx Oral Histories** 

7-6-2022

## Sweet, Harry

Sophia Maier Garcia Fordham University, smaier2@fordham.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://research.library.fordham.edu/bjhp



Part of the Jewish Studies Commons

## **Recommended Citation**

Maier Garcia, Sophia, "Sweet, Harry" (2022). Bronx Jewish History Project. 4. https://research.library.fordham.edu/bjhp/4

This Interview is brought to you for free and open access by the Bronx Oral Histories at Fordham Research Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Bronx Jewish History Project by an authorized administrator of Fordham Research Commons. For more information, please contact considine@fordham.edu, bkilee@fordham.edu.

Interviewee: Harry Sweet Interviewer: Sophia Maier Date: July 6, 2022

Page 1

Transcriber: Sophia Maier

Sophia Maier: So if you just want to start by telling me a little bit about your family and how they ended up in the Bronx.

Harry Sweet: Okay, well, my mother was born in the Bronx, grew up in the Bronx during the Depression. Grew up in the Bronx during the Depression, a large family, very poor and, anyway, she lived her whole life in the Bronx. My father grew up in Providence, Rhode Island, and I guess this would be after World War Two, they met and I guess that's how he ended up in the Bronx and they got married. I think he was living in --- I'm not sure where he was living before then, like Brooklyn or ---

SM: Had he served in the military?

HS: Yeah, he was in World War Two. In the Navy.

SM: So where did they end up living once they got married?

HS: Once they got married, when I came around --- I was the first born, so I don't know if they lived in any place before that --- but we were living on one side of Crotona Park, on Boston road.

SM: Okay. Yeah.

HS: So we lived there, by the time it was three of us, and we lived there until I guess I was a teenager. And then we moved to the other side of Crotona Park --- which was kind of a big park there --- into the projects along the Cross Bronx Expressway. At that point, there wasn't a Cross Bronx Expressway, there wasn't when I was very young. It was a big Bronx story, that thing coming through. And then by the time I was in college or in high school, they bought a house around Allerton Avenue area. Bronx, Bronx, Bronx.

SM: Yeah, right? So what was --- when you were living on Boston road, because I think that would have been you know, your first experiences --- what do you remember about the neighborhood? The people who lived there?

HS: That's always packed, but I remember --- it'd just be random things, whatever pops in my head. We lived across the street from Ritter High --- something Ritter Junior High School. Yes, I remember when I was very little just sitting on my mother's knee watching the big kids going into that school. That seemed like a real impressive thing to me, across what was a big street. So remember that. Also, the first time I ever got to cross that street alone. We were allowed to do that, we had a lot of freedom. I'm luck I'm here, in a lot of ways, because, you know, between that big road out front and the way the

neighborhood got later on. So there was that. And I remember where my elementary school was, that was PS 50. And that was four or five blocks, maybe? But it was across --- there was a subway, there was the IRT over there --- so used to have to cross that, I'd go there myself, come back for lunch as a little kid. And like that. There was a street --- what street would have been --- 174 street, maybe, there were some commercial stores and that type of thing over there.

SM: Yeah. And so was it --- either there or when you were living in the projects --- was it predominantly Jewish neighborhood? Or was it mixed?

HS: It changed during my tenure there. So when I was younger, when I first started elementary school, it was more mixed. I remember in my class we had Jewish kids, Italian kids, black kids, maybe Puerto Rican I don't know --- I'd have to find an old picture, if I could --- but somewhat mixed. But over the next few years, it changed. All the Jews moved out, the Italians moved out. We didn't, we were a Jewish family, but we stayed and so the neighborhood changed. And I think that probably historically --- I probably wasn't aware --- but that was probably around the time to the Cross Bronx went through, which was across from me, so that that may have. Between that and racial profiling, whatever was happening with real estate, the suburbs, and all those kinds of things were shaping the neighborhood. So by the time I was getting out of elementary school, when we moved to the two projects --- that was probably around fifth grade for me --- but by that time, the neighborhood it totally turned around. It was all black and Puerto Rican, a couple of Irish kids left laying around.

SM: And do you remember any kind of tensions, or especially during this kind of period of change between groups?

HS: No, I mean, there probably was some, but I wasn't really aware of it, it didn't really reflect on me. I just knew people went to school with, I didn't really have a lot of awareness of that. I know, like when I went to my grandparents, it was a Jewish environment. \*Sophia sneezes\* bless you. I can't catch anything from you on this.

