

Oral History Interview with David

Conducted by Harriet Rogers

for the DC Oral History Collaborative
as part of the Cleveland & Woodley Park Villagers' Stories Project

October 24, 2023

One hour, thirteen minutes, and fourteen seconds

Home of David
Washington, DC

Summary

The interview captures the life experiences and perspectives of David, who reflects on various facets of his life. David discusses his early interest in scholarship, his career as a history professor, and his journey with chronic pain. He shares about his involvement in the Cleveland Park community, from participating in his church's book club to putting on plays with a theater group. David talks about his participation in the Village, reflecting on friendships and the support received during challenging times.

Cleveland & Woodley Park Village is a nonprofit membership organization serving residents in Washington, DC's Cleveland Park and Woodley Park neighborhoods. It is part of a national movement to assist older adults as they age at home, with the mission to create opportunities for older adults to be actively engaged, support those who need it with volunteer assistance to help them live independently, and build a welcoming intergenerational community. This oral history interview was conducted under a grant from the Humanities Council of Washington, DC to the Cleveland & Woodley Park Village.

Narrator Bio

David is a historian known for his research in American cultural and social history, particularly focusing on the period before the Civil War. He has written several books, including "Melodrama Unveiled: American Theater and Culture, 1800-1850," "Notions of the Americans, 1820-1860," and "American Mobbing, 1828-1861: Toward Civil War." He currently resides in the Cleveland Park neighborhood of Washington, DC, and has been a member of Cleveland & Woodley Park Village since 2014.

Topics Covered: Cleveland Park. Woodley Park. Older Adults. Aging in DC. The Village Movement. Community. Senior Services. DC History. Cleveland & Woodley Park Village Membership. DC Villages. Historian.

DC Neighborhoods and Streets: Capitol Hill, Connecticut Avenue NW, Highland Place NW, Lowell Street NW, Massachusetts Avenue NW, Military Road NW, Porter Street NW, River Road NW, Tenleytown, Wisconsin Avenue NW, Cleveland Park, Woodley Park

Harriet Rogers: Hello. I'm Harriet Rogers, and today I'm here with David. The date is October 24th, 2023, and we are speaking in David's home in Washington, DC. Today I am honored to speak with David about his history within DC and his neighborhood, and the community, and his recollections of how the community and Woodley Park Village have influenced him as he ages in the neighborhood. So let me start by having you, David, introduce himself, and he'll talk a little bit more about himself, including where his story starts and where he came from. So David, here we go again. Where and when were you born?

David : I was born in a little, little speck of a village called Volga, Wisconsin. And my father had a very small grocery store there, kitty-corner from the Creamery across the road from us. About a mile away, there was a very little school, a two-room school. I went there, and in the first grade, I was the only person in the first grade, rather well-loved by the teacher, and loving the experience, and sort of falling in love with her a little. I still remember how pretty I thought she was, long, long ago. (laughter) We stayed there only until I finished the second grade. And then my family moved. By this time, the Second World War was beginning, or had begun. And my father, who already had three children, was anxious to go out to Oregon, where there was a needed plant, aluminum plant job awaiting him. And this would protect him from being drafted, and this sort of thing. So we moved out first to a very small, local house at a place called Troutdale, and I went into the third grade, and liked my teachers again, and mainly my one teacher.

HR: How many in the third grade?

DG: In the third grade, there was a reasonable number, about 20.

HR: Oh! A big jump for you.

DG: Yeah. Yeah, it was, moving into the big world. And the next year, my family moved out to a very small village near Mount Hood, it was a lovely place, right on a river, and with a small mountain right in front of it, and the big mountain further on. And that's where I started to go to school, from the fourth grade through the eighth grade. And it was a two-room school too, but a larger one, and so there were -- in the classroom I was in, there were probably about 20, 25 students. And my teacher was the principal of the school. She was a very nice woman I liked, and I guess I was kind of popular, because I was drafted to be at plays and operas --

HR: Oh!

DG: -- though I can't sing at all. (laughs) But anyway, I can pretend. Then my parents moved into a suburb of Portland when I started high school, mainly to give me a better high school, they thought, and one which I wouldn't have to ride the bus a long time to get there and back every day, in Gresham, Oregon. And I liked my teachers there, and my education there. And I did a lot of stuff, drama and writing, editing a little newspaper.

HR: So early on, you were attracted to writing?

DG: Yeah, I was. And I was really attracted to scholarship kind of, too. I was encouraged to do a thesis for my senior year in high school, and I did one on the Japanese expulsion from the area; farmers who had lived there and had been doing well, but who Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the American government decided should be put on reservations. And in the process of this generally, the land was confiscated by other people that they'd had. And so I knew a couple of the people who had been put on reservations, so I talked to them, and I found out about how many farmers had been there, and what had happened to their farms, what had happened to them, and that.

HR: And can I ask you what years this was, when you were --

DG: This was my senior year, in high school, that I was writing this.

HR: Senior year in high school, so 19--

DG: Let's see, '35 and 17, so it would have been about 1952.

HR: Yeah, I was going to say, early '50s.

DG: Something like that, yeah. And I had a lot of friends and we had a kind of clique, too, that were together, and supportive of one another, the better students in the school, maybe.

HR: So even though your father had three other children, you were by yourself, so you were kind of an only child?

DG: Oh, no. No. They had had three children before they moved to Oregon, and they proceeded to have six more.

HR: So you were from a family of six, eight, ten?

DG: No, nine siblings.

HR: Nine.

DG: Including me.

HR: So all this time when you were talking about you going to these schools, there were some of your siblings going in other grades?

DG: Yeah, there were. My mother had had a kind of rheumatic fever after her second child. Cat.

HR: I don't know, there's no food in there.

DG: No, he likes --

HR: Well, there's M & Ms.

DG: Well, I --

HR: Okay.

DG: Let me put it up so it's not tempting him.

HR: It's okay.

DG: He's not mad --

HR: No.

DG: -- but he likes the smell of feet, and --

HR: Want to go over there? Oh, put this up, you mean?

DG: Yeah. That's what I mean. I could put that cat up, too.

HR: There's nothing too interesting there.

DG: Okay.

HR: For those of you listening, we're talking about a cat.

DG: (laughs) My only -- well, my second tenant in the house I have now. But no, my mother had me and my brother, and then she had rheumatic fever for six years.

HR: Ooh.

DG: And she was very ill for a while, but made a very good recovery from it, too. And then before we left Wisconsin, my third brother was born. And after we got out there, they had children regularly, up until nine.

