

**Interview of Thomas Lorandean**  
**By Eric Lorandean**  
**Yardley, Pennsylvania**  
**March 26, 2011**

**Disc 1**

0:00:00

Eric Lorandean: Ok it is March 26, 2011. We are here at Tom Lorandean's house in Yardley, Pennsylvania to conduct an interview for the Oral History 650 class. The name of the interviewer is Eric Lorandean. The name of the narrator, I think we said is Tom Lorandean. The purpose of today's interview is to one take the life history approach and then also look into the history of La Salle University. The relationship between the interviewer and the interviewee is uncle and nephew. Can you please acknowledge for the camera that you are being recorded?

Tom Lorandean: I am being recorded. I understand that.

Eric: Ok. When and where were you born?

Tom: Uh, born in Philadelphia in 1952.

Eric: Uh, and what was the date?

Tom: February 26<sup>th</sup>

Eric: February 26<sup>th</sup>

Tom: You are looking for my birth date.

Eric: Yes

Tom: February 26. In the computer age it really says it isn't to give out certain information including your birth date it's become an identifier. But that's ok. (laugh)

Eric: Um did you -

Tom: It was a leap year so three days later I'd been born on February 29<sup>th</sup> so I had missed that opportunity.

Eric: That's very cool. Did your parents tell you anything about the day you were born?

Tom: Uh, (pause) I guess it was not really a topic of conversation. I'm sure I

- 0:01:43 received a little newspaper headline type thing on the day you were born but I don't think anything particularly significant happened on that day that I know (pause) other than I was born. (laughs)
- Eric: Was there any reason to receiving the name Tom and what is your middle name?
- Tom: Robert -
- Eric: Robert.
- Tom: - is the middle name. (pause) Wow I never thought about that. My middle name I know more about than my given name. (Laughs) (Coughs) Excuse me. My middle name is the same as my father's middle name and was also done in recognition of his uncle Bob and who was his father's brother and with whom he had a great relationship with - always enjoyed, you know, his company - and so had a certain amount of affection in that direction. Tom. I'm not aware of anybody in our family that has the name Tom. I have no idea and I should ask that question. Why did you call me Tom? So that's on my list.
- Eric: What is your first most vivid memory? What - when you think back as a child, can you think of, like, one of the first memories that you possibly have?
- Tom: I certainly remember when I was younger than four years old whether it was probably 3, 2, 3 years old. The old neighborhood - we moved when I was four and I have a lot of memories from - the old neighborhood which was across from Wissinoming Park. I remember a fellow on the back who tried to be beat a UPS truck across the street and lost and was in a full body cast. I remember him sitting in the back alley in his full body cast and chatting with him, trying to understand why he was looking the way he did. I remember getting in trouble, you know, riding around as kids do being too loud or rowdy and so, you know, being (pause) kind of like as with kids you know being shooed down the other end of the alley. And I remember playing in the park across the street that we - Wissinoming Park - that was directly across the street from that so. Yeah and, you know, you have certain memories of interactions with your parents and so I do remember some early memories of that stuff.
- Eric: Could you go into detail about any of the earlier memories with - between you and your parents?
- Tom: I suppose the one memory that's most vivid is reoccurring, I suppose. Not reoccurring in the sense that when we would be out playing my mother would call when it was time to come in for dinner, whatever it was and so it

0:04:44 was just the memory that has always stuck with me of my mother calling me out of either the front door or the back window calling for my brother and for me to come into the house so that seemed to be – and it was a – it’s an interesting memory because it’s very familiar in terms of recognizing that your mom is looking for you and so hearing that voice I think was a very comforting voice in a way even though it was annoying that you had to go. It was very comforting to hear that voice some - you know, your mother trying to track you down.

Eric: Ok, you spoke about a brother. Is that your only sibling? Do you have multiple siblings?

Tom: There are -

Eric: What are their names and what are their ages?

Tom: There are three brothers. I have an older brother. So my older brother Eugene, or Gene, two years older than me. So he was born and lived in the house in Wissinoming. And then two other brothers who were later born once we moved to Juniata Park so. So my older brother was born in 1950, Eugene then Bill was born in 1956 so, William, and Wayne was born in 1967. So there was some age spread between kids which was not unusual in my family. There’s a fifteen or seventeen year spread between my mother’s older brother and her younger brother and far more years between my dad’s youngest brother. And he and there happens to be fifteen years between my oldest daughter and my son. (laughs) So we have a family with long spans. Maybe we just like having little kids around.

Eric: What do you think contributed to that other than, like you said, having little kids around. Do you think there is any kind of like sociological thing that there is that time span between children?

Tom: I think that it’s simply comes down to enjoying that part of life that having a kid around allows you to enter into. You do things when you have a kid. You make up reasons to do things that sometimes you overlook whether it’s going to amusement parks or taking kids – if you enjoyed teaching your child by taking them to museums getting involved in activities and the like I think that maybe you kind of miss that and so you enjoy having others, other kids around. It’s the only thing I can think of, I suppose. (cough) Maybe you get to a point where you start thinking, you know, you have – you’re still old enough to have one more child (laughs) and so you do it. And maybe the point is too, there’s no prohibition in the family in that regard. There’s – it’s a very normal thing within the family and so people don’t think about I’m too old for kids.

Eric: Are you or have you been married?

0:08:02

Tom: I am married. I was – I've been divorced. I've been – I was married to Fran Ellison who also is a La Salle graduate and we divorced in 1992 or so. And then several years later I met the woman I am now married to, Kimberly and we've been married for fifteen, sixteen years.

Eric: What is Kimberly's last name?

Tom: Kimberly's last name is Van Haitsma. (cough)

Eric: Ok so...

Tom: And Kimberly maintains Van Haitsma as her last name so she's Doctor Kimberly Van Haitsma. And although sometimes for school she uses Lorandean because people still don't always get that you're related to your child if you don't have the same name so for convenience she has emails in both names. (laughs)

Eric: That kind of will segway into a different question then. I guess maybe most of society prefers or is sometimes people view it differently of a woman keeping her last name. What are your thoughts on that or when Kimberly said that to you did you say no way, yes way. What was your reaction? Did you have a reaction? Do you care?

Tom: You go girl! You know – I, you know, have two daughters as well. I really feel that, you know, women need to have every opportunity to establish their identity. I had my oldest daughter took the name of her husband whose now - she's now married, Carla and - frankly I had a conversation with her saying are you sure you want to do this (laughs) because, you know, you can use the other name but do you really want to lose that identity and so that's something to think about and I think what's important is that a woman does lose herself when she marries a guy. I suppose going back to my La Salle College days where I – you know, they were days of lots of street demonstrations and they included feminist demonstrations and I actually have some fond memories of participating in some feminist demonstrations (laughs) during those periods of time.

Eric: This was -

Tom: This was during La Salle.

Eric: Ok, then we'll definitely come back to that.

Tom: (coughs) Excuse me.

Eric: Ok – (taking note of feminist demonstrations on interview guide)

0:10:37

Tom: So I went through my course of study and we will probably come back to this but, you know, I guess three areas that I spent most of my time with, or four, arguably but sociology a little bit of psychology worked in there and history and education and the interconnection between all those is just curiosity about why things happen. And, you know, it leads to a curiosity about what's going on with respect to, you know, societal movements and that case the issue around women. And simply say women's rights but it really comes down to understanding how history deals with certain groups - lots of different ways you can slice and dice that - but certainly women as a group have really struggled with their place in society and I came to appreciate that during my college days and so I think anything you can do to be supportive of allowing every person whether it's a woman or any other person to fully realize who they are and not lose their identity is important. And I think the last name was a little symbol of that so I am actually very proud that my wife is who she is.

Eric: Let's speak about children. You spoke about your first wife, Fran, and your second wife, Kimberly. Do you have - you said - you spoke about multiple children. Who did you - Did you have any children with Fran and what were their names?

Tom: Two well with Fran. There was Carla, born in 1982 and Candice born in 1986 and then Timothy is with Kimberly who is born in the year 2000. So there's three children, two girls and one boy.

Eric: Do you remember where Carla, Candice and Timothy were born? Where they were born?

Tom: Of course I do. (Laughs) And I'm trying not to be the guy, like oh yeah what when were they born or when were they born or where? Was I there? I was there. Cand - Car - Carla, the oldest, was born at the Princeton Medical Center and so very uneventful, fortunately, a healthy young lady. And Candice was born in Japan. I lived in Japan for several years doing business there and she was born at the Byoin Hospital in Tokyo and, you know, so that was a little bit more eventful in terms of the stories of dealing with the Japanese medical system and making sure Candice was properly documented as an American citizen and the like. And Timothy was born here in Langhorne at St. Mary's Hospital.

Eric: Just for the record could you say one more time the hospital that Candice was born in, in Japan?

Tom: B-y-o-i-n. Byoin. I believe that's the spelling it's been some years now, twenty some years but Byoin Hospital in Tokyo.

0:14:23

Eric: Do you have any thoughts about having one of your children born in a different country?

Tom: I think that was great. I think we had the option of flying home and fortunately Fran, my first wife - we actually have a very good relationship and so while we split for reasons that were good for her and good for me we work closely in and continued to raise the children and the - and my point is that I think there was a certain sense of adventure that she shared with me and we both thought it would be an interesting adventure, if you would. We certainly had no question about the quality of medical care in Japan so it's not as though there was a risk issue. It would have been less convenient to come back because she likely would have had to come back on her own and then I would have had to try to time coming back to the States because I'm living and doing business. So it just made sense to have a child in Japan and from our perspective - so we weren't doing it just for the sake of doing it. It was the logical thing to do but from an emotional point of view we thought that was kind of fun to experience a different culture with respect to the whole - it's a way - any time you can get into a society as opposed to being a tourist and kind of just watching it makes it that much more interesting. And so this was another window into understanding how Japan worked and so from that point of view it was a learning experience. It was fascinating to do that and again the medical care was just fine. It was much different and so it did require rethinking, culturally, your - what's important and what's supposed to happen but it still is very very interesting. And working within a Japanese company there - was one of two Americans we had hundred some Japanese employees in the company. The Japanese employees were extremely supportive and it worked out great. So it was a healthy baby, no complications so. It's easy for me to say no complications because I'm not having the baby.

Eric: (laughs)

Tom: My wife at the time may have thought that it was a little more complicated but that was a - we didn't have any medical issues, medical emergencies.

Eric: You spoke about the medical care and you mentioned how it was different from your other two children who were born in the United States. Could you go into any detail about how they were different? How the experience was different being in a Japanese hospital versus an American hospital?

Tom: Alright. I could probably talk to you for more than an hour on that subject so I will try to focus on a few things. I think in a very generic sense the whole - it's more of a socialized system if you would. I used socialist, socialized because it just has some negative connotations here in the U.S. but it's a - it's clearly a system that's interconnected at a government level. And the

0:17:43

benefits certainly to them is that they have much better understanding of diseases of medical issues throughout the society and so they're planning and their response to medical issues is much more fine-tuned. They're very efficient at being able to manage the well-being and you see that. They live long lives. They live healthy lives and (pause) – but of course it's in a context much differently that in the U.S. we tend to think of people, the brightest people, go on start big businesses. In Japan, particularly in the eighties when I lived there, the brightest people went into government, (pause) working for the government where you had the responsibility of not just taking care of medical issues but trade issues. You have a country that's short of resources and so you – there interconnectness to the world is really really key. They're vulnerable in terms of the rise of the Chinese powerhouse and in so just to manage at a government level was very very critical to their survival. And so you wanted the best and the brightest in the government and so the medical system was an outshoot of that; I guess you would say. More specifically in the hospital (pause) You (pause) - women are not treated perhaps as specially as they are in the U.S. There is a certain chauvinism I guess you might say that exists. The – in terms of bedside manners you might say it's a throwback to maybe the 1920s in the U.S. I wasn't there so but what I would expect when women would go in for examinations there would be, you know, a large room with maybe ten, you know, the little beds you see in doctor offices. And they'd be separated by curtains and so women would just, you know, for if you're pregnant and you're doing the medical checkup they would just line them up in those beds and the doctor would just go from curtain to curtain to curtain to curtain. It was more like a factory-style and we're much more hung – even though the sanitation certainly was a big issue in Japan I think their medical system is not as fanatic as we are in terms of the (pause) I'll say cleanliness but maybe it's just the décor. You don't have that feeling of sterility that you have in the U.S. - you go in some places and everything's wiped - and it's more of a practical setting you might say. There's also differences in how they approach medications. You know, we're very quick to give medication; they are very slow to do that. Some more specific stories I guess, you know, you have lots of cultural issues that go - and the doctors certainly was king so you didn't really – it was unusual to talk back or to question the doctor. The doctor would have all-knowing authority or all all-knowing knowledge and so you would just – you were just there to be looked at sort of like livestock. (laughs) You know, we were Americans and so we could buck the system and you had – the great thing about being American is in a society like that is that you can experience that part of the society but as an American you can speak up and you can act differently and everyone expects you to act differently. So you can protect your value system or you can interject your value system while somewhat experiencing what typically happens. So it was a less humane operation lets say in terms of how medical care was delivered to women. Afterwards though, when the baby was born you would be in a large room and with a bunch of other women with their kids and so when it became feeding time

0:22:36

the bell would ring. There was a bell and all the women would get up and go get their babies and feed them and the bell would ring and they would all go back and put their babies away and then bell would ring and they'd all go around and sit in the communal style around, you know, a table like in a mess hall to have a - you know, there'd be all breakfast, lunch and dinner and of course it was always tradition Japanese meal with miso soup and a little fish and the like and so my - so Fran she had a big container of peanut butter and some bread and so she'd drag her peanut butter along with her and make peanut butter sandwiches. She would sit around and the other people of course again you're an amusing American and so. The key thing is as long as you have a sense of humor and I guess that's something too that's really important. Anyone who thinks about this type of thing if you don't go in with a sense of humor, if you don't go in with a sense of adventure - there are some people who are absolutely miserable and they're complaining about that stuff. You have to go into it and find that to be something you take great amusement at and seeing the differences and you don't mind the inconveniences that go along with that. You know, the birth itself you know is a big thing about footwear. And so I remember going into the hospital when the baby was due and Candice was ready to come and I remember, you know, shoes go off as you're entering the first part of the hospital and they have all of these slippers, white slippers, lined up and you put on the white slippers, sandals I guess, and you go on in and then you go to your room. You take off those slippers and you put the slippers on for being in the room. And then I remember she had to go to the bathroom and so she's heading toward the bathroom and she starts to walk into the bathroom with her room slippers and I remember the Japanese nurse just almost just about to just, you know, she was struggling with anxiety as she watched her walk into the bathroom with her room slippers, sandals, instead switching over the red bathroom sandals. And you know so there's a lot of little things too that you sort of watch along the way and say well we didn't do that right. (laughs) So, you know and then the baby was about to come around two o'clock in the morning and the nurse that was there didn't believe it - said you know it was too fast from her perspective and again being that you really honored the doctor you didn't want to disturb the doctor at two o'clock in the morning and so. So the nurse would not get the doctor because she didn't believe the baby would come so fast. And so finally the baby started coming out and the nurse just pushed it back in (laughs) literally (laughs). And then she went to get the doctor and then another stepped up and the baby came and the doctor came so you know but again there was no complications. We both look back upon that with great amusement and (laughs) you know.

Eric: So the baby was coming out and the nurse pushed the baby back in?

Tom: Yes. (laughs) You know the baby starts to crown. The head starts coming out and she panicked and she saw it and so she tried to push it back in and - (laughs)

0:26:05

Eric: In that moment what was your thought? What did you do? Like how did you respond?

Tom: Well it was only a moment because -

Eric: Ok

Tom: - she, the baby was not going to go back in.

Eric: Right.

