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Milano and Singleton

Bronx African American History Project
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Transcriber: Katrina Mallebranche

Tape 1, Side A

Mark Naison: (MN): We are here at P.S. 153 at the Co-op City section of the Bronx, and we're interviewing the principle and the assistant principle of P.S. 153, Ms. Milano and Ms. Singleton. So, Ms. Milano, tell us a little bit about your family and how they came to the Bronx.

Ms. Milano (MM): My grandparents were born in Italy. My father's parents came to America when he was very, very young -- young children, so they learned English very quickly, and they lived in 115th Street and Hone, and that's where my father was born. My mother's parents came over -- Right before World War I when her father came over first. They weren't married yet, but they had met in Italy, and he came over first. He fought in World War I for America, and then he sent for my grandmother, and she came over, and they were married here. They settled on Bathgate Avenue and 181st Street, and that's where my mother and her brothers were born, and when my mother met my father, they moved -- They married and they lived on Glover Street, which is near Westchester Avenue and Havemeyer Avenue in the Bronx, and then I was born, and they bought a house after that in the Pelham Parkway section of the Bronx.

MN: Ms. Singleton, where did your family come from before you were born in East Harlem?

Ms. Singleton (MS): Both of my parents came from South Carolina, at which point my mom moved to Central Islip, Long Island. My father was living in Harlem. They moved

to East Harlem at which point that's when I was born, and from there, many of our relatives also migrated to the Bronx, of the Morrisania section of the Bronx.

MN: What was school like for you? What was the elementary school you attended, and what was that like?

MM: I went to a Catholic elementary school, the Saint Francis Xavier parish, which is near Morris Park Avenue, and I was there from kindergarten through eighth grade -- actually first grade to eighth grade, excuse me, kindergarten was at P.S. 108, which is on Neill Avenue, because the Catholic school didn't have a kindergarten, but then I was at Saint Francis Xavier until eighth grade, and then in those days, I won't tell you the years, but in those days, there were many nuns and clerics running the schools. Catholic schools were mostly with nuns with full habits. I then moved on to Mother Butler Memorial High School, which was on Pelham Parkway and Eastchester Road, which is no longer there. It is now Aging In America, and we had -- actually I had a very good elementary school experience, although the classes were extremely large. In my first grade class, we had 55 students in one class, and I remember many, many, many desks in straight rows, and we were packed in and we had no reading center and we had no carpet to sit on and we couldn't move around the classroom at all because we had 55 children in the classroom. So it was quite crowded, but somehow we learned to read and we moved on. I remember my third grade teacher telling my mother that I didn't seem to see the board too well and that's when I realized I first needed glasses, then I got through first and second grade without them, but I had some very good experiences in elementary school, and that's

when I realized [that] I wanted to be a teacher by some of the teachers that taught me in elementary school.

MN: Ms. Singleton, what elementary school did you go to?

MS: I attended Our Lady of Angels, which is a Catholic elementary school up in East Harlem. I attended the upper grades one through eight. My Catholic school experience has since been awhile, but I'll tell you the years, but --

[Laughter]

MS: I attended Our Lady Queen of Angels in the mid-seventies until the eighties. That gives you an idea. My Catholic school experience -- not as crowded maybe because we were very close and many were from the Bronx, from there I attended Cathedral High School, located in Manhattan on East 56th Street, and many of my friends, including some I consider friends today all live in the Bronx, and still keep in contact, many [are] in this section, the Co-op City and Baychester section. That's how I always visited them on weekends coming up to the Bronx, and I'm sure you will find out more questions about that.

MN: Now I'm going to ask what kind of food you ate when you were growing up. Did you eat ethnic food or mainly, you know, standard American food?

MM: First of all, coming from an Italian family with Italian grandparents that were from Italy, basically ethnic food, a lot of Italian food. I remember my father's parents -- I did not know his mother, she passed away before I was born, but I was very close to my mother's parents, and I remember my grandmother cooking and baking and my mother cooking and baking and lots of ethnic Italian food. We did, however, change over

somewhat because it helped if you started realizing what was healthy food and what even from my father's house, and my mother started to cook a little bit more healthy in looking at some of the Italian recipes and changing them, and also making some American food when I was a teenager, but basically, yes, very much so, the background was Italian food of all types, not just pizza, but lots of different types, and baking also.

MS: And for me, the heritage was more of a Southern cooking, you're typical collard greens, yams, fried chicken, macaroni and cheese. I'm getting hungry now, right?