HR: Wow.

DG: Yeah. And it's wonderful. I'm the oldest of them, but they're all still living, and I'm still close to them. Just went out to Oregon to spend 10 days with most of my -- almost all of my brothers.

HR: So your -- that family is still out there.

DG: Yeah, they --

HR: So what kind of influenced you to leave that area?

DG: Well, the good friend of mine who got valedictorian in the school, who did less activities than I did, but he was a very good student. Very sweet guy, and we were good friends. His parents were very strictly religious. But we liked to go to movies, so I would go and buy the tickets, and he would work it out, so he'd pretend to be doing something else, and we'd go to the movies together. But he said to me, jokingly partly, "You're so vain, you probably got -- you'll probably try to go to Harvard." And I hadn't even thought about it. I thought I'd go to Reed maybe, or the University of Oregon.

HR: Yeah.

DG: Someplace close, you know, (inaudible). But I said, why not? So I filled out an application for Harvard, and they, I think, were in the process of including non-Eastern people --

HR: Yeah.

DG: -- in the University.

HR: The elite, right.

DG: So I had an interview, and somehow I was chosen and given a big scholarship.

HR: Wonderful.

DG: So I didn't have to pay anything for that. And I went back East to Harvard College, and enjoyed it. Did well, but not spectacularly well at all.

HR: Was it kind of -- was it a shock in some ways?

DG: It was in some ways. My three roommates were all Jews from the Boston area.

HR: Oh!

DG: And that was fine with me. Two of them I was very close to, the other one wasn't around so much. And I think maybe he was -- he lived with us only the first year, he lived someplace close after that. But the three of us were really close friends, I think, and with one of them, I'm still a close friend, and -- well, "close" is maybe too strong. He lives in California, but we write to each other occasionally, and Christmas notes and birthday notes, and stuff.

HR: So I'm trying to picture this Wisconsin boy going to Harvard, and your roommates are of a religion where there aren't a lot of people in Wisconsin.

DG: Yeah.

HR: So was there, like, for you -- like, not on, I was going to say, a "learning curve," but I don't mean about them so much, as just how to adjust. You know, when you're from afar, you know?

DG: Yeah. Well, it was kind of hard. The adjustment with the roommates was totally comfortable, really.

HR: Yeah.

DG: The one I was closest to, his family was not very religious. But they were very Jewish, without being religious at all.

HR: Right.

DG: And the father, interestingly, would ask Burton when we were going to have ham, because he liked ham. (laughs)

HR: Oh, okay. Oh, nice, yeah.

DG: And so it was -- it was a good relationship. And they invited me into their home, you know, on weekends and things. And it was comfortable. But the strangest thing was that there's so many people at Harvard who had been raised in high-end schools --

HR: Right.

DG: -- and see themselves as continuing at the top, sort of thing. And I -- I clearly was not that. But I liked the classes, mostly. And a couple of the professors, I was really fond of. And I wrote a dissertation and did the required things, and got honors in -- not spectacular honors, but regular honors.

HR: So is your specialty -- your dissertation, your specialty history? Or --?

DG: I majored in American history and literature. It was one major that they had there. And I -- I've always loved literature, and been very interested in history. But when I graduated, I decided I would do the reading, no matter what, and I wouldn't study the history as closely as I would otherwise. So I decided I'd go on in history. And I was sort of anxious to get back on the West Coast, I mean, it felt that that was more where I belonged. And so I got a -- I went to Berkeley, and I got a little money at first, but and I really lived by doing gardening and earning money while I was starting graduate school. But by the second year, I had a teaching assistantship that

essentially took care of things. And I just loved it. So many people were unhappy with what they were doing, or uncertain about what they were doing, and I knew I was doing what I wanted to do, which was, I wrote a dissertation under a very genial man who didn't do much for me, but didn't do anything against me. And I wrote a melodrama in the United States in the first half of the nineteenth century, trying to figure out why such kind of bad plays we're so popular for so long. And that became, after I finished up, it became my first book kind of thing, that Chicago published. So while I was there, I met my first wife. We were both in graduate school. She was in Russian history.

HR: In Russian history.

DG: Yeah, and I was in American, but we got along well and lived together for a while, and decided to -- well, I met her family, and we all got along, and she met mine. My family never very much liked her. But she was just very caught up in her own world. And it was good, I thought, and I thought as we had children, if we did, it would just turn into a closely-loved family. And it didn't work quite that way. I mean, my wife, she was a good scholar, she published her thesis too, but she never was a good teacher. And one of the problems we had early on is, I got a job at Bucknell, which I liked, and which I was happy with.

HR: And Bucknell is where?

DG: Lewistown, Pennsylvania.

HR: Pennsylvania, yeah. So you were going to be leaving the West Coast again.

DG: Yeah. Yeah.

HR: Right.

DG: I went back to the East Coast to -- and I stayed there for about six years. And I liked it, and probably would have stayed. But Pat was unhappy. They gave her a job, a part-time teaching job there --

HR: Right.

DG: But she wasn't a good teacher, and it wasn't totally comfortable for her. And she began working in -- at longer periods in Russia. She took up this project of -- important project of tracing archives in Russia, and letting people in the West, and to some degree in Russia itself, know where groups of documents were. And this was a great boon; it didn't mean that they could get into them, but they knew what they had to ask for, and where it was. So it was a great help for people. Russian people too, but people going to Russia to study, they could be sure of where the documents they wanted were, and try to get them, and many of them could.

HR: So you stayed at Bucknell?

DG: I stayed six years.

HR: For six years, right.

DG: Yeah. And --

HR: And she left, I mean, I figure --

DG: Well, she --

HR: I mean, it sounds like you're separating at some point.

DG: Well, we did separate quite a bit, but not really separate.

HR: Oh.

DG: She would go to Russia to study for six months at a time, and to work for six months at a time. This happened three or four times during that, so it was a separation at times, but not a formal separation, and we didn't think of it that way. And I said that I would try to get a job at a place that would be more convenient for her to find work. And so I heard about this job at Maryland, I applied for it, got it. And I taught there for a very long time. We came to Washington, I think, in 1968, '67, something like that. And she got a job, too, at George Washington. But again, that wasn't totally smooth for her. And she kept going to Russia for long periods of time to do the work she was dedicated to doing.

HR: So at about the age of --

DG: Let's see, I'm trying to think how old I was. The kids were about three, five and seven, I think, so it would have been about 1963.