Tom: You know and so that was her panicked response as soon as the nurse and of course all this happens within, you know, seconds. As soon as she understands that she has a situation on her hands she was off to get the doctor but because she waited so long the baby actually was mostly delivered by another nurse before the doctor arrived and again uncomplicated and I'm sure that if there were any, if there were any stress that has been part of the delivery process that you know there would have been other doctors available. I mean their infant mortality rate is very very low. It's better than in the U.S. So you know again we're not concerned and we perhaps would have been a little more concerned if we saw - if there were any complications in birth, number one. Or if we saw any issues that were related to birth number two. But there's other issues with the Japanese medical system (pause). You cannot access the Japanese medical system without registering with the local office and all women then have a book, Boshi Techo I think it is called. And that book - most young ladies in Japan obtain that book and look this is the 1980s this had been in existence for many years prior to that and is it in existence today 2011? I don't know but certainly it had a long history. My guess is it is though this book that is it tracks your medical records and when a woman becomes of age as a young teen typically she has to - and so soon as you have any gynecological related issues for example you need to get this book and a doctor cannot see you unless you have that book and that book is then with you for the rest of your life where it's notated sort of like a passport you might say. There is notations of going to the doctor and then there are periods of time when you have to go back such as when you have the birth of a child or someone's married if different events you know if you relocate where you need to go to the local government office and one of the things the woman will do is hand in that book and that information will all go into a computer. And so there's precise information about every woman and everything related to their reproductive systems which then gets into other information that's all in the Japanese computers. And that's part of their - now they're a little bit overboard in that. That's part of their management but one of the more interesting aspects of that is that if you're getting married there still is the matchmaker that gets involved. And the matchmaker isn't necessarily to find you a spouse

0:29:30

although you are normally introduced but the introductions may occur because - through families or friends but you do get introduced. Very few marriages particularly - I don't think it's changing that much. We tend to think their people will eventually fall in love and that everyone will become like us and I am convinced that that has actually changed a lot. In fact, there are a lot of people who felt that you talk to Japanese - once you got to know Japanese you can have frank conversations. I think the general view was that Americans divorce a lot because they have - they fall in love with people based upon their emotions not upon their compatibility and when you're introduced its normally by people who have done a lot of thinking about the compatibility of people and they say that two people working together in very compatible situations, very similar backgrounds, very similar interests, you know, love develops so they see that as a much stronger and much more logical system than our system. So how does that relate to the little to the Boshi Techo book? Well once you get to the point where you become serious then the matchmaker actually does a background check to check on some things because then you get into this whole issue of if you are introduced to someone and say yeah they came from this part of Japan and this is their family history. Well they like to check on that and so the matchmaker goes into records and those records - the medical records are part of the things they check on. They also check to make sure that you're not part of an undesirable social class, the Burakumin who are the old leather tanners. They make sure that you are not passing as Japanese and you are actually Korean.

Eric: What was the name of that social class again?

Tom: Burakumin, B-u-r-a - Buraku - k-u-m-a-n I believe. I have to check. It's been some years. They're the people who worked in with cows and so they han - so in terms of the Buddhist social order they were the lower class.

Eric: Ok.

Tom: There not so much different from India lets say. You have that people who handle leather and that's a - who handle the meat and all from cattle and therefore are in a caste system part of an undesirable group. So anyway it all interconnects.

Eric: Ok. You spoke about your daughter, Candice being born in Japan. Is she also a Japanese citizen? How did that whole process work of having a child born in another country and then obtaining citizenship in the country in which you were from?

Tom: Most countries as I understand it from reading that I've done over the years base citizenship on the nationality of one or both parents. It's not where you're born. The U.S., the amendment in the U.S. which now people are

0:32:52

debating about if you're born here you're an American citizen, you know, that's because it wasn't so clear. You know our history as immigrants was much different and that was to make it very simple. Ok this is how we are defining it. You're born here you are a citizen but that's actually atypical. So in the case of Japan neither parents were Japanese. It used to be - and that's even complicated about whether or not - its one parent's Japanese one's American and the like but since neither parents it's not even a discussion about being a Japanese citizen. So since you're not a Japanese citizen than she was stateless I guess you might say until we ended up with our passports and getting her picture and getting her documentation - me going to the American embassy in Japan and getting her registered as a foreign citizen born abroad which would have been the same way John McCain was born in Panama. I'm sure he has a foreign citizen - American citizen born abroad birth certificate so.

### **Family Heritage/Folklore**

Eric: Ok next we are going to talk about your family heritage and if there is any family folklore. What do you know about your family name, Lorandau?

Tom: The name in its current form occurred either when my grandfather came over from Canada or when he married my grandmother but the name changed from L-a-u-r-e-n, Lauren deau, d-e-a-u to Lorandau, Lorandau pronounced the same way lets say but L-o-r-a-n-d-e-a-u. The folklore around that is that the folks who were taking the - his information down. He was French Canadian. His first language was French that they - that either they didn't understand his writing or they didn't understand what he was saying properly and so they botched as immigration officials did. So often they botched the spelling of the name and, you know, he just took whatever name was there, whatever name came out of it. But the name actually has gone through a lot of transitions the - there's been some research done that we've connected to back to some family members in Quebec in discovering that the family origins are back something like 16 - in the 1640s where the original Lorandau came over as a part on a surveying team. The - following the history of the family is kind of simple because everybody had one son and a bunch of daughters and so the name you just follow the son. And so that helped for the first hundred years (laughs) where there was not a lot of the names spread around. But originally was like R-o-l and it was much different the spelling of the name and always the d-e-a-u at the end but it went through a variety of transitions but my understanding is several hundred years ago the L-a-u-r, Laurend, d-e-a-u spelling has pretty much been accepted and so there's a bunch of Laurendeau's in Canada and some number in the U.S. My grandfather came over with his family in the early 1900s and settled in Sanford, Maine and so the rest of his family have maintained the older spelling. Like I said not sure if it was done at immigration or when he married my grandmother because the first sign of the new spelling is on the birth certificate, the marriage certificate with my grandmother.

0:37:11

Eric: So you said that when the Lorandau family first came to the United States they first settled in Maine.

Tom: Right. From Canada to Maine.

Eric: From Canada to Maine. Do you know any story about how it went from Maine to Pennsylvania?

Tom: Yeah the family was involved in textiles. Textiles certainly, late 1800s early 1900s was huge in the United States was huge along the east coast. There were significant textile mills in Canada those mills also evolved and were very prominent in Maine. So if you go around southeast Maine, the Sanford Maine area there's still areas of old abandoned textile mills. And then through those years textiles started migrating south and so there were textile mills that were being built in Boston and down in Philadelphia. Of course now they're south or they're in Asia or elsewhere. But they were as involved in textile industries as my grandfather was more of a troubleshooter I guess is the word that I've heard most frequently - someone who was very good at setting up and fine-tuning textile operations. Now I also understand that he was - he had a - he was a big guy. He was a hard drinking guy. He had a - he was a tough guy and so I'm sure that once his work was - my understanding is once his work was done he probably worked himself for variety of reasons out of a job and would migrate to the next. Now for him I guess you know i.e. he would end up routinely in these barroom brawls and there's all kinds of stories about him picking up people and throwing them across the bar and stuff like that. He was a fighter. I guess - I don't know how that fits into the context of the early 1900s and how much - I mean certainly you see that in western movies. So if you picture the western movies of how bars were that's pretty much the stories I've heard about how particularly their Friday nights were. So, you know, he moved around a lot. He - his first language again was English - Span - French and so his reading and writing in English was labored but he was a very bright guy as I understand it and to the point where the Philadelphia College of Textiles and Arts that he was - that some teachers, professors from that college did collaborate with him - used him to - in the work they did in terms of design writing papers and the like. And so I do recall when my grandfather died we just found troves and troves of writings that, you know, we assumed well that it was all part of the work, the collaboration he did at the Philadelphia today Philadelphia College I guess it is or Philadelphia University but then Philadelphia College of Textiles and part of it I want to say Arts but I'm not too sure it was that - Sciences Textiles and Sciences maybe.

Eric: Ok.

0:41:06

Tom: So but he wrote in French and they would tran - they - he talked to them and they ended up putting into whatever English things but a lot of the publications and the books and the like that came out of the college were certainly part of his work.

Eric: So your grandfather was the first one to come to the state of Pennsylvania.

Tom: He came yes.

Eric: Ok.

Tom: There's - the history there is that he had a first wife and he had two children by that first wife, Leo and Dorris in Canada and we believe that first wife died but no one really - at some point and thus he was a father, a father with two children without a wife although we've never been able to find anyone to substantiate exactly what happened there. We've been curious particularly since we know people have dug up family history and no one seems to know the story. But he was a Catholic and he was a very devoted Catholic so we're not convinced that simply divorced. So that's why the speculation that she might have died although again we don't know. But when he came to Pennsylvania he was in his thirties and at that time about the time of the Depression or so or into those years. He was - he stayed at - actually it been prior to that. But he stayed at a boarding house that had a young - that was run by - a gentleman owned the house but he was sickly. His daughters, old daughter ran the boarding house her name was Elizabeth. And her younger sister her younger sixteen-year-old sister Lillian was there and my grandfather the thirty-five, thirty-six-year-old ended up running off with Lillian and much to the chagrin of Elizabeth but who became our aunt Lizzie. And so that's how they met and married and then they had four boys (a boy's voice - Timothy, Tom's son upstairs during the interview).

Eric: Let's talk about your mother's parents. Do you remember your grandmother on your mother's side?

Tom: Her name is Veronica or she was Veronica, deceased. She was second generation, first generation born in the U.S. Her parents came from what today is probably in the Ukraine. Her heritage if you were - it was from a region where if you were male you were considered the nationality of your father if you are female you are considered nationality of your mother but was this mixture of Polish and Ukrainian, Slavic nationalities but primarily Ukrainian and Polish. And so she identified as being Polish, spoke Polish. Her parents were off the boat and so she - born in the Philadelphia area and lived in the Bridesburg area in the Polish community there and with her - she married with her husband and had three children.

0:44:43

Eric: What is the maiden name of your grandmother on your mom's side?

Tom: I can come up with that. Her - my mother's maiden name is Stroz, S-t-r-o-z but my - and my grandmother's maiden name I have that I would need to look that up but yeah I just don't carry with me. It's not easy to pronounce.

Eric: Ok.

Tom: (Laughs)

Eric: How about your grandfather so your mother's father? What do you remember about him?

Tom: My mother's father was Felix was born in again that area today which he identifies as being Poland - as he identified as being Polish. The area was the Hungarian, Austria - Austro - Austrio - Hungarian Austria - whatever Austro-Hungarian empire whatever it was at the time and so that was his nationality. His passport said that although I think today where he grew up is probably in the Ukraine so those borders moved and all that but he identified culturally as Polish. And when he was fourteen or sixteen he came with his uncle. All - everyone - poverty was extreme over there and so anytime people had an opportunity to emigrate - the families over there couldn't afford to keep you as a kid so they were happy to see you go. It may seem cruel but they were also looking forward to maybe getting some money from their rich kids that they could send off to America who would make a lot of money and send money back so they could buy some shoes and clothes to keep warm. So he came from very poverty-stricken as I think a lot of the immigrants in the area did - area, region and family. And so he and his uncle when they first came over went to Canada and stayed with family over there for maybe a year two before - it might have been on a farm too before he came to the Philadelphia area where he met up with other family was here. And so then you have you had a lot of networking going on. People who would come over and within like a family or region and they would help new immigrants coming over and then they would sponsor others to come over so he sponsored a group of other relatives also later to come over to the Philadelphia area. He became a technician at a gear factory and apparently was very very skilled and very tight tolerance - you know, work for various types of industrial gears that were being produced and so he did that for a lot of years but when he came over his name was Stroz. A lot of bigotry toward Polish folks at the time and so if you identified yourself as Polish as you wanted to get a job it was a strike against you and so Felix Stroz present himself as William Strut, S-t-r-u-t. So that's in the workplace how he was identified. Fortunately at that time I don't think the IRS was too hung up on what was on your W2 form or W9 or whatever and they weren't sophisticated enough there were no computers and so you could go by a

- 0:48:36            variety of names and be paid and no one knew the difference (laughs) so he was William Strut.
- Eric:                Did they ever tell you why William Strut? Is there any significance to that name?
- Tom:                It sounded German.
- Eric:                It okay -
- Tom:                Stroz- Strut.
- Eric:                Okay.
- Tom:                Yeah and just – Right he presented himself as German because Germans you know stock – Polish down here; Germans up here. (Uses hand to indicate level on social scale) Germans in a technical industry. We want the guy and so, you know, that worked well for him.
- Eric:                Is there any story about how your grandparents met? When they started dating? When they got married? That sort of thing.
- Tom:                Hmm.
- Eric:                Or how they met?
- Tom:                Actually I don't know that. That's a good question. I should ask my mom about that. I have a lot of family information but I don't have that.
- Eric:                Do you know how they made a living? You said they were working in (inaudible) industries -
- Tom:                Well he worked for a place that was over by Port Richmond which again was - it was, you know, forging metal into fine - I understand as - gears but I also understand that it was a very high-tech for its time very high-tech type operation - tolerance were extremely tight and the like so they produce a very high-end product and he did that for most of his life. The wife was a for the time a housekeeper, homeowner, homemaker whatever you call that, stay-at-home mom I guess you might say or a homemaker they would say at that time.
- Eric:                Did any of them help to bring you up? Where you close to those sets of grandparents?
- Tom:                Yeah I think there was a history in both sides of the family of trying to

0:50:42 maintain a sense of family and a sense of, you know, appreciation of, you know, family history. And so I certainly spent a fair amount of time with both sets of grandparents not necessarily without my parents but visiting. They were close enough. They were both in the Philadelphia area as I grew up and so on holidays and certain other occasions, picnics or the like, there were opportunities to meet up and spend time with them. So yeah we spent a fair amount of time together.

Eric: Now let's go back to your father's parents. You spoke about your grandfather coming from Canada working in textile industry. You said they came to Philadelphia. Do you know what part of Philadelphia your father's father came to?

Tom: The boardinghouse itself may have been in New Jersey, the Mount Holly area. I do know that they moved around a lot and I – now I'm trying to make the distinction between the boardinghouse itself and then other places where once my grandfather and grandmother were married where they moved to but they moved a number of times between New Jersey and Philadelphia. He always rented. He didn't own a house and so you know they jumped on either side of the border for a period of time but Mount Holly and I would say probably - actually I know that for a period of time they lived near what is today is Juniata Park. They lived at Lycoming and M Street or Luzerne and M because there was a fire there and they lost everything they had in a fire - that house where my dad was like five or six or seven-years-old.

Eric: What do you remember about your grandmother on your father's side?

Tom: She was a very sweet frail person. She has serious issues with arthritis. She died relatively young, in your fifties but she was always very sweet to us. I do know having talked to a lot of people that she was considered to be a real catch, a very pretty woman and you talked to folks who knew her as we have. I've made contact over the years of people in Maine and descriptions always was this very beautiful woman that my grandfather had married and so. And she didn't seem to have a mean bone in her body. She just seemed to always be at least to us a very us the grandkids a very sweet woman who you know was a stay at home mom had some - had kids over a long span so while I was being raised I had an uncle that was I don't know five years younger than me or older than me. (laughs) So she was still raising kids while I was young kid.

Eric: And what - her name— Lillian was her name?

Tom: Lillian, L-i-l-l-i-a-n.

Eric: Okay. Did she work outside the house? Did Lillian work outside the house?

0:54:29

Tom: No. No. (shakes head)

Eric: Considering both sets of grandparents where there any grandparents you were closer to? Had a better relationship with?

Tom: Well my dad's dad was much older and so it would've been harder let's say to get to know too intimately. In fact both of them were kind of older and they were both gone before I was ten. They - both grandfathers - were dead. But I have fond memories where they both would certainly you know spend grandparently-type time with their kids. And so they were very good in that respect. They were very generous in that respect with their time and the - I just remember having very comfortable relationships with all four grandparents, yeah.

Eric: Do you remember any other relatives of the older generation in your family as you were growing up?