[Laughter]

MS: A lot of rice -- The typical dessert was cobbler. For dessert, a side of peach cobbler, apple pie -- Your typical cuisine of basically what I grew up on, and my personal favorite, a lot of junk food.

[Laughter]

MS: A lot of junk food, yes.

MN: I'm going to ask one more question, and then I'm going to let you start asking questions. What kind of music did you grow up listening to with your family, and was that music different from the music you and your friends were listening to?

MM: Well, my parents, I'll always remember, they were listening to the music of the forties, forties and fifties, basically the big bands and Frank Sinatra and most of you don't even know what I am talking about, but that's the music that they listened to, however I'm not telling you the years, but I -- The original rock and rollers that I grew up listening to -- Elvis Presley, The Platters, basically the rock and roll of the fifties and early sixties. I was a teenager when the Beatles came [to America], and the Beatles were taking over

America, and I was all part of that era, so I enjoyed all of that music, but I also enjoyed listening to my parents music because it was in the house all the time. We had music playing all the time, so I could hear that. My grandparents were proper, so they had opera music on a lot, especially on Sundays, so I thought I certainly grew up hearing all types of music -- classical, opera, rock and roll and I appreciated it all.

MN: Did you ever try to sing rock and roll?

MM: Not with anybody listening to that.

[Laughter]

MM: Certainly not in the millions -- They wouldn't want to hear my voice, but I certainly sang along with the music, and especially now in my car, I still play lots of fifties rock and roll, even down in my office even though the children haven't heard it, but it's there, and I just sing along and no one is listening.

MN: Okay, Ms. Singleton?

MS: My parents were from the generation of the Motown era, so from -- My mom was a typical Motown era -- Diana Ross and the Supremes, Marvin Gaye, a lot of James Brown in the house. My dad was interesting. His interest ranged from the Beatles. His interest ranged from the Rolling Stones. I didn't want to be too exposed to that. My musical tastes, however, are a little bit facetious that -- I would listen to anything from the musical rap -- I grew up in the hip-hop generation, so I already, you know, grew up with a lot of Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five. There was a lot of New Edition. I listened to music specifically of the 1980s, like Duran Duran, Wham -- All of the musicians that I am sure many of you don't remember, but your parents know about, and

it goes the same for classical music to the current music. If you listen to a lot of Jay-Z, a lot of 50 Cent, I like to listen to some of those.

[Laughter]

MS: So my musical tastes vary, very different from my parents, however, but I do appreciate a lot of good music. I'm realizing [that] a lot of what they listen to of, you know, boosts today's current generation as far as a lot of history because a lot of the music that you appreciate whether it spans from generation or when my parents as well as Ms. Milano's and her parents. I'm sure they are all connected in that way, so my musical tastes varies from classical to the current hip-hop music today.

MN: Now, are you ready to start asking questions?

Students: Yes!

MN: Okay, raise your hands. Yes? Stand up.

Student: What was your favorite subject in school?

MM: I can't hear. Turn around and face the audience.

Student: What was your favorite subject in school?

MM: My favorite subject in school -- I liked many, many subjects. However, I really -- I loved reading. I was an avid reader. I read constantly. I loved writing. When I was in high school, I wrote poetry, and some of my poems were published in the high school anthology of poetry, so I really liked language arts. That was my main, main job in school. Math and science, not as much, as for reading and writing, and I think I didn't like science as much because I don't think the teachers that I had really were great science teachers like you have today.

MS: My favorite subject in school was social studies. If I enjoyed nothing else, I enjoyed social studies, and I think that's what prompted me to become a social studies teacher and major in history in college. Social studies and drama were my favorite subjects because I really wanted to be an actress. I was overdramatic and dressing up in the nice costumes and --

MN: Do we have any pictures of the costumes you were in?

MS: Yes, I'm sure. I didn't bring them here, but if you pay my family --

[Laughter]

MS: -- With all those costumes, I was very dramatic and -- One role [that I had played] required gypsy outfits one day and being different people, so definitely the social studies and drama were my two favorite subjects as well.

MN: Next question. Yes?

MM: Mike to mouth so everyone can hear.

Student: What degree do you have in the present?

MM: Degree, you mean from school?

Student: Yes.

MM: Okay, well I have a -- actually I have three master's degrees, which is graduate school out to college, when you graduate from college, you can go to graduate school and get a master's degree, and I have three of those.

MS: Same question? The degrees that I have are a master's degree in special education, as well as a bachelor's of arts degree and a school administration degree.

MN: Next.

MM: Stand up.