HR: So was this a real shock? I mean, DC in '68 is not what it is today, certainly when -- the Black and White situation, I'm thinking.

DG: No. The Black and White situation was very different, depend--

HR: Was it a shock to you, when you came here?

DG: Not especially. We came to this neighborhood, we got a -- for the first year and a half we were at Tregaron, that's a kind of servant's house at Tregaron, and that had - - I forget the name of the guy now, he's a well-known social theorist who was going to come to Washington when Kennedy was thought to be coming.

HR: Ah.

DG: And then he was killed, so he wasn't coming. And I guess I heard through some contact that he was anxious to rent a place, and so we rented it there. And but we decided -- it was really a fairly comfortable place, but it had a lot of beetles and stuff in it, you know, so we were always fighting things, in a way. And we decided we'd buy a house. My wife's family was really quite wealthy. He had served under -- in the Roosevelt government, but he'd also developed television and newspapers all around the country --

HR: Oh!

DG: -- in South Dakota, and more recently in California. And they had a lot of money. And I didn't like taking their money. Pat said she didn't like taking it, but they offered, she wanted.

HR: (inaudible)

DG: And so they offered to give us a little money to put down on the house.

HR: Is this the house?

DG: Yeah.

HR: So how many years have you been in this home?

DG: Since 1968.

HR: Wow.

DG: Yeah.

HR: All right. So by now, I'm going to call you a Washingtonian.

DG: Okay. Yeah, I think I've been a Washingtonian most of my life, yeah.

HR: It sounds that way, yeah.

DG: Yeah. And --

HR: So while you were here, while you were living here, were you, like, involved in any kind of volunteer activities? Or, you know, I mean, anything outside the time-consuming raising a family and teaching, (inaudible)?

DG: Yeah. No. I -- teaching took a lot of my time. I had 15 people who got their PhD's under me, and 13 had those published, their work, after finishing it. So it was busy, and I loved it. And I liked the teaching. And I also taught at help class in the elementary school, oh, where is it? [McClellan?] School.

HR: Ah.

DG: Yeah, and they -- children who were having problems in some ways, so doing something, and teachers would recommend working with them and suggesting where they needed work and stuff. And so I would do that about once a week kind of thing, but that was the only volunteering that I can think of in the early years that I was here.

HR: I'm curious, how did you -- well, maybe because it's close to the school, I don't know, how did you find this neighborhood? I only ask because, you know, people come to Washington and they don't know what to do, and they end up in neighborhoods they really don't like, or --

DG: Yeah. Well, we initially, when we came to Washington, thought we might like living around the Capitol area.

HR: Capitol, yeah.

DG: Yeah, Capitol Hill. But when we looked into the schools --

HR: Yeah.

DG: -- this one seemed much better than those schools there. And since we initially put the two older schools into McClellan, kind of thing, very low grades, but -- and the younger boy, we found a Italian school, a Montessori school --

HR: A Montessori, yeah.

DG: -- over across the park, kind of thing. And our young boy, when he was two, started going there. And everything went all right. And after I left Bucknell, we went up to Harvard for a year, where I had a graduate -- had a special scholarship or something, I don't know what it was, but the Warren Center there, and I worked there and just did research in the usual way. But and then we ca-- then I got the job at Maryland, and we've lived here -- I've lived here ever since, basically, with some --

HR: So what changes have you seen when you're here, since you've been here?

DG: Oh --

HR: And also, I'm probably going to ask you --

DG: Sure.

HR: -- what kind of favorite restaurants -- I mean, I'm just curious how you integrated into the Park area.

DG: Okay. We didn't use restaurants a great deal, but we did use some. There was a restaurant down on Connecticut Avenue that we would go to, two of them, one was Roma and the other one I can't remember what it was called, but it's where a Walgreen's is now.

HR: Okay.

DG: And but we -- both my wife and I like to cook, and we'd share that on the basis of what the other person had to be doing and stuff. So that was all fine. But when -- my wife didn't want the third child, but she agreed to have it. So she had our third child in Pennsylvania, and then moved up here. And (inaudible) moved up to Bucknell. And so there kind of developed a distance between us. I mean, I respected and admired what she was doing, but I didn't think she was a good teacher, and she wanted to teach. But it never worked out very well for her. And so she started teaching very little, and going to Russia for longer periods of time. And I knew she was doing good work, but it seemed to me that she wasn't dedicated to family the way I thought she should. She was loving to the children, but not very understanding of them, or very able to get out of her groove into theirs, at all. I was much closer to them, I thought, anyway. And we talked and both agreed that it would be good to get a divorce. We told the kids after the Christmas holidays, which kept them --

HR: And by this time, they're how old?

DG: By this time, I think they are about 12, 10 and 8, or maybe 11, 9 and 7, something like that.

HR: I'm curious, did they ever go to Russia with her?

DG: Yeah. My youngest son and my daughter, who's the oldest child, went to Russia with her for long periods of time.

HR: Oh.

DG: My daughter liked it well enough, but never learned Russian, or anything like that.

HR: Didn't learn Russian?

DG: No. She didn't. But my younger boy really did learn Russian well, and loved sports, and you know, was very active in it, and liked it. And he was there for about six months, I think. And then I worked out a speaking tour in Russia, and came over with the other children, and so we had some time together there. Nice time, really. But we were obviously falling apart. We told them just after Christmas. My daughter says, "I don't want to leave my friends."

HR: Oh, yeah.

DG: My son says, "You can't do this to me!" And my youngest boy said, "Maybe I should make some cocoa."

HR: Make what?

DG: Some cocoa.

HR: Oh. (laughter)

DG: So we had cocoa. And they didn't want to leave at all. And I didn't know how it was going to work out in terms of childcare, but happily, she had got a psychiatrist, and the psychiatrist decided that she wasn't very good with the children, and that it would be better if I had the majority. And so the agreement was that I would be responsible for the children during the school days, and she would have them for two weeks during the summer. And access to them whenever she wanted to visit, or anything. And that, I think, was good for both of us.

HR: It's okay, I'm just turning this off.

DG: Oh, sure.

HR: I don't know what's going on (inaudible).

DG: And so I had the -- she wanted the children to go to private schools. And Jenny was pretty happy at Eton, and didn't want to leave, so we agreed she'd stay there. But Rolf went in upper Virginia, the name slips my mind.

HR: Well, I don't know.

