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Fran Davis Razor and Vicki Van Winkle Craycraft: Dayton Music History Project

Fran Davis Razor

Vicki Van Winkle Craycraft

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WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY
Dayton Music History Project
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Interview Information

Interview date: August 7, 2018

Interviewer: Chris Wydman (CW)
Special Collections & Archives

Interviewee: Fran Davis Razor (FR), Vicki Van Winkle Craycraft (VC)

Interview Transcript

Fran Razor: I hope you can get something serious out of us [*laughs*]

Chris Wydman: Well, we'll just see what happens. Just to kind of set the plate as introductions, my name is Chris Wydman, I'm the University Archivist here at Special Collections & Archives, it's August 7th, 2018, and as part of the Dayton Music History Project, I'm glad to be joined today by Fran Davis Razor and Vicki Van Winkle Craycraft, infamous for *Vicki and the Rest*, and other activities.

Vicki Van Winkle Craycraft: Yes. [*Laughs*]

CW: So, we're just going to kind of wing it today. Usually I'm interviewing one person instead of two, so we'll just kind of hand it back and forth, and maybe I'll ask Fran a question and then I'll ask Vicki. Just to kind of start off with, if you guys could talk a little bit about each of your personal backgrounds, where you were born and how you came to Dayton? Were you born in Dayton, or were you born elsewhere?

VC: I was born- well, we were born in Dayton- were you born in Dayton?

FR: Yeah.

VC: Okay, I was born at St. Ann's Hospital- then it turned into St. Elizabeth's- in 1949, April 9, 1949. My parents moved a lot, my dad was a homebuilder and so we moved every couple of years, so I was in different schools, a lot of different schools. But I ended up graduating at Fairmont East, and that's where I met them [*pointing at Fran*].

CW: And that's where you met Fran and the group.

VC: Yep.

CW: And Fran, where were you born?

FR: I was born here in Dayton, also.

VC: What hospital?

FR: St. Elizabeth's. But my family moved to Michigan for a while, we were in Grand Rapids and we were there until I was 5, then we moved back here, and I actually went to kindergarten here. So, we moved to Kettering right away, and that was the Fairmont East—that was that area, and so I grew up in Kettering and went to Rolling Fields Elementary School, and then I went to D.L. Barnes while they were building Indian Riffle, and then I transferred to Indian Riffle.

CW: D.L. Barnes, is that the old Barnes Building up on Far Hills?

FR: Yep. And then we all ended up at Fairmont East, with the exception of Mary Hill, and Mary went to an all-girl Catholic school.

CW: And who was Mary?

FR: She was our rhythm player, rhythm guitar.

CW: So, all the rest of you were at Fairmont East.

FR: All the rest of us were at Fairmont, yeah. And I believe, Vicki, you put an ad in the paper for Mary, didn't you?

VC: Yeah. Well, what sort of happened was I was in the *Tom and the Tempest* band, before *Vicki and the Rest*.

CW: *Tom and the Tempests*?

VC: Yeah, and I was singing for their band for a while, and then I think I quit for some reason, I can't remember why now, but Tom stayed friends with me, and so one night he called me up and said, "Vicki, why don't you start an all-girl band", and I said... Because I've never heard of that before, that just hadn't ever happened – never. He said, "Well, why can't you be the first?" And I said-

CW: And this was in high school, right?

VC: This was, yeah, when I was 16. So, he said, "Well, just start thinking of some names. You need to start with your name out front"- because that's how bands were going at that particular time. It wasn't like "The Beatles" or anything like that, mostly it was the singer was out front, and then you had your band. So, he actually came up with the name, "Vickie and the Rest", and he went through a bunch of names and then I told him to stop after "Vickie and the Rest", and I said, "That's kind of catchy" So, he said, "Do you like

that one?” and I said, “It’s catchy!” So, I told my mom, I said, “I think I’m going to start an all-girl band”, and then she said, “Well, how are you going to do it?” and I said, “I think maybe we can put an ad in the newspaper”, and so she did, and that’s how we got Mary, our rhythm guitar player, and then when I went to school, I was asking people if they knew of any girl guitar players, or drummers, or anybody that could play, you know? And they said, “Why?” And I said, “I’m trying to get an all-girl band together.” So, then about five days later, they came walking up to me in the cafeteria- [to Fran] I think it was you and Penny, wasn’t it?

FR: I don’t remember.

VC: and said, “I hear you’re looking for girls who can play instruments”, and I said, “I am”, and they told me [*laughs*] they could play.

FR: We told a big old fat lie. We really couldn’t play.

VC: So, I said, “Well, let’s all come over to my house and we’ll see how we can do.”

CW: Alright, you’ve already answered every question I had.

VC: I did? [*Laughs*] Well, that was easy.

CW: Tom, what was his name?

VC: Tom and the Tempests, Tom Fortener.

CW: Tom Fortener, okay.

VC: His dad owned Fortener Realty.

CW: Okay, yeah, that name I remember.

VC: But they were kind of big and “out” then, so I wasn’t in a band at that time, I was in the Jaguars before them, and...

CW: When was your first band?

VC: That was when I was 14, I started there.

CW: 14? Was that the Jaguars?

VC: It was the Jaguars, yeah, and I was in their band for about a year –

CW: About what year was this?

VC: When would that be? Let’s see, I’m 14 and I was born in ’49. ’65? No, ’63, maybe?

CW: So, like what kind of songs were you playing?

VC: It was all rock and roll. Whatever was popular at the time.

CW: '63...

VC: Like, maybe...

FR: Do you remember what you sang? What any of the songs were?

VC: [*Sighs*] Not anymore that was 50 some years ago!

CW: Alright, let me get a little - I remember you guys talking before that you came from a musical family.

FR: I did.

CW: Where were your folks from?

FR: Kentucky, Tennessee, and they were from, you know, the front porch bluegrass people. Everybody in my mom's family played something- harmonica, my mom played harmonica, guitar, piano, she yodeled, she sang, she did it all. She played spoons, and Jew's harp, and my dad played guitar. His family wasn't as musical as my mom's family, because my mom knew how to read music, and they all did, and they played at the band shell. They all got together and-

CW: Which one?

FR: In the band shell up there off Riverside.

CW: Okay.

FR: So, they were very musical, and I grew up listening to all of them. We'd get together as a family, and they'd all pull out their instruments and start playing.

CW: So, they didn't just play out the house, they performed out publicly?

FR: Yes, they did.

CW: So, you remember at a very early age music being around.

FR: Very early age, yes. And I regret the fact that I didn't pay any attention. They'd start playing and I'd hightail it out the backdoor. [*Laughs*]

CW: Did you make fun of their music?

FR: Not really. I didn't care enough about it to even think that far.

CW: You didn't care one way or the other.

FR: And my dad taught me how to play chords, and so I did know how to play chords when I went to Vicki's house.

VC: You did, you did.

FR: I didn't know how to play a song, a whole song, but I did know my chords. I still know my chords. I don't know what they're called, but I can play them.

CW: Right. It's a revelation, you learn the chords, and it opens up a whole new world.

VC: Actually, Tom Fortener's band taught our first songs. See, they owned a club- a teen club- at that time, called GBU Hall, on Linden Ave. So I told him, "I have these girls now, but they don't know how to play" [*laughs*] "So, they kind of know a little teeny bit, like chords and stuff."

FR: Now, Mary knew how to play. Mary took lessons, she knew how to read music. She was the smart one in the bunch.

