

Interviewee: Dolores Neely
Interviewers: Julia Jacques and Tanya Robidoux
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Transcribers: Julia Jacques and Tanya Robidoux



Overseen by Dr. James Lang, Assumption College

Abstract: Dolores Neely was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1928 and moved to Worcester, MA shortly after her marriage to her husband, Ben Neely. After completing several years of education as the first member of her family to attend college, Dolores worked as a teacher and as a Mary Kay consultant. She was also extremely involved in various aspects of society, including various churches, musical groups and other Worcester programs. Throughout this interview, Dolores discusses the importance of each aspect of her life. She repeatedly returns to stories about her family, not only her own children but her parents and siblings, as well. Another major aspect of her life may be found in her religious devotion and her participation in several churches throughout her life. She also discusses her love of music and fondly remembers singing with such prominent groups as the Worcester Chorus and the Salisbury Singers. In this interview, Dolores shares many activities that she enjoyed attending, including meetings of the Worcester Women's History Project, Worcester's First Night celebration, and programs at the Horticultural Society.

Julia Jacques: Okay, so, we are completing a citywide oral history of the lives of Worcester [Massachusetts] women aiming to collect the stories about a broad range of experiences based on the goals of the 1850 National Women's Rights Convention in Worcester. We are focusing on the areas of women's education, health, work, and politics or community involvement. And we want to focus today on your experiences, just throughout your life, how you find meaning in your life. And thank you very much for your help with this project. And we need to ask you Mrs. Neely, for permission to record your oral history today, which is the 19th of November.

Dolores Neely: [nods] Alright. [Laughter] I agree.

Tanya Robidoux and JJ: Okay.

JJ: Okay, to start off with, what is your full maiden name and your married name?

DN: Alright, Dolores Sachs, S-A-C-H-S ...Neely, N-E-E-L-Y.

JJ: Okay, when were you born?

DN: September 15, 1928.

JJ: So you told us you had children, how many children do you have?

DN: We have two children, a son and a daughter.

JJ: Um-hm [coughs]. And so grandchildren?

DN: We have three grandchildren, two grandsons and one granddaughter.

JJ: What cultures and ethnicities do you identify with, like your family background?

DN: I – I guess specifically German and English [laughs].

JJ: Tell us about your parents. How do you, how do you feel about them?

DN: Well...my mother, was eighty-four when she died and she died in Detroit [Michigan]. And my father died, I forget what year he died, but before that. Uh, he died the year before we got married, Ben [Neely] and I, and my parents actually grew up in Depression time, you know, I grew up in Depression time. And it must have been a rough time for my parents because they did divorce when I was five. But I had a sister, 16 years older than me, a sister 11 years older, and a brother 14 years older so I was really the baby of the family [laughs]. And my mother was a seamstress and my father had been a painter and decorator -- a housepainter and decorator -- and he always lived a block away from us and we saw him a lot.

TR: So you lived primarily with your mother?

DN: I lived with my mother, my mother, I lived with her and then my sisters and my brother went off on their own lives, got married, and my sister went in the WACS [Women's Army Corp], she was a woman in the Women's Army Corp and my brother got married and was in the army. So they, they moved away from Detroit. My other sister lived in Detroit. And she was married with one son. And my sister who had been in the service, she met her husband in Austria, in Salzburg, and married him and he was a male war-bride; he came home – came back with her. And my brother married a woman who now lives, who's 92 years old, and she lives in the Willows of Worcestre – of, ah, Westborough [Massachusetts]. And we keep in touch with her. They had seven children. And I was the only...only one who went to college. My sister, Caroline [Sachs], who was 11 years older than I, she was the – she graduated from high school. My brother and my sister did not, my other sister. But my sister Dorothy [Sachs], wanted her GED [General Education Development]. And she got it when she was in her 70s [laughs] down in Florida. And my brother went on, he was able to go take college courses but he never finished; he wanted to be a lawyer. So he's no longer living; my sisters are no longer living. But they had good lives. And my sister Dorothy [Sachs] had two boys, my sister Caroline [Sachs] had one son, and my brother had seven children, yeah [laughs]. Four girls and three boys. So that – that tells about my family. I lived in – I was born in the house that I grew up in on Holcombe Street in Detroit, and it's probably not there anymore because the city of Detroit changed so much.