DG: And so he went there for a number of years. And my daughter and my youngest son were always very good students, and no problem. But my oldest son kept -- I kept getting calls. Everybody loved him, but he would be irresponsible and just stop doing things, and some Spanish teacher would call me and tell me I had to teach him Spanish, which I knew nothing about. (laughs)

HR: Oh. Did they all have friends from this neighborhood? I mean, you'd been here for a long time.

DG: Yeah, oh, they did. Yeah, they did. Right next door was a family that had two daughters, little bit younger, probably close to my youngest children's age. Maybe a little bit younger than that, even. But there was a door -- I mean, a window -- that they could go through back and forth, and they were all very close. And there were children up the street that they played with, and down the street, and some Black children, the Bishop at the cathedral lived just up on [Ordley?] Street, and he had a

couple of sons, and my oldest boy, particularly, was very close to them. But they had their school friends too, and everything. (cell phone rings)

HR: Thought I turned it off.

DG: So it was a very comfortable place.

HR: So -- all right, so now you have all these friends in the neighborhood, I assume, right?

DG: We do.

HR: Yeah. So and that, plus your friendships with all your -- with some of the other professors?

DG: Yeah. Very close to three or four professors, all of them Jewish, too.

HR: So you feel very included in your community. You feel (inaudible).

DG: Yeah. No, I always felt comfortable. I always have not known some of my neighbors, too, you know.

HR: Yeah.

DG: But it is a city, in some ways, where you can be oblivious to people that are close to you.

HR: Oh, absolutely.

DG: And when my friends up there moved, and the people moved in, you know, we're not hostile at all.

HR: No.

DG: But no close at all, either. And I don't know any people just across from me.

HR: So where -- did you see your siblings -- okay, so now I'm just trying to get a picture. Here you are the older man, you're now living alone, and you're raising your children. And you and your wife are compatible, but sometimes she spends time in Russia.

DG: Yeah.

HR: So at some point, did you -- let me see. No, I know what I was going to say. How were you still relating to all of your siblings and stuff? Was --

DG: I remained very close to them. You know, not close physically --

HR: But they all still stayed West?

DG: Most of my brothers stayed West. All of my brothers stayed West, really. My sisters, one of them went to Bristol, Rhode Island, and so I would see her perhaps more than the others, kind of thing.

HR: Right.

DG: Particularly when I would bring the kids up for Thanksgiving to be with Pat, I would go and live with -- stay with them for some time, and then pick the kids up on the way back. And --

HR: And were you in telephone communication, like, early on, when your parents were still alive? Were you talking to them quite a bit?

DG: I wrote to my parents pretty regularly.

HR: Oh.

DG: And mother would write back. Father just wasn't -- he had to leave high school early because his father died, and he took over when he was a very -- a teenager, you know, the small store that his family had.

HR: Yeah.

DG: And writing, for him, was kind of difficult. He read a lot, and read interestingly, and talked about it interesting. But his letters were always a little painful, and certainly stretched, you know?

HR: Oh.

DG: And not easy.

HR: You had kind of like a Willa Cather life.

DG: (laughs)

HR: I mean, really, here she is in Nebraska, she doesn't know anything, and she ends up in New York --

DG: Yeah.

HR: -- with a woman partner. But she was actually super-sophisticated, but still Nebraskan.

DG: Uh-huh?

HR: And I'm just trying to picture out if you're still Wisconsin, but I don't think you are. I think that seems to be behind you, for sure.

DG: No. Almost all of my Wisconsin contacts are gone.

HR: No.

DG: Family dying there, a lot of them. And my parents were buried back in Grantsburg. I've never been to that grave. I hadn't thought of that until now.

HR: Oh.

DG: But I think I was away when they -- when they -- no, when my mother died, I was away in -- I would go away to places to study, you know, and to just work on my own and not be bothered with the house and stuff. And but I didn't know what I was going to say --

HR: So you consider yourself a Washingtonian?

DG: I guess I do.

HR: Yeah?

DG: I guess I do. I still like going out to Oregon, I find it very beautiful. I remember it as kind of the home of my boyhood. Wisconsin was even younger. But when I first went back to Wisconsin and saw where we lived, I'd had in my mind this huge hill that we used to slide down, it was a little mound, really. It was different, and not what I had in mind. But I still remember some things about it like a terrible tornado that came through the area, and killed a couple of people --

HR: Yeah.

DG: -- and also tossed a woman into the furnace -- into a baking oven, kind of thing. She was badly burned. It was really very dramatic, and stuff. But no, I think I'm certainly a Washingtonian, I've lived here all my life. And my children want me to come live with them, or go to a retirement home. (laughs) And I suppose it makes sense, I'm pretty old. And I'm not going to live long, you know, for sure. But I like working in the garden here. I like the house.

HR: Well, this brings me -- this is a good time to go into the Village.

DG: Okay, Washington?

HR: Into the Village.

DG: Oh, into the Village? Yeah.

HR: So did you -- you're a member?

DG: I'm a member.

HR: And you became a member, expecting what, from the Village?

DG: Oh, expecting -- wanting to support it, because it seemed to me a good program, and also expecting that maybe I could call on them if I needed something.

HR: Right.

DG: And the first thing I needed was some help with the computer, you know. I got this good computer, and I could use it a little bit, but I -- there were all these things I couldn't figure out. And so I got somebody there who helped me, [Greg?] (inaudible), I was very grateful to him.

HR: Good.

DG: He did it for a number of years, and --

HR: And when did you become a member, when you joined?

DG: When I joined, I think not the first year, but the second year that it was there.

HR: Oh.

DG: I've belonged to it for a number of years now. I'm going to have somebody in to do some sewing for me sometime, because I don't sew, and I need buttons and --

HR: Oh, good.

DG: -- and things through --

HR: They may send me, because I do sew.

DG: Oh, do you?

HR: So I may volunteer for that project.

DG: Okay. (laughs) But I haven't used them a great deal.

HR: Right.

DG: And I haven't participated much. I've gone to a couple of the dinners that they've had, but it always seemed to me a little strained, I've never really made close friends in there. John is -- I'll think of his last name -- but he calls me every month, and we talk a good deal. And he's taken me to some -- I go to baseball games that they sponsor.

HR: Oh, good!

DG: But -- and I've gone to a couple of concerts and things like that with a group, yeah.

HR: With the members of the Village?

DG: Yeah. Mm-hmm.

HR: That's terrific.

DG: Yeah. I've heard -- they went to Glenlot when I was gone, and I keep hoping that -- they keep telling me they're going to go back there sometime.

HR: Oh, Glenstone.

DG: Glenstone, right, right. You're right.

HR: Oh yeah, you should get there, it is beautiful.