Student: Who was your favorite teacher?

MM: My favorite teacher? My favorite teacher actually was my fourth grade teacher, and her name was Ms. Giacoia. I always remember her, and I think I -- I remember all of my teachers, and I as I told you before, many of them were nuns, however, Ms. Giacoia was very influential in encouraging me in fourth grade, and I think [that] I knew, at that time, that I definitely wanted to be a teacher very much like her because she spent a lot of extra time in caring for all of the children, and I didn't see that in many of the classrooms with the other teachers, but she would give up extra time and go to school and want to know how the children were doing at home and really encouraging everyone. My life was Ms. Giacoia, that's my fourth grade teacher.

MS: My favorite teacher was my fifth grade teacher, Ms. Lyon, and what I liked about Ms. Lyon was the typical cool teacher, so she had the cool clothes. She was the first teacher I ever saw wear Sassoon jeans, in the eighties, and she came in, and she -- I remember Ms. Lyon would always tell us, "Make sure you use your head. Go to a hat rack," and that stayed with me. Ms. Lyon was the type of teacher that was always hugging. She would always appraise you. Fridays she would always have inspirational classes where we had to clean up the classroom, and we could bring whatever record we wanted, and we could dance to it if we cleaned the classroom really well, so she was a very cool teacher, but at the same time, we learned so much from her, and I still keep in contact with her today.

MN: Wow. Yes, stand up.

Student: Did you like poetry?

MM: Did everyone hear the question? Do I like poetry, okay? As I mentioned before, I loved writing and especially poetry. Actually my father liked writing poetry, and I always remember him writing poems to my mother, and it was very romantic and it was very, very nice. During holidays, he would never write on a card, he would write a poem, and I still have many of those poems he wrote, and I think seeing that and hearing that encouraged me, and I started writing poetry very young, but I think in high school I had a teacher that encouraged me to write more poetry, and I entered some competitions, and some of the poems were published, like I said before, in a high school anthology of poetry, so poetry was one of my favorite things to do -- write poetry, read poetry. I bought lots of poetry books to read. I had a public library of poetry books, and my father had a library of poetry books also. So he and I shared that together.

MN: If you have copies of the poems you wrote, those would be good to bring in to show your students.

MM: I hope so.

[Laughter]

MN: Okay.

MS: Yes, I enjoy poetry. My favorite poet is Nikki Giovanni. That was someone who inspired me. I loved her poems, and they inspired me in high school to write poetry, and I enjoy spoken word poetry class.

MN: This young man here, yes.

Student: Did you always want to be a teacher?

MM: Okay, the question of did you always want to be a teacher. Yes, definitely. I always wanted to be a teacher, from my very earliest memory. People in the neighborhood -- Everyone remembers me being the one that was, after-school, gathering all the children around me, and I would play teacher. I was always the one making nice little board, depending on where I was, but I loved gathering children whether they were younger, older, all of us -- to gather them together. I would have a little homework club. I loved being a monitor at school. As a matter of fact, at school, starting at fifth grade, I used to be a monitor to first and second grade at lunch time, so I thanked my mother -- We used to go home for lunch, and I thanked my mother -- She allowed me to stay for lunch at school, eat hot lunches in the lunch room, so I could be a monitor in the first and second grade classrooms, and I would be in the classrooms at lunchtime, and I would pretend that I was their teacher, and I would help them and do work with them, so from my very earliest memory, I certainly remember being a teacher. I was a teacher at my job. I became a babysitter very young for children in the neighborhood, and all of the parents trusted me with the little ones, and I while I babysat, I was teaching them, so they unfortunately didn't have a break. I was always teaching, and I loved being a teacher, and I was a teacher for about -- almost 25 years before I decided to become assistant principle, so I certainly always loved teaching, yes.

MS: Me? no.

[Laughter]

MS: I always wanted to become a lawyer. However, everyone around me told me that, "I think you should become a teacher," and I said no because I remember in school where

many of us, including me, said no because I don't want to become a teacher because they have to. I would talk to children, and oftentimes they don't listen. So I said, "No, I don't want to become a teacher." But everyone kept encouraging me. I think you should become a teacher, so they kept encouraging me. So one day, finally, at my mom's advice, I decided. you know what? I think I am going to become a teacher. I'm going to try for one year -- one year. Fourteen years later, I still continue to be a teacher because I genuinely enjoy being around children and working with children.

MN: Okay, in the back, yes -- back -- louder.

Student: Did you ever take foreign languages in school?