TR: Yeah. Right.

DN: And then my mother went on after I got married and moved away. My brother looked after my mother; she lived in another town, but he went in to see her a lot in Detroit. She lived in a home that was sponsored by the Salvation Army. She had her own – own apartment. She liked that very much. And she played spoons on the kitchen mat [laughs]. One thing I didn't tell you, my mother was almost totally deaf. So, so, she, ah, she was totally deaf in one ear and the other one had very partial hearing. And hearing aids were not that good at that time. Alright, then I met Ben [Neely]... when I was – had graduated from college and high, from high school – I'll go back, I went to public high school, Detroit, and graduated from Eastern High School. Then I went on to Wayne; it was Wayne University, it's now Wayne State University. And I got my Bachelor's Degree and my Master's Degree from Wayne State. And right after I got my Master's Degree, I married Ben [laughs]. I got the, the degree first and then I married him. I was twenty...six. And I, I – he was in the service and my, my friend met him and her husband at a USO [United Service Organization] dance and I was a blind date the next day [laughs]. So we corresponded for three years. He lived – he was in the army, and when he got out of the army, he went back to Schenectady [New York] to work. So then, after three years of corresponding and visiting, we decided to get married. And we got married in Detroit...at St. Phil...St. Steven's, the Episcopal Church and then went onto Mackinaw Island [Michigan] for our honeymoon. We came back and moved from Detroit, rented a trailer, put all my belongings in the trailer...moved to Scotia, New York, which was right near Schenectady [New York]. And then a few months, let's see, I guess it was – that was – what July...in April of the next year we moved to Worcester. And we rented a house in the Main South area, a furnished house. And he went to work with Morgan Construction Company. And let me see, there are a lot of other things of my growing up, but you want to know about my Worcester [Massachusetts] experiences more [laughs].

TR: Oh, everything you want to tell us [laughter].

DN: Okay, well there's one thing you girls might find interesting. When I was – at the end of my freshman year, I wanted a summer job and there were cruises around the Great Lakes and they hired college girls to be waitresses, singing waitresses [laughter]. We also put out a, a – put out a newspaper, so we would sing for the floor shows and we danced on trays and we wait on, work in the dining room. And there were college students from all over the – that part of the country. And it was very interesting.

TR: How many years did you do that, like summer?

DN: I did it one year.

TR: Just once?

DN: One summer because that – the next year the city of Cleveland [Ohio] burned in dry dock [laughs] and they didn't have any more cruises. Then I did work at a summer resort up in Indian River, Michigan, as a waitress during the summer. And that was also a singing waitress [laughs] job and that was interesting.

TR: Did you always – did you love to sing; is that why it appealed to you?

DN: Yes, yes.

TR: Yeah?