CW: Alright, so she knew musically, a little bit, you knew some chords, so you had the band name –

VC: And Leslie came in, our drummer, and she came in with a snare and I was always used to being in other bands before that, and she came in with a snare, and I'm thinking, "Where's the rest of your drum set at?" It was just funny, it was so funny. And I was into the Marilyn Monroe phase back then, and I was wearing my hair over like her and all this, and they were kind of like-

FR: Tomboys.

VC: Tomboys, and they thought I was this prissy-sissy walking around you know, because I liked looking like Marilyn.

FR: And we liked riding horses and playing in the mud.

VC: So, we didn't know that we'd even be able to get along with each other. But it started out, [*snaps*], and we've been great since the beginning, haven't we?

FR: Yeah.

CW: Yeah, well it's a testament that you're still here.

VC: [*Laughing*] we're still here!

FR: Yeah, I wear makeup now.

VC: [*Pointing at Fran*] she wears makeup now.

CW: Yeah, after a few years most bands can't stand each other anymore, but you guys are still buddies.

VC: Oh, we're like sisters, we are.

CW: Well that's great. So, when did you start playing an instrument – was it the guitar?

FR: Yeah, I only play guitar.

CW: Okay.

FR: Yeah I -

CW: So your dad finally got you to sit still long enough to teach you a few chords?

FR: Yeah, I got interested in music when The Beach Boys – that was my first interest.

CW: Okay.

FR: And of course when The Beatles hit the scene The Beach Boys just [*Points behind her*] hit the back road.

CW: Yeah.

FR: They were done. I love them now.

CW: Sure, sure.

FR: I actually love Elvis now, I didn't like him back then either.

CW: Really?

VC: I loved Elvis -

FR: I can't even imagine why I didn't.

VC: Since 1956 when I first saw him on TV.

FR: Yeah we had all kinds of Elvis stuff, my ex-husband and I, and we threw it in the trash.

CW: Really?

FR: Oh my goodness.

CW: See when I - you know, I was born in 68' and by the time I was even musically aware, Elvis was kind of sketchy you know. He was in his jump suits and was kind of on the tail end of things –

FR: Oh, bless his heart, I feel sorry for him now.

CW: I remember when I got my first job, my boss had a bust of Elvis on the wall – on a mantel. And I started cracking jokes, and he didn't think that was funny at all. He was dead serious.

FR: That's pretty funny.

CW: Yeah, and I've since learned a little bit more about Elvis, but that's what I always thought of - just this kind of burnt out has been.

FR: Well that's kind of what I thought, you know? I don't really know what I thought, but I didn't like him.

VC: And I loved him [*Laughs*].

CW: So when did you –

VC: I actually started singing because my parents owned a restaurant at the time. It was like a – like you would see in *Grease* - one of those rock and roll places where the girls wore pony tails, and poodle skirts, and saddles you know.

CW: Oh, right.

VC: So we had a jukebox and I was around five years –

CW: So kind of like Arnold's from *Happy Days*?

VC: [*Laughing*] Yeah, and I was walking around amongst all these teenagers and they'd always sit me up on their lap and say, "You are *so* cute" and all that. Well I'd walk around and sing the songs on the jukebox and then my mom came to me later on that evening and says "Vicky" she says, "Would you like to take singing lessons?" And I thought, "Mom I don't even know what those are, what are singing lessons?" You know? And I said, "Okay." So mom got me into singing lessons.

CW: Little kid?

VC: I was five –

CW: Five.

VC: So the first place I ever sang was The Dayton Art Institute, and I was so little that the microphone wouldn't go down enough for me cause' I was so tiny. So he stood me up on a chair and then put the microphone up to me and then I sang. It was the first -

CW: So that was like a – that was your first kind of –

VC: That was my first time. I sang Ivory Tower.

CW: Was this for like – where did you take your lessons?

VC: Wright School for Theatre.

CW: The Wright School? Downtown?

VC: It was at Fourth and Jefferson at the time. And I took from them for like – from five to fifteen. And they treated me like I was their granddaughter or something.

CW: So was this performance at the Art Institute a performance for the school or -

VC: I sang everywhere. I mean I was out at least twice a week singing at different places. I sang and hospitals like Wright Pat and different hospitals. I sang at insane asylums and I sang at –

FW: At a prison didn't you?

VC: Yeah, it was a prison. Everybody out in front of me they said had killed somebody at one time. And I'm standing up there, "I'm only like fifteen!" and [*Laughing*] I'm going like "Oh God I don't know".

CW: So you did this all throughout your childhood?

VC: My whole life was nothing but singing. They thought I was a star – I was kind of like a little Shirley Temple back then cause' all these people – I mean I was in the newspaper all the time and I mean it just seemed like –

CW: Everyone's telling you how great you are.

VC: Yeah, yeah. When you're little like that you don't really know how to take it, because you're still little and you don't know what to say. My mom of course started saying, "You got to start saying thank you, Vicki" [*Laughing*] and all that stuff. So I did, I started saying that. Then these men from the hospital – these were like older men, not young men – would write me notes saying, "Vicki, you are so great", and that kind of stuff, and I'm only like ten or so, you know, so I didn't know how to deal with that either.

And I said “Mom, why are they writing?” and she says, “Because you really mean a lot to them because they don’t have much of a life where they are” you know, at the hospital.

CW: Did you realize that at the time, I mean like going to the hospitals, and retirement homes, and how special it was to people?

VC: Well, I did not until I got older and my mom started talking to me. She says, “You know, you’re really doing a good thing” I said, “But mom, they kind of scare me”
[*Laughing*] “those old people and everything” –

FR: [*Laughing*] now we’re the old people.

VC: Because I had to sit right next to them, you know. I’ll never forget this one time that was so fun and funny. I use to have a girl that I’d sing with at Mrs. Wrights, we’d do duets and all this. And we were at Wright Pat and all the young guys from – I guess it was the Vietnam War or something – anyway, they brought them in in beds, in this one big room - like twenty beds - and we were singing Goodnight Sweetheart Goodnight, you know, me and her. [*Laughing*] And we looked at each other and started laughing so hard! We couldn’t stand ourselves, we were giggling and giggling, and we had all them young men – probably nineteen to twenty four laughing with us. We saw almost crying in there. It was so much fun, we had a good time in there.

CW: Yeah, yeah.

VC: But now, now that I got older of course, and now I think back to all that, now I see how important it was. But at the time – my mom got me into all this you know, and I was also a dancer too, my mom got me into dancing lessons. So I was always in contests, I cut a record in Nashville Tennessee when I was twelve with Dottie West. Now I don’t – no I do have those records - and it was so funny because that’s since I was twelve years old –

CW: How’d you have time to go to school?

VC: That’s kind of funny too, because when we had Vicky and the Rest I was falling asleep in like my social studies class.

CW: You were so warn out –

VC: Because we weren’t getting home until like two or three in the morning.

FR: We were playing at The Tropics.

CW: Yeah, yeah.

VC: We were playing at The Tropics.

FR: All week, every night.

CW: Now before Vicki and The Rest came around, did you play in any bands before that?

FR: No, no.

CW: You just played with –

FR: I played in the bedroom with my brother.

CW: Just with your family and just at the house?

FR: Yeah, yeah. I never had any aspirations to be in a band.

CW: Then what were you playing with your brother?

FR: Just the guitar.

CW: Were you playing bluegrass?

FR: No, we were playing Beatles stuff.