SM: Yeah, right. Catch my allergies. I'm sorry, what were you saying about your grandparents?

HS: In the earlier period they weren't really a lot of tensions, it wasn't any particular --- I was picked on sometimes but it wasn't especially because I was anything, it was just because I wasn't the toughest kid. But yeah, we used to have just like a lot of stupid stuff. I remember we used to have fights, rock fights, with another elementary school blocks away. During lunchtime we would all, the boys, would go run out there and throw rocks at each other. Just stuff like that. It's gonna happen.

SM: So a little more about the neighborhood. Do you remember any kind of shops or other amenities that stand out to you? Either there or later like when you were in high school and everything.

HS: Yeah, I do. But again, I have to provide a disclaimer, this is a long time ago and so I'm making stuff up somewhat, but if you can corroborate it. I do remember I had an Uncle Izzy that had a pickle shop nearby, which was a pickle shop, barrels with pickles. I remember going with my mother a few blocks away to get a chicken from a live chicken store, which were still around then, and you would go pick out the chicken, but you would come back a little while and you'd have to finish processing it.

SM: Pluck it and everything.

HS: And all that stuff, which me and my mother did that. What else was over there? You know, just normal stuff. There was an A&P, an old A&P. There was --- I think I had some relatives who had a little candy store down the block, I used to get sent there. I had some old relative across the street, she used to watch me sometimes. I almost jumped out the window once, it was on the fifth floor.

SM: Oh, good.

HS: Not jump, but I was curious, and I came close to finding out. Again, just random stories. The neighborhood, it didn't feel that dangerous then. It was just, you know, where I lived. The dangerous part was Crotona Park. So that was another whole thing. I used to ride my bike there. One time --- by the time I was old enough to ride it by myself --- I went up there one time --- it was a pretty little thing, it was a hill a little loop below --- and I remember like coming down, hit a big kid on a bicycle, went flying. Pre-helmet, you know. And there was just old Jewish people on the benches watching me fly. Still have an image of that. Other than that, I guess. You know, that was the Crotona Park, Boston Road. We were on the third floor of a walkup, after we got down to the first floor, or the other way around, I can't remember. One with another bedroom, maybe a little bigger.

SM: And did you feel you had a different experience when you moved over to the projects?

HS: First, a story about that. Around that time, my parents were looking at houses in Staten Island, because it was like \$16,000, you get house and whatever it was then. And we almost got one. I remember this thing, we used to truck all the way out there to look at these things, all of us. And then we were on the list for the projects, when the projects came around, my mother, she went for that because in her experience, she didn't even know what a house was. And so the projects was like --- she, again, she grew up in the Depression, very poor --- so that was like a stable thing to do. So then we moved to the projects. And that was different, it was a different neighborhood I guess. By then, the neighborhood --- that side too --- had all pretty much changed. What it was to what it probably still is. So that neighborhood was two big buildings, so that was the world there. I was of an age where I had friends in the neighborhood, maybe not close friends, but we just placed people to hang out with. There was kind of two groups to hang out with there, though, because you had like all the black kids and me at the basketball court --- but I wasn't a very good basketball player, particularly, but I could go there and I could play with people, no problem. And then I would also --- the Puerto Ricans were more handball

players --- and so I was a decent handball player. So I liked to spend my time back and forth. And, you know, back then, I remember there was still like some of the old white guy handball players, they were still good, no one could beat those guys. Didn't have to run, just had a lot of skill. A lot of my time was hanging, I remember just hanging out a lot. There was plenty of stuff that happened: you'd get mugged, and there were little gang fights. With the project set here and here, and then there's the park, and then there's the other street. So if you're on the other street --- just like when I was a little kid, you know we were doing with the other school --- we just do the same thing on a bigger scale with countries.

SM: So did the projects have, I guess, the same stigma around them that they do today? Or I guess your mom kind of still saw it as a very stable, good place to live?

HS: I don't know. I have no idea because I was in it, and the neighborhood around it was not anything too special. So I guess like for people in that neighborhood it wasn't either. I ended up going to --- well, a couple of things about that neighborhood. My middle school, which was a junior high school we called it, that was 187 Street, which was the dividing line between my neighborhood and the Italian neighborhood. This was on Arthur Avenue, we were on the south side of Arthur Avenue. That was a non-Italian neighborhood, Italian kids probably would not do very well to walk into that neighborhood., and we didn't do very well to walk into their neighborhood. That type of thing, and there are some stories I could tell about that too. I can tell you one, if you're interested.