DN: Oh, yes, I enjoyed the piano and singing in the church, in the school choruses and the church choir that I went to. Then after we moved to Worcester, our son was born in August. We moved in April and he was born in August and we moved into our first house in West Boylston [Massachusetts] the day he was born [laughter]. So it wasn't very good planning. And so I was a stay at home mom; I stayed home with the children but active in the church. We went to Trinity Episcopal Church in Shrewsbury [Massachusetts] because there wasn't... was no Episcopal Church in West Boylston so we traveled to the church and I, so, I joined the Worcester Chorus. And I enjoyed singing in the chorus for several years. And then, while we were still in West Boylston I started taking voice lessons from Malama Providakes. She was a beautiful woman singer in Worcester and I took voice lessons from her. And then she started the Salisbury Singers. So after, singing in the Worcester Chorus, I went with Malama to sing with the Salisbury Singers. And I did that for several years. But then I, went back to teaching full time. I had – oh, one thing I didn't tell you, I did teach school in Scotia, New York, kindergarten and remedial reading, those two courses. And then when we moved to West Boylston, I did a little substitute teaching but I stayed home with the children mostly. And...let's see what else, I have to think back... I took courses at Assumption, I took Spalding Remedial Reading Course, don't know if you've ever heard of it. But she came from Fl... from Hawaii and she would teach this wonderful course. It was great; it helped me with the reading instruction. And then I went on to Worcester State and got – and went there several years as a graduate student and received my Reading Specialist Certificate through Worcester State. I went to Lesley College for my CAGS, Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study, and that was in New Britain [Connecticut], working with children of special needs. So that's the education [laughs]. But I also taught school in Millbury [Massachusetts]. I was the reading specialist for the school and the reading coordinator for the school system for a while and then they did away with reading teachers. There, there was a... [Prop] 2 ½ – you may have heard of it, I don't know – tax problem that was voted in and the school system cut back some positions. So I went into the middle school as a resource teacher and I taught that... and all the time I was still keeping up with my music interest, so we would go to the Worcester Music Festival. And there was – when we sang in the Worcester Music Festival at that time it was one week long and we had rehearse – had concerts all week long and I was thrilled because the Detroit Symphony Orchestra was there [laughs]. And we could sit on the stage in the big auditorium that's closed now, behind the orchestra. And it really was a thrill; I enjoyed it very much. And I was, let's see, while I was teaching at Millbury, I was also involved in the Reading Association, National Education – National Reading Association and the Worcester Reading Council. And I became president of that for a year. And then I decided after a year of teaching middle school resource room students, I had enough teaching so I'd had twenty years of teaching so I retired. Then I became a Mary Kay consultant [laughter].

TR: Oh, I buy from them [laughter]

DN: And I enjoyed that very much too. While my husband was busy working in China; he worked for Morgan Construction Company and they were building a steel mill in China. And he was the project manager of that. So he spent a lot of time in China. So, anyways, we kept on with our activities, and we all...The Horticultural Society used to be at... I forget where it, what the name of the building is on Lanc...Lancaster Street? I don't know what that building is now, I forget.

TR: I can, I feel like I can picture it, I'm not sure what the name of it is though.

DN: No, not the horticultural...yes, the horticultural and they would have a Teddy Bear Tea every year [laughter] around Christmas time and my two boys, my son and my daughter enjoyed going to that. And their – they took our – we took our grandsons. Actually, I don't think my son and daughter...no, it wasn't available then but when the grandchildren came along we would enjoy going there and going to events and the Teddy Bear Tea was the – one of the big ones and that was fun. So and I was active at...different churches, um, Trinity Church in Shrewsbury [Massachusetts] and St. Michael's in Worcester [Massachusetts] and then we joined All Saint's in Worcester.

TR: Did you work with just the chorus when you were involved with these churches or did you do...?

DN: No, I was on the vestry in, at All Saint's which is the executive body and then at St. Andrew's in North Grafton [Massachusetts], I was on the executive committee there. It was – it was a mission church at the time. Now it's a church – it's a full-fledged church [laughs]. And, then I changed to All Saints, singing in the choir there occasionally because they have mostly a men and boys' choir and a girls' choir. And let's – let's see, I was also a church school teacher. Oh, at...St. Andrew's I was the church school directoress and was in charge of the church school. And then when I decided I wanted to go to the urban church, I moved to All Saints. And ah, we traveled back and forth and now we're still members of All Saints on Pleasant and Irving Street. Do you know where it is? It's a big church...

JJ: I think I do.

TR: I'm not sure.

DN: Okay.

TR: I'm not very familiar...

DN: Alright, well, it's not far from here, 15 minutes from here. And we did a lot of...gardening...at our house up there. We had a lot – four acres of land and a big vegetable garden. And I kept in touch with the garden club in Grafton [Massachusetts]. And I like to go to the – the events in Worcester that were about gardening. Oh, also, one thing I forgot, I was a docent at the Worcester Art Museum.

TR: We actually did a project there this, this year.