MM: Did you learn a foreign language in school. In my elementary school, we were not offered foreign languages, but in high school, I did take Spanish, and I took Spanish for four years in high school and one year in college, so five years of Spanish. However I think teachers today certainly know Spanish, and the teachers that teach Spanish today use very different methods than from what I learned, but I didn't really learn it very well. My grandparents spoke Italian, and I picked up a very little bit of Italian. My mother and father did not speak Italian, but my grandmother did, and I picked up some words here and there, but I never really had conversations in Italian My grandparents spoke in broken English. Broken English means their English sounded broken because it had a heavy accent.

MS: I took Spanish and French in school.

MN: Okay, back -- Yes, you.

Student: Who was a role model in your life?

MS: I had many role models in my life. My mother, I think, was first and foremost, a role model to me. She considered herself a homemaker-housewife. However, she was an intelligent woman and she always believed education was the most important thing in anyone's life, and she encouraged my brother and me --I have a brother that is a year older than me -- to get an education and become anything we wanted to be in life, and she was a wonderful homemaker. She cooked and baked and sewed. She did many things mothers don't do today, but she loved it, and she loved raising a family, and that was a tough job for anyone to do, and she did a great job doing it, but she was a wonderful role model because of everything she did for our family, and how she encouraged my brother and me to go on and do what we wanted to do, and she knew that I was going to make a great teacher from the beginning, and she encouraged me in that also. Another role model was my fourth grade teacher, Ms. Giacoia, and she helped me in becoming a teacher and becoming a teacher that cared about children and being a great role model in that way.

MS: My role models continue to be my parents just for the blessings they continue to instill in me, especially my mom because she was in education and she continues to be in education for many years, and the other people who is a role model is my fifth grade teacher, Ms. Lyon, and Sidney Poitier, who is a famous actor, and he would be a role model because one of my all-time favorite films is *To Sir With Love*. If you have the chance to see the movie, he is a teacher, and I think that movie also inspired me to become a teacher. It's just examples that -- Mr. Thackeray, who is a character in that movie that inspires children, continues to be an inspiration to me.

MN: Okay, yes, this time, the person who almost got up -- the blue -- yes.

Student: What was your favorite TV show?

[Laughter]

MM: Wow, my favorite TV show. [Laughs] Well, if you go way back --

[Laughter]

MM: -- Way, way back to my childhood. I remember watching *The Lone Ranger* --

[Laughter]

MM: Somebody remember *The Lone Ranger*. *The Lone Ranger*, *The Howdie Doodie Show*. I remember watching *The Howdie Doodie Show*. There was a show called *Miss Frances*, who was a teacher, and she had something --I'm trying to remember. It wasn't Sesame Street. It was far from Sesame Street, but Miss Francis was there and she ran the school well, and it was a black-and-white television show. Television was very, very different from what you know today. Televisions were very small screens, only black and white, but we had many different shows. I remember watching *Hopalong Cassidy* with my brother, who wore a black *Hopalong Cassidy* cowboy hat all the time, and *Davy Crockett* -- and [We would] sing the Davy Crockett song. So we had quite a few shows.

MS: My favorite shows were *Happy Days*, *Laverne and Shirley* --

[Laughter]

MS: Those were fun -- *The Donny and Marie Show*. You don't remember that, but if you watch it on [Nick at Nite's] TV Land, they're good TV shows, and my favorite cartoon was *Courageous Cat and Minute Mouse*.

[Laughter]

MS: -- And Magilla Gorilla.

MN: Okay, yes.

Student: When you were younger, did you play any kind of sports?

MM: Louder, honey.

Student: When you were younger, did you play any kind of sports?

MM: Okay, I was not very good at any sports, believe me, when I was younger. My brother was playing every sport imaginable. He was outside with his friends playing, and my friends and I would watch, but I was really not interested. However, my father did teach me how to swim, and I remember him teaching me and my brother when we were very, very young to swim, and I do love swimming, and I still love to swim, but I was never very good at sports. I didn't have very good balance. I even tried a two-wheeler over and over and over again, and once my father took the training wheels off, I couldn't ride a bike. So I had no balance, [I] could not ride a bike. I tried roller skates. I couldn't do that either, so I am not very coordinated in sports, no.

MS: When I was in school, I played softball. I played baseball, and of course, for obvious reasons, I was the shortstop.

[Laughter]

MS: -- And I also played basketball, but they needed a tall forward, so I played basketball as well as baseball.

MN: Yes? Yep?

Student: Do you still like to write poetry?