Tom: Yeah we were to lots of parties. Could I put names on all the folks? No. I do have my dad's old eight millimeter film and I kind of remember all these folks and there were some pretty wild parties particularly on my mom's side. The Ukraine slash Polish folks would get together for holidays and there would be a house full of people and they were - there's a lot of music and a lot of rowdiness and you know they could kick up their heels. The - my father's side they had a history of doing you know - they like to go out and dance and do things but they again were a little bit older and so were - and plus my - plus their family they were particularly my grandfather was a transplant from Maine so he didn't have the extended family whereas on my mother's side the extended family was around. So yeah there's a bunch of relatives and you know they were all kinds of Slavic nationalities.

Eric: Was there any one person in particular that had a significant impact on you as a child?

Tom: (pause) I can't single anyone out. I think I had very comfortable relationships with all my uncles for example and still do. You know I'm in contact with you know, and certainly close contact, with two or three of my uncles. I mean there's not that many more. Try and think - the others are dead (laughs) that's why I'm not but (pause) no I - my parents were very active parents so there was not - there wasn't the proximity I suppose where there that type of interaction would have occurred and there wasn't the void where I was looking for it. My parents were very active in terms of things that we did. We you know always off going out places. But same time they valued our very harmonious relationship with other parts of the family and so you know we always had very comfortable relationships and clearly to the point that you know I'm in contact with uncles in various parts of the country. Obviously I

0:58:12

had enough of a relationship to maintain that type of connection.

Eric:

Could you go into any more detail about the relationship between your parents and their parents? Was it a close relationship? It seems like it was. Was there a divide?

Tom:

Yeah my - I think my mom felt very close to her parents. I think her parents had a very good relationship. I hate to sound so plain vanilla like geez where's the good stuff but I think that there's an example of a very compatible - I'm talking about my mom's parents now - a very compatible relationship so that you know they both had roles and very comfortable in those roles. And my mom was very close to her parents certainly as she became an adult. One of the things that I think both my parents tried to pass on to their kids, to us, was the importance of maintaining that relationship. And so not only did my mom have a good relationship with her parents and my dad had a good relationship with his parents and but both my parents would emphasize the importance of the in-laws. So my dad had a great relationship with my mom's parents. My mom had a great relationship with my dad's parents. I think that was just a value that was important to them and that they passed on such that they were always helping out and doing whatever they could to be very supportive to you know the respective parents. So I think that they enjoyed the time with their parents. They enjoyed having their parents around their kids. There was not - if there was any issue it had nothing to do with the parents it had to do with Aunt Lizzie. Going back to Elizabeth the one who was in charge of the boardinghouse. She didn't have kids and so she used to like to - she was a you know she was the one who would show up and kind of park herself and this of course is many years ago now - park herself in the house and you never know when she was showing up. So if there was any relative that people had to work around it was Aunt Lizzie's hear and she's not leaving. (laughs) And she had nothing else to do. So she was always the relative that you sort of rolled your eyes and again there was the respect and the interest and maintaining good relationship. She certainly was a very interesting person. She had great stories. She had a great sense of family history. She collected antiques and her husband was you know was a First World War vet, Spanish American War, I think he has he toe in too and so they were interesting people but they didn't have a life or they didn't have a life with kids and so they made their life with some relatives. And so they probably were the family who were - if there was tension it would have been there.

Eric:

Now let's talk about your parents and we'll start with your mother. And just for the record can you restate your mother's maiden name and then her first name?

Tom:

Alright. It's Jennie, J-e-n-n-i-e. Stroz, maiden name, Lorandean and she thought early on that Jennie was too Polish or whatever. And so she - when

- 1:02:15 she was younger played with Jennifer but then ended up with Jean so she adopted her - the name that people know her as Jean, J-e-a-n. My dad always loved Jennie and so he always referred to as Jen or Jennie but outside of our household everybody knew her as Jean.
- Eric: When and where was she born?
- Tom: She was born in Philadelphia. She was born in 1927.
- Eric: Do you know the exact date when she was born?
- Tom: August the - I'm going to say 15<sup>th</sup>. These are questions my wife might ask me, to test me. Do you know the date when your second kid was born? Do you know my birth date? (laughs) Yes honey I think. (laughs)
- Eric: Obviously she is still alive. What was her ethnicity and religion?
- Tom: Ethnicity. She identified with her parents' identification of being Polish and that whole region was Roman Catholic and so she identified as Roman Catholic and still does.
- Eric: So the next question is where did she grow up? And you mentioned Bridesburg.
- Tom: She grew up in Bridesburg on James Street, 5433 something like that - James Street in Bridesburg not too far from the Frankford Arsenal. Used to be very much residential until they put 95 right in front of her house.
- Eric: Do you have any memories of when they put 95? The reactions of the neighborhood or?
- Tom: Absolutely. Yeah you know it was a nice residential neighborhood people understand things happen. I think that as immigrant parents which my grandparents essentially were you know they were just happy to have a house and a job. Everybody had the memories of the Great Depression and the Great you know the Second World War and so you know people were just sort of happy to - all these memories are kind of fresh now it's the 1950s late 1950s so I think to a certain extent while you're not happy to see your neighborhood change you've been through so much in your life this is not what you're going to go out and picket in the streets with. You just have this feeling that well its good for the country and the country's been good to me and so it just happens. And people recognized that you know used to have some nice houses across the street now you have this wall and its different you know the noise and the like. But people had a stoic view of life. It was just - it was compared to what - and they were in contact with people dire need in the old country and so you know you have that downward

1:05:21 comparison and so living with a wall in front of you compared to where you came from you know you can't complain. That was the point of view. You sucked it up.

Eric: Could you describe your mother's character?

Tom: My mother as a young teen - my mother doesn't tell stories there's a huge difference between my father and my mother. My father very much the story teller and my mother very much the private person who doesn't believe that other people would find her stories interesting. And of course both have very interesting stories. But to get the stories out of my mom is very very difficult partly because she doesn't catalogue them. My dad was very good at having this whole repertoire of stories that he just loved to tell. My mom never told stories and so she didn't have like this library "oh yeah I remember this and oh yeah I remember that" it would only be through trying to lead her through some conversations that she might remember certain things. So in that respect it's always been a challenge to get to know who my mom is beyond the mother that you know day-to-day. Who was that young girl and what I have discovered in my efforts to try to peel away that onion and try to figure out ok you know what made my mom who she is you know she grew up where all the kids were (pause) - all the girls were you know interested in the big bands and they were all - I guess it was kind of typical you might say of the teenage kids where they all wanted to you know - records were coming out they were fascinating with the new technology the ability to listen to music on records and then to go to the clubs downtown as the bands would come through and of course you had to be eighteen and so you find out that your mom actually - or twenty-one I guess it would have been - that she ended up getting fake IDs and sneaking in and she has memories of you know some of these big band guys coming through and performing in various clubs downtown. And so you just see her as this young kind of free floating teenage gal who - and in spirit of the time education for woman why would you educate her? She knew how to type that was a good thing so she knew how to type so you can get a job at the arsenal and type. That's good. But ultimately find a nice young man you know and get married and she met my father when she was still a teen, a late teen. And so her whole transition there was just from you know just kind of a stable household where she wasn't worried about what was going on at home. Didn't have a lot of money but still was able to with the girlfriends figure out how to just do things young girls do at the time again from her point of view you found very interesting but she did get into it, little stories. You find out she went to Harding Junior High School. You find out that she went to Frankford High School. It took me years just to get that out of her. And you find out that when she was a - you know like her third year whatnot at Frankford High School that you know all the girls were getting jobs and making money and everybody is smoking so they could afford cigarettes and they could afford to get the you know the if you could get the ID you could get into the clubs and

- 1:09:36           stuff and so just like most girls she knew as soon as they were sixteen or whatever age they were they all dropped out of high school and got themselves a job and went out and partied. (laughs)
- Eric:                You spoke about one of your memories about her as when she would call you for dinner. Do you have any other memories about how she may have shown affection to you as a child?
- Tom:                Yeah I – As a young kid for whatever reasons I never understood this but I as ten, twelve, thirteen-year-old I remember having memories of being a young kid and my mom being very affectionate and so that kind of reinforced this feeling of my mom being you know affectionate. And my mom's affection I think had more to do with her keeping an eye on you - making sure you're around - making sure you're properly fed and the like. Having said that she didn't come from a touchy feely family and so you know while there was genuine interest and concern with you it was interesting that you know the hugging and the kissing wasn't quite as prominent which maybe you know maybe it's my father's side of the family maybe that rubbed off on my mom but there was not - it wasn't that you know huggy kissy type of thing. It might be a generational thing too that occurred because now that I think about my grandparents all that family they're always kind of like giving each other kisses on the cheeks and everyone gets the double kiss and all that. But it was you know it's sort of like this other sloppy thing so although what may be contributed to that but it wasn't as though today you seem like you are always hugging your kid. Back then you just didn't hug your kid. It just as you talk to people my mom's age it's interesting you just didn't do that you know well they just didn't do that. (laughs)
- Eric:                Do you have any stories – did she have a temper? Does she have a temper like are there any stories where she was angry at you for something you may have done as a child?
- Tom:                My mom like her mother grew up in the tradition that you managed your husband and you managed your husband by you know listening and deciding what you want and then trying to move the conversation in the ways of the husband thought that it was his idea and finally you get things done. And so the whole personality which you see I think throughout her family and throughout many women was that you didn't yell and scream you more so managed and so you were like the therapist and after the guy came home and he's upset because it was a bad day or you know the Eagles didn't win on TV whatever the reason is you know you are the calming effect. And so she was that calming effect not reacting and then figuring out how she could then get what she needed done through you know whatever ways she could manage conversations. (laughs)
- Eric:                What kind of work did she do? I know you mentioned something about the

- 1:12:57           arsenal and being a typist. When or where did she do? Yeah, what kind of work did she do?
- Tom:               Well prior to being married she was like I said worked at the arsenal. She may have had some other clerk typist type jobs early in the marriage. But I believe they were married 48 but 1950 my brother first child was born to them and she was a stay at home mom since then. Now she was very active in community organizations like Scouting and the like. And she may have done - what she did was more volunteer work I really can't say I recall her actually having a job from the time she was married. She did do some work which may have been paid but it's kind of the volunteer vane where you're working for like the Catholic social welfare agencies where you are connected to families that or elderly who need help with shopping, cleaning. Basically if you were - you wanted to be in your home but you can't do things that you have someone who helps out so she may have been paid for that but still it's more volunteer-type more than community service vane not you know professional work of some sort.
- Eric:               If there was one favorite memory as a child of your mother what would that be?
- Tom:               (pause) I suppose I think of my mother as being probably about thirty in a dress you know it was always the dress at a holiday with a little apron on and you know enjoying herself with having lots of people around and you know just in a, you know - so I think I guess that's what comes to mind at least at this point. Just being in an environment where you know she looks beautiful. She's happy. She's having a good time and she's making an environment where I am having a good time.
- Eric:               Now let's talk about your father. What is his full name and when and where was he born?
- Tom:               Eugene Robert Lorandean. He was born in Philadelphia as I understand it. I don't know which hospital. He was born in 1926.
- Eric:               And is he presently still living?
- Tom:               He is not. He died in the year 2000.
- Eric:               When was the result of death? Why did he die?
- Tom:               He had myelodysplastic syndrome I believe they call it MDS which evolved into leukemia so he - so the birth certificate would say leukemia.
- Eric:               What was his ethnicity and what was his religion?

1:16:29

Tom:

He's a lot more complicated on both counts. His father was strictly French, French Canadian. He – and so very clear French Canadian heritage with all the prejudice that comes along with being French. But his father in marrying Lillian married someone who has had a more diverse ethnicity, ethnic background. So you have a 50% father lineage - French Canadian background married to a woman whose father was Jones and he had some - could be some English in there but it was primarily Scotch. So there was this Scottish part, Farquhar was a part of that history. Farquhar is a very common Scottish name. The Farquhar part of the family goes back a fair amount this is Jones married Farquhar so now you got to start dissecting up. So the Farquhar part was Scottish but that Scottish part we know that the Farquhars fought in the Civil War. We know – there is a very interesting story there we do know that the Farquhar - there were twins during the Civil War and in Philadelphia and one went for educational reasons or job reasons whatever down to Richmond, Virginia just before the Civil War started and so the one in the North ended up fighting in the Union Army and the one in the South couldn't get home and got drafted into the Confederate Army. So you had twins in the different armies but eventually he went AWOL in the Confederates and we don't know what happened and he's the one well we don't know what happened in respect to his military issues but he's the one who came back to Philadelphia and is in our lineage so our direct lineage fought for the South I guess who could say (laughs) but went AWOL. And - but supposedly there's in that history there's some American Indian or Native American tie there but I think it pretty much is that Great Britain blend. Was there any Welsh? I'm not sure that came down and on the Jones' side – Jones' parents owned a plantation down in Maryland going back pre-Civil War so they have a funny history. They were wealthy and he was the black sheep of the family and Farquhar used to work in speakeasies - was considered to be a non-desirable lady. I wouldn't say she was – I think in a sense that she worked in a bar during prohibition or prior to that whatever. And so he's the black sheep - used to hang out in bars in Philadelphia and ended up running off with my grandmother and was disinherited by the folks back in Maryland. And so later on my grandmother went down to try to reconnect - and Aunt Lizzie to try to reconnect - with their grandparents (inaudible) family and they tell a story of being met at the front gates and basically being told to go away. (laughs) Haven't been able to quite connect all that history but he ended up being - going into the dairy industry and there was a building that existed until a few years ago with his name on it, Shipley Wills & Jones, he was the Jones and he - it was a milk distribution company that was down in Chester that was a part of the business that was eventually sold to Sealtest. But he took that money and bought the boardinghouse. So you got this mixture which Aunt Lizzie - I said knew a lot about family history unfortunately we lost a lot of that - but she apparently had all kinds of interesting stories that were told down over the generations and we believe there was a family bible but unfortunately she died. Her husband married

- 1:21:19 someone else and all of Aunt Lizzie's stuff went to the husband who went this other family who God knows what they did with the stuff but they certainly didn't pass it on to us.
- Eric: Would you spell the last name Farquhar?
- Tom: I'm going to give it a shot. But I mean I can get it for you but it's something like F-r-a-q-h-u-r something like that.
- Eric: Okay.
- Tom: I have Scottish friends. I did international business - my background - and my Scottish friends as soon as I told Farquhar they said "oh yeah lot of Farquhars up here." They knew exactly what I was talking about.
- Eric: Where did your father grow up?
- Tom: He grew up in that New Jersey, Philadelphia back and forth side so kind of the Northeast Philadelphia when it was mostly open land and so they used to play street hockey a lot. They would cordon off streets where nothing was built but there was just streets that would – they were all over the place in the 1930s that would have been primarily you know when he would have been old enough to be able to run around and the like. And then he just like my mother when they were old enough and they met on one of these boats that cruise up and down. You used to have you used to get on the boat there would be bands that would play down basically at Penn's Landing area and then they would go they would go up and down the river and you would go to do your dancing and stuff like that and party on the boats and they were for teens and there were lots of stuff like that. That was the form of entertainment and so they - so I do know when they got a little bit older then he would certainly make his way down to where the action was which was downtown Philly.
- Eric: Could you describe his character to me?
- Tom: My dad I would start off by describing him as someone who was – had – was a strong person strong not just in the sense of having strong opinions but in a sense of feeling strongly about the need to do the right thing. And so I would say going through his personality was this whole you know perspective - Second World War you're fighting for the good you do good things you stand up for what's right. And his personality was one to be very aggressive in a situation that he thought the right things weren't being done and so he was not someone who was afraid to tell people what he thought or to intervene in a situation. Now he wasn't like his father when he was married a street fighter. He was a street fighter before he got married. There's lots of stories about that but he calmed down (laughs) when he was married. I don't

1:24:25

know of any stories of him being in the kind of barroom brawls after they were married that my grandfather was but (telephone rings) the history there would have been to that he (Tom's wife Kimberly on the phone in the background) just – he himself felt a sense of needing to be a positive force in the community and that was a value system that he passed on to his kids that you – he had certain leadership qualities. He had a very interesting view of how to be a positive influence - you know exert positive leadership and with force on something that was he spent a lot of time on trying to pass on how to be a positive force recognizing that leadership doesn't come just from dragging people. Leadership comes from inspiring or leadership comes from example. Leadership comes from helping other people succeed and they were traits that were big part of his personality. My dad also having come from a very violent father you might say also had a street fighting manner about him so while after he was married he was never in street fights you know. He certainly had much more of a temper and so he was not afraid to get into a fairly aggressive conversation with people that he thought were being inappropriate. So he was not someone to back down from a situation. You didn't cross him. You didn't try to abuse him. He just came from a father that would – you just did not cross but the difference I think between I think his father who probably would fight in the bar at the drop of a dime and he is that is that I think he would feel there needed to be some good cause that he would need to react to but he was then prepared to engage.