DN: Oh did you?

TR: Yeah, we had to go and look at a couple pieces.

DN: Oh, good.

TR: And kind of relate them to stories.

DN: It's a beautiful...

TR: Yeah.

DN: Well...

TR: There's so much to see, we were there for maybe two hours.

DN: There's a lot to see...

[Telephone Rings]

DN: Well, I was in the...can you get that, Ben? I was in the first docent class and it was wonderful. It was run by Richard Muleberger (ph) at the time, who was the instructor for the docents and it was just a marvelous course.

[Husband, Ben Neely, talking in the background]

DN: I was teaching part time at, and teaching part time and going to the art museum [laughs]. So I was a docent for two or three years and then I went back to teaching full time. So when I started teaching in Millbury full time, I decided I couldn't – couldn't continue, so then I was a weekend volunteer at the art museum. And I sat at the information desk and would answer questions, and tell people where to go, where the directions – they would ask for directions. The museum was different then: you went into the front entrance. You can't do that now.

TR: No, now you have to go to the side, yeah.

DN: That's right. But I love the museum; it's beautiful. We love to go to the events there. So, and that, as I say, I did join the Worcester History, Women's – Worcester History project and I've been a member since they started.

TR: What have you done with them?

DN: I really haven't done much more than pay my dues [laughter].

TR: You said you were at the first meeting though?

DN: I was at the first meeting and I went – I met several people and talked to a lot of people and it, it was very interesting. And they had a couple other – oh, I went – we went to the Abby Kelley Foster play, the first one that was done. And that was very interesting. And some of my friends were in it. Now there's only one person that does it, she goes around and – travels around and does it but the first one was a little bit different. It was well-attended. I was also a member of the Worcester YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association]. I would go there for, for classes, when my children were small and they took swimming lessons there. I'm going back and forth because as I remember things [laughs].

TR: Yeah, no, that's fine [laughter].

DN: And I must say, as a Mary Kay consultant I worked pretty steadily at that. It was very interesting and I went to – I met several clients in the Worcester area. You get to know Worcester very well, as well as the surrounding towns.

TR: My mom sells Silpada Jewelry. Also she does, it's similar to Mary Kay in going to people's home and so yeah.

DN: Oh, yes, that's right. Now we would give skin care classes, that's what we... [laughs].

TR: Yeah, that's great.

DN: And I would go to the seminar in Dallas, Texas and that was always fun. So we drove down one year from here [laughter].

JJ: That's a long way.

TR: That's a long; I don't think I could do that drive. Maybe, depends on who's in the car with me. My siblings, I don't know.

DN: Well, it was just my husband and I so [laughs] and it was fun. And there's so many things we've done in Worcester. The, the, First Night – we went to the first First Night that was held in Worcester for New Year's Eve. And they used to, ...let's see, we'd walk all around Main Street and stop at different places; they'd have different activities. And standing on the steps of the Memorial Auditorium and watching the fireworks, hearing music; that was – that was fun. So that's -- we went there for a few, for two or three years and then we stopped going. Didn't want the cold anymore. And it just wasn't that good. And as I say, my husband worked at Morgan Construction Company, so we knew several people from Morgan and we'd get together with them. That – that was good. We'd go to Mechanics Hall for some concerts. When I was in the Worcester Chorus, we sang *Messiah* at the Mechanics Hall before it had been renovated. We stood up on the back near the organ and [laughs] it was dusty all over. But the con – I mean, it was the first time that *Messiah* had been sung there and that was the beginning of the renovation

of Mechanics Hall. We would go to rehearsals at Mechanics Hall and they used to have wrestling bears [laughs].

TR: Wrestling bears.

DN: Upstairs so, sometimes – there was one time we met a bear that was one of the wrestlers.

TR and JJ: Wow.

TR: That's not something you can – “Oh yeah, I met a bear.” Okay [laughter].