SM: Yeah, go for it.

HS: Okay, so also back in that time, in that place, unicycle was king. In fact, there was a group called King Charles Unicycle Riders that were with the circus. So anyway, not the handball people, but the basketball people, were all riding unicycles. It got to the point where you would be playing unicycle basketball.

SM: Really? Oh my gosh.

HS: Unicycle everything. So eventually I got a unicycle and learned how to ride, so now I was also doing that. And, you know, again, I was like *the* white kid over there, with my unicycle gang.

SM: I'm just having this picture in my head of a bunch of kids riding around on unicycles.

HS: We were pretty good. Some of these kids were really acrobatic. We could jump rope, pick up a ball from the floor, play a full game. But there was one time that we went --- you go to Fordham, right?

SM: Yeah.

HS: So one time we all took a trip out by your school, which was a mile or so, but we had to go through the Italian neighborhood. We made it there okay. Coming back, we went past the Arthur Avenue playground --- it's very close to where you are.

SM: Yeah, I live across from the from the park here, because I live on Arthur and 188 Street.

HS: You're right across the line, okay. You're right across the line into the Italian section, if it's still like that. That's where the line used to be. My school was there, there was a junior high school, that was probably two blocks from your house or so. So anyhow, we're coming back. We passed the --- now we're going back to our place, just taking a ride --- but we're going to past the playground, and then like the Italian kids sitting there see all these black kids riding back through their neighborhood. And again, we weren't a gang, we weren't doing anything. But you know, we started getting called all kinds of names, I could name a couple of them, bottles. They were chasing us. And yeah, but we could go pretty fast when we were motivated. But that was a dangerous place if you're black or whatever, that playground. I think someone did get killed just like that black kid. There was always this thing. Like, I could kind of walk through there mostly okay, if I was by myself. Yeah, but if I was with twelve black kids the bottle hit me just as well.

SM: Just the same.

HS: Yeah, you know, just part of yourself.

SM: Yeah, I've heard that from other kinds of sources as well, that was a big issue kind of in the Arthur Avenue area.

HS: The dividing line, but you live just about on it, if it's still like that.

SM: Not quite, but that's just because there aren't nearly as many Italians anymore. A lot of them moved out as well. So, I mean, it still is very, Italian restaurants and everything. It's still Little Italy, but not in the same kind of territorial way.

HS: Yeah, no, it was it was a real line.

SM: Um, okay, let's see. So, what about your parents? What did they do for a living?

HS: My father was a postman. And my mother worked sometimes as a secretary and sometimes not.

SM: Did either of them obtain a college education?

HS: No. High School, I believe they both graduated high school. And all the children were college educated. I went to City College.

SM: Was that still when it was free, or basically free?

SM: It was free. It was better than free. I was living at home for the first few years. I had a Regents scholarship. I went to Bronx Science, so I knew what college was. If you went to Bronx Science, you got a Regents scholarship. I was the dumbest kid in the class. Literally, almost, I was like down the rank. You know, you see the rankings when I graduated. But it didn't matter, anyone who made it that far. So anyway, so the Regents scholarship covered train fare, probably lunches. Books were eight bucks apiece, big textbooks. So it was it was a complete free ride.

SM: That's awesome. So yeah, tell me a little bit about your experience at Bronx Science, anything stands out to you?

HS: Well, it was somewhat of a culture shock for me. Just, you know, for a lot of reasons. In fact, so before that --- I was a lousy student, but I was bright --- back in junior high school, I think I had the opportunity to get sent up to Exeter and become like a Trump lawyer or something by now, God forbid, but my parents who go for it, but then I got into Bronx Science. I didn't pass the test. I got in because they had one of these programs to bring in, you know, kids from some of these disadvantaged neighborhoods. I was sent to Fieldstone, on a weekend kind of thing, for a while. In junior high school they had these kinds of programs for deserving young, whatever category I could be put into at that time. So anyways, I get into Bronx Science, and it was mostly a culture shock. The things I remember, just like white kids. White girls.

SM: Yeah, a little different than your experiences.