Eric: You had mentioned that was a -

Tom: So he passed on this debating -

Eric: (laughs)

Tom: - you know, skill or legacy that is to engage in the debate onto his kids. We just try not to – and the issue always and he had two sides to this which I think is - there's a big lesson to this one part. Do you debate to learn or do you debate to win? And he understood that you should debate to learn but if you crossed him he debated to win.

Eric: You said before he got married he was – you would consider him a street fighter and you said there was multiple stories. Could you share with us one story about his quote, unquote street fighter days?

Tom: (pause) I got to pick one but probably the story that I find most curious and most amusing is when my dad met my mother down at the bars on the waterfront where the ferry that would go up and down, the kids would ride. He actually had met her cousin, her aunt, her aunt who was not that much older than her first and dated the aunt and then saw her and kind of casually knew her but one day he just decided that - this was prewar this was still 1930s - one day he just decided that she was her – his she was his girl. And

1:28:34 he I guess like the male cat you know went around and just made it clear that nobody goes near this girl and my mother didn't understand why no one would approach her but he basically made it clear that you know you're going to answer to me if anyone tries to hit on this girl because this girl's mine. (laughs)

Eric: Do you have one favorite memory of your father?

Tom: I have a lot of great memories of with both my parents but of my father. A lot of - and so it is hard to really boil that down to one. My father as I said was a story teller. He was a teacher. He just really - he had (phone rings in background) lots of ideas, lots of you know concepts he wanted to pass on and enjoyed engaging in the conversation. So if I had to narrow it down it would be, it would be periods and this is in more of a composite but periods where he would spend some time (pause) talking you through a situation where you are a young kid you are fifteen, fourteen - twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen and you are - there's things going on in the neighborhood whether it's bullies whether it's kids who are you know you are involved in some group, it's a sports group it's a Scout group, whatever it was. He had the ability to size up the dynamics of the situation and he - encouraging his son, or me in this case to one be successful but also to develop leadership qualities. He would talk to you about what was going on you know in a very dynamic conversation and he would lead you to see how to deal in that group dynamic in a very positive - very constructive way and part of that was helping you to understand that the key to success is you making the group successful and there are ways to do that whether - and what was fascinating considering that he was a tough guy is he taught you how to not necessarily be the tough guy but to be with a lot of tough guys but be able to bring that group together and you have a really positive influence and so I became a guy that - any of the rowdy kids I was not a rowdy kid but the rowdy kids used to hang out with because I understood how to deal with them in a way they enjoyed it and I would bring disparaged groups together and form them into a basketball team you know on the lot. Kids would never play together but they would play with me because I kind of had to coach very effectively on how to work with folks so that their needs I guess you might say were met. They felt understood. They felt connected. They felt appreciated and they felt directed and they felt acknowledged and that was just such a great gift that I got from my dad. And so that so composited a lot of conversations as well as the gift of storytelling which I don't necessarily do as well as he did but you know that's the other thing he was very good at recounting things in his life and enjoyed that greatly as he would pass that on.

Eric: Do you remember any courtship between your parents? I know you said they met on a cruise. Are there any stories that they passed on to you about their first date you know beginning part of them being a couple?

1:33:23

Tom:

Yeah in cruise you know its I guess today you have the Spirit of Philadelphia and I don't mean exact cruise its often times what these were you got - if you went on a day time venture you would get on at, you know, Philadelphia and you'd go down to some place in - off the Jersey coast down there in Delaware Bay and there was like a picnic ground or whatnot so they were more ferries back and forth but some of these ferries I guess also had nighttime runs with music and the like that would be on it. But yeah I just got to think I know there's lots of conversations. There's one in particular I am trying to recall. (long pause) I do - I'll start with this one because I am trying to come up with correct stories. I can think of lots of bits and pieces but I don't want to put them in do them justice if I recall them if I tried to tell them but my uncle Al, Alexander Stroz, my mother's younger brother is fond of telling this story of - that my parents used to hear a lot of - my dad one day decided he wanted to take out my mother and so wanted to go calling on her house but he didn't know where she lived and so he knew she lived on James Street. And so he - everything was public transportation - and so he got to James Street and apparently he was walking along James Street trying to see if he could figure out where she lived and so there were a bunch of kids playing football, touch football, in the street and so he goes up to this one kid and he says "Hey do you know where Jennie Stroz lives?" and so of course the guy laughed back and say "Yeah she's my sister" and of course that was my Uncle Al and so my dad figured that the best strategy there was to immediately join up with the kids and be an active participation in their football game and so he played touch football with them and they - in the street until he could maneuver the situation where he got to run into my mom and so my Uncle Al takes great joy at you know pointing out that you know that early interaction with them.

Eric:

Are there any other stories -

Tom:

Well they my you know they met so my dad was originally dating the aunt and ended up you know (laughs) wanting to date my mom and you know then there was the thing about her you know keeping her you know that he's she's his girlfriend and there was something that occurred. I think there reason why he was going to try to meet up with her is that he had somehow arranged to meet at the boating end and they missed the boat so I know he was in hot water and he was trying to deal with you know like he stood her up and but going past that the war came along and so he went off to war and they were young people - they my dad didn't necessarily they hadn't gotten to the point that they were some type of serious talk but my dad certainly viewed her as the girl he would write to and so there's a big pile of letters that occurred during the war years between my dad and my mom. And my dad you know using that as an opportunity to court her I guess through the mail. And there's a letter that oddly enough just last night my mom had pulled out that we were talking about where - and she got she was kind of

1:37:56 tickled at seeing it. It came from - it was written to his mom and in the letter he wrote to his mom that he thought he met the girl he was going to marry or he met the girl he was going to marry. So you know but you know postwar they still had to reconnect and go through more of a dating process and the like.

Eric: Are there any stories about their wedding?

Tom: There's some great pictures. You know, they were a good looking couple and so there's some great pictures of them at their wedding. (pause) Let's see. I know there's a story of a fight that occurred outside but I don't know if it was my dad's wedding or if it was another wedding that my dad was invited to. So now I have to think about it but I do remember it was a hard drinking bunch and so they were - there was something that occurred but it may have been a cousin's wedding and with my grandfather suggesting that they kind of take care of their business out on the side walk. I'm told that this was a group of kids. This was not just my dad and someone else. I think this was a whole group of guys who were like getting out of control that were kind of like thrown out of the wedding but I don't think that was his wedding. I don't know. I should ask more questions about that of my mom but afterwards they went down Skyline Drive and thoroughly enjoyed themselves along the Skyline Drive and in the Shenandoah Valley and of many years later they would continue to go back down to that area and you know certainly had a certain affection for it. So I would say that they enjoyed their honeymoon immensely and you know where thought good enough about it that they would return to that area many years later on a number of occasions to enjoy the same area.

Eric: How were your parents viewed by others in the community?

Tom: I think they were viewed in a very positive light. The - there's always your struggle as a kid at home and your arguments with your parents in then you see certain dynamics and the like but when you go outside the home I would have kids other kids say "Geez your parents are so normal. My parents are so weird." (laughs) now, okay, I think that really what that stemmed from is that both of them were very involved in the community, particularly Scouting and you know from that I both parents had a nice affect upon other kids as well and so I think there was a lot of respect that drew from that. And my parents were let's say you know when you talk about normal and there were - they were easy to talk to and they would listen and you know to what people had to say including kids and maybe in some respects that made them stand out particularly with other kids in the neighborhood that and they encouraged that. I mean that was something that was reflected on us. We were so used to having interesting conversations with our parents particularly my dad who would just love to get engaged in an intellectual conversation that we would do that with other adults and that was just something other kids didn't do. So

1:42:08

other adults particularly neighbors would just find that really like “I can’t believe I’m having this conversation.” And then when you find out from the kids that you know my dad thinks I’m an idiot because I can’t talk like you talk to him (laughs) but that was just the pattern but I think that also meant that a lot of the other kids in the neighborhood couldn’t engage in the conversations that were much more interesting with my parents that they normally would not and so I think that painted a certain image as very approachable people, very nonjudgmental, very welcoming people plus my parents were very good - I mean not just you know we talked about the in-laws the idea of always being very supportive of the in-laws which they were that also had to do with just feeling a sense of support in the neighborhood so while they didn’t go crazy doing things if someone needed a hand and that was passed down to us you know us kids same thing. You know that I’m noted here. I am my dad you know people on this community they need something - they need a hand with something they call me. (laughs) That’s what it was when I grew up that if somebody needed a hand they called my parents. My parents were there. They would you know grouse at home you know I got to do this and they’re calling me again but they’d leave that front door and they’d go over and someone needed a hand moving something, somebody needed a hand carrying an air conditioner into the windows, someone’s washer or lawn mower broke down - they go on and fix it. They were just there.

Eric: You mentioned that you were similar to your dad in many ways. How are you most like and most, yet most different from your parents?

Tom: I certainly see lots of ways that I’m alike. My dad enjoyed a sense of adventure and a sense of – my dad had a great sense of curiosity. I probably – it took me longer to understand why I’m like my mom and I am but the obvious stuff about behavior in terms of being aggressive and chatty and curious and you know the storytelling that came from my dad. You know that part that says why does this happen, what’s the story behind the story, you know why do people do that? How do you kind of fit within this group and make things happen? That came from him. From my mom and I thought about this a lot. It’s the things I don’t think about. It’s that nervous energy. My dad didn’t have that you know like the hands are like moving and you’re always moving and you always got to be doing something. There’s always, you know that sense of moving about. She had a lot of nervous and she yeah she has I guess a lot of nervous energy. My dad would sit and think. Take him a few days to think about doing something. My mom would look at – my mom would say “I don’t like that wall there let’s take it out” and my dad would think for months about that. My mom would say “I don’t like that wall and she go out in the garage and get a saw and she go over and she’d start sawing.” Says ok “now I just defaced the wall now we got to do something.” So she was more impulsive. She was more “I got to do his I got to do that” and so that’s what I realized that came from her just this sense of constant -

1:46:11 being in motion. She's a person that was always in motion and that other part of her which is what my all my dad taught me how to be a part of a group. My mom also had a great sense of knowing how to bring a conversation around in a way you know was very useful to getting your ends accomplished and you also watched the dynamics between the two. You start realizing that my dad could have been a very difficult personality and she figured out how to manage a very difficult personality so you know these are things that I think I learned from her.

Eric: Let's talk about growing up with your brothers. When you were children how well did you get along?

Tom: I think I got along reasonably well with them all. I think age wise was two years difference between my brother Gene and I and so we more naturally hung out together you know for the first ten years let's say or so. Bill was four years younger I guess, '56, '52 and Wayne fifteen years younger. So Gene and I tended to go through Scouting together so we had a lot of shared experience in terms of being in Boy Scouts as far as the going through the different ranks up to Eagle. We both made Eagle. We both were involved in summer camp. We both were involved in what's called the Order of the Arrow activities related to that and so we had a lot of shared experiences in that respect and we also from an early age were Wissinoming Park and the days where eight millimeter tape was the only way to go. So there's certainly a part of our family history that he and I are very intimately connected with was as we got a little bit older and Gene was the first one to sort of exit the family then there was a period of time where I and my brother Bill were really – as my parents got into family camping you know it was really us who ended up going out and doing that part I guess you might say. So I have a history of the family camping with my brother Bill, history of Scouting with my brother Gene and then Wayne was kind of the baby of the family so he was someone that as I started dating and now I go into this next part he was the little brother that was always convenient to bring along with a girlfriends so you could sort of have fun playing around with your little kid see your taking kids to amusement park. It was a good way to you know get in good with a girl. (laughs)

Eric: Of your three brothers who would you say – if you had a favorite who would your favorite brother – who had the most influence on you?

Tom: I would have to say that I have a different appreciation of all three. So I can't say there is one favorite. I see each of them as having, as coming at very, just like I just broke it down in segments. It's not like one segment of my life was better than the others. Each of them were very significant for a given part of my life. And so you know just having someone who was very competitive with me which pushed my competitive nature along and also broke some ground you know that was my brother Gene. I learned a lot by watching him

1:50:20

grow. I learned some good things to do. I learned a lot of don't do that and that's – it's nice having someone who is a little bit older and then they go and they - they're testing the boundaries and you're able to watch and say well that didn't work, you know that worked a lot better. So in that respect I learned a lot of life's lessons and I learned them very conveniently by being the second born and there's a lot to be said about not breaking the boundaries, not being the first to have to do something. It's a lot easier on the parents when you come along because they've already gone through it and they're worn down a lot. So I appreciate that about my brother Gene just having that dynamic where if there's one brother where the intensity of being a brother was greatest it had to be with Gene because we were closest in age and because we were the first two and hence the whole learning process of the parents was at the forefront. By the time Wayne came along its like they've been there they're done that and you know it's a different scenario (laughs) you know. With Wayne it was to me it was the fun of having a lot of experience and being able to pass that on to someone who wanted to you know was finding his way and so I was a bunch of different stage in my life but if he's fifteen and I'm thirty you know it's my opportunity as he's thinking about college and careers and stuff like that so but it's a much different relationship it's not the same thing as you know two kids who were getting lost in the woods together. With Bill it was kind of like that in between thing. It was in fact for – in a way fortunately this whole other faze that my parents had act two where they got into family camping that created this whole other storyline which is something that I shared a lot with Bill and I think that as we draw on our experiences a lot of it has to do with you know just being out and going through the Blue Ridge down to Blue Ridge Parkway and Williamsburg and all this physical exploring whereas with Gene it was more through Scouting. My parents deciding they want to go out and see part of the U.S. that was a whole set of experiences going into Canada, going south and all that I shared with Bill.

Eric: What are your brothers doing now?

Tom: Gene taught, went through the Air Force and is sixty something and formerly retired last year from the Air Force and so he considers himself as I understand it fully retired and so but he for many years taught in the Philadelphia school system and did the reserve - worked as a reservist in the Air Force as a loadmaster in a plane so in charge of the whole backend of the plane and flew on a lot of missions around the world so you know really I think enjoyed that for many years did that for I don't know twenty-five years something like that as well. Bill works for Children's Hospital - has been involved in carpentry for as long as I can remember and does a very fine job of that and certainly some things done in my house including my finished basement are a beneficiary of that talent. And Wayne is an engineer - went through Drexel and just actually moved around but he's been in the electronics business now, electronic materials business. So he worked for

1:54:54 DuPont worked for GE but just down in the Delaware/Maryland area so he's a process engineer.

**Disc 2**

0:00:00

**Childhood**

Eric: Next we're going to talk about your childhood. As a child where did you live?

Tom: At home.

Eric: (laughs) Like -

Tom: Sorry I couldn't help it. To be contrarian for a while. No I grew up for the first four years in Wisconsin on a place called Charles Street across from a park, Wisconsin Park that is. And then we moved to Juniata Park, L Street right across from Holy Innocents Parish and lived there until I finally finished with college and grad school where then I was out of the house so that would take me those two locations right up until I was in my 20s.

Eric: Now the home in Juniata Park, were they row homes, single homes, doubles?

Tom: Row houses. Brick row houses.

Eric: So obviously you had neighbors living close by.

Tom: Mhmm

Eric: Did any neighbor in particular have a, an impact on your life?