DN: So that's where the rehearsals were held for the Worcester Chorus. And Salisbury Singers, we would rehearse in the different ch – different places, All Saints, Trinity Lutheran the First Unitarian Church, I've sung there. So I'm trying to think about lots of...oh, oh, and Tower Hill is wonderful. We've been watching, observing Tower Hill as it has expanded and it's just a beautiful place; have you been there?

TR and JJ: No.

DN: Next spring you must, I would suggest you go there. Or this, during the holiday season; they're having a special holiday time. It'll be beautiful. So that's in Boylston [Massachusetts]. That's where the Horticultural Society is now. So it is beautiful. Well, oh, and we – the *Messiah* – the Worcester Chorus went to Detroit to sing the *Messiah* one year and that was a thrill.

TR: Returning, going back home being like oh, I, I can – I know where that is, I can bring you there [laughter].

DN: And I really was sorry I couldn't continue with the Worcester Chorus or the Salisbury Singers because I was too involved with my teaching and my Mary Kay work.

TR: You're a busy woman.

DN: Running the family and then decided to – and Ben had some physical problems. So we had to stay home [laughs]. But the gardening has always been – been wonderful...let's see. What else have we done in Worcester, Ben, that you can talk about?

Ben Neely: Well, there was...what else?

DN: What about Worcester? Can you remember any events?

BN: Like what? What have you...said so far?

DN: Well, you just mention one and we'll – I'll let you know if we've talking about it [laughs].

BN: Alright.

TR: He's got to brainstorm.

DN: He's not really...

TR: Well, um, I do have a question. You have – you're very involved with church work, were you very involved when you were younger too? Did you grow up – you grew up with that – your parents were...?

DN: Yes, at a little church, St. Mary's Church in Detroit and it's no longer there. And I often would ride my bicycle – my girlfriend and I would ride our bicycles to church and to choir practice and at, – we were very involved in Youth Group. And we had a wonderful woman who would have the young girls, teenagers or younger, every Friday night we'd meet at her house and she was such a wonderful lady. And her son would provide transportation if we – if we lived too far away to get to her house walking or bike – riding our bike. And that was such a just – just a very, very fine thing to do. She had no girls of her own, she had sons. But she helped us [telephone rings] and the girls would wait on the tables at the dining room and it, ah, was just a nice experience in the church school. So I'm sorry about the phone.

TR: It's okay [laughs. **BN** talking in background]

DN: We could have gone to the library maybe.

JJ: Oh, it's okay.

TR: So you have a nice library here?

DN: Oh, yes, we do, yes, we do. Very nice library.

TR: That's good. Good to be with reading and that kind of thing. Do you like to read a lot still?

DN: Yes, I like to read a lot; I belong to the Literary Forum... [talking to **BN**, **DN** goes to telephone].

[Recording Paused]

JJ: We know that you've been in tons and tons of things so we are wondering if – do you consider yourself active politically?

DN: If what?

JJ: If you have been active politically?

DN: I didn't understand you.

JJ: Have you, um, been participating in any political activities or anything?

DN: Um...I vote [laughs].

JJ: That counts.

DN: Ah, no when I was in college I was a member of the NAACP [National Association for the Advancement of Colored People] and for--I think my junior and senior year also Young Republicans in college. But I have not except for helping friends in our local politics become selectmen.

JJ: Uh huh

DN: Oh, I forgot [laughs] I was in politics. I was a library trustee at West Boylston so I had to run for that office and I was elected and worked there for...I was a part of that for I don't know how many, three years I guess. Two or three years before we moved to Grafton. So that was my, a political experience [laughs].

TR: It beats mine, I just started voting.

DN: Well, good for you.

TR: I wasn't able to vote for the presidential primary because my birthday was like a month after.

DN: Oh, okay [laughs].

TR: But it's okay.

DN: My grandson just voted in his first election and he was thrilled to do it [laughs]. They live in Reading, Massachusetts and our son lived for sixteen years in Australia, [pauses slightly] and our granddaughter was born in Australia, today's her sixteenth birthday.

TR: Oh really?

JJ: Well, Happy Birthday!