CW: You were playing Beatles stuff?

FR: Yeah we were playing Beatles.

CW Okay, okay.

FR: He out did me by a thousand.

CW: Well, when you have a dad and a brother you know, who know how to play, it rubs off on you.

VC: And we started with Beatles songs.

FR: We did, we did.

VC: Those were the first songs we played out when we got our band together.

CW: Well I was going to ask you, how did you kind of make the transition from pageants and the music lessons to –

VC: To rock and roll?

CW: Yeah, to being in some rock bands?

VC: Well, my mom was looking at the newspaper and saw that The Jaguars needed a singer. Well, mom saw that and she said, “Why don’t you tryout?” and I said “Okay.” You know?

CW: Were they your age?

VC: Yeah they were my age, and so like I said I was in their band for about a year. And after that let’s see...well I was going to Wilbur Wright High School cause’ I told you we moved from – I mean I went to Oakwood, I went to Wilbur Wright, I’ve been to Beaver creek, Fairmont East you know, we really moved around.

CW: And The Jaguars were playing out at like – where were The Jaguars playing?

VC: Um, gosh...

CW: Were they playing out at like GBU Hall?

VC: No, I don’t remember where we played because [*Laughs*] like I said that’s been so long ago, I was fourteen.

CW: You played more than a couple of, of –

VC: Right, I played with them maybe on twenty or twenty five shows with them.

CW: And then you got with Tom –

VC: Then I got Tom and The Tempest.

CW: Tom and the Tempest.

FR: Tom’s still out there too.

VC: Mhm [*nodding*]

CW: And was that the same kind of thing, just like playing at some local clubs?

VC: Mhm, mhm. [*Nodding*]

CW: And were these like the teen clubs mainly?

VC: Yeah, they were. Back then we had a lot didn’t we?

FR: Yeah we had a lot.

VC: We had a lot of teen clubs back then.

CW: Well that came up quite a bit you know, and I couldn't believe people talked about the Kettering roller rink on David Rd., how –

VC: Oh I know! Have I got a story to tell you.

CW: They talk about some of the groups that played there.

VC: I do have a story on that now. We went there one day and Paul Revere and the Raiders was playing and we were all there –

FR: We were already a band, we went to see them.

VC: We were already in Vicky and the Rest so we had our cards with us and all. And I was standing – just so happened – I was standing in front of Mark Lindsey, and he kept singing to me, he kept looking down and singing to me the whole time. Then next thing I know –

CW: It's cause you looked like Marilyn Monroe so...

FR: [*Laughing*] Exactly!

VC: [*Laughing*] Well I didn't then, I looked like [*touches her hair*] I had bangs and straight hair then. But he called me after I got home, Mark Lindsey did, and I thought... Cause' I came in afterwards and Mom said "Some guy named Mark Lindsey just called you not too long ago, about an hour ago." And I said, "Oh right mom, come on!"

CW: [*Inaudible*]

VC: Well he got our cards, Leslie our drummer threw cards up to him and he looked at the card and says "Vicky and the Rest", he says, "Oh, is this an all-girl band?" He says, "Are you here tonight?" And you know he had already been looking at me all night, and the girls behind me were pulling up my hands going, "This is Vicky!" You know, and they [*puts hand on Fran*] were kind of like two people down from me, then they put up their hands too you know, like they were...

FR: It was easy back then though, rock and roll people weren't – they didn't have all these security guards.

CW: Yeah, they were more –

FR: Personable.

VC: Right, they were.

CW: They were more normal acting, and interacting with people.

VC: They were. So anyway, he called me back again the next day because mom said, "He'll call you back again tomorrow." And I said, [*Laughing*] I couldn't hardly believe what she was saying to me and I just said, "Oh mom, he's not going to call me back, he's a big star!" you know, nobody's going to do that. Well then he did, and I guess my dad answered the phone and they were in bed - this was like seven in the morning or something - and he called and I remember it kind of woke me up too, and I heard my dad saying, "She's asleep" or something like that. Then my mom said, "Well who is it?" and he said, "Some guy named Mark Lindsey", and then Mom said, "Well, let her talk to him then." So, she handed me the phone and I ended up talking to him, but like you were saying the famous bands, they did have some famous bands there at the skating rink.

CW: Yeah, yeah. That was really neat to –

VC: It was.

CW: You know, that was just right down the street from where I live, and when I was a kid I went roller-skating –

VC: You're from Kettering, are you?

CW: Yeah I grew up in Oakwood and then moved to Kettering.

FR: So did she.

VC: I was in Oakwood for a couple years.

CW: Really?

VC: Yeah, I lived on Hadley.

CW: Did you?

VC: Mhm, where did you live?

CW: We lived on Ridgeway.

VC: Did you?

CW: Yeah.

VC: That's a nice street.

CW: Yeah, yeah it was. Yeah we moved there when I was like two, and moved when I was fourteen.

VC: Wow, where'd you go after that?

CW: I went to Miami Valley School.

VC: Did you?

CW: Yeah, and then briefly to Colorado, then after to Wright State.

VC: It seems like everybody goes to Colorado.

CW: Yeah, yeah I was lucky to do that.

VC: Oh, I also wanted to say, cause' I kind of wanted to bring up the things that really stand out to me more.

CW: Yeah.

VC: I went to New York to try out for Ted Mac Amateur Hour, and that was like -

CW: Ted Mac?

VC: Yeah, it was big like -what's those show that are on today that we watch – The Voice and things like that. It was big like that.

CW: Music talent show?

VC: Yes, so me and my grandparents we took a train up there, and I had to wait out in this big, this waiting room, and it was so hot in there, and my grandpa said - he knocked on the door because they were auditioning all kinds of people – he said, could you take my granddaughter next because she's only nine years old and it is pretty hot out here.” And they were sitting in a huge room full of air conditioning, and they had all these, like about ten judges when I walked in. And they asked me, they said, “so what are you going to do?” and I said, “I'm going to sing”, and they said, “what are you going to sing?” and I said “Sweet Old Fashioned Girl.” So I auditioned for them, and afterwards they wanted to put me on next week's show. I wasn't expecting that, so I didn't end up going because we didn't make room for hotel rooms at the time and all that.

CW: Right, you're from Dayton and right yeah.

VC: I wasn't expecting to get on that soon, like the following weekend. I mean so that's...well at least they liked me.

CW: Yeah, you proved “Okay I'm not just Dayton”.

VC: Yeah.

CW: So how did you decide that you wanted to get into a band?

FR: When someone came up to me and said, “Hey, there’s a girl at our school who wants to start an all-girl band” and I thought, “okay.”

CW: So word got out that Vicky was recruiting.

FR: Yeah, and that’s when I decided I wanted to do it.

CW: And you knew some chords, you knew how to play.

FR: Yeah, yeah.

CW: School cafeteria is where we met.

FR: Yeah, we hunted her down. She was hunting for us, we were hunting for her.

CW: So it’s the school cafeteria, and you guys were – so had you started talking to some other people and being like, “what if we played with Vicky?”

FR: Well I met Penny and Leslie when we were twelve, so the drummer and the bass player - we had known each other since we were just kids. And were singing from day one. Three part harmony all over the neighborhood. And everybody said, “You girls ought to be in a band” and all the churches we went to wanted us to sing up in front of the church, and we were real shy, we weren’t going to do that for anything. You couldn’t have held a gun to our head and made us do that. But if we were just out playing and having fun we were singing.