Tom: Well it certainly is a social dynamic that you know you around you going on and so you learned to manage yourself and a fairly dense setting so you had to be part of a network you might say so other - it was the type of situation for if you did something wrong than certainly one neighbor would call your parents up and let you know so from that respect I think that there was a lot commonality among people in the neighborhood. There were new row houses where 1956 were a lot of people my parents age moved in with you know children and you know coming from very similar backgrounds I think as a community they worked well together and so you might say everyone's parenting everyone's kid so I would say the most striking thing was just being part of community where you weren't it was as though you left the house and all of a sudden you could do whatever you want you had people look out after each other which was a nice thing. As far as a particular neighbor. Everybody had their story but I wasn't especially close I would say I just you know was very friendly with the neighbors. I felt very comfortable talking to most of the you know adult neighbors. Didn't really have, well I

0:02:57 had a few kids on my block that might have been my age actually only one that I can think of that I would hang around with from time to time so it's not as though I had an immediate close group of friends most of the friends I acquired were through Scouting and through sports through school so my network really went out away from my own immediate neighborhood so the people my neighborhood were more or less folks that you just you know you greeted, you chatted with but you didn't party with they weren't over your house for parties and stuff like that that was more so you know just being respectful and helpful on a neighborly basis.

Eric: Um -

Tom: You know that said my parents developed a relationship close relationship with a number of neighbors where they would play cards together and you know be together New Years Eve-type things so I think at that that level there were you know some close relationships but my level I'm just a kid you know. I'm more interested in playing basketball and there's a big playground across the street and so id go over and there's a bunch of other kids from other areas that come over and you pick up games and stuff like that so that's really where my center of focus was.

Eric: How would you describe yourself as a child?

Tom: Well my image and what I realize other people perceived me as were much different. (laughs) I would think of myself as a rather quiet and shy kid but I'm told I was someone who was always talking and in other people's faces and asking questions and if somebody needed to kind of break into a new group my brother Gene for example would bring me along and say go talk to that person and I want to – so we can go play with them and I'd go over and start the conversation and you would come along so you know I felt very easy transitioning. I guess I didn't understand that I should have been in my shyness I just talked to whoever was there I didn't realize I was not supposed to be just talking to everybody. (laughs)

Eric: Did you have any nicknames as a child?

Tom: Well and people would just you know use the variations of Thomas. No one really called me Thomas. It was either Tom or Tommy and in fact when I grew up mostly my parents and brothers and everyone actually probably more frequently than not called me Tommy which you know when I became an adult never occurred to me I was Tom I really didn't make the connection between people from my neighborhood who knew me as Tommy until I would find that I would you know bring a spouse home or a girlfriend home and she would to her surprise find everyone calling me Tommy (laughs) so people who know me from back will do that. I didn't even hear it but because I guess that's what I expected people to be using.

0:06:15

Eric: Now your home in Wissinoming – Right Wissinoming?

Tom: Mmhmm.

Eric: It was just you and your brother Gene?

Tom: That's correct.

Eric: When you were in Juniata Park -

Tom: And my grandparents lived upstairs and they did have two of their sons still with them. It was a duplex so were on the bottom level. Grandparents, my dad's parents were in the top level and they had Harry and Bobby living there who were teenagers at the time but anyway.

Eric: Now when you moved to Juniata Park. Do you remember the exact date when you moved to Juniata Park?

Tom: 1956. I would say it was in either August or September because they were just opening up one of the new schools buildings there and so I remember there was some activity surrounding that.

Eric: Okay.

Tom: And they were trying to get in in time for my brother Gene to start first grade who he would have been six years old at that time.

Eric: Now in the Juniata house, all four of your brothers lived at one time in that same house?

Tom: Yes.

Eric: What responsibilities did you have when you were young inside you know your home? (pause) You know chores or responsibilities like that?

Tom: Well I was expected to keep my room clean. I think I did a much better job than the siblings I shared the room with (laughs) You know. And you can put that public because I maintain that to this day. (laughs) and certainly going through school and Scouting there were typically lists and so you were you know emptying trashcans and but I think really what it came to was that number one keep your room clean keep manage it. My mom did not see it as her job to manage my bedroom and then there was the participation particularly with the holidays we had lots holidays lots of other times when activities would occur at our house so if cleaning up or a new cleaner, being

0:08:23 a part of the group who would put the house in order and then just in general because you're living in various parts of the house making sure that you clean up after yourself so that was you know the expectation that you know you do what you want but when you're done clean up and put things away. Other than that you know there's the expectation that you were engaged in the family dialogue you were there for supper you talked you shared your ideas.

Eric: Can you tell me about your closest friends when you were a child? What games did you play when you were a child?

Tom: Just looking back at some eight millimeter movies it's always interesting to see that everybody had a holster and a gun and the in addition to that you had an air rifle and you had more weapons of destruction (laughs) however it was much more civilized since my parents my dad always had a BB gun they would shoot BBs my dad lost a couple teeth from BBs being shot and one friend who had BB-ed his eye so you know it considered that to be a much safer environment that at worst case we had shot mud out of an air rifle or we shot plastic bullets out of a handgun. So you know you also have this time that's after the Second World War where all these people you know it's ten years later 1955 ten years later it's not that many years after the war and you're just getting into the middle of the Cold War and so there's still this you know sense of needing to be strong and you know so people and a lot of stories whether it's the movies stories among people about the Second World War and so you really internalize a lot of that as far as your play war game related.

Eric: Um -

Tom: Including cowboys and Indians. You had that transferring so you know now you're talking about the Germans and the Japanese in the U.S. but you know you transfer that to the white hat and the black hat. Or you know the cowboys are the good guys and the Indians are all bad guys and very clear lines of good and bad and you know you got to go out and fight for good and defeat slaughter the other side. Nuances weren't very you know it wasn't something you really thought a whole lot about and as far as nuances of a situation it was pretty black and white that – and as a kid I guess maybe that's also an easier way of looking at it.

Eric: Now when you were young were you free to play with whom you liked? Were there any friends that your parents frowned upon?

Tom: No I can't think of (pause) anyone that I would put into that category. My parents expected me to be able to manage my own social life. If there's a problem than I guess I was expected to come back and engage in conversation and so with my dad you know you might talk things out

0:12:09 particularly with my dad he was very effective with at that group dynamics but that had more to do with (pause) learning what type of persona I guess you want to establish for yourself and for my parents I think what they wanted was someone who was like my father arguably someone who could thrive with anybody around and be able to size up the situation and know how to thrive and how to deal with it so you learn how to be a protector of the weak and a (pause) someone who knew how to deal with bullies in a positive way so someone who knew how to move. I had moved which I think is a direct result of this. People had their groups I could go from any group to another group easily and that was part of the legacy of my dad particularly. You know so there was no group that I couldn't just walk into be a part of and walk of and not be caught by them and going to another group they might considered competitive you know so I whether it was playing basketball or whether it's talking to people on the street corner whatever it was but it was just learning and that's what I think they wanted to achieve that you're not captured by a group. You're, you are you and these other groups have things to offer. Get out of them what you want.

Eric: Looking back, who would you say was your best friend as a child or your – what were the names of your closest friends as a kid?

Tom: Well the first fellow that I met when I was when I moved into Juniata Park was Danny Dugan, two doors over and so preschool we you know we hung out and dug up our lawns as the parents were trying to grow grass you know dig tunnels and get yelled out and all that good stuff but you know had a good time doing that kind of stuff and then he might have been a year older than me because we never really crossed paths in school after that and I'm not even too sure if he ended up going to the public school but we sort of went our separate ways and then there were a group of other kids that I would get to know but most of the kids that I became pretty close to ended up through probably Scouting and the one fellow that I spent most of the time with over the years and certainly still in contact is a fellow by the name of Bob Bolotsky and so we did a lot of things together in Scouting and later on dating then someone else more toward (toaster oven) high school that I started spending a lot more time with was is Eddie Speachly until he married and eventually moved down to Texas and I kind of lost track of him. And I am sure there's other people that I would connect with but they were probably the folks that I most frequently would reconnect with.

Eric: What would you say is different about growing up today versus when you were growing up?

Tom: Well for one thing you had a whole lot fewer distractions. I mean today there's so many options that try to allow a child to focus is a more of a challenge I think. When there's only three things to do you know it's not a big decision as if there's 150 things to do. You know, Tim, my son comes

0:16:35

home today and he can do DS. He can do Wii. He can do the computer. He can do the iPad and that's just thinking that's just scratching the surface of the electronics you know forgetting about all the other stuff that he can do and of course today - (long pause) How is it different? I guess that would be the biggest thing I would see. I mean the difference - other differences that I would see have to do with being in the city versus being in the suburbs which really is location rather than the times. I think that - I guess I tend to have a viewpoint that things just keep coming around and around that we - our pattern's more circular than linear and so you know your political cycle, your war and peace cycle your activist cycle you know what is fashionable whatever I think just you know when you get a little bit older you starting saying you know I - We've been done this path before and we've had these conflicts and these debates before it just keeps coming around and back so in terms of you know parenting styles - Are parents really any different today? Again the biggest difference I think is that my parents were neither of them graduated from high school or you know good working class hard working people and today I am in a much different situation so my kid naturally is going to have it different but to compare him against some kid growing up on the main line when I was growing up I don't know how much different it really was you know and you go back to the city and you see some kids growing up well I mean they may have cell phones you know they may communicate a little bit differently but I think that I would tend to expect that you know times don't change as much as people think. I think your socio-economic class and the educational level of your parents and then what's happening in terms of job opportunities and the you know economy and the quality of your schools. I don't think the quality of schools have you know so much different I think I got a good education I think people can get a good education today. I think the topics change but the theme of developing a sense of curiosity making people feel good about themselves in the sense of I don't mean the esteem thing I'm talking about getting people to want to engage in activities and finding those things that people are excited about and getting involved about - finding - giving people a sense of hope and a path to succeed these are timeless things. I think they're - I think it's the same now as it was back then. The how you do it may change.

Eric: Do you visit your old neighborhood in Juniata Park? And has the neighborhood changed? In what ways? And what do you think has brought about these changes?

Tom: I am down to Juniata Park on a fairly frequent basis because my mom's alive and healthy fortunately and still living in Juniata Park and so I try to get down there with the wife and Timothy. We probably three weeks a month, three times a month or so. So we are there on a fairly frequent basis. We have our Friday night ritual and we can to get on down and check in on her. And yeah the neighborhood's changed I think she's fortunate, more fortunate that she lives on a block across the street from the church that is fairly stable in

0:20:52

the sense that while you know people have moved in and out there's – I think there's a good group of people who live on that block and I don't know how much the influence of having a church across the street but let's just say that I think that if I'm some – The problem you have when you get some neighborhoods when you start getting people you are dealing drugs or you know parts of gangs and stuff like that and for whatever reasons they've stayed away from my mom's block and again I think it probably has to do with this you know kind of being part of this community that exists where the neighbors I think are much more stable and some of the nonsense you do see elsewhere in terms of particularly drugs dealers. I think that's probably the single biggest concern you know I have because I certainly – that changes the neighborhood when you have drugs being dealt and kids bring hooked in a neighborhood and not saying that they are really free in the box she's in but I think that there that's it's a reasonably safe place. But yeah are there different people? It went from being a lily white community to a fairly varied community but she has a Vietnamese family on one side of her that take good care of her shovels the sidewalk, check in on her you know fixed things mostly exterior you know if things need to be fixed you know sort of a helping hand on the other side it's a Spanish family and you know they chat with her you know people are aware and I think that they see her as you know someone that they need to be protective of as an elderly person in the neighborhood. I don't think people look at it as being white or Hispanic or Vietnamese or whatnot. There's a fair mixture throughout that neighborhood so I think right now it works fine.

### **Youth/Schooling**

Eric: Next we are going to talk about your youth and schooling. Where did you attend elementary school?

Tom: Holy Innocents.

Eric: And when did you start at Holy Innocents?

Tom: I guess it would be about 1958 when I was six years old. I would have gone through twelve years, twelve years, eight years at Holy Innocents and then from there onto North Catholic for four years, graduating in 1970.

Eric: Now where is Northeast Catholic located?

Tom: Erie and Torresdale. At the Erie and Torresdale El stop.

Eric: Would you consider yourself to be a good student? And what was your favorite and least favorite subject?

Tom: No I was a lousy student. (pause) I enjoyed – I always enjoyed history and I

0:24:26

was not particularly fond of most other subjects. (laughs) Terrible thing to say but my parents their focus was not on education their focus was on group dynamics and I learned a lot about group dynamics. And they were interested in using Scouting and some sports to develop those types of skills and so in Scouting I way excelled and I learned a lot. It did occur to my parents in a way that I should take school seriously. They didn't. they both left school when they were sixteen and was what it was and you know they didn't really she any point in anything they learned in high school so while they didn't want us to embarrass them just as long as we seem to pass that was okay. I remember years later I would joke about this particularly being like a junior or senior in high school I remember one day there was a test coming and for whatever reasons it generally I got eighty-fives - nineties I was like ninety-five and in elementary school let's say grade wise and I dropped to probably eighty-five -ninety in high school and I – but I never studied. I never did anything once I left school. I just floated through. I spent all my time doing other things. I was extremely active out of school, extremely active. I was writing books. I mean you know I was teaching courses (laughs) you know. I you know did a lot of things. My parents were very proud of those things that I was doing but no one never really thought about well school was something you just did. You learn how to read and write and the whole point was can you read and write and can you add? And other than that why are you going to school? (laughs) The real stuff you learned elsewhere and that's what I was doing. I was learning interesting stuff elsewhere but I remember it was my junior or senior year. I remember there was a test that came up and for whatever reasons I don't know why maybe it was because I wasn't getting some good enough grades in this and I felt I needed to bring it up that I took the book something like world events or whatever. But it was something with a textbook maybe it was chemistry whatever they had me in advanced placement chemistry and some stuff like that but whatever it was I took the book and I remember the night before I opened the book and I spent about a half hour studying and I remember the next day taking the test being done the test right away and sitting back and looking around and other people are working the test and thinking oh this was really easy. I was astonished that if you read the book the test were easy it never occurred to me before to actually read the book you were supposed to read. I just listened in the classroom half you know with one eye half open take some notes gather what I could and take my best guess at a test. I didn't you know it like well you know I remember thinking the answers were right in the book. That was easy. So I was a lousy student and I remember during the high school years of constantly and I was in you know track in the upper tracks. I was in some tracks ones and then track some track ones honor courses and track twos. So they had me placed and clearly I was a bright kid because I could still do it even though I didn't study even though I didn't think that school was important. I could still do stuff and I remember (toaster oven) though that this constant refrain from teachers about how you guys are going to get creamed when you go into college you know if you go to college and of

0:29:25

course most of you guys probably if you even get to college if you get accepted you're going to get thrown out dropped out you won't make it through and the reason is because you don't work hard enough you're going to be reading a book a week in college and I can't get you guys to read a book in a semester and you're going to have to study and on and on and on. And I kind of remember that when I graduated from high school I had reached the conclusion that while you know you coast through high school but I guess if you go to college I always assumed well I want to go to college. No one else in my family went to college but you know but I wanted to do something that would require a college degree so I knew I was going to go to college and I the what I got from my high school years was – I guess in college I actually have to work and so if there was one thing I got really out of high school it was that if I want to do well in college I better take it seriously because I wasn't taking high school seriously. (laughs)

Eric: Did you have any favorite teachers while you were there?

Tom: I ran – Look I ran track, cross country and I played basketball and probably my favorite teachers were associated with those activities.

Eric: Do you remember any of their names?

Tom: Mr. Parcels. Father McKenna alright the basketball coach I forget his name but yeah so yeah they and those two were mostly associated with cross country and track. Yeah they were good people you know I mean they – You could talk to them you know they enjoyed being around the kids and we were successful and so it was a nice dynamic. It wasn't tyrannical (inaudible). I mean let's face it too it was tough going through you had some teachers who were really you know like Gestapo police in high school so you know you it was a good traditional Catholic education. You know I went through their grammar school. I just read in the paper where someone was talking about you know his angst in going through the Catholic elementary school and someone else wrote in saying what are you talking about I had the most lovely nuns and all that stuff you know. I'm reading that letter well there's a tale of two cities. I remember the first guy with the and maybe it's times maybe it's when you went but when I went you know your knuckles got wacked. You know you got threatened. You got short hairs got pulled (laughs)

Eric: Do you have any like favorite story of high school? Is there any sort of thing you like telling through your high school years? Did it happen in class, on the athletic field?