DG: I'd like to, and I've never been there at all, you know, I've done the museums in Washington, but --

HR: Have you put that request in? Because sometimes they'll go.

DG: Well, I told a few people, at least, that I want that, I didn't put in a formal request at all.

HR: Yeah.

DG: But I think that they -- it's something that I really want to do, and I will do one way or another, but haven't done.

HR: Has being part of the Village made you think more about aging? Or --

DG: I think it's more about age --

HR: -- or more about Washing-- yeah.

DG: Yeah. I mean, I think, you know, when you get to be in your 80s, you know, you know your time is limited, and --

HR: I'm there, just, you know.

DG: Yeah, well, I'm 88, and you know --

HR: I'm 82.

DG: Yeah. Yeah, well --

HR: But you do, I mean, I noticed after 80, I, myself, think more about aging.

DG: Yeah. I do too. And one thing happened that made me think about it, too, is I had an auto accident, which was my fault. I was traveling out in Western Maryland to this flower place that I like to go to in the spring, and there was a lot of traffic, for some reason. And then suddenly, the truck, there was a curve, and a truck was in front of me, and it suddenly stopped. I put on the brakes, and I felt -- and maybe this was wrong -- that the brakes just didn't hold quickly enough. But it may have been my fault, too. You know, I think I'm getting a little slower in my reactions, and this sort of thing. And I ruined the car, didn't hurt the truck at all, this big thing. Didn't notice --

HR: And what about you?

DG: Well, I hurt my back. And they had me into the hospital in Western Maryland, and I had a very nice young guy who took care of me, and who took a lot of x-rays and other things about it, and decided that there was some damage to my back, but it should just heal itself, that there was nothing that could be done surgically to aid it. And that very night, he arranged for me to get an Uber, I think, from Western Maryland back to Washington. So I came home. And I could get around all right, but it was painful for a while. And then it settled down fairly quickly to being just quite painful on my very lower back, in the bottom of my spine. And I tried -- well, after the accident, I decided I wouldn't drive anymore.

HR: I was just going to ask you that. So at 88, whenever the accident was, you stopped driving.

DG: It was about 85, I think.

HR: Right.

DG: I just didn't want to hurt anybody, you know, and I thought I might. So and I found out that it's probably cheaper not to have a car. You know, I can get Lyft and taxis, and bus lines are really good for many things. The bus lines, they don't even charge me, usually. You know, and --

HR: And you have the Village, you know, if you need it, with the Village --

DG: And I had the Kaiser for a long time, it was easier to get on the Metro to Kaiser.

HR: Yes.

DG: And I gave that up a couple of years ago, because I heard about something called National Health Insurance, or something like that, it's just a different kind of insurance. And they said they had a doctor down at this little George Washington Clinic that's on the corner of Porter and Connecticut.

HR: Oh yeah, Connecticut, yeah.

DG: Yeah. And so I thought, it's just going to be easier to do that. I haven't been sick much, though. One time when I had Kaiser --

HR: What did -- I'm curious --

DG: Yeah, sure. Sorry.

HR: What did they -- and you said you got a card or something to go there? I mean, how --

DG: I gave up Kaiser.

HR: Oh, Kaiser, I see. You gave up Kaiser, I'm sorry.

DG: Gave up Kaiser.

HR: Right.

DG: And took this Universal Health, or something like that. I don't know what it is, exactly. But there's been some problem in making contact with the doctor down there. But it's a handy plan, in some ways. They give me money for drugs, and they --

HR: Oh.

DG: -- pay, pretty much, for glasses when I needed them. And pay for dental and stuff. And I can get the places that are closest to me that are within that system.

HR: Yeah.

DG: And they cover most of the cost for that, and so that's good. And I've had an eye doctor, who's been kind of expensive, but I liked her very much, and liked the woman who did the teeth cleaning, too. They're both really good, I think. But she's way out on the edge of Washington and River Road.

HR: They're all in the Barlow Building.

DG: Mass-- yeah, Massachusetts Avenue.

HR: And Wisconsin, right.

DG: It's just -- it's inconvenient. And so I told her, and she was very nice about it. She said, you know, "I think that's really good" --

HR: Well, that's one thing, if you have to go out to her, if you know a little bit ahead of time, the Village certainly is -- has rides.

DG: Yeah, I could. I haven't asked them to take me places, because I haven't felt it was necessary, but, I don't know. I haven't used them a lot, though.

HR: Yeah.

DG: I think it's a good organization. And they have some good activities. I've gone to a couple of concerts that they sort of helped us sponsor, Tregaron and stuff.

HR: So we're doing something right.

DG: Oh, yeah. No, I think so. I think it's very nice. I -- the little sort of editorials that the guy writes for it --

HR: Frank writes, yeah.

DG: -- that Frank writes, I think are really good, and helpful and thoughtful. And I like John a lot.

HR: So if we could change something -- or not change, so much, but if we could add something to what we offer, is there any, like, one thing you would like? Like, where do you see -- I should ask myself the same question -- like, the Village going in the future?

DG: Well, my feeling is that it's pretty much going in the right direction.

HR: Oh, great.

DG: And you know, I'd appreciate going to Glenstone. I'd appreciate a few more concerts, maybe. But often, I've got other commitments when the concerts come up, and so I can't do it. And oh, just the other day, they were having some kind of thing that seemed nice, and I thought it was going to be held down there at their office, so I went down there, and it was somewhere over in Woodley Park, kind of thing. So

I've really not been good about doing the things that I should do there. But it seems to me the program is pretty good, and --

HR: Good.

DG: I've gone -- I've gone to two or three museums with them, as well as to concerts and things. So those things kind of interest me. And I really am grateful that I'm going to get somebody to come and sew on some buttons and do a little bit of mending. You know, I've got -- my daughter keeps giving me clothes, so I've got more clothes than I want, but they still are -- some of them need repairs.

HR: So I'm curious, like, going forward, what do you -- like, what are your goals for yourself? Or are you going to -- I'm looking around this -- just I'm talking to the microphone now -- this beautiful room filled with lots of things.

DG: Uh-huh?

HR: So going forward, I mean, do you think of downsizing? Do you think of -- I mean, we all have to go through this.

DG: Well, I don't -- I -- my children think of it.

HR: Yeah, well . . .

DG: And I think they're reasonable about it, you know. And I got full ownership of the house, I agreed that I would let -- will it to the children.

HR: Yeah.