VC” [*Starts brushing Fran’s hair out of her eyes*] Take off your glasses so we can see your pretty face.

FR: [*Takes glasses off*] See what she does! She’s the boss.

CW: So, you were always really shy, weren’t you? You were really shy.

FR: Oh very!

VC: She was.

FR: Very, very shy.

CW: Yeah, I remember from some of the pictures and you’d be kind of standing –

VC: Yes, she always stood and looked down and all that.

FR: Yes, this guitar was always my shield.

CW: Right.

FR: It really was my shield.

CW: And then you met Vicky.

FR: [*Jokingly groans*]

CW: [*Laughs*]

FR: And she's still Vicky and I'm still Fran! So, she's still more powerful in personality than I am.

VC: I am?

FR: But you know, you're just born with natural traits, that's just all there is to it.

CW: Sure, sure.

FR: So we – I didn't think –

VC: But I was shy though growing up!

FR: Not with us...

VC: No! But –

CW: Well, but it's funny how there's some people when they're up on a stage –

FR: Shine.

CW: Yeah, and then maybe in private might be the opposite.

VC: I can't believe you said that because I always told my mom I said, "Mom I'm so nervous, I don't want to this, I don't want to do this!" Especially in contests and stuff, because you have people out there that if they don't win, they're not going to like you if you win you know. So I didn't like that very well, and so... I lost my train of thought, where was I getting to?

CW: How that you were never shy on stage.

VC: Right. So once I would get up singing, then I would have confidence in myself. I had confidence only because I believed Jesus gave me that talent. Because when my mom first brought me to my singing teachers she said, "Well let me hear her sing something", so I sang a song and she says, "Well I don't really have to do much with her, she's just a natural."

CW: Yeah.

VC: And I thought “What’s a natural?” [*Laughs*]. So anyway, I was only five so it was like –

CW: You were a natural but you also sang a lot.

VC: Everything just went so big for me just quickly, I mean I felt like a Shirley Temple the way everybody was treating me.

CW: Well you were on stage from –

VC: From the time I was five.

CW: Yeah.

VC: And I was a teeny weeny five.

CW: With a big voice.

FR: And she’s still teeny weeny.

VC: Five one still. But my mom said, “Are you sure that little girl of yours should be walking? Because she’s so tiny!” What I probably looked like is a year old instead of five. But anyway, that’s kind of how all this stuff took place.

CW: Okay.

VC: But like the next big thing that I really enjoyed was going to Nashville Tennessee and meeting – I was cutting a record and –

CW: This was when you were twelve or whatever?

VC: I was twelve, and my singing teacher took me down there - and my parents - took me down.

CW: For that reason? To cut a record?

VC: Okay. My dad’s army buddy friend knew the people in Nashville Tennessee. He knew Dottie West and all them people who were big deals down there. So we went over to his house just to visit him and then Dad said, “Well Vicki Sings” and he says, “Well let me hear you” and I said, “ Oh, I don’t want to get up in front just of two people and sing!” you know? I’m much better singing in big crowds than just one on one. So I did sing for him and he says, “I think you need to go to Nashville Tennessee and cut a

record.” So we ended up going and I cut the record, and do you know what’s so weird to me? I found my record on the internet last year.

CW: Really?

VC: How in the world did it even get there?

CW: Do you mean on Amazon, like you could buy the record somewhere?

VC: I don’t even know how it got on there.

CW: One thing where I found you know, where the band will come up – I’m finding information on YouTube. Like these old clips and recordings that people have uploaded there for music you can’t find anywhere. It’s this crazy little online video service that has become this like musical place.

VC: So I went to a show -

CW: So did you get your record?

VC: Yeah, it was made and all that.

CW: I mean when you saw it online, did you purchase it?

VC: Oh no, somebody had bought it. Somebody bought that one and I went back on again and somebody else – they must have put it on there - Star Day Studios must have put it on themselves, because there was another one there when this one was gone for a while. So anyway, I was on a TV show called Summer Nights or something, and Dottie West was on the show. It had been – I was twelve, and I was probably in my late forties when this happened. But I went to the show and she came on and I put my hand up in the audience and I said, “I don’t know if you remember me or not, but I cut a record with you when I was twelve years old.” And she says, “You did?” And I said, “You worked at Star Day Studios didn’t you, as a backup singer?” And she says, “Yeah, I did.” So I went up there and I had a picture of me and her together because I’m sitting on her lap, cause’ she told the producers of the record she said, “You’re going to have to sign her up, she’s got what it takes.” Anyway I just ended up selling my records, I still have a few of them left.

CW: You’ve still got a few?

VC: Yeah.

FR: Why don’t you give him one of them?

VC: I should, yeah.

CW: Yeah, we’d love to have one of them.

VC: Here's another funny story! I was buying a car last year, and the guy that was selling us the car, I told him – somehow we got around to Nashville and I said, "I cut a record in Nashville." He said, "You did?" and he says, "Where did you cut it at?" and I say, "Star Day Studios" and he says, "My Dad worked at Star Day Studios" and I said, "You're kidding me." He says, "No my dad played steel guitar" and I said, "I had a steel guitar player on my record." So he said – his dad called in! Just so happened his dad called in. He said, "Dad, I got a girl here who says her name is Vicki Van Winkle, and that she was twelve years old when she cut a record. Do you remember her?" And I could hear him on the phone and he goes, "I sure do remember her" and I'm thinking –

CW: You'd probably be pretty memorable you know, a twelve year old girl you know. That probably doesn't happen every day.

VC: Well, [*Shrugs*] I don't know, things just always happened – I always felt like God was doing this for me, I always felt that way. I used to thank him when I'd win contests and all that, then I'd say, "But I feel sorry for the others" you know. I had a childhood that was so unique that it's kind of hard for the normal people to understand.

CW: That sounds a lot like people who have a lot of athletic ability. You know who just won and succeeded all throughout high school and it comes pretty easy to them because they have this God given talent.

VC: That's what I mean. I know it's a God given talent.

CW: Yeah, and you see just them, "I just thank God for this talent I've been blessed with."

VC: Absolutely.

CW: So when you were at Fairmont and the girls were getting together in the cafeteria did you seek her out or did you seek them out?

FR: It was a mutual thing I think.

VC: We had a friend, Jessica Ellis was her name - I knew her they knew her. She found them for me. So next thing I know, Fran I think you were first.

CW: So Fran, did you invite her over to your house?

FR: No.

CW: So was it –

FR: Her house.

CW: So you invited them over.

FR: She had a piano, and we really weren't taking this very seriously at all, the three of us. But she said, "Come over", and we got there and we took one look at her and thought, "Oh no" because she looked like Marilyn Monroe – we rode horses, and climbed fences, and played in the creek.

CW: Right.

VC: And I turned into them after I got to know them [*Laughing*].

FR: We were floored when we saw her and her house.

CW: So how did you make it past that first day?

FR: Well... I don't really know. Leslie set up that one little snare drum and her two little drum sticks, and at the time I had a Gibson sunburst which was my dad's guitar. I wanted a red guitar, I didn't care what kind it was, I didn't know anything about guitars - I just wanted a red one. So my dad took his precious guitar that he loved dearly and took it down to Pop's Music in downtown Dayton, and he knew I wanted a red guitar so he picked out three, and I went down and I picked this one out [*points to guitar*] and he traded his guitar.

CW: So that one right there?

FR: Yes, so he gave up his guitar for me to have this.