DN: And they moved back two years ago to be closer to family and I have been on four trips to Australia and was there when she was born, so that's nothing political but... [laughs].

TR: No that's quite interesting, we like to hear that.

DN: And we have toured Australia and New Zealand...so, and Belgium.

TR: I would love to do like a semester abroad in possibly Australia or New Zealand.

DN: Oh.

TR: I feel like I'm going to get the chance to possibly go; I have a lot of friends that want to go to Europe and I'm like – I think it would be easier to go to Europe than it would be to go over New Zealand or Australia.

DN: If you can go to Australia, go to Australia! [laughs]

TR: Yeah.

[DN laughs]

TR: I have a friend that went there.

DN: Now my granddaughter says she wants to go back to college in Australia, so I wonder if she will or not.

TR: That's very far.

[DN laughs]

DN: Let's see, what else can I think about? [Pause] Then we moved here a year ago and our son bought our house so it helped us to move here [laughs]. And because we've had some physical problems since moving here; it's been a good place to be, it's the Willows, a beautiful facility. I hope you have a chance to take a tour.

TR: Maybe we will.

JJ: We had a little one when we drove around a bit earlier.

TR: We were like, okay let's see where we are going to park? And just drove around a little bit.

DN: This is our parking garage [points out the window]. And that's for residents; I can see if Ben's coming home or not and he can see if I'm coming home [laughs].

TR: You check the window; he's not home on time [laughs].

DN: So and of course we took...when the kids were in high school we went on a cross country camping trip.

TR and JJ: Wow!

DN: And that was, we got as far as June Lake, California.

TR and JJ: Wow!

DN: And we visited some friends along the way and we stayed in seventeen different camp grounds--

TR: Is that in seventeen different states?

DN: Yes [laughs]...And we pulled a camper that we had rented because we really aren't campers.

TR: Not tent people. [DN laughs] I'm a tent person just because we don't have a camper. My mom would like the camper, my dad's like, NO, we are going to sleep outside under the stars [DN laughs] in tents, but if it were up to him we would be sleeping in sleeping bags on the ground.

DN: My daughter and her family do that [laughs].

TR: Yeah, my dad takes my brother up to the mountain every, like twice a year. Him and my neighbors, they go on an overnight. I say okay you guys can have fun; we are going to stay at home. [DN laughs] I like camping but I don't want to rough it that much [laughs].

DN: Of course going, I went to -- I got my masters in Detroit at -- while I was teaching. I was teaching in Detroit, I taught seven years in Detroit. [Telephone rings] Busy phone!

TR: Busy people!

DN: [Answers the phone] Hello?

[Recording Paused]

DN: When I got out of the pool and went into the hot tub and I came out and my feet slipped and I dislocated my arm so... [laughs].

TR: Oh...

DN: So I'm still getting therapy...for it. But anyways I wish I could think of more things about.

TR: More things -- you have -- your life is very interesting. You traveled a lot

DN: Well, I could tell you another thing about, when we were in Trinity Episcopal Church at Shrewsbury, we were with three other couples and we were in charge of the youth group and that was fun. We went -- climbed Mount Monadnock [Massachusetts] and...

TR: Mount Monadnock, I've climbed that [laughs].

DN: And we also put together a puppet show; we made puppets and put together a puppet show and took the show to the hospital for the children.

TR: That's wonderful.

DN: That was many years ago, our children were little at the time but we did that with three other couples and we are still in touch with those couples. Even though they have moved and separated but that, that was fun.

JJ: Like she was saying you have done a million, billion fun things and so what would you say has been one of the most important things, or the most meaningful in your life?

[Pause]

TR: Has it maybe been maybe the continuing churches and that...

DN: Yeah.

TR: Or--

DN: Yeah, the continuing churches.

TR: Education?

DN: Certainly the education, I mean I was involved with education for years. Gaining my own education and college experiences and teaching. And I'd say that and then raising my children [laughs].

JJ: Um huh.