MM: Actually, I haven't written poetry in a long time, but I think I still would like to write it, and I think through things happening in life, you become so busy with other

things, especially with a job as principal, that I don't take the time out to do that, and I think I should because it's probably something that I still like. I'm sure it would be.

MS: I still enjoy writing poetry. I think on a different level now, I enjoy the spoken word poetry.

MN: Do you ever perform spoken word?

MS: I haven't performed in the last five years, but I have, on occasion, performed spoken word poetry.

MN: Do we have any videos of your spoken word?

MS: I'm sure, once again, if you --

[Laughter]

MS: I will bring videotapes of me performing spoken word poetry.

MN: Yes --

Student: When you said that you like to go to certain movies, what were your favorite movies growing up?

MM: What were my favorite movies growing up? I liked movie musicals, big movie musicals like *The Sound of Music*, which you know. There's one, *Gigi*, *Singing in the Rain*. I really loved movie musicals. I loved the dancing and the singing. So growing up, I watched many of those movies.

MS: Movies growing up -- I was always a movie buff. I enjoyed watching a lot of action movies, a lot of Steve McQueen. Don't ask why. I just have a fascination. I also enjoyed watching a lot of kung fu movies, a lot of Bruce Lee.

MN: Yes.

Student: What was your favorite hobby as a kid?

MM: Favorite hobby -- I took piano lessons for about ten years. I was very young. I started out -- I guess I was four or five, and I took piano lessons at the Bronx House on Pelham Parkway, and I enjoyed to playing the piano at home, and however, I always wanted to just play, and my mother would tell the story of how I just wanted to play the piano and know how to play, and she would always tell me you need to practice first, and I said I don't need to practice, and then I would try to figure out if I could play, but when I did practice, my mother would sing along, and as soon as she started singing, I couldn't play the piano anymore because she was always off-key, and I was right, but she was right. So I knew that she couldn't sing while I played, but I did play the piano quite a bit, right up into college, and other hobbies -- I loved reading, as I said before. So I really read a lot. I did reading. I was in the library every week, and there were many books in the home, and I really, really loved reading. I also liked going to the movies. My parents enjoyed going to the movies, and I liked going out with my parents. Believe it or not, I remember this area here before Co-op City was built, there was nothing here. It was a swampland at the time, and they built what was called Freedom Land.

MN: Right.

MM: -- and as a child at the time, Freedom Land was built here, right here where the school is, and I remember coming with my parents to Freedom Land -- It was an amusement park -- and having a lot of fun, so my parents loved going out with us and bringing us to different places, and Freedom Land was one of them. It didn't last very long. It didn't do very well, and then I remember Co-op City being built.

MS: My hobbies as a child, a lot of reading. I also liked to dance. I also liked drama. I also enjoyed roller skating. I also enjoyed going out on the playground with my friends in the summertime. So [I was] spending a lot of time watching television. I enjoyed television a lot, so those were some of my hobbies.

MN: Yes?

Student: How did the school punish you?

[Laughter]

MM: Well, I never got in trouble when I was in school, so --

[Laughter]

MM: Of course, I wouldn't know how I would have been punished, but there were children that were punished. Usually they weren't allowed to go out at lunchtime to play. They would have to stay in after-school for detention. I remember a student having to stay after-school quite a long time, actually, and there were a bunch of things taken away, like they weren't allowed to go to gym, things like that. Also, a whole bunch of punish lessons were assigned. Remember I grew up with nuns and children had to write over like a thousand times I must not do something or -- So they did do that also. I do remember in high school also there was detention. I went to an all-girl Catholic high school, and we wore our uniform, and I had to wear white gloves to school everyday, and we had student council members checking the white gloves everyday, and if you didn't bring in your white gloves, you had detention.

[Laughter]

MM: -- And you had to stay after-school, and I remember how, sitting in class, the student council members would come into the classroom and just announce white glove check, and everybody had take out their white gloves. Now everyone in the classroom knew that Marianne Milano always had her white gloves.

[Laughter]

MM: We were sitting in a row, and the student council member would walk up and down the row, so usually the girl behind me or the girl two rows behind would say to me, "Pass down your white gloves," after they passed me. So the student council member would go by me, I had my white gloves, she would pass me, and I would go like this, and the girl behind me would take my white gloves, and pass them to the girl that didn't [have white gloves]. That was not a very good thing to do.

[Laughter]

MM: But I did it. Especially white glove inspection, but I do remember that, and if you didn't have your white gloves, even if you were being perfect in school that day, you would have detention because you didn't have your white gloves.