CW: Wow, that's pretty awesome.

FR: Yeah.

CW: And this was before you guys got together?

FR: No –

CW: So this was after you figured out that maybe you were going to do something?

FR: Yeah, well I had the Gibson I played dad's guitar. It was electric but it was basic, and I played that when we first got the band together. Actually that's the guitar I was playing when we won the battle of the bands at GBU Hall.

CW: So you went over to her house.

FR: Yes.

CW: And you're lugging your equipment in...

FR: Oh we didn't have any equipment [*Laughs*].

CW: Did you get together in your bedroom?

VC: No, it was our living room. It was our second practice that the newspaper got wind of us and The Dayton Daily News come down and take pictures of us.

CW: Second practice?

VC: Yeah, our second practice together – seeing each other. That's some of the memorabilia you have out there is us in our living room the second time we saw each other.

CW: Second practice?

FR: Well I think the media kind of carried us along there. I don't know if we would have really done it had Tom and the Tempest or Tom Fortener not taken hold of everything and hadn't...

CW: Yeah it sounds like they were very involved.

FR: Yeah they were active –

CW: But I'm still stuck on that first day – that first meeting.

VC: [*Laughing*] Oh that was some meeting.

CW: So did you just kind of look at each other? Did anybody play anything?

VC: I tried to sing a song but they didn't know how to play very much yet so that kind of went – when they left me and my mom talked about it and I said, "I don't know if this is going to work." But we kept trying and practicing, and then when Tom Fortener taught them eight songs because we getting into the battle of the bands -

FR: "*House of the Rising Sun*" was our first song.

VC: Our first song. Battle of the Bands. and we won – because the crowd you know.

CW: Right, so you kept practicing.

FR: Yes.

CW: Did you learn any songs initially on your own?

VC: Not until after this.

FR: Well I already knew a couple of Beatles songs just playing with my brother.

CW: So was Tom like, “Okay we have this battle of the bands thing coming up, you guys got to play in it.”

FR: Yep, that’s exactly what happened.

VC: Then they came over and taught them the songs. I already knew them you know, but they had to learn them.

CW: You knew how to sing them, they didn’t know how to play them.

VC: I did [*Nods*].

CW: How many songs –

VC: We started out with “Money”, that was our very first song we played out, by The Beatles.

FR: “House of the Rising Sun”

VC: “House of the Rising Sun” was like our third song.

FR: In that set you mean?

CW: Mhm.

CW: What were some of the other songs in your set? Do you remember?

FR: Uh... [*Picks up phone and glasses*]

VC: [*Chuckles*]

CW: She’s got it all on her notes [*Laughing*].

FR: I might have. I think they’re still on here, I don’t know! Yeah, yeah. We had quite a song list, actually.

VC: Well yeah, after we were together we had like fifty songs by the end.

CW: So he came and he taught you how to play a few songs.

VC: We went to my grandmother’s house and she said we could practice in her basement, they lived in Belmont anyway. So that’s what they came – their band came and taught them their parts of the songs. Then I could actually sing with them after that!

CW: And was this The Tempests?

VC: Yes.

CW: Your former band?

VC: Yeah. They were well known at that time.

CW: Well that's great, if a band comes over and shows everybody how to play that's –

VC: Yes, yes.

FR: Well and we caught on really fast. I mean we learned our songs –

VC: They did.

FR: And didn't make any mistakes on that stage.

VC: They didn't.

FR: And we didn't have very long to learn them. We had – I don't normally toot my own horn but we had some natural talent in that band. We really did.

CW: Well, you already had some musical experience but...

FR: Yes, we did.

CW: So, from the time that they came over to the time of this event – how much time was it between?

VC: I'd say three or four weeks.

CW: So you had a month to –

VC: Yeah, to wonder if this was going to go anywhere.

CW: Were you scared to death?

VC: I thought, "This may not work because I don't know if these girls are going to be able" - and he said, "Look", because I told him that – I think he had a crush on me -

CW: Because a lot of people go to that, it's a big crowd.

VC: Yes. Oh, when we first did GBU, that battle of the bands, there were tons of people there, and we walk through with our outfits –

FR: Well, they announced us on the radio.

VC: Yeah they announced us on the radio.

CW: So they announced you on the radio. Was this right after you had learned the songs?

FR: Was it Steve Kerr?

VC: Yeah. “Dayton’s first all-girl band”, we heard it constantly on the radio.

CW: And this was your very first performance?

FR: Very first.

CW: In front of people was the battle of the bands.

FR: Yep. [*Nodding head*]

CW: So how many bands were playing that then?

VC: Ten.

FR: I wish I could remember who they were.

CW: But everyone knew who you were.

VC: No not when they first saw us, they knew we were coming to this –

CW: Like when you came out, what was that like?

FR: Screaming, we felt like The Beatles.

VC: It was like The Beatles! They were waiting on us, and then they saw us come through because we had to go to the restroom, and they were going, [*Whispering*] “There they are, there they are.”

FR: People were on shoulders and snapping pictures, we couldn’t see.

CW: Was it for all the bands?

VC: No, just us.

FR: Just our band.

VC: It floored us because we really didn’t –

CW: Because you were an all-girl rock band.

VC: The first! Honest to God, we never ever, or anybody we'd ask "Have you ever heard of all-girl bands out before us?" and they'd say "no." It just wasn't known back then was it?

FR: No, it really wasn't.

CW: But it may come out now on the internet because people might say, "We were an all-girl band."

CW: Oh sure. So when – do you know what year this was?

VC: When we started?

CW: Like when this battle of the bands was.

VC: Well that would've been –

FR: Sixty five?

VC: We were sixteen.

FR: Sixty four? Sixty five? I was seventeen when I graduated –

VC: Sixty four. We started in sixty four.

FR: Right.

VC: So it was like at the end of sixty four.

CW: So during the school year or like do you mean the end of sixty four like toward November –

VC: I'm thinking like October.

CW: Well you know what would be neat, cause' we have the old Dayton Daily news here. It would be cool bring up the old newspapers and see if we can find any advertisements for that.

VC: That would be.

FR: I found the song list.

VC: You know they had advertisements like when we'd go play at the building they'd have bulletin boards of us and things like that but –

CW: Do you have any of those flyers from Vicki and The Rest?

VC: I gave them to you.

FR: I gave them to you.

CW: You did, you gave them to us?

VC: You have what I had –

FR: No you didn't give him yours, we talked to Gina

VC: I gave him all my flyers and stuff, I just didn't give him my jacket yet.

FR: Or your pictures.

VC: Cause' I had a hard time –

FR: Gina was the one we talked to the first time you came to my house and I just relinquished everything that day. Vicki wanted to talk to her kids first.

VC: I wanted to keep my jacket because it was the only thing I had from that band.

CW: Yeah, absolutely.

VC: So...I finally did bring it the last time I was here though.

CW: Yeah, I remember it hanging on the wall there.

FR: Did you leave the jacket?

VC: Yeah I left the jacket.

FR: Do you have two jackets?

CW: Yeah, I don't know I'd have to ask Lisa.

VC: I hope so because I did leave my jacket last time we were here.

CW: Everything that was brought is part of the inventory. But yeah, I do remember at least one of you bringing a jacket.

VC: Yeah that was me. They hung it up on the wall for a while and then I left, and so then when I came back with my husband I saw it again.

CW: So the battle of the bands... Were you really that good? Or could you have done anything and would people have gone wild.