HS: Yeah, even like, I'll go back again to junior high school. I remember we had an exchange with a school from Long Island somewhere. So one day, a gang of us went there, another day they came here. And strangely enough, the dress and everything was very different. So the first time I saw girls in miniskirts and stuff, and all that look. Back then, in my day, you wouldn't wear that in my neighborhood. And so, we were staring at each other and didn't know what to make of all that. And I still didn't. When I went to Bronx Science, they were like just a different group. Different socioeconomic group, different culture --- even though a lot of them were Jewish, and I'm Jewish, and I have like a connection that way --- but not so much as like where I lived, how I lived. And hippies, my god. We had them. And so I sort of like, at least the first year, I was hanging out with the six black and Puerto Rican kids. One kid, who was a friend of mine from elementary school who was there, became kind of like a black radical guy.

SM: What years were you there?

HS: '67 to '70. So this was this was an interesting time. So yeah, this was like the Bronx Science hippies, we had all of our protests and war protests and all that kind of stuff. Vietnam time. That would happen every spring in those years. And I also remember --- even to this day, a little bit --- I couldn't tell the blonde girls apart for a while. There was this look, they all had this straight blonde hair. And it's funny, because white people say, "Oh, all black people look alike." For me, it was the opposite for a while.

SM: Definitely. Because I can that they all just the same too. So then it's like, you're just totally not gonna know the difference.

HS: Yeah. But you know, someone of it was what I was used to in whatever environment, so it's just interesting. And then there was just doing stuff, like we used to sneak out --- I used to not get in trouble as much as I should have for cutting class and that kind of thing. Years later, I found out --- at the 30th reunion or something --- there was some girl who like me, I don't know who she was, but she worked in the office helping out. So not all my cut slips made it all the way up to the authorities.

SM: \*laughing\* She saved you. That's funny. Do you remember --- because you would have been there during that time --- do you remember anything about the 1967-1968 teachers strike?

HS: Yeah, I remember that we had to make up and go to school earlier. I don't remember much about the strike itself, except I guess I was off for that time, and they made the school they start earlier, which was ridiculously early to begin with. And I think I had chemistry early, I remember that didn't help. Wasn't a good subject for me to begin with. And yeah, so I don't remember a whole lot about it, but if I think about it I can remember I was there then because of that make up stuff.

SM: So just in general, I guess, did you feel as though you got a good education or you had a lot opportunities, even if you didn't necessarily take all of them?

HS: I had plenty of opportunities, I just didn't have any idea what it meant at the time. Even like going to City College, I mean, I could have gone somewhere else. And probably given my family situation --- I'm not gonna go into that --- but it would have been probably good to get out of there sooner than later. But none of that occurred to me and, because my parents didn't have any --- my Uncle Dave did --- but my parents had no idea of colleges or projects or houses. In fact, I remember --- I learned this many years later, decades later, from my mom --- that when I was in high school, one of the math teachers --- probably 9, 10 grade, whatever --- called to suggest that I enroll in calculus, because I was at the time I was actually --- I didn't work really hard --- but I was doing okay in math and I seemed to pick it up pretty easily. She didn't even know what that was, she hardly even knew what multiplication was. So, you know, she never told me, I never knew, I never heard anything about it directly. That could have made changed things, I might have gotten into an engineering track. Ended up doing like, becoming a

tech teacher, a shop teacher, a carpenter. I had interests in those areas that would have connected to stuff like that. It was just --- I had a lot of opportunities and had I had a direction, I could have done other things, but yeah.

SM: And do you feel like students in the Bronx today have the same opportunities or the same educational level that you did?

HS: Um, I haven't really been engaged with details of education. So I really don't know. I was a teacher for a long time up in this area. So I know more about what's going on around here, but I would hope so. I mean, I know City College has gone back to being free-ish.

SM: Yeah, I think so.

HS: But more competitive, right? Back when they first had open admission, when I got there, there was like, you know, just everybody came in. But not everybody gets out and so that was a problem. So now I think they've come to a better balance with that scenario.

SM: Okay, so tell me a little bit about Jewish life. Was your family religious at all? Did you attend synagogue?

HS: Um, yes and no, we were kosher. We kept kosher. My mother didn't grow up like that, my father did, his side was a little more religious. She just did that, you know, because she married him, not that she had any particular religious inclination at that time. We went not that much, in the Bronx. My father's parents were much more religious. And they lived in Williamsburg. So going there was more like my religious Jewish early experiences, which are kind of interesting, because I remember going with my grandparents to Hasidic synagogue in that neighborhood. And I'm like, I have no *payos*, I just have a yarmulke, all the little kids are looking at me really strange. This happens to me today, too. If I'm in an Hasidic environment, which I am once in a while, they're like, "what is this? Is this a Jew?" But those are kind of intense, because the Hasidics --- whatever your opinions of them --- they have real strong intent. You know, when they do something religious, they do it. And, you know, that's one of the things that that stays with me. I'm also a klezmer musician, sometimes these days. So that kind of early experience of being in that kind of environment, that kind of dissonant sound of those of those synagogues, of the davening there which, you know, you just don't see in ---

SM: Conservative or, you know, reform.