DN: And they are both factors, they are both college graduates who are busy with their families. And we are very pleased, I need a tissue...there's up there on the box by the door. I think all of the involvements, and all of the women in my life I have been meeting with have been wonderful. Well, I'll tell you at church too, I have been a Eucharistic Minister – Lay Eucharistic minister to serve the chelas and lay reader and other aspects of the church. It's been a wonderful experience in each of the churches I've belonged to [laughs].

TR: And you've said that your children are very – did you instilled with them religion?

DN: Yes, they still-- my grandsons have been very active in their church and my daughter and her husband are very active, they go to the Parish of the Epiphany in Winchester [Massachusetts]. And my son and his wife and daughter are active in the Saint Andrews Episcopal Church in North Grafton. So they have retained their religious interests...that has, we are very proud of them. My grandsons, Ned who is the sophomore in college at Tufts is an Eagle Scout and his brother is about to finish his Eagle Scout project so...he's a senior, he's a high

school senior.

JJ: My brother did that too, what was his project that he did?

DN: Well, Ned built a handicap ramp in the forest of Reading. A handicap ramp that would lead to the cabin that's there. There's a log cabin and people couldn't get there if they were in the least bit handicap because there was a ditch and it wasn't easy to get to. So he worked very hard...

JJ: That takes a lot of work.

DN: And built the handicap ramp. Now Tom -- in that same forest, there is a marshy area and people like to go walking in the forest and they can't go through that area so he's building a pathway. A wooden pathway--

TR: Like a bridge?

DN: Yeah, so he's almost through with that [laughs]. And Helen is on the student counsel at her school in Grafton High School.

TR: So she's political [laughs].

DN: Well she might be a little bit [laughs].

TR: Well, we'll see.

DN: Well the boys are a little bit -- they are more of the democratic movement [laughs]. So...and what else have they...? Well this isn't about my children, it's about what I've done but anyways my daughter works for the food pantry in Reading and she also has an engineering company, she and a friend they invent things...So that's kind of fun.

JJ: That's a cool job.

DN: And my son was out of work for several months but he's working in Warwick, Rhode Island right now for Cox Communication, he has a very good job with them and his wife works as a bank teller. So and Helen is very good at what she does... [laughs] my granddaughter. So.

TR: When your kids were growing up was education very important, did you make it so? It seems as if they were very... they had a lot of initiative in themselves, they've done great things so you have probably instilled in them that education is important.

DN: Education is important, that's right, that's right. Yep, yes we did, and our son is an Eagle Scout also so he works hard. No, education is really very important and, well, especially for when I do belong to a Delta Zeta sorority. Uh, but it was Delta Sigma Epsilon when I went to Wayne and that became part of Delta Zeta and I had to go to Harvard to become initiated into the

Delta Sig- Zeta sorority after having graduated from college [laughs].

TR: They are like, come back, you need to get reinitiated. And you are like, I did that freshman year [DN laughs].

DN: And well I was in the – well we started the sorority at Wayne. The initial members -- ten of us -- and it went on and is still there.

TR: That's great!

DN: But now – it was Sigma Epsilon but now it's Delta Zeta and so I keep in touch with my friends that way too.

TR: How did you guys start a sorority?

DN: I think there was a woman who was... I have to think back now... I think she had been a member somewhere else and she contacted us and told us about it and we decided that might be the thing to do.

TR: That's very interesting. I feel like we need to start a sorority at Assumption College. [DN laughs] It's very little, and I don't know, everyone have to be part of the sorority but maybe not live in a sorority house. Did you guys live in a house?

DN: No, we didn't even have dormitories, I lived at home.

TR: You lived at home?

DN: I lived at home and went to college. No dormitories, there are dormitories now but not at the time. And it was a big school and there are a lot of people...My first major was journalism, so I worked on the newspaper, the college newspaper and they had a house where we would do the, the work, for the newspaper. And that was important...I decided that I'd need a job when I got out of college, so that's when I went into teaching because teaching, there were teaching jobs at that time. But we only got paid \$3,600 a year, it wasn't very much and not even for that time. And there is something you might find interesting, I was an auditorium teacher.