VC: Well what made us good was – and I'm not tooting my own horn here –

CW: Well you've got a great voice, obviously.

VC: Well, that's kind of what happened. If I hadn't had all that experience before - cause' I was a showman. I'd go around and do all this stuff –

FR: She got the audience involved.

VC: I got the audience – would talk to the audience and all that. And they wouldn't hardly move cause' they were so shy.

FR: [*Laughing*] we were scared to death.

VC: We were even on TV once – I was on TV probably twenty times before I met them on like Rising Generation and all that. So I was used to all that but they had never been on and we on one show – what was we playing that day?

CW: What was that show up by the swimming pool?

VC: Swim and swing.

FR: Swim and swing.

CW: Yeah.

VC: We were there.

CW: Because we were knocking our brains trying to see how –

FR: Is there any way to get a hold of that film?

CW: I don't know that there is. We've tried for other things you know, but a lot of like local TV stations their old films got reused and taped over...or they'd have so much film in their archive that it just wasn't really feasible.

VC: Did you ever hear of Harry Schrager?

CW: Harry Schrager?

VC: He used to work at WHIO. He used to be on shows with me because he took from Mr. and Mrs. Wright, too. He was - what do you call that? What do you call them people that act?

CW: An actor?

VC: He was but they had another name for him, and he was always on the show when I'd go and be on the TV show before I met them. You know, it was always fun to see each other again because we knew each other and he knew me since I was five.

CW: I know Jim Forman had also really tried –

VC: That's the guy you know.

FR: I love Jim.

CW: Because a lot of these local bands played on that and if we could find some of the film footage it would have footage of so many of these bands.

VC: Somebody called me up twenty years ago and he said, "I'm trying to get the sixties bands together" and he says, "I've gotten a hold of a lot of them, but everybody kept telling me "You have got to get a hold of Vicky and the Rest." That's what he told me, and I said, "Really?" because we had been out of that business for a long time. And he said, "Yeah, I'm going to do a documentary" and I don't remember his name. But he sat and talked with me for a good hour.

FR: It might have been Jim for all we know. I could ask Jim, I don't know.

CW: I know that he said that like in the eighties he supposedly had hundreds of these old interviews.

FR: He's searching for our record now. He's going to be a disc jockey in Yellow Springs.

CW: Jim is, really?

FR: Yeah and he is after me – I love Jim and I want to get this for him – he wants our record so bad because he wants to give it air time, and I can't find it. A man named Bill Mattingly, also a musician – you ought to get him in here too honestly – says he has our record. I don't how he would have gotten it but he said he has it so now I'm kind of on Bill to look and see if he can find it.

VC: I didn't know you were talking to Bill. He used to live near me.

FR: Yeah, he's such a nice man.

CW: That's funny because I remember Jim posting on Facebook asking everyone, "What are your favorite Dayton bands and do you know how to get the records."

FR: Now, do you know him?

CW: Well, he came –

VC: That day.

CW: And he used to play in the band with my brother in law, he was in the Elderly Brothers.

FR: Really?

VC: Okay.

FR: Jim is the reason we're here. Jim knows Gino, and Jim was the one that mentioned our band to Gino, and then Gino came to our house, and then I started talking about all our friends that played, and then it just got bigger and bigger and bigger, which is a wonderful thing.

CW: Yeah, yeah. Well that's neat to hear, that Jim's going to be doing radio shows and stuff.

FR: Yeah, I hope we can find our band.

CW: Yeah, yeah –

VC: Would he have to go to the recording studio and get it through there? Like, what was that called you guys just – I recognized it when you said it but - I had a stroke about a year ago it's like I got – my memory doesn't last – short term memory loss I have.

CW: Yeah, I mean I don't know that studios have all their old –

VC: I was just wondering if they could find it.

CW: I mean, again, it would just –

FR: I'm going to go to Cyber Technics and see if they have anything in their archive.

CW: And it would probably vary from studio to studio in terms of how they archive, you know.

FR: Well, it wouldn't hurt to try.

VC: You told me that your mom had it and it was out in her barn in Florida and it melted.

FR: No not mine.

VC: Who's?

FR: Mine went to Aunt B's house. I had mine when we lived with my Aunt B, my Aunt B got killed in a car accident, so her house went up for – everything went up for auction. And I almost died the day of the auction, so I wasn't able to find my record in that house, and that record probably got thrown in the trash.

CW: Yeah.

FR: But it was in my Aunt B's house.

VC: And I asked my brother, because he was in December's Children, he started a band after I did. [*To Fran*] That was with Ira - that was his first band.

CW: Your brother was with December's Children?

VC: Yeah, he played bass.

FR: And Steve was too, right? Steve Carrasas.

CW: Yeah, Steve Carrasas. That was his friends back then.

FR: Yeah, that's when they drove the hearse.

VC: I was in that hearse every day almost because I was dating some guy named Glen Stapleton at the time and he was friends with a Pictorian Skiffuls guy. Steve – he couldn't drive yet because we were only sixteen, he didn't have his license. So Steve – he picked us up every day. I was in that hearse every day.

FR: Chris do you want the name of these songs because I keep losing them and have to find them again.

CW: Yeah, yeah. These were from Vick and the Rest?

FR: Yeah, these are the songs we played. And I keep losing and have to find them again.

VC: Did you have them written or were they...

FR: Me and Penny and Leslie collaborated on messenger.

CW: So it's "House of the Rising Sun..."

FR: "House of the Rising Sun", "Love me Do", "Tired of Waiting", [*Singing to Vicky*] so tired, tired of waiting...

VC: [*Laughs*] Was that Kinks?

FR: I can't remember. "Day Tripper", "For Your Love" – you remember these Vicky?

VC: [*chuckles*] Yeah.

FR: "Shout", and we'd play shout until our fingers were almost bleeding.

VC: I used to bring people up with me and dance with them when we played "Shout", because you know you really had to belt that one out.

FR: That was a crazy one because it was only two chords, and it wasn't even two chords you changed. You played one chord and you put your little finger up and down and that's all.

CW: Right.

VC: [*Starts Laughing*]

FR: And those strings were buried in our fingers at the end of that song. It was awful.

VC: [*laughing*] you did, you kept saying your fingers were hurting.

FR: "Name Game", and yeah they tried to get Vicky to say the F word.

VC: [*Laughs*]

FR: By saying, "[Inaudible]" but she never did.

VC: I was too nice a girl.

FR: And "Wooly Bully", "Where the Action is" –

VC: That was the Mark Lindsey song.

FR: Yeah. "We Gotta Get Out of this Place", "Knock on Wood" –

VC: These were a lot of song that I sang in Tom and the Tempest, too.

FR: "Roll Over Beethoven", "Long Tall Texan" –

VC: [*Laughing*] we were silly in that one!

FR: I know. “Act Naturally” –

VC: We were silly in that one, too.

FR: We did a bunch of Beatles stuff. Too many to find. “Tell Laura I Love Her”, [*Reading the conversation on her phone*] Remember when she wanted to do “Tell Laura I Love Her”, and we threw a fit and said no?

VC: [*Laughs*]

FR: That’s part of our conversation, because you wanted to sing that and we always had tantrums.

CW: Well that’s quite a list of songs.

FR: Yeah we had a lot.

VC: Yeah, we had around fifty at the end.

FR: “Hang on Sloopy”?

VC: “Hang on Sloopy.” Because we knew Rick Zehringer, from Rick and the Raiders first, and they changed their name to The McCoy’s.