Tom: Well you know I tried to entertain myself when I was in high school. (pause) So you know I did some things here and there. I don't know when some kid first brought in a Playboy centerfold piece. I think did I tell you this story?

0:33:06

(laughs)

Eric: It you be so kind to repeat that.

Tom: But you know I just because I didn't take studying seriously didn't mean that I tried to make the school somewhat entertaining and so we had this lovely Dr. no Mr. not Fitzpatrick I think it was Fitzpatrick or Faulkin, Faulklin Faulklin Mr. Faulklin history teacher real sweet guy real sweet guy so he was a good teacher. I enjoyed history and I enjoyed his class and he was and he was a guy I thought had a sense of humor and so in my German class before that from Dr. Kelly, Father Kelly who was a good guy. I got to know him too fairly well. Although there's another story I'll have to tell related to him. But I would get the one kid brought in the it was like it had to be early in the year so I get the – he pulls it out and I tell him geez can I take that and I explained to him my idea and he might have been in class with me and so if you have the guts to do it here take it. So what I did is I got into Mr. Faulkner's class early and there was a number of things I forget exactly where I started with but let's say first what I did was used to have those maps that you pull down and so I took I took the centerfold and I got some scotch tape and I pulled down the map that he always pulled down to talk about the wars in Europe whatever and I pulled down the map and I taped the centerfold the Playboy centerfold into the middle of the map and put it back up so in the middle of the class you know he goes and he pulls it down (laughs) and there's the centerfold. (laughs) And so you know so he takes it out and looks around and sticks it in his pocket and the next month the fellow brings it in because some of the kids obviously started talking and nobody to this day only a very few people even knew it was me. I didn't go and try to publicize it but that was also me the idea I was taught that you didn't go out and try and bring attention to yourself. It was more interesting that sense of mystery. That sense of being understated and so the next time he gave me one I went in and I put it on the blackboard and then pulled down the map on top of it and so the map was already down when he came in. so he comes in and you do the prayer and you go through the whole thing and then he starts talking and eventually wants to walk you know write on the chalk board and so of course he goes to take it up and there it is. It's sort of like opening up a window shade and there's this naked lady on the other side so you immediately pulls it down (laughs) gets a little red in the face and puts it back up and takes out sticks it in his pocket and so about the third four – I did that all year. I did that every month for at least eight months and after the third or fourth month it got to be that the kid who brought in the centerfold would tell some people that he was bringing in this centerfold today and by the time the class started I would have at least a half dozen teachers that would be walking by to poke their nose in to it because the word would get out. They didn't know still didn't know people still didn't know who was doing this. He had pictures of presidents along the you know above the blackboard you know they would put different things up there and so they – he had them into the categories

0:37:04

that historians would put them in and you would have the failures you know two failures whatever and you have like average and then you had near great and then you had great and there's a little space just little right next to the great and so when I got the next one cut it into the shape of the all those pictures that were up there and I made a nice little sign that looked a little bit like that said and the greatest and so I went on up there before class and I stuck that up. It took him a while and even kids you know they didn't wouldn't notice it at first until finally someone started saying look at that over there. (laughs) And there it was. And another time I remember I brought it in and I put it on the window and I took down the shade same thing you know where finally someone went over and took up the shade you know or and you know there it is and I just kept finding places to stick it. There's you know bunch of pictures along the bulletin board you know I would (inaudible) they had a board cork board off to the side of current events all the pictures and I worked it into the that whole section there just a little spot there you know of current events (laughs) so years later I went back to school and I remember chatting with him saying did you ever figure out who did that time he would speculate on different people and never figured it out.

Eric: Ok so you've mentioned Scouting several times and so I would imagine you are talking about the Boy Scouts of America?

Tom: Mmhmm yes.

Eric: When did you start?

Tom: (toaster oven) There was a cub scout program that was organized when was about nine, eight or nine and my mother became a den mother as they were known at the time and so if it were I think it was nine years old so that would have been around 1961 or so. And so went through the wolf, bear, lion ranks. Got into Webelos. And then that was Pack 552 sponsored by Holy Innocent Church and then moved on to the Boy Scout troop that had been had a longer history that was there which I did from eleven years old.

Eric: And how long were you in the Boy Scouts?

Tom: I was involved in Scouting until really I backed away as an active participant when I started at La Salle. I was scared enough or spooked enough by the lectures that about failing in college if we don't take it seriously from my North Catholic days that I actually put a lot of energy into my work at La Salle and although I was you know right at the cusp technically at eighteen you move on I guess I was not quite eighteen yet and so or if I was must have a junior assistant scout master - something like that so I was still involved but that's when it was clear to me that I couldn't maintain the involvement that I had. Into the past. I had been very involved into various levels of the organization but not just on the local troop level but also on a district and a

0:40:40 council level.

### **La Salle University Years**

Eric: Ok next let's talk about your years at La Salle. When did you first start attending La Salle University?

Tom: I went right from high school. I graduated from high school in 1974 and I went through immediately four years at La Salle graduating no I graduated from high school in 1970 and I graduated from La Salle in 1974.

Eric: Why did you choose to attend La Salle?

Tom: I guess first the great divide was a commuter college versus a residential college. I would have loved to have gone to a residential college but you know coming from a you know a position where I was going to be paying 100% for my college expenses and having around \$10 to my name I felt that I had a better chance at being able to financially pull off going to a commuting college versus a residential college. At that time they had some loans and I did take the national direct loans, the National Student Loans they used to call them at that time as well, but it wasn't enough to – it certainly would not have been enough to cover for a residential college and my parents were not in the position to help so you know it would really it was driven by finances I suppose in terms of looking at residential colleges which meant you had a very narrow group of colleges to look at. And then from there I was looking at the best college and more of a liberal arts college and so I felt that from my research that among the group of colleges out there that La Salle was very strong liberal arts commuter college. And liberal arts - it was the end of the sixties early seventies - a sense of social involvement - a sense of going to college to be educated. So the idea of going frankly through a business curriculum or anything other than a pure liberal arts curriculum to learn how to write, to think deeply, you know analytically, to challenge your world view on things. And that to me was the point of going to college. It was just to kind of pull back the veil of ignorance on lots of different subjects and you know having more complete or the ability to deal with the curiosities of what makes the world tick. To be able to look at something and understand how to really understand the why not just what's going on but really understanding why things happen. And so it's not learning a trade it learning how to think, how to analyze, how to research, how to question, how to see things from multiple viewpoints. And I thought of all the colleges that I looked at that were in my price range and geographic reach I thought that La Salle best met the bill.

Eric: Now when the year you attended La Salle it was called La Salle College.

Tom: Mmhmm

0:44:39

Eric: And they received their university status in 1984. Do you remember anything in the press, any kind of alumni mailing or magazine that was discussing the transition from it being called a college to a university?

Tom: Yeah I certainly recall there was a time when people were moving to university status and La Salle was not unique in that. There was – it was a period of time as I recall that a number of colleges were moving to gain university status. Drexel was struggling as well with it's – I think they viewed it as unprotected name as an institute of technology although MIT seemed to do okay. I think MIT or Drexel was concerned hence Drexel University coming as well certainly seemed Saint Joe's University and while I didn't study closely all the issues my understanding was that there were certainly reasons why there was an advantage to becoming a university. I wouldn't be surprised if there were some issues of - financially related, accreditation related, but you know my understanding was that there were some good reasons why at that point in time a lot of small colleges felt they needed to become universities to properly position themselves to go forward.

Eric: La Salle University started accepting women around 1970. Do you remember anything about that transition in accepting women into the college?

Tom: I remember a lot about 1970 that is the year I started and that is the first year that women were allowed in the college, yes. And they actually I believe prior to 1970 whether it was one or two years prior I'm not sure I believe they allowed women in as juniors and seniors. Unless in 1970 there were allowing transferring but I thought there might have been some women as juniors and seniors the year before. But 1970 was the first year they were allowing them in as freshmen. And so you know we talked earlier about women's rights issues and opportunities and the like and so that dove tailed as a nice storyline into that whole scenario of you know of opening up and allowing for women as well as men and I - for me particularly coming from an all boys school it was a great experience to be in an environment with women and to bring their perspective to the classroom. So it was a good thing.

Eric: Now you spoke earlier about being a part of some feminist protests. Were they directed, were they related -

Tom: They weren't directed at La Salle. (laughs)

Eric: Oh okay - oh okay

Tom: The only thing I remember protest-wise at La Salle is they let some teacher go and I remember just a whole slew of us kind of like sitting in the college hall or wherever it was in the hallways you know making our disfavor

- 0:48:03 known. But I'm sorry your question though was?
- Eric: You mentioned earlier about like feminist protests -
- Tom: Mmhmm.
- Eric: - and you being involved. You said that was not anything related to La Salle or?
- Tom: That's correct. It was not related to La Salle.
- Eric: Ok.
- Tom: There were throughout the years there a number of different activities and rallies and one in particular that I remember was at Rittenhouse Square where it was just this kind of a rally event going on promoting the issues surrounding women's rights and I found it to be extremely interesting because it was just so full of people debating. There were like different tables and the like set up with people representing you know trying to promote points of view in terms of you know issues surrounding women and I remember a lot of people who were coming by who didn't like it. So it wasn't just a bunch of people talking to themselves. The debates were people coming by especially elder – older guys, older guys being they were older than their twenties they might have been in their thirties, forties, fifties whatever it was but just these and some women too who older women just having these arguments and they weren't nasty they weren't – they were heated but it was just fascinating to listen to this go on because there weren't arguments you heard enough you just seeing how people thought about this stuff and watching just the endless debates going on of people back and forth on why and why not and here's really what it is no this is what it is. It was just fascinating and I thought it was pretty clear that - you know people came in with a very clear set of prejudices you might say about how things are supposed to be and didn't like any changes and I may not agree emotionally because I was wedded to lots of ideas too but I was a lot more curious about well why would I be uncomfortable if I had a wife that made more money than me and she didn't have dinner on the table when I came home and my slippers weren't waiting for me. You know you had these images that were fathers knows best that you grow up with in the fifties and they are all being challenged and I think the great part about the sixties was that they were challenging everything. And so you got into that spirit of saying why and why not and that to me was extremely invigorating.
- Eric: So in and around what time what date, year?
- Tom: That was probably about '72, '73.

0:51:24

Eric: Olney Hall is probably the biggest of the college buildings on campus and that opened up in 1971. Do you remember any kind of celebration happening on campus about their newest and latest building opening?

Tom: I certainly remember the building opening and it was a great new building and great facilities and the like. There might have been you know some little celebration going on. I don't remember it as a big event. Or if it did it may have been on a you know they have it on a Sunday and I'm a commuter kid as were 95% of the people anyway so you're not going to go to college to go to a party you are working. I worked on Sundays. (laughs) I - you know one of the ways I made it through college is I worked an average of about thirty hours a week you know and went to college.

Eric: So when you went to La Salle it was for the most part a commuter college opposed to -

Tom: Yes. Yes.

Eric: Okay. (pause) What was your major at La Salle? What did you study?

Tom: I kind of flip-flopped around a little bit but I think I may have started in sociology and then I moved to education and then I toyed around with philosophy but at the end went back from education. When I decided (pause) yeah went back from education into basically social work. I mean sociology but it was social work that I was looking at and then so graduated - but when I graduated I was already signed up for graduate school and so I knew what path I was taking which was not going to be within social work. While it was kind of like taking social work to the business world.

Eric: What other reasons were there for choosing sociology as your focus and as your major?

Tom: Sociology was con - but - when I first started school it was just a convenient way to park yourself you might say I mean I hate to - you know for want of - it talked sociology was an easy place in the sense of there were a lot of things happening in again the tail end of the sixties into the seventies in terms of change and so if your first reaction was why I'm just curious about this world around us and everything is being challenged then the happening department is sociology. That's where people were about change and about understanding societal norms and why things happen and have we always been this way and it is God-given and fixed or is it evolving. So convenient in the sense that if that's what your curious about that's a good place to be. Now in terms of your jobs prospects and all its not a great place to be unless you know for sure you're going to be a sociologist PH.D and a teacher or are going into criminal justice or into social work so you know so job

0:54:50

opportunities (inaudible) were somewhat more in question but in terms of just being into a general learning environment and using that as a platform within the liberal arts college to be schooled in writing and obviously through your English classes and through your philosophy classes and learning a little bit about economics and delving into history and the like. So it became a nice platform and then later on as I thought about well what would I actually do with myself and do for a living that's what I thought well education is kind of cool. And probably the reason why I didn't graduate with a degree in education is not because I wanted to go back to sociology but rather it come I don't know the end of my junior year early senior year as I'm approaching my senior year I became aware of the MBA program and in recognizing that taking a good liberal arts education and then getting a business degree might be more the route that would work for me. And so in fact I actually had thought about going the legal route too and at first I took the LSATs. I got accepted to a bunch of law schools. And so I guess the point was that before my senior year I knew that I was going to graduate school and I knew I was not going to graduate school either for education or for sociology and so the shortest route to getting a degree was actually to fall back to sociology. And so I figured okay I'll get my degree in sociology. It didn't make sense going through the rigors of the senior year in education if I knew I wasn't going to go into education and so I used sociology in my senior year to you know better understand social dynamics. It went back to what my dad did when I was a kid understanding how society works, organizational psychology and all that so in a lot of psychology courses as well so to me that was a good foundation you know if you're going into some type of management regimen in graduate school just - or law school prior to that again it's all about group dynamics and understanding group dynamics and you know that was a good way to wrap that up get the degree and move on.

Eric: Now you said you went to graduate school immediately after La Salle. What college or university did you attend for your graduate schooling?

Tom: Okay so I decided not to go to the west coast to law school and I had some good opportunities there which would have been interesting but decided I ended up being accepted and pursuing an MBA at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. I was one of the few kids who went directly from college to the Wharton School. In retrospect I probably – I can see where I would have gained a lot more if I waited a couple years. Most of the kids were around I'd say that average age was probably around twenty-six, twenty-eight. Today it's probably thirty or at least it's no younger than twenty – twenty-seven, twenty-eight. But there was certain group of kids that they allowed to come directly in and I had done enough. Because the reason why I – they let me in right away I think is because I had done so much outside the classroom in terms of Scouting, in terms of just organizational things I was involved with that I sort of had this other part of my life you

0:58:37 know that I think substituted as work experience. You know I ran some you know regional organizations and hence had and the same thing La Salle I ran some organizations so.

Eric: Do you feel that La Salle prepared you for graduate school?

Tom: La Salle did what was necessary - yes the simple answer is yes. La Salle served my needs in taking me from being someone uncertain about the academic side of me, being able to succeed in an academic environment and provided a structure that allowed me as a fairly raw talent to mature within a system with very approachable teachers with you know just dynamic within the college that fit my needs. And so for someone like me at that point in time that was probably exactly what I needed because I had - I didn't go in feeling as though I was the best student in the world. I could have gone into a bunch of other things feeling I was the best but academically I wasn't. I sucked at high school (laughs) and so I needed to have - I needed to break out of a mindset that you know that didn't allow me to draw a success story in being able to compete on an academic level so I did and I had some teachers too that were very good in encouraging me. And a lot of it was in the writing area and so just feeling a lot if there was one thing I would point for La Salle is I went into La Salle feeling - as feeling very embarrassed about my ability to write even though I should not have in retrospect. I wrote a lot when I was in high school. I just didn't write it in high school. I wrote it in outside activities outside of high school but I had teachers who talked to me about it and guided me and gave me feedback and encouraged me and I think it's that confidence in writing and you know and in academic analysis you might say tearing things apart and understanding them feeding my curiosity and maybe going back to the first point more than anything else giving me the confidence that I needed to feel that I could compete. I needed to believe in me and I did by the time I was done to you know the credit of the education I got at La Salle. I felt that I could go to what was one of the top universities in the country and compete at the level so it was still intimidating to make that transfer but I felt that I had the skills you know to at least give it go. So I was confident enough to apply and I was confident enough to go and I was capable of succeeding.