HS: That's one of the things we have, my wife has stuff that she likes. But anyhow, I knew what all this stuff was, I had a Hebrew school education.

SM: Okay, were you bar mitzvah'd?

HS: I was bar mitzvah'd, yeah. That was in the Bronx. There was some old place I was going to. There was one that I remember was around 1807 Street area. Might have been your apartment building for all I know.

SM: Maybe.

HS: I have no idea. But yeah, it was pretty awful, I can assure you. But I did it and made it through that. And then, speaking of the religious stuff, I'm still not really religious. I'm more secularly engaged, more engaged culturally. And I think the reason and the culture more comes from the experiences as a young child in Williamsburg with my grandparents, that there is a thing there, I'm not totally engaged in it, but it's still there. Then later on, with getting engaged and involved with the music, that kind of continuous for me and my children.

SM: That's great. Did you grow up speaking any languages besides English at home?

HS: No, we spoke English. My parents spoke Yiddish, was the typical thing of like the secret language. So I can understand a little bit. I know what the sound was in Williamsburg. I've learned some since then, but I'm very far from fluent.

SM: Okay, so tell me a little bit about --- so you attended City College. When did you end up deciding to leave the Bronx?

HS: I left the Bronx --- so after City College, I worked for like, exactly 20 weeks in this horrible junior high school in Harlem, on the east side there. And I mean, it was a real warzone. It was ridiculous. But I was just there long enough to get unemployment insurance. That was the year when the city went bankrupt, more or less. So I had the great good fortune to be laid off right then, and had unemployment insurance and stuff. And I think the things that happened was I wasn't really looking for work right away, but it was the summer time. I had a really shitty car, but it drove. So I started going up around the New Paltz area and just wandering around different places. So, you know, from starting that, there was actually a new swimming thing I heard about that was exciting at the time. And then I just met people and started hanging up around here a little bit more. So I just got the idea in my head from these things, that there was something besides New York, because that was my whole life. The biggest vacations we would take we'd go down to Bradley Beach where my Tanta Gitel had a rooming house. So basically like the beach, so the beach we went to. So this was a whole new world there and then I got another job. I was making metal church ornaments for Catholic church for a little bit. Got fired out of that. Then I sort of decided I'd go to graduate school up in Albany. Why chose that? I think it just sounded like an easy program, because I had the bachelor's, the teaching degree, so you have to get that within a certain amount of time. It seemed like a good time to do that, nothing better going on. It was a really stupid degree. It was. Again, I didn't have any great direction to get further education, except I might as well

just keep this piece of paper I got, it might come in handy. Which it did. So I did that. But I lived in Albany for a year and it was sort of like a test, I can live out of New York City.

SM: Was it a bit of a culture shock up there?

HS: Oh, well, yeah. Protestant people. That was another whole new thing. Like, coming out of going into high school was white people, Asian people, other groups from what I grew up in earlier. This was not even as strong, but just like a WASP? Did you grow up in the Bronx, by the way?

SM: I'm sorry?

HS: Did you grow up in the Bronx?

SM: No, I grew up in Monroe. But my dad's from the Bronx and his parents are.

HS: I see the connection. But anyway, WASP's in the Bronx, they don't ---

SM: They don't exist today either.

HS: Today, as of right now, they don't go there. They saw that the old documentaries about when the South Bronx was burning down. I was there for that, too.

SM: Yeah, I was gonna ask --- during that period, what was your --- did you have any experiences with that? Or did you hear about it?

HS: Well I was there. I mean, I was in the projects. We'll come back to Albany in a minute. Yeah, but I was in the projects and, and there was just a lot of fires. I mean, that Fullerton Avenue that I mentioned used to be our arch enemies there. Not got hurt too bad, as far as I know, but we tried it. But anyhow, that that whole block was gone. There were just these big fires, I could see it out my window. Not too long after that, the city --- they didn't fix anything --- they put, on the Cross Bronx side, going by it they would put like, you know, fake curtains or something to make it look [fine]. I remember that. So yeah, that whole neighborhood was --- used to have the Third Avenue el, took that down. I can't say too much, I'd have any personal close experience with a it. It was just --- you could just see it was just gone. It really it was like it was a warzone there.