FR: Did you do “Walking in the Sand?” They said we did that, by the Shangri-La’s. Penny and Leslie said you did that. I don’t remember that one, but that’s what they said and they remember more than I do.

CW: So, you won Battle of the Bands.

VC: [*Laughing*] that was crazy!

CW: And you’re sixteen?

FR: Yeah, Leslie was fifteen.

VC: Leslie was fourteen, the drummer.

FR: She was fourteen?

VC: She was fourteen and Penny, Francis, and I was sixteen.

CW: So what happened after that? I mean were you just –

VC: We couldn't believe that these people were acting like we were The Beatles!

FR: People started calling us.

CW: Were you playing all over the place?

FR: All over the place.

VC: Yeah, people started calling us – word of mouth, saying “we'd like you girls to play here.” We played a lot of skating rinks –

FR: Rainbow Rink.

CW: And swimming pool places.

FR: And Twin Lakes.

VC: Twin lakes. Bellefontaine we played in. Was that at a pool too?

FR: I can't remember.

CW: So, a lot of pool parties -

FR: Yes, skating rinks.

CW: A lot of small towns along the periphery of Dayton.

FR: Yeah.

CW: How many gigs you think you guys played?

FR: We played for quite a while, and we played often.

CW: Were you making money?

FR: Yeah, we were getting paid. Not much.

VC: Not much. [*Laughs*]

CW: Somebody was probably making money.

VC: [*Laughing*] somebody was, you're right.

FR: When we walked in I had a Silvertone amplifier and a guitar and a case, that's all I had. And Penny had her Harmony and her little amplifier. Marry had the best stuff at the

time, she had a Gretsch Country Gentlemen, she had a great guitar. I'm not sure what happened to it.

VC: She lives in Georgia now.

FR: Yeah, she was military.

VC: Mhm, she turned into military.

FR: Career military nurse.

CW: They needed a snare drum.

FR: *[Laughing]* at that time Leslie had already bought her drums.

VC: You know what? Only a week or two later she come in with a whole new drum set. And I go, "Who's is that?" and she said, "It's mine" and I said, "Are you kidding me? You have a drum set!"

FR: And it was a Ludwig.

VC: Yeah, pink Champaign.

FR: They were real pretty.

VC: And then I put Vicky and the Rest on the front.

CW: So she ran out and got that?

VC: Her parents, yeah. I guess she didn't like just having a snare only.

FR: Well, she had got that old bass drum from the marching band.

VC: Yeah.

FR: She had that little bass drum.

VC: I was like, "What am I going to do with these girls" *[Laughs]*. But it turned out greater than you thought it would. It seemed like it shouldn't have went as good as it did.

CW: So it was going great. How long were you chugging along? Was it through high school?

VC: No, just a couple of years.

CW: Just a couple years?

FR: Yeah, just a couple years.

CW: You weren't out of high school yet.

FR: Penny actually went on to do more than the rest of us.

VC: She went to New York and got in –

FR: An all-girl band.

VC: Another all-girl band, they started after us. So she went and got in their band.

CW: Did you ever have big aspirations for Vicky and the Rest?

FR: Yes we did, but we were too immature and too silly.

CW: Did you ever take a shot anywhere?

FR: We actually kind of tried –

VC: We played in Cincinnati at that one real famous club –

FR: Well, after the Bittersweet, Mary married a gentleman name Marshall and they moved to New Bedford Massachusetts, and we decided we were going to reunite the band.

VC: We did.

CW: So this is after –

VC: We were eighteen.

FR: Yes, after we graduated we flew to New Bedford Massachusetts. We all lived in one little apartment and we started practicing in an old barn out in the country.

CW: And you're going to make it big.

FR: Oh yeah, we were going to make it big. But I was the only one engaged, I was engaged to Dan. The rest of them were single so they were out all night having fun with friends and partying and all that stuff. We didn't really party, we just had fun.

VC: We never drank or anything.

FR: No, we didn't do anything.

VC: We were really sweet little innocent girls.

FR: So when I say party I mean they were just out on the town having fun.

CW: So they were out and your fiancé was back in Dayton.

FR: And I'm sitting in the apartment all by myself. And then Penny and Leslie got in a car accident.

VC: And then I got in their band. Penny's –

FR: After I came home though.

VC: After you left –

CW: So you came home.

FR: I decided I couldn't take it. They were all having fun and I'm sitting there-

CW: You're home sick...

FR: My boyfriend was here and they were having fun and had new boyfriends and I had nothing. So I called Dan and I said, "Come and get me." So I was the one that finalized the breakup of the band.

VC: We've got so many stories its funny though - when we were up there.

CW: Okay.

VC: I got in their band because they –

CW: So they started a band?

VC: They started – they had a band. Penny's husband had a band and so...we went up there to be Vicky and the Rest again but it didn't work out. So they said, "Let's see if you can sing in our band." So we were in this field at this old run down farm house and all these hippies was sitting around us and they're [*whispers*] pot smoking.

CW: Out in this Massachusetts [*inaudible*].

VC: So anyway I started singing with them and everybody seemed to like me. So we started getting jobs up there in Massachusetts like Providence, Road Island and... what are some of the other places out there? Anyway, they never got jobs before me, hardly at all. So I just happened to come in and hear this, and they said, "It's really nice" – they were talking amongst themselves – "It's really nice we got a job finally" you know. Then the guy said – the manager said, "I took you mainly because I liked the girl", which was me. And I thought, "That's not really nice to say to them" and all that, that's not really

nice. So anyway, I sang with them for about four months while I was up there, and I was home sick to see my mom and all that so I came back home.

CW: So what'd you say, four months? Is that what you said? Four months?

VC: [*Nods head*]

FR: I wasn't there very long at all.

VC: She was there a month I think.

CW: Then you came back to Dayton?

VC: Yeah.

CW: Did you - what happened when you got back to Dayton? Did you guys continue...

FR: It was done. It was done.

CW: No bands...

FR: Nope. Just friends.

CW: You guys just kind of stepped away from it?

FR: I stepped away from it because my ex-husband Dan was still full-blown into music still.

CW: What band was he in?

FR: Bear Creek.

CW: Oh, okay.

FR: He's still playing actively in Quest.

VC: He actually took over in our band though.

FR: Yes.

VC: It's in one of the newspapers where it says "Vicky has an all-girl band. Almost." And it has him in there with us. When he got in the band with us, because he had been in bands –

FR: We got good.

CW: We got so good. He started playing “Roll over Beethoven” and all this lead and everything.

CW: Yeah, yeah.

VC: And we came out – that’s when we really got good.

FR: It is.

VC: That was our best, because he could play that lead guitar excellently.

CW: And this is when you were at Fairmont?

FR: We were out of high school by then.

VC: No, we were graduated – we graduated in sixty – I graduated in sixty six and she graduated in sixty seven.

CW: So this is before Massachusetts?

FR: Well was it before or after? I think it was before.

VC: Before because we went to New York and –

CW: So when you came back it was pretty much...

FR: Done. It was done.

VC: It was done. We were really getting along –

CW: So did you start dating when he was in the band?

VC: Yeah, I started dating Dan when we were seventeen I believe. Yeah, really young. We were married about ten years, had two kids.

CW: You know I see him quite a bit actually.

FR: Dan?

CW: Yeah.

FR: He said he sees you at...

CW: B –

FR: BW3’s. [*Laughing*]

CW: Yeah, he's always like, "Yeah, I'm going to get something to eat and then take a nap."