DG: So it's their house. And they're very nice about it. It's not, I think, their greed, but they're kind of worrying about me. And I -- since that accident, I, for a while, went to lots of doctors at Kaiser and other places, and all of them said that there wasn't anything surgically that could be done, that it should get better, but it didn't get better. It never did. And I went to chiropractors and acupuncturists, and everybody. And physical therapy people.

HR: Physical therapy?

DG: It didn't help until one day -- and I always could sit comfortably, so --

HR: You always -- pardon me?

DG: I always could sit comfortably.

HR: Okay.

DG: So I do a lot of sitting, so that's all -- and I also found I could work in the garden on my knees, and that sort of thing, fairly comfortably. But standing and walking, there was a fairly sharp pain that would develop. It never kept me from walking two, two and a half miles, but it was a little struggle. And even just standing up for any length of time was kind of hard, really. It wasn't a brutal pain, but a kind of sharp ache. And finally, I just happened to be walking to Giant; I do gardening at a little church that I go to up on Lowell Street. And I work out there commonly on Saturdays. And when I was going up to the Giant to get some food to bring back, I saw a new acupuncture place called The Joint. (laughter)

HR: Oh. How appropriate.

DG: And I went in there, and had for my doctor this sweet woman, I think she must have been American-born, but she looked very Spanish, or something like that. And she just tapped me very gently on the back, it hardly felt like anything at all. But I was amazed that when I got up to walk, the sharp pain had gone away, and that it was just -- it was a kind of dull ache. And that -- and one of my getting shots thing, a guy had shot me with something-or-other, and the pain had moved from the bottom of my back to my left -- to my right hip. But that ache was still there a little bit. But it was so much more minor than it had been, it just seemed a miracle that she -- I couldn't figure it out. I thought there would be no effect of it at all. But it was. And so I got some series of things to have at that thing, but nothing has helped.

HR: Yeah.

DG: And she moved away, or something, and they didn't have her back. So -- and she wasn't in any place that could get to her, really. So, but -- so I do have this dull ache when I stand or walk any distance, still. But it's not really painful the way it was before. So I'm very grateful for that.

HR: No, you're in remarkably good shape. I mean, when you think of how many other people at this age, well, some maybe are not around anymore.

DG: Of course. Of course, yeah.

HR: And some people have really suffered.

DG: Yeah. No, of course.

HR: So in general, you can stay with loving your gardening, and

DG: Yeah. I do some other things. I belong to something called a "play group," which we've had since the mid '90s here, a group of about 60, 65 people, I guess.

HR: Wow.

DG: And we put on three plays a year.

HR: For yourselves?

DG: Yeah. Mm-hmm. Mm-hmm. And --

HR: Original plays? Are you writing them? Some of them?

DG: No, not original. Well, I did write a couple of them, actually. I wrote -- I love -- and it's malaise poetry, and so I wrote a kind of biography poetry stuff, that it was her writing, mostly, but strung together by mine. But I've really enjoyed this play group. I like to act, and have always done it. When I was at graduate school in Berkeley, Jean Renoir came to direct a play.

HR: Oh!

DG: And I got to act with him, it's exciting. And so I've been acting all the time. But this has been a great pleasure, there are about 60 people. We put on three plays a year. They're usually at the Cleveland Park Club up here.

HR: Oh!

DG: But last year, there was a problem, because the Cleveland Park Club was closed. And unfortunately, I found out I was going to be president, and the other people who were supposed to be presidents with me couldn't do it for health reasons. And so I got a place at the church for the first one. I couldn't get the -- there's a good --

HR: Is this a group of people from Cleveland Park?

DG: No, not all from Cleveland Park, they come from Virginia, from Maryland. I would say maybe -- there are about a dozen of them that live fairly close, and that are kind of [00:52:00] neighbors to me.

HR: I feel you have a really good -- just a good community.

DG: Yeah. No, I do.

HR: Healthy contacts with things outside your house.

DG: Yeah. I like my church a lot. It's kind of traditional, and some if it's structure, but it really is a lot like Unitarianism. It's a UCC church, and you can believe whatever you want to believe. I mean, I don't happen to believe in what they seem to believe in, mostly "love your neighbor as yourself" -- I keep telling myself, I guess I do love them as myself, pretty skeptically. (laughter) No, but you like your neighbors. You know, I don't fight with my neighbors at all. And it's a respectful, comfortable sort of relationship, but not a close one, except with one of the neighbors who's at the top of

the street, who's lived there for a long time. And their children were younger, a little younger than my children, but they played together and were together. And they have sponsored -- been a main sponsor for a kind of party that we have once a year; when do we have it? I think it's at Easter, maybe, you know, just a block party where everybody gets together, and there's beer and wine, and stuff to drink and eat. And everybody makes some stuff. So that's nice. A lot of things I do, too, I do through my church, because I like the people there. And I belong to a bible reading group, because the bible interests me. It's so strange. And so it's meant so much to people historically.

HR: Oh, sure.

DG: Yeah. So it's -- for me, it's really interesting to read it closely and think about it closely. And try to think about it how -- what it meant to the thousands of people who were more deeply dedicated to traditional Christianity than I am.

HR: Right.

DG: And they have a faith life group, where they talk about problems of faith and life, and sort of philosophication over the condition of people, and the condition of the church and stuff.

HR: You know, just listening to you, you have quite a full life.

DG: I do. I think so.

HR: You are not one -- I mean, there are people, older people who are lonely.

DG: Isolate, yeah.

HR: Isolated, right, isolated. Or just have kind of given up thinking about the future, or something.

DG: No. I read a lot. I belong to a book club that's tied to the church, too. So we read a book a month during the fall, winter and spring.

HR: We have two book groups in the Village.

DG: Uh-huh?

HR: One meets on the third Monday of the month, I think, and one meets maybe the first Monday of the month.

DG: Yeah. I should look into them, really. I mean, I --

HR: Actually, the next book that the -- I don't know how much I'm supposed to talk on this tape, but I'll just quickly tell you this.

DG: Oh, sure.

HR: The next book that the monthly third -- the third week of the month, Monday, is the woman from Harvard, the head of Harvard, who just wrote her book --

DG: Oh, Drew Faust.

HR: Yeah, Drew -- right. That's what they're reading. In case you're interested. I mean, anybody can come to the meeting, and it's Mondays at 2:00.

DG: I maybe should.

HR: It's Monday, whatever the third Monday is, I don't have the date.

DG: Yeah --

HR: At 2:00.

DG: Yeah, it's a book I'd like to read. It sounds very interesting, very good, I think.