TR: What does that entail?

[DN laughs]

TR: I'm not really sure what that is.

DN: I think Detroit's the only place where they had auditorium teachers, we would have double classes in the auditorium of the building and we'd teach music appreciation and art appreciation and we'd have the school plays and we'd do that kind of work. And show movies occasionally and I was in charge of that. But then when I knew I was moving from Detroit because I was

going to get married, I switched to the fourth grade. So I went to a classroom and I enjoyed that very much.

TR: So you just wanted, did mostly middle school, and elementary school, kindergarten not high school or anything?

DN: Not high school, except when I was reading coordinator in Middlebury [Massachusetts] so I did have to meet with the high school to go through the reading program. That was, so that all ended when they voted not to have any more reading teachers and now they are back to having reading teachers. That was a while ago.

TR: It's crucial, reading.

DN: It is crucial.

TR: I feel like that is not the first thing I would expect them to cut from a classroom.

DN: It was, I really felt badly about that, but it was. Education has been very important so I'm glad to see you two girls are in college [laughs].

TR: Well, thank you. My mom went to college but my dad didn't, he went into the military so...

DN: Oh, well, that's good.

TR: Yeah.

DN: And my older sister, she felt badly about not finishing high school so she got her GED [General Education Development] at a late age but she did it [laughs].

TR: She did it, that's great!

DN: I'm trying to think if there is anything else.

TR: If there is anything else you want to tell us, we don't have any more questions.

DN: You don't have any more questions.

TR: No you covered them.

DN: So, I haven't grown up in Worcester but I've lived in the Worcester area for a long time. So of course when we moved to Grafton then back to Worcester [laughs].

TR: It's a great place. Did you live mostly in this area of Worcester. Well, I don't really know the other areas but more towards this part of Worcester...?

DN: Well I use to drive around, a lot around, in different parts. We lived in the Main South, Winchester Street. We rented a house there and I use to walk, walk to shop. But that was before the shopping mall at Webster Square so...but then we moved West Boylston [Massachusetts] and, but I would still come back and forth. He [points to husband] worked in Worcester at Lincoln Square, that's right, Lincoln Square is part of Morgan. It was bought by Seamans, but in the Morgan Company building from what I understand was rented out. So that's – I can't think of anything else...This place is brand new -- been here for about two years and it's only been open for a year. Some residents lived here before it was finished but there are many interesting people here.

JJ: Actually that is a question that we have, are there any people that you would suggest that we talk to?

DN: What?

JJ: Is there anybody that you would suggest that we talk to?

DN: I did, when I was first called I did give names. I wonder if you have any of those names or not?

JJ: The coordinator probably has them.

TR: The coordinator might have some but if you want to just pass them on to us, do they all live here?

DN: They all live here.

TR: So we could pass on their information.

DN: One is Cecily Marshall.

JJ: Do you mind spelling that?

DN: C-E-C-I-L-Y, Marshall M-A-R-S-H-A-L-L. She would be good, Cecily Maddox Marshall, she has written a book and she would be an interesting person to talk to she lived in Worcester and lives in West Boylston. But she was in the Junior League in Worcester and has done many good things. Rosalie Olds.

JJ: Could you spell that again?

DN: R-O-S-A-L-I-E O-L-D-S

JJ: I just want to make sure I have all the spelling right.

TR: We will pass these names along so that they can get in contact with them.

DN: Okay, Esther London.

JJ: I got that one.

DN: Dorothy Schwartz S-C-H-W-A-R-T-Z.

TR: The Worcester Woman's organization does have a website, and there is email up there so if you ever decide you want to email more names or about anything. Get more information, about if they are doing more activities. I know you were there at the beginning and maybe you still are kind of involved with it so if you want to stay more in touch they have that website.

DN: I can give you one more name Marilyn – I'll need to look up her last name. Well, I don't know if whether I've given you girls anything you really want.

TR: You definitely did.

DN: [gets up] Oh, and one person you should know is Sylvia Davidson.

[End of Recording]