[Laughter]

MS: Our punishment in high school -- I also went to Catholic school, and at which point the nuns -- They had paddles, and they had paddles, one for the girls, one for the for boys. The girls would see the paddle from Susie, and the boys got paddle Charlie. If you did something wrong -- Of course, I never got Susie because I always did the right thing in school, and you would also have the green bench. The green bench was outside the principal's office. It was a long, green bench, and if you got sent to that room, then you

were in really big trouble, and you would sit on that green bench for a long time until the principal came, and she would see you inside the office. Sister Marilyn Mickle was our principle, and Sister Marilyn Mickle would never want you to be called into her office because Sister Marilyn Mickle was very mean, and she did not like seeing students sitting outside on her green bench. In high school, I also had to wear a uniform like Ms. Milano, and by that point, many of us were allowed to wear jeans, and at that point, for the ladies, they had colored jeans, they had the Lee jeans, so I remember my uniform was green, and at that point, Lee jeans made green jeans, and then the girls would try to wear the green jeans, and you would get in trouble if you did not have your polyester pants on, and you got caught with jeans, you had detention for one week.

[Laughter]

Student: Wow!

MN: Yes?

Student: What restaurants did you like to go to?

MM: I'm sorry, say that again?

Students: What restaurants did you like to go to?

MN: What restaurants?

MN: What restaurants did I like to go with my family? I remember when I was very young, we used to go into New Rochelle a lot because there were movie theaters on Main Street and there were restaurants, and we used to go to – Actually, what is now Giuliano's Restaurant in New Rochelle. It was Giovanni's Restaurant when I was very

young, and we used to go there a lot – We used to go to Giovanni’s Resraurant, and then go to the movies, which was just a couple of blocks up. So I do remember going to that restaurant often. We did go to several, but you have to remember, when I was very young, there pretty much was not McDonald’s or Burger King., or -- there was White Castle.

[Laughter]

MM: We did have White Castle, and I remember liking White Castle a great deal, so I do remember that.

MS: As a child, I can remember going to Chinatown. I can also remember coming to City Island, and I also remember my favorites were McDonald’s, of course, and Jack in the Box. There is no more Jack in the Box, but there were fast food restaurants similar to the Bronx.

MN: I’m going to ask one question to just change -- What historical events in your life growing up made the biggest impression on you?

MM: Well, I was a teenager during the sixties, and the sixties -- a lot happened in the sixties. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. I remember sitting it in my eighth grade classroom when that occurred, and the principal coming to the door of every classroom and telling the teachers to turn on the television, there was a television in every class, and they turned on the television just to watch an educational tape, but they turned on the television and the news was on, and I do remember President John F. Kennedy being assassinated when I was just thirteen. I do remember that. I remember a lot happening in the sixties. There was a loot of turmoil in our country in the sixties. There

were riots. There was the Vietnam War. There was a protest against the war, there were protests against civil rights, many things going on. I remember when Martin Luther King was assassinated also. Actually, I was home that day and I was watching television, and it came on the television, and I ran to tell my mother and father, who were not watching television that this just occurred. So I do remember those. I remember when there were riots against the war, that's the Vietnam War, and many things were going on, and Kent State University they were shooting the students, and I was in college at that time, so I went through high school and college with a lot of turmoil going on in the world around me, and then going into the flower children and wearing bell-bottoms, so I do remember a lot of historical things happening in my teenage years, and a lot of change going on in the country.

MN: Are there any pictures of you in hippie-type clothes?

[Laughter]

MM: No, not hippie, but I do have bell-bottoms, and believe it or not, I have mini-skirts.

[Laughter]

MM: I do have a couple of those pictures, but if I didn't burn them, I may do it now.

[Laughter]

MM: But mini-skirts were very popular, and I did wear mini-skirts and bell-bottoms trousers, yes.

MS: The historical events that I think probably shaped my life when Pope John Paul the Second came to visit the United States for the first time. I remember I was in the fifth grade, and I remember there was a huge deal where we had the opportunity to go on the

FDR Drive as the motorcade of Pope John Paul passed by, and we could see the pope waving. I remember, you know, because in awe because that was the first time, in my lifetime, we got to actually see the pope, and I think the second event that really had a huge impact was when the Soviet Union fell and then, you know, that whole Communist movement, and I remember being in high school in the eighties in fourth-grade social studies class knowing that was something that was historical that was going to change the face of the world, so those two events really shaped my historical memories.

MN: Okay.

[End of Tape One]