HR: That book?

DG: Yeah.

HR: Right. They just chose it. I couldn't go last meeting, but this is what they chose to read for the next meeting.

DG: Uh-huh. When did you say it was again? Just --

HR: It's the third Monday of the month.

DG: Third Monday.

HR: Do you get the newsletter? The Village newsletter?

DG: Yeah, I do.

HR: Right.

DG: So it's in there.

HR: Do you find that helpful?

DG: Sure. Sure.

HR: Good.

DG: No, I like it, I think it's thoughtful, and, you know. I -- John tells me about some of the stuff that's going on, but the bulletin has --

HR: John --?

DG: John Weekling [Wiecking].

HR: Weekley [Wiecking], oh yeah, right. Right. Yeah. He's very interested in singing. I mean, he was in a chorus.

DG: Yeah. No --

HR: Yeah. Right.

DG: -- he is. He's very active and he goes to Europe all the time.

HR: Yeah. Right. Exactly.

DG: But he's also very active for the Village, you know, in calling people.

HR: Yeah, no, he's good.

DG: He calls me when he's around, which is most of the time, once a month, you know, to -- just to talk and --

HR: Good. Yeah.

DG: -- tell me about a few things that I might be interested in.

HR: You can talk to him about opera, for sure.

DG: Yeah. We do. And music and art, and stuff we're both interested in.

HR: Yeah. Good.

DG: And I go to art museums fairly regularly.

HR: And you met John through the Village? Or you knew him before?

DG: No, I met him through the Village, through his calling me through the Village.

HR: Great!

DG: Yeah.

HR: So the Village has made -- given you some additions to your --

DG: No, I like it, I respect it a lot. I kind of think I should use it more, you know, when you tell me about the Drew Faust thing, I think I should read it, but I'm reading things now for the other, and I'm not sure that I can read more than one assigned book. But the group that I belong to, like some of the groups at the church -- not the bible class, the bible class is mostly men -- but women in this book club that's all women, about 20 of them, and me.

HR: Oh.

DG: I'm the only male presence, and it seems kind of funny. But --

HR: Well, unfortunately, men still die earlier than women. I mean, we're all widows.

DG: Yeah, I know. We're not cooperative. (laughter) Yeah, I know that's true. But, I mean, there are a lot of men in this church, but --

HR: They don't go to book groups.

DG: They don't. Not connected with -- and the people I know at church who don't go to that book club go to other book clubs, but they tend to be women, too. Not men.

HR: Yeah.

DG: I can't -- maybe men don't read books, in book clubs, anyway.

HR: Or they have their own clubs.

DG: Not nearly so much. Possibly so.

HR: Or at this age, they're not around.

DG: Yeah. Yeah, could be. But I --

HR: It's the same thing if you take any group trips.

DG: Yeah.

HR: At a certain age -- at a certain age, they're mainly women.

DG: Mm-hmm. I like the book group in part because of the way they do things; everybody speaks on the book for 10 minutes or so.

HR: Oh, yeah.

DG: And so you get a lot of opinions and a lot of information sometimes, and I -- I read ahead on the books, so I don't get behind. And several of them are kind of interesting, because they're so connected with the 1619 theory book about --

HR: Oh, yeah, that's right.

DG: -- slavery was everything.

HR: The slavery -- yeah.

DG: Which I think is a good book in some ways, they certainly bring out the evil that there's been in this society, very deep evil, and regular, and sad evil, that was from slavery and from racism, too. But at the same time, I think they're totally wrong in saying that racism defines the country totally.

HR: Yes.

DG: The North was very different, and the North was the prosperous area. A lot of people in the South were very rich, but the section was becoming poorer and poorer, and more desperate to hook on with other means of wealth, like developing a factory system, for instance, and never were able to do it very successfully, even though they did develop it some, in important ways. But they remained a very poor region, and a lot poor people --

HR: I want to get you to remember some of our readings.

DG: Yeah.

HR: And there is one now, just so you know. And I only -- I do the third Monday. I mean, that's the one I try to do.

DG: Well, I might try to do Drew Faust, because I really would like to --

HR: Okay, I'll definitely send you where it is, and somebody can pick you up and take you there.

DG: Oh, yeah. Does it meet down there, or --?

HR: We meet -- we usually meet at this woman's house.

DG: Oh, I see.

HR: Actually, her apartment. It's called Cleveland Park -- maybe it's just called Cleveland Park Apartments, I'm not sure. But it's not far away, at all.

DG: Yeah. I could walk, you know, if it's within a mile or a couple of miles.

HR: Well, you don't have to. I mean, there is somebody also who picks some people up. (phone rings) Is that your phone?

DG: It's my phone, but it's --

HR: Well, I'm getting ready -- I think we should get ready to wind this down.

DG: Okay, sure, whatever you want.

HR: So I thank you very much for all your information.

DG: You're most welcome.

HR: And they will send you a copy, I think. I'm pretty sure that's how this works, I think you're going to get a copy.

DG: Okay.

HR: Either a transcript, or something like that, of your words, and what you said.

DG: Uh-huh, yeah.

HR: But this is going to be very interesting, I think, to people from the Village and --

DG: One thing I probably should add that you might want to use in it --

HR: Yes?

DG: -- is that about shortly after I divorced, I would go to -- my youngest son went to Sidwell Friends after Montessori, and after St. Albans for a while, so he was in the fifth grade or fourth grade when he went to Sidwell. But she had a son who was -- this woman who taught at Sidwell Friends School had a son, and so we would see each other at ballgames, they were both in all sorts of ballgames. And she sort of became interested in me, and was kind of aggressive about it.

HR: Yeah, well.

DG: But it was fine. We got married. Well, we didn't really get married, but in DC terms we got married, because we lived together from about 1985, I think, to when she died in 2017.

HR: Oh. Was she also a member of the Village?

DG: No. No, she wasn't. I joined after that was --

HR: Oh.

DG: Was the Village in --

HR: Oh, yes. Yeah.

DG: So maybe I told you wrong about joining it early.

HR: Yeah.

DG: I've belonged to it for several years now, but I don't know exactly when I did join.

HR: But you think it was '17? Yeah.

DG: But it was after she died.

HR: Yeah.

DG: Yeah, she was ill for a long time, and had dementia too, and so it was kind of hard. She'd be mad of me quite a bit of the time, but you know, I could understand it. She'd say often, "I just can't do what I used to do."

HR: So that's -- yeah. So that was an impetus, once she died, to surround yourself with more people.