SM: So when you when you went upstate --- either when you're going up to New Paltz, or when you're in Albany --- did people, like when you told people you were from the Bronx, what was their kind of reaction? Did they associate you with those kind of things?

HS: I can't remember anything. Especially "I'm from the Bronx" vs. "not from the Bronx." But Albany was not a bad year. It was some fun up there and got my degree, but actually, I almost got my degree, I was one paper short. So the next chapter, I had to make that last bit up, but I finally did.

SM: And then did you move back to the Bronx or you were kind of

HS: After that, I didn't want to go back to the Bronx. I was looking --- I figured, I have to try teaching again, I've got this degree, they can't all be as bad as that school was. But I couldn't find a job in New York State, and I think I ended up getting like a one month Greyhound bus pass --- it was probably like 200 bucks or something --- you can go anywhere. I don't know where I found anything, you know, before the internet. I was wondering about that the other day. Anyways, I just got some interviews all over the place. So I got to the Midwest and then South Carolina, which is where I stuck for five years. I just figured I'd try it. And then I moved down there and lived there for five years. Got involved with some music, had girlfriend, had a job. Quit that job after three years, but it was interesting. It just --they also a very different culture again. And the school I taught in --- that was Sumter, South Carolina ----- that was like a midsize town, like a Middletown [NY]. Not even Middletown, like half of Middletown. And so yeah, that was another whole different culture. The school I was in, we had a black principal, most of the time. It was predominantly black, I guess. It was mixed. But a lot of the white kids, after segregation ended, went to these private schools, which are still there. But not all of them, so it was an integrated school, much more integrated faculty than any other school ever I've taught in. And I learned to speak Southern, or at least understand it. That took me a while, the accent, you know, at first you don't know what people are talking about.

SM: Yeah. So did you ever go back to the Bronx to visit during that time period or anything?

HS: Yeah, I'll go back up. Go at least once every year, maybe twice. And it was sometimes in the summer that, when I was with the woman, we would travel back up north. Her family was also from Brooklyn. Half of her family was from a very small town in the coast, so that was deep deep South. And the other half her mother was Italian from Brooklyn. So we traveled back up.

SM: Have you gotten back in recent years?

HS: No, I haven't been back there in quite a while, decades.

SM: Yeah. So do you --- I guess well, you haven't been back, so you haven't seen firsthand --- but do you ever hear anything about the Bronx? On the news or read about it and or hear anything about it? Or are you kind of cut off from what's going on here today?

HS: I'm pretty cut off. I mean, when my parents were still alive, at the end when they were ill, I was there quite a bit. That was the last of it. I still liked it, the people were nice. You know, the people in the

hospitals, the people on the street, most of the most of the people are just people. They're not as right wing as the people around here, too, which is a good thing. It's different that way, politically. And even like my mother kind of grew up a little suspicious of blacks and everybody, but by the time she by the time she got older, she had neighbors, she was friends with everybody. She just got much more comfortable. She also became more religious, more towards the end of her life, she became much more religious.

SM: So do you think that --- even though you might not necessarily have been here much --- do you think that the Bronx has kind of improved or been back on the mend since that period of the fires?

HS: Yeah, it couldn't've gotten too much worse than that, kept up like that. I mean, those neighborhoods I saw, they put in some modular homes and those type of things, last time I was on the subway. But I'm not sure. I mean, this is from like, about 10-11 years ago. I haven't spent much time down there. And actually --- we lived in Co-op City --- I think I left that out. That was before the house and I lived there for a couple years, I guess. That area certainly has gotten built up, a lot of shopping and everything. Used to just be --- and that also was one when things that drained the South Bronx, I guess, right? But that's changed too, like the neighborhood is much more diverse now than it was in its earlier days.

SM: Yeah. So kind of my last question is: when you think about the Bronx today --- not necessarily how it is today, but when you think back on it --- what kind of memories what kind of emotions do you do associate with your experiences?

HS: Oh, probably a little bit of everything. There was, I wouldn't say it was good, I also wouldn't say it was bad. It was a place. And it's the place I grew up. I mean, I could be there again, I imagine. I like being out in the country, I like the quiet and other things like that. If you're looking for a lot of entertainment and that kind of stuff, you're in the wrong borough.

SM: Do you have anything else you'd like to you'd like to add before I finish the recording?

HS: No, I don't think so.

SM: Okay, great. Thanks.