Eric: You talked about a couple things that - ways that La Salle helped you confidence and in writing. Was there any professor in particular you contributed to the building up of one's confidence and in your writing skills?

Tom: Yeah there were two or three professors and whose names I'm trying to pull up and I looked in the year book and I couldn't find the one teacher in there though a woman. The one gentleman and one lady who in my freshman and sophomore years - the freshman male professor in a way was critical of my writing but in an odd way was positive in the sense that he would read what I have and he would he was critical in saying that you could do this better and

1:03:29           you could this better but he did that and gave me feedback and such a way that he was saying the way I read his feedback was well this is really great you could do a lot better though and so you know it helped me think differently it took me from feeling like well you know maybe he saying you're up here you could do a lot better and I needed to hear that and I think that was very important and then with the woman my professor in the second year she enjoyed reading my stuff and that was just so startling to me that someone out there said this is really interesting yeah and she is a professor. She actually likes what I read. So I think that just that you know for me as simple as that sounds that was the type of thing that was important that was then made me think differently about my writing ability.

Eric:               Now going back to the sociology program were there any courses in particular within the program that you enjoyed the most? That taught you the most?

Tom:               Well sociology was always just fun classes you know and I must admit I had a lot of good, a lot of good experiences at La Salle. I can't think of – I can think of a few but they're the exception to the norm. You know you always have that one or two teachers or classes that you know just you could have done without but I would say that vast majority of my classes were just absolutely really good. They were and in sociology it was just always great to read, to be pushed, to think beyond the norm. Everything was (pause) - everything that's not your value system seems abnormal and so in a sense it was this search to understand the abnormal. Well most of all - I now know in that search I come to appreciate it was abnormal because I didn't understand it. It was actually fairly normal. It was the challenge of understanding the world and you talked about the evolution of immigration. Dr. Connors I guess, Dr. John F. Connors, -

Eric:               John F. Connors.

Tom:               - I guess it was yeah you know his stories about immigration and changes and housing patterns. I remember one story about well - they would build houses that would be this way and they get the idea well there should be more windows and so they built houses with a central courtyard but they in order to get space the courtyard's really small and the next thing you know people had garbage and the garbage collection wasn't very good and so people got the idea that they would through the garbage out toward the center you little spot they had that was supposed to be there window for fresh air and eventually that started filling up with garbage and you know. So you just get all these like weird stories but it got you thinking about and understanding you know life and our history and who we're all about and so stuff that I just found fascinating. So and you talked marriage. I remember when we had- here were are in sociology and a good Catholic college and talking about you know polygamy and group sex and you know people over

1:07:17

here who you know come from this you know culture in Africa who you know have this other marital relations and you know homosexuality. I mean it was just bringing in all these different ways and of course the whole point was well is this good or bad and where's it coming and why is it happening and so it was just for me a lot of fun just to be exposed to and talk about and think about stuff in ways that never would have occurred to me and I just found every time I could see something differently. Any time that I could pull back that veil and see something I never saw before to me it was just really thrilling and certainly the whole conversations about how society works and breaking it down was you know so and of course that relates to so many other things political science had some great political science courses you know you could see all that feeds together so yeah I - it was good.

Eric: Do you have any favorite memories of La Salle?

Tom: Yeah I guess a lot of good things and I think on a generic level I had a good experience overall. I had a lot of very supportive teachers which was really kind of great. Perhaps the most amusing memory I have (coughs) was related to a philosophy course. We were in a course where we were getting into some Zen Buddhism and you know different ways of seeing and it was really kind of you know some - beyond the norm kind of conversations. When you start getting into various types of you know ways of thinking about life. Ways of seeing stuff. You know what you see why you see the way you do and how that affects values and all that. Well we got into this one part that was extremely confusing and I could tell that I wasn't the only one that wasn't getting it at all. And I remember going back home and thinking about it and thinking about it and then I came up with a storyline that helped me understand it. And so okay here's a picture and so within this picture - it became like a study aid for me that the - here's how it overlays. Here's what we're trying to understand and here is a context to put it in. And now I think I think I got it. By God I think I understand this and so you know I'm excited. I got my notes I go to class I'm sitting in class and we are all sitting in there you know fifteen of us or whatever it was. And someone somehow we're told that the teacher is sick and won't be in. And so I got my notes and I'm kind of excited about this and so you know when they say the teacher's not coming in you know people are just sitting there for a second and I said well look this is what I have you know what do you guys think about this and so the next thing you know I'm in front of the class sitting on the desk you know talking to - the whole class stayed and I'm saying well this is my thinking. What do you think? And for the next forty-five minutes I led the whole class using my example and we were debating it and I loved it because I liked to debate. And am I right? Am I wrong? And I'm arguing my point and what do you think right. (laughs) And later on the teachers get a hold of me too and he says so what was that about and I said well I just was curious he says you know they think you were going through my notes and that you were actually doing the class (laughs) because you know later on people

- 1:11:58 would refer to that as one of the examples the teacher did that was my notes. But you know and everyone stayed which to me everyone was interested in understanding more about it and they enjoyed the debate and the debate was going on and I was thrilled that I had the chance to see what other people thought of what I put together and fortunately it was what he was trying to get at and so you know that worked out well. I think I was the only guy who got an A in the class too.
- Eric: You don't remember that professors name by any chance?
- Tom: Oh God. You know I need to get my transcripts. I was looking at that earlier. I had love to get the transcript because I am I would be able to track him down but now I don't.
- Eric: Did you have any – Did you have a favorite professor while you were at La Salle?
- Tom: Favorite, just there were I can't point to one teacher and I would say was favorite I had a lot of teachers who were very good very supportive and approachable I guess if there was an impact an impression if there was something that I really responded to it was having teachers in college certainly you go through high school and I didn't find any of my teachers approachable in high school or in elementary school. You know they were all like out there and you know I mean that's not true I say like the tracks coaches and my German teacher. There were a few people but it was the exception to be approachable where they would talk to you like an adult and I was used to frankly because of my non-school experiences. I interacted with adults all the time so I was used to dealing with adults on an adult level but in the school context it was like no you don't do that and then you're going to get killed when you go to college and so to me it was startling to find a number of teachers who were very interested in what you had to say and sat down and would talk to you as an adult and would make you feel like you have interesting point of view and were kind of teaching in a way that they were they made it clear that we're both learning were both on a journey. You know I know a lot I can share with you but you know a lot too. What do you think of this? And so that to me was really an important part of the education and you know I think you know and so I just you know reference you know just the majority of teachers that I talked about the logic teacher, the writing teachers the teachers in sociology the point was that there so many of the lectures and so many of the classroom experiences were conversations you know with a theme. And they weren't one way conversations they were about pushing you and getting you to react and getting you to engage. And you know teachers skilled enough to do that and that's what I needed at the time and that's what I got.
- Eric: Were you involved in any clubs or organizations at La Salle?

1:15:50

Tom: I and one of the other guys in sociology I was with, Charlie Learmouth. We started the, we restarted the defunct La Salle club, La Salle club, the Sociology Club which we then after a while because we got into these very interesting esotery conversations with some professors I think one of the Connors and the other teacher God what his name. I just saw him in there (pointing to his yearbook) it will come to me in a minute but we would get into these conversations about the club and what a club is and what your trying to do and we ended up calling it the Sociological Society and I remember it was just an outgrowth of you know this interesting conversation we had on what the difference in these groups are and what you doing in what a society is and the like. And then from there we started the La Salle College Journal of Sociology for students and so I mean I don't it probably lasted as long as Charlie and I were but you now we got a hand full of articles that we would mimeograph off into publications and the like while we were there. So they were the two. Oh and then through the Sociology – Oh geez – We brought in speakers. And we brought in a few different speakers and you know we'd get the facilities and bring folks from the outside and nobody that of recognition except at one time we brought in some representatives from the Socialist Workers Party and the some of our professors in the sociology group were a little concerned about it because these people were beyond radical. These folks were violent and so it made a lot of people nervous when they came on campus. They had a history of starting violent incidents on college campuses. They were – They had funny lines of money that would go to them. So I got to learn a lot more about who they were after they had approached us and wanted to talk about you know the politics of the Socialist Workers Party and you know as it turned out they were one of these really marginal groups so we had the campus was aware of it and we had proper security in place and brought them in. They did their thing. It was very interesting and then we made sure they left campus. (laughs) we had some parties too. I remember we had we sponsored parties that was cool. You know we'd get some student bands going.

Eric: The yearbook has it also listed Project Relate? What is that?

Tom: Oh you're kidding. Under me?

Eric: Yeah I think under you.

Tom: You sure? I don't know.

Eric: Because it had Sociology Club, Project Relate and the Sociological Society President.

Tom: I was in – I don't know. I would have to look at that and glance at that and yes I was president of the what they call it? The Sociology Club?

1:19:35

Eric: The Sociological Society.

Tom: Sociological Society. There you go. Yes I was president of the Sociological Society and co-editor of the Journal of Sociology but I also did some work through the school with the Big Brothers and the Catholic Social Welfare Agency and I also did some student teaching so through there - the school in back Saint - I want to say St. Jero no – The place right in back? It was taken over.?

Eric: I think it is Central High School now.

Tom: No no no no no. Where you resided. What's that called?

Eric: St. Basil's?

Tom: Basil's. That was a school.

Eric: That was a school?

Tom: That was a school.

Eric: Oh okay. I never realized that.

Tom: That was an elementary school. I did some student teaching at Saint Basil's. Yeah Project Relate. This probably something going on. I just – I need to think about it. I don't know. I was in the – I know I was - I was elected to the whatever (inaudible) Epsilon Honor Society and Who's Who thing and stuff like that. I was also involved because I was going to go to law school in the law club or whatever it was at the time yeah.

Eric: Now when you did your student teaching you did it through the education department?

Tom: Yes.

Eric: Okay.

Tom: Yes. I did that my junior year.

Eric: The 1974 yearbook also has you listed as a contributor. What did you work with the yearbook? Did you write for the yearbook? Take pictures for the yearbook?

Tom: I would have just - I probably fed things through related to the sociology

- 1:21:30 department and the activities we were doing into the yearbook staff. I would not say – I not describe myself as having a major role. I think I was someone who was a resource for them. I was active around campus and so a lot of people actually knew who I was. I was also a member of the departmental board for the department of sociology.
- Eric: And what was that like?
- Tom: (laughs) It may have been only the department of sociology. I'm not sure. I may have been sure then; I'm not sure now but in effort to be more democratic again given the times they allowed three students to be elected to the faculty board for a department and so I was one of the student representatives to the sociology department board. So sat on the board participated in votes on who got tenure and you know changes in the department and stuff like that. So it was very interesting.
- Eric: Was there any pushback by having students determining a professor's tenure or anything like that?
- Tom: Pushback is the wrong word. I think there was an attempt to educate because you had the zeal of the young students and you had the reality of you know trying to sort through complicated issues. And so I think that there was good give and take. And I think it was a good and take and in retrospect I feel comfortable that my give was while aggressive not destructive and so that the take away ended up being for the betterment because I think you are suggesting it could you know it could also be very disrupting -
- Eric: Mmhmm.
- Tom: - influence. I think that the point was achieved in providing some student viewpoints without becoming unfair to people who are you know in difficult situation in terms of trying to bring education to students.
- Eric: Now you said that you part of the reason why you commuted was so that you could also finance your education.
- Tom: Mmhmm.
- Eric: Do you happen to know, rough estimate, about how much tuition was in the early 70s?
- Tom: I'm going to guess. It seems to me it was like, (coughs) excuse me, three or four thousand dollars a year -
- Eric: Do you know -

1:24:34

Tom: Or a semester or year. I don't know.

Eric: Do you know how much it is now?

Tom: Yeah I'm sure well I would – Tuition alone my guess is probably about thirty-five thousand. Ten times the amount.

Eric: Yeah so yeah. It's about that much.

Tom: I know that because I you know I have -

Eric: Candice.

Tom: Yeah. I have one who still paying a lot and I have another coming up. I'm very aware of, yes, the cost of tuition at different colleges yes.

Eric: Were there any like major events that happened on campus? Were there any prominent figures that came to campus who gave speeches that you can recall or remember?

Tom: It seemed to me that Eugene McGovern might have been there. Eugene McCarthy I think was there. We had singers coming through. Scott McKenzie I remember. I have his album I just recorded it, digitized it. He was a member of the Mamas and the Papas. We had – I have to think about that. I mean there were folks who certainly would show up. I mean how but a lot of them were you know less national figures and more local figures you know speakers series and stuff like that.

Eric: Now the – You were there for the 1972 Presidential election. That was during your college years. Typically colleges are kind of hotbeds for a lot of activity in terms of presidential elections. Do you remember anything about the 1972 election between Nixon and McGovern?

Tom: Yeah. Like I said I think McGovern might have come to the campus. I could be wrong but it seems to me that – It was – on the campus itself it was not – I would not describe it as overly politically active. I think that the you know the challenge of the Vietnam War was what the issue was and because it was starting to somewhat wind down and the draft morphed into the lottery system and so you had a better understanding of whether or not you were vulnerable. That while there was anxiety I think no one – McGovern represented a radical shift from what America normally did which was well you know we're in it we're going to finish it. And Nixon was already going down the path of we are going to wind down the war so in a sense to a certain degree the whole concept that the war's going to go away don't worry about it I'm beginning to wind it down you know it took the edge off of

1:28:06

some of the war issues. McGovern represented going a step further to the left that I think that people were that there was a lot of particularly for a blue collar working class commuter college I think a lot of the kids it wasn't quite clear they were ready to go down that path so I don't think it was – it wasn't the same of whether or not we should be in Vietnam that was a lot straight forward of an issue than how should we get out of Vietnam. So I think that that was a more cerebral conversation you might say than the earlier conversations about should we be in and out. The issues of – But you know there was a lot going on but I guess what I'm trying to focus on is how much of that happened on campus and also it's a commuter campus and so it's different. When you had residential campuses out there these were in universities a lot of what went on at universities started actually at the graduate school level. You had graduate school students who had a little more flexibility in their schedules. There were more established. They were organizers and so a lot of things that would happen you know were happening at universities where having a resident universities and more happening with driven by a lot of people at the graduate school level. (coughs) Excuse me. So coming from a you know more blue collar commuter college without that other portion to it and so where the college you know people are leaving after class I think it was not an environment where you would see a lot of that surface and I'm trying to draw that distinction because outside of college and I was working and in the workplace that there were a lot more lively debates you know about what the deal is and which direction we should be going in and you know about the politics of the two but I wouldn't put activism on campus in saying that there was a lot going on there at the time.

Eric: Did you attend of the sporting events during your time at La Salle? Did you participate in any – Did you go to any of the basketball games or anything like that?

Tom: A couple basketball games you know they were doing okay. I just – I don't even remem – I remember actually they had some good seasons. You know sandwiching the time there La Salle certainly had was able to for a number of years put together competitive programs. But again as a commuter college it was much more difficult to engage with after school activities especially if like a lot of kids you had to work so you finished class at 2:30 you got home to get to work by study to get to work by five o'clock. You worked until nine or ten at night. Studied some more and back to college campus. So it was much more difficult to participate in these others things so to an extent you could like I did in certain activities especially in my junior and senior year you did but there wasn't mass of kids kind of hanging out after classes in the early evening who are coming up who are debating these things and coming up with schemes of things what people should do so that I think was a very much function of it being a commuter college. (Kimberly, Tom's wife walks in the background)

1:32:16

Eric: Now since most of the students were commuters, how was the college party scene? It seems to be a big distraction for many college students. Once you get there the whole party atmosphere -

Tom: Yeah there really was not a party scene I would say. And you – the college union was where you hung out and I don't even know if it was open – I guess it was open in the evening for meals for the few kids who actually resided there.

Eric: How did was the fraternity scene at during your time?

Tom: I don't even know if it existed. I have no – I think if it existed it existed in the business school. The business school was sort of like its own group. I don't mean that in a judgmental way but you know they kind of had their own social cultural footprint and so my reaction would be if you went to the liberal arts college part you would never think about belonging to a fraternity but if you went to the business school part you know they are the kind of kids who probably would sit around playing cards drinking beer at a fraternity. (laughs) The rest of us were out complaining about women's rights and equal rights and stuff like that you know.