DG: Well, yeah.

HR: So, like, if that's when you joined the Village, you joined it to --

DG: Yeah. Maybe so. Maybe so.

HR: Yeah.

DG: I've always had enough friends.

HR: Right.

DG: You know, it was just some of the friends that I had --

HR: This was like an insurance almost, though.

DG: Yeah. My closest friends were friends of hers first, and people that lived just over -- off of River Road behind the Tenleytown place. And they're very close, and we eat together and stuff. And I've got an ex-brother-in-law, who has a home on Military Road now down there, and we have dinner together about once --

HR: Ingleside.

DG: Ingleside, that's it. We have dinner about once a week, once here and then once there. It's been all here recently, because of COVID and restrictions that they have.

HR: Get out of that, right.

DG: But anyway, you know, it seems to me I have more friends -- as many friends as I can handle.

HR: Well, very good.

DG: Yeah. It is good. It is good. But I just thought I should mention it. She had one, two, three, four, five children, and I got along with them very well. And we went to see them regularly. They live in the West, most of them now, too.

HR: Oh.

DG: And so we'd go to see my family and her family. I thought everything was all right, but once she was ill, her children kind of kidnapped her. A daughter came out and wanted her to go back with them, and she said no, she didn't feel she could -- wanted to do it then. I think it was just she felt kind of weak and was having some problems. And then the son came down from Pennsylvania, he's the one that --

HR: The what?

DG: Her son came down from Pennsylvania.

HR: Okay.

DG: And they, in fact, took Pat supposedly to Politics and Prose, she liked to go there. And her son liked to go there, too, when he came. But they actually took her to the plane, and she flew back to Washington with Karin. And she was so upset that she forced them to let her call me that night. And I said I would come out and try to get her, and she wanted me to do that. And so I did. And it was a long struggle there. I hired a lawyer, and was going to -- I called the police, too, and told them, because they said they were going to have me arrested if I got close to the house, and I thought that was ridiculous. But I called the police and said that they should investigate, because I think she was being held, essentially, against her will. And then went, and she apparently -- I don't know how it went, but apparently they felt that she wasn't clear enough that she was being held without her will to do anything about it. But I was going to go to the aging institute there, and work with them. But

-- and I hired a lawyer, too, a nice guy there that somebody told me about. And he was starting to develop a case against them. And once when I was seeing him, one of her daughters called and said she wanted to come home, and they were going to release her, but they'd like to keep her for a week. And I didn't know what I should do exactly, but I thought that's a solution, and it seems the most peaceful one at the moment. And it was. But in the week they kept her, they somehow convinced the people, a Raymond James, that the money we had in the savings account there really was -- belonged to them.

HR: Hmm.

DG: So I suddenly found out that they'd taken \$250,000 out of it. Not all of it, but a substantial chunk of it. And it seemed to me, I didn't know long I would have to be caring for her, and how serious the care would have to be. So I said -- got a lawyer, and after a long series of negotiations, got the money back. Well, they cheated me a little on that too, but not basically. And I took the money all out of Raymond James and put it into TIAA, and so that's where it is now. And I hadn't -- we had some insurance policy and that sort of thing, so it wasn't -- I wasn't ever bankrupt to her, or diminished terribly by this. But it was -- I had to be careful for a long time --

HR: Yeah, so you've -- yeah.

DG: -- because we had somebody in permanently with her, and then the terrible people that had formal care of her, and attorney care, I guess, of her somehow, were just unreasonable. They were on her children's side all the time. But they couldn't do -- they did as much as they could, like insisting that I have somebody here at night toward the end, kind of thing. It was totally stupid, because she was just sleeping. So the person would come, I'd talk to her for a minute and --

HR: Well, I think these things are put in generally.

DG: -- yeah, it was just (inaudible). Anyway, I -- and then I had a memorial service for her, which was very nice. It was really crowded. And it was strange, she had Alzheimer's, but she could remember her children and her old students, even, now that they were adults. So it was a strange kind of dementia. She couldn't remember things that happened recently. But things that happened long ago seemed to stick with her. And a couple of times I took her down to visit her half-sister, to whom she was very close, and with whom she'd grown up, who lives in North Carolina. And they would talk about their young lives comfortably.

HR: She could remember things, yeah.

DG: So it was all strange, but --

HR: Well, I'm glad to see you're in such good shape. This is terrific. I mean, this is --

DG: Yeah, no, I think I am.

HR: It's been a very good interview, I think. We'll see.

DG: I hope if there's anything else you -- we leave out, just let me know.

HR: No. Yeah, no, and I'm happy that the Village (inaudible) is here.

DG: Sure.

HR: Certainly happy you're a member. And you, on your own, have a wide source of interests and other people around --

DG: I do, sort of contacts.

HR: -- which is terrific. I mean, not everybody we interview, or certainly everybody we talk to not interviewing, is self-sufficient. You're very self-sufficient, which I think is terrific.

DG: Yeah. And the part I like being, and I like the house, I'm so used to it.

HR: Yeah.

DG: And I like the garden, and working in it. You should have seen it just about a month ago when the sunflowers were all in bloom.

HR: This is a nice sun -- yeah, there's -- my late husband used to say, "Woe be it anybody who is in DC when it's beautiful in the spring, if they buy a house here," because they have no idea what it's like in the summer. He used to feel sorry for people who were bowled over by the beauty --

DG: Yeah.

HR: -- and they bought -- they went and looked for a house, and they bought and moved here. You know, it's not an easy city for everybody, for sure.

DG: It's been easy for me, really, and comfortable.

HR: Yeah. You've adjusted, you're fine.

DG: Air conditioning, you know, when I work outside, I sweat like mad.

HR: Mmm, right.

DG: You know, I have to take a shower every time I take a time out outside.

HR: Well, thank you.

DG: Thank you very much.

HR: Thank you for allowing us into your life.

DG: Oh, yeah, of course.

HR: And as I said, you'll be receiving something, for sure.

DG: Yeah, it quite --

HR: It's been a good interview. I'm -- I'm happy with this.

DG: When I think about living here, I think about when we first came, it was just after the riots.

HR: Yes, after the riots, yeah.

DG: And I had to drive through that riot area on my way to school. There wasn't any subway, or anything. And it was just terribly sad to see how slow the progress back toward normality was --

HR: Yes. Yeah.

DG: -- though it's changed just wonderfully now.

HR: Yeah, it's a much better place. All right, I'm going to turn this off now.

DG: Sure.

END OF AUDIO FILE