Eric: What was the last that you visited the campus of La Salle?

Tom: Probably I guess it was whatever year you graduated which I think was -

Eric: 2007.

Tom: 2007. So fairly recent. (coughs)

Eric: How was the neighborhood changed since you attended La Salle?

Tom: Well I mean La Salle certainly has grown a lot so it's expanded and is much different college in terms planned facilities that it was when I went there. It always had a dicey relationship with the local community. I mean that's just the function of any school I think. I think La Salle always did a good job at trying to reach across to the neighborhoods and tried to find some working relationship with the local neighborhoods. So my impression is the neighborhood outside of La Salle it's always a work in progress. I think it's much different than the tension that existed at Penn where Penn had a very dicey relationship with its local neighborhoods. And then did big effort to reintegrate itself there and I think La Salle my impression is its always had you know pretty constant you know there's always some tension but you know some good effort to be a part of the neighborhood certainly in terms of its own internal (inaudible) facilities its expanded a lot.

1:35:15

Eric: Have you attended any of the La Salle reunions?

Tom: No I have not. I'm just not a reunion person. I think I attended my five year high school reunion that was the last one. Same thing, I just got the card from Penn you know come to well I'm like -

Eric: Looking back on your time at La Salle, do you have any regrets? Is there something that you should have done, a club or sport that you wanted to participate in but you didn't participate in?

Tom: I was pretty active considering I was working thirty hours a week and commuting I was a pretty active kid in school. Certainly as I think about what I would like to do today if I were in college which is different contextually from at the time. At the time you're going from the dynamics of the sixties and so you're exploring and you're growing and you're getting confidence. Today I've done that so if I could have taken where I am today there's other areas I would loved to have gotten involved with. I wish I would have gotten more involved with in the physical sciences. I think there's a number of things maybe various physical sciences I would have liked to have explored a lot more. I would like to have explored more in some other subject areas that were I have tried in my years to kind of do that. I worked for a chemicals company so you know part of it is trying to explore that a little bit more. Computers. I wish. I did some work when I was at Penn in computers. La Salle was just starting in the computer area. Don't regret anything I've done business wise but I think it would have been very interesting particularly at that stage early embryonic stage to have gotten my hands more so on computers because I have throughout my career I have been a big instigator in integrating computers system into the business world. As a business person and I have always been very good at understanding issues related to that whole area. I think it could have been interesting to have gotten into that a little bit more. So what I'm saying is there's - I would liked to have been several people and going down several different paths and there are other paths that I think La Salle was very good at certainly in the physical sciences and certainly had an evolving computer science program. They're areas I think it would have been kind of fun to further explore.

Eric: Is there anything else about La Salle that you didn't mention that you want to talk about?

Tom: Not real – I think the only thing I can think of is I'm just amazed and that I appreciate that La Salle in a very difficult college environment has been able to thrive as well as it has. It's a very different, very difficult environment to survive as a college and do well as a college. And they have been able to grow and I think become a better institution. I think that's pretty impressive so I think that's the comment that I would make that in a very competitive

- 1:39:25 and very difficult environment. They have been able to you know to do well. So that's nice to see. My high school no longer exists. My grammar school may no longer exist you know. It's nice to see my college still exist and is thriving and is doing well.
- Eric: Okay you have your yearbook from 1974. Looking at that picture -
- Tom: And using my glasses that I now need to use.
- Eric: Looking at your picture of a college senior who is about to graduate college. If you could give advice to the Tom Lorandau living in 1974, what advice would you give?
- Tom: (pause) I wouldn't change - I can't think of things I would change. I - There's some big risk that I took at that age and they worked out pretty well. You know, would I - I think if anything it's just trying to instill in someone that age in me or anyone that age a sense of confidence and feeling of being confident that you can do things which you know if you understand what you do well and pursue it and I was fortunate enough that some things fell into place and I did. You know, if I were to give some guidance would it be get three degrees just like I just said well yeah you know. If you can afford it you know I look back and say hey don't worry about it thirty-six hundred dollars or whatever tuition was - is cheap today spend an extra two years in college and get three degrees. (laughs) There you go. But you know once you change something what else changes so just go do it.
- Eric: Well I thank you for your time today. Is there anything that other topics we discussed family heritage, childhood, youth, time at La Salle that you want bring up or address that we have not?
- Tom: I'd just talk about more practical jokes I've done over the years so other than that. No, I nothing comes to mind. I you know your every life has certain challenges and you recognize that many of us including myself have been given some great opportunities and you're fortunate and now the question is how do you try to turn that around and recognize a lot of people who have not had the opportunities and so you know that's an endless effort but. I think you just be fortunate for what you got and you try to do what you can to help some of the others that perhaps are like you. It wouldn't be me that I would be addressing. It would be the people who are growing up in situations where money's a challenge. The opportunity to advance and understanding how to do it is a challenge. And the issue is how do you help these young kids who are bright and capable but have not grown up with the advantages that my kids grew up with. So in that sense you hope to give some advice. So and that's what now you try to do as you get older.
- Eric: Alright great and that will conclude this session.

1:43:57

Tom: Mmhmm.

**Disc 3**

00:00:00

**Work/Career**

Eric: Ok next we're going to talk about your work and your career. What has been your primary career?

Tom: I've been involved in business development primarily international business development so when I left or when I went to graduate school at Penn got my MBA from the Wharton School. It's really spanned over two companies, International Paper Company from 1976 to 1987 or so and then from then until recently with Heraeus of West Germany, a German based chemical company. So International Paper manufacturing packaging materials and Heraeus especially chemicals and my role in both of them working through the sales marketing department has been in new business development. And that's both in terms of products and in terms of territory. So early on I got some basic fundamental training out selling packaging materials in the U.S. but very quickly when I was twenty-nine I was put in charge – I was put into an export program for international paper who was one of the world's largest or one of the U.S.'s largest exporters. And so I got pulled into managing a part and then all of their exporting business for specialty for liquid packaging materials and so that was working – They had plants in certain areas such as Europe and Japan and but the rest of the world we exported materials to. So I spent a lot of time building a network, a distribution network and building sales up in the rest of Asia. China was closed at the time but we had some significant markets in Taiwan, in Korea, in Singapore, in Indonesia and Malaysia into the Middle East actually in Israel, a little bit in Jordan and a little bit in Libya. We had when I first started significant business in Iran then in Latin America down to Argentina and Brazil and Venezuela to the Central America and then Africa primarily Zimbabwe, Kenya, Nigeria which is a very interesting place to do business in and so build that business up and learned a lot. It was a great experience working out of New York City with you know a great group of people. And worked for a Swede who eventually transferred me off to Korea where I started a manufacturing – where we had built up sales to thirty million dollars and I was in charge then of converting that business into a local business so establishing a joint venture with a local partner there and building a manufacturing facility. Lots of stories we could talk for hours about and how to deal - do business in Korea but did that for about eighteen or so months in terms of transitioning or export business into a local manufacturing business. Bought a local company in the process and planned transactions. It was bizarre. It was fascinating. It was a lot of fun and then at about that time there was a new style of packaging, a septic packaging basically where you don't refrigerate milk or juice and they

0:03:52

package that International Paper was entering the market with as a competitor to a company called Tetra Pak and so they were looking to introduce that in Japan and so I moved to Japan. That's where Candice was born and a period of time 1985-87 whatever that was and so establish – Went through the whole approval process with the Japanese government for the packaging materials because the style of packaging this was something that if you didn't do right particularly with what they called low acid products like milk. If you package that stuff up you can kill somebody if you don't do it properly so just like the FDA tracks that stuff very carefully. It took us five years for approval. In the U.S. it took me a period of time to move it through the Japanese system and then established it in Hokkaido Hakodate. Hokkaido, our first manufacturing plant and that was a great experience in Japan and living there and you know just understanding a lot about the culture. In between all of that helped started an operation in Taiwan were we also then put in a local manufacturing facilities and then my boss moved to the German company, Heraeus and I ended up going with him so I ended up in specialty chemicals mostly for a variety of industries but early on got involved with what's called Sputtering Targets - moving some business around that were failing in the U.S. and then ceramic colors were people like Lenox go through plates with their various pressure metal platinum platinum gold trimmings and helped set that business up for the U.S. side. Then they had a losing business in Japan a venture they had started that wasn't working well and so I spent a lot of time in Japan fixing that business before I came back and worked on their basic electronic materials business which is circuit boards basically high end circuitry, high temperature circuitry circuits that would go into anything from the space shuttle, satellites, airplanes, military applications and so set up a whole – reinvigorated the business that they had that was not doing well in the U.S. and then moved over and started a business related again within Heraeus , a surface metal materials so we made different bonding materials, glues, solder paste and the like that would be used by companies assembling circuitry whether it take a basic circuit board and be attaching components resistors capacitors and the like to the boards. A lot of that ended out. Heraeus is out of Germany and although my focus was in the United States all our companies were multinationals and so I spent a lot of time traveling on all of the continents and coordinating with their German counterparts back spending a lot time back into Asia but also a lot of time in Europe with these multinational companies that could be headquartered a lot of times in the U.K. with some companies there companies out of Germany. So just a lot of coordination to sell to multinational companies. Obviously if you are selling to an automotive company and they speck you in on a product they have manufacturing plants all around the world and you need to make sure you're properly supporting all of their plants providing the same materials so it really got into understanding manufacturing of a very complicated product and truly dealing with the growing multinational organizations. And so I mean they were the two main manufacturers. After that I did do some toying around with some

0:08:04 other product lines but more recently have been supporting my partner and wife in what she's doing in she's a Ph.D. clinical psychologist doing her research gets grants from the National Institute of Health and some small business innovative research monies and so I've been working to support that in developing different programs that are meant to improve the quality of life in senior care settings and so that's been kind of fascinating to go down that route and take what I have – I've enjoyed moving from the food industry into the electronics industry now into some of the health care industry so I guess due to my personality I like to get my hands in lots of different things and see different you know parts of the world. I'm more of a generalist than a specialist in that sense so you know that's pretty much where my life has taken me.

Eric: Alright. That's great.

Eric: Okay we begin to wrap up today's interview. A couple concluding questions. What have been the three biggest news events during your lifetime and why?

Tom: I would have to – I guess certainly the first would be the Vietnam War in terms of the something that totally was front and center every day. You couldn't get away from it and I would kind of expand that to a whole period of time that was unrest and so that would encompass the civil rights movement it sort of morphs together this whole thing of people becoming aware and questioning and challenging, questioning the way things are whether it's racial issues, gender issues, or why we're in Vietnam and why things happen the way they do. So that certainly was a very interesting and interesting period of time. The music reflected the music as well. I mean it was just all encompassing it is a point in time that a lot of us look back very fondly. I think there's some people perhaps who don't so much. It depends perhaps on upon your experience but for me it was a very – it was a time of great growth although it was a time of great unrest. The second would have to be the changing I'm going to call the end of the Cold War which I'll include the opening up of China. I was doing international business. I was one of the early people to get into China in the mid-80s. it was amazing being in China at that time. I remember one road that was partially built that was in Canton or Guangdong province on its way up to Beijing and everything else was dirt roads and no cars. Everything was bicycles except the bus we were on. Fascinating – the whole change and of course along with that was the breakup of the Soviet Union. This was just a such a change in how you viewed the world from being stuck in this faceoff with the, with other powers particularly China and Russia and seeing that change occur as it did. So I think that was something again you couldn't help but be affected by one way or the other certainly the falling of the Soviet Union and the travel. The business then we started doing in Eastern Europe working for a German company the outreach to East Germany and the issues there so that was pretty substantial I would say. And the third one that unfortunately no one

0:12:39 can really get away with all starts with 9/11 and ugly aftermath of you know trying to deal with you know political issues that stem with you know our dicey relations with the terrorism so there's lots of faces to that. Lots of sides to that. I guess my simple view is if we – sooner we get away from petroleum the sooner that people in other countries can go about doing what they want to do and you know we don't find ourselves for whatever reasons motivated to be involved in affairs in regions of the country that obviously has created lots of problems. So I would say those three things.

Eric: What do you consider to be the turning points in your life?

Tom: Well I would say that my parents gave me – looking through time number one I think my parents' active involvement in getting me into Scouting which was a way that I grew a lot in terms of things that I did for many years. I learned a lot from number two is probably La Salle and a certain confidence level that I had. Number three is just then going to Penn and boosting that up a whole other notch. And I'm kind of walking through my life I guess but just moving off to my first job where I relocated to New York City and I'm in the city on my own and make a decision to go into international business which all of a sudden I'm on the other side of the world so each of those points I would say had a dramatic effect upon you know where my life went certainly having kids and being married to a wonderful woman are important parts to my life. And in turning points suggest that you see things differently I think that the relationships enhanced my the quality of the my life but you know things that actually change how you go about you know I guess that's probably got where I'm at now once I got to that point. Everything else just evolved from it.

Eric: If you could write a message to your children and grandchildren and put it in a time capsule from them to open thirty years from now, what would you write?

Tom: I actually have something that on the – my – Timothy's twenty-first birthday we will have been twenty-one years for all three kids that we wrote and I think the theme is that I like there that I think about isn't so much trying to give advice although maybe Timothy because he was newly born. Maybe it's a bit of advice here or there but I think what is what I've done and what I'd like to do and is with my two daughters is over that twenty-one years is too remind them of a lot of things that they did and we did when they were younger. Little stories for them. And stories for Timothy as he's born and stories about the family for Timothy but my point has been to give them a sense of being a part of some fun childhood and memories of some great things that happened and recognition of the value that I ascribed to them that is that here's some wonderful things that we did together that I thoroughly enjoyed and I appreciate the time we had together. So to me it's just conveying to them a sense of how wonderful - I appreciate having them in

0:17:29 my life. I think that I can give them all the advice in the world and continue to but there's nothing that going to sneak up on them but sometimes it's good to remember that there are some people for a long time that believed in you, enjoyed being with you and made some wonderful memories with you so I think it's that sense of feeling loved and connected and remembering those stories to kind of hold on to the same way my dad gave me a lot of stories well I guess its stories that I want to pass on that they can also hold onto and feel good about.

Eric: What do you see in your future?

Tom: Well I still a ten year old to raise. I have someone in college. I would say that one thing that has changed dramatically for me is moving from things being about me where when you have the kinds of positions that I've had where you're traveling a lot where you are in charge of some significant responsibilities and you spend a lot of time working. You spend a lot of time away from home and what I've transitioned to and am enjoying thoroughly you know I think I've done it at the right time is being more in a consultive role that I am now being more connected with my family and for me it started with my kids going through the college stages and being there to help with that guidance instead of being off for three weeks in Asia or relocating to China which I could have done. More recently and for my son just being able to be more available for sports teams and involved in coaching and all that. So I'm trying to make sure that while the opportunities there to be really connected as well as with my wife and so my path right now has been to find balance to make sure during some critical times as my kids are going forward, the oldest married and her life and the middle one going through grad school right now and making life decisions and the younger one going through some critical times. And finally also being able to put more energy in supporting my wife who has – who is some critical parts of her career in terms of research that she's doing to make sure that instead of it all being about me and me off doing things and people supporting it. I'm in a position to be able to give my wife the opportunity to go out and be successful by taking a lot of things off her shoulders. So I'm kind of in the cheerleader role in that sense as well as literally supporting in terms of business stuff that she's involved in. Right now there's a business component to what she's doing and that's a lot of fun to again be able to do that. I've done some incredible things in career. I've seen places. I've been certainly – I've accomplished a great deal I think – have affected a lot of people's lives but it's nice to also be in a position where you make sure you don't short change those immediately around you. So I'm kind of pleased that I've been able to make that happen.

Eric: Alright. Well that about wraps it up for us today. I thank you so much for your time and answering our questions.

0:21:29

Tom: Good.

Eric: Thank you.

Tom: My pleasure.

Thomas Lorandau, interviewed by Eric Lorandau  
Yardley, PA; March 26, 2011