VC: Which BW3's do you go to?

CW: At –

FR: Town and Country.

VC: Do you?

CW: Yeah, yeah.

VC: Okay.

FR: So do you know Tony then? Do you know Tony?

CW: Tony...

FR: Oh, Tony is so good. There's so many out there that you need to talk to about this.

CW: I think – yeah I've got a – cause with each interview I've taped I keep a list. Tony...Vest?

FR; Tony Dirkvest...

CW: Yeah, yeah.

FR: And Cathy Birch...

CW: Yeah, yeah.

FR: Oh just fabulous singers and musicians.

CW: There's so many people to talk to.

FR: Oh there's so many, and they're still actively playing.

CW: Yeah, and that's why this project is so crazy, because – and this is just one genre of local music. We're just scratching the surface.

FR: Yeah it is.

VC: I think it's great that you guys are doing this.

CW: It's fun, you know.

VC: It's really so nice.

CW: The hardest part is finding the right people to talk to.

FR: Oh they're wonderful people too. They're good people.

VC: Do you have fun doing this yourself?

CW: I do, I do. You know, because we collect all kinds of records here – historical records about...you know local – just about any aspect of local history you can think of.

VC: That's great.

CW: But when you can actually talk to the people about their experiences that they lived through, and record that and capture it... You know that's a sign of history that is very unique.

VC: And we were in the holiday and home parade.

CW: Yeah?

VC: Back at the [Inaudible].

FR: We played for the Democratic Convention.

CW: Yeah.

FR: And we did some neat stuff. But I think you have all that information in here already. That's all on Buckeye Beat – has all that information.

CW: Yeah, yeah.

FR: We found ourselves on Pinterest the other day, it was just kind of funny.

VC: Yeah! I don't know how that happened. I wrote her, texted her I mean, and said, "Hey, did you know we're on Pinterest now?" and she goes, "No."

FR: And I did not recognize the man's name that put it on there.

VC: That's what I'm saying, this is just spreading. And you're really being a big help – the Wright State people.

CW: Yeah, yeah.

FR: Chris, I don't think we purposely kept playing, I'll be honest with you. I think the media, Steve Kerr, WINT, and all those places kind of kept the ball rolling for us by calling us in to play.

CW: That was what I was going to ask, like how did you – I mean I know there was a lot of word of mouth, but how did you book your gigs?

FR: They called us.

CW: So like – you didn't have some like... agreement or somebody –

VC: We just had cards with my phone number on it.

CW: And so is that what a lot of people did – I mean I thought it was funny that some of the things people donated were these band business cards.

FR: And those ones back there are affiliated with Max Rogers, but we weren't.

CW: You weren't. So you didn't have anybody booking for you or –

VC: No, they just called us. They found out somehow.

CW: So you had your card with just your home phone number on it?

FR: Yeah...

VC: In Kettering. *[Laughs]* Just a Kettering girl!

FR: So this kept going because of others, not because of us. I really don't think we had much to do with it.

CW: Did you at the time – were you getting local airplay?

FR: We got interviewed on a radio station in Cincinnati, but I don't know if they played our record or not. I don't know.

CW: Where did you get an album – where did you record your album?

FR: At Cyber Technics.

CW: At cyber technics you did that?

FR: Yeah, and they were – what was the name of them? “Young and Dangerous” and “Be Gone With You.” She wrote the words, we wrote the music.

CW: Oh the original –

FR: She wrote the words, we wrote the music.

CW: It would be great to be able to hear the originals.

FR: Do you even remember the words to those songs?

CW: So what were the originals again?

VC: “Young and Dangerous” –

FR: And “Be Gone With You.”

VC: “Be Gone with you” was the other song I did.

FR: Do you remember?

VC: [*Laughing*] we were sitting in my bedroom writing those.

FR: And the funny thing about us is that Vicky would say, “I can’t sing it in that key” and we’d say, “Well” –

VC: They always had to switch keys for me.

FR: Well at one point we said, “Too bad” because we don’t know how to change keys.

VC: But you learned! You did learn after that. You fought me, but we did it.

FR: Yeah, we were awful.

VC: We got to the point where –

FR: “Sing it in this key or were not doing it.”

VC: Where they’d start saying stuff like that to me and I’d go, “Uh...” [*Laughing*]

FR: [*Laughing*]

VC: Yeah... They were very combative to me, and then I’d come back saying my side of it, then they’d say their side.

FR: Yeah, we fought terrible.

VC: And that’s why we broke up.

FR: Yeah, we were brats.

VC: [*Laughing*] we weren't brats! We weren't brats.

CW: When you were playing locally, what were the songs that people like – was there a song you were known for?

VC: Oh –

FR: They loved “Shout.”

VC: “Shout.” Because I went –

CW: “Shout.” That was like the finally, the showstopper?

FR: Yeah.

VC: And “White Rabbit”, “White Rabbit” too.

CW: “White Rabbit?”

VC: Yeah.

FR: They loved “Name Game” too – loved it.

VC: They loved “Name Game” and –

FR: “Hang on Sloopy”

VC: Yeah. Well we did “Hang on Sloopy” in the parade.

FR: Yeah, but “Shout” – boy, they wanted that one bad.

VC: So much.

FR: And we played that for so long, and they'd just keep wanting us to go on and on and on and on and on and on, and they danced their butts off. Vicky would be getting them going.

VC: They'd be running with me on stage – I'd grab them by them hand, you know. And we'd be doing our number up there [*laughs*].

CW: Right [*laughs*].

VC: With the girls looking at me like, “I hate you, let go of my boyfriend” or something like that [*Laughing*].

CW: Right, “So glad we came, this is the worst date ever” [*laughing*]. So you did mainly covers but then you did make some original music.

FR: We did.

CW: Did people take to that?

FR: We didn’t play it out, did we?

VC: We played out at – what’s that [inaudible] – [Ladacrance]?

FR: Oh... [Ladacrance] Hall.

VC: We played it there and they seemed to like it.

CW: Oh that’s at [Ladacrance]?

VC: [Ladacrance] yeah. That’s the only place we played it, and I don’t know what happened we might have broke up or something, I don’t know.

CW: Did you ever get any proceeds? Did they sell much?

FR: No...

CW: Or was this something you just recorded on your own?

VC: We just did it, you know. Just to have a record.

FR: Just to have our little records home and lost them [*laughs*].

CW: Lost them [*laughs*].

FR: For the most part.

VC: Well, yours got melted –

FR: No –

VC: I finally found out what happened to mine –

FR: Leslie’s got melted not mine.

VC: I asked my brother and he said, “Well I know what happened to it”, I asked him this a couple week ago I said, “I wonder what happened to that record that Vicky and the Rest made” and he goes, “Oh I know what happened to it” he says, “I broke it in half” [*laughs*]. I said, “You’re kidding me!” [*Laughing*]

CW: That's nice.

FR: Leslie stored her in an old cedar chest - we were just talking about this on messenger, me, her, and Penny because I knew I was coming here – and when she got it out it was warped really bad. They can't remember if they threw it away or threw it back in the cedar chest.

CW: Yeah, once it warped it's...

FR: Well Jim said, Jim Foreman, he has friends who restore this kind of stuff.

VC: Flatten them back out maybe?

FR: No, but they can get the music off of it somehow and he said, "Fran, if you can just get me that record."

CW: So you've checked with everyone in the band...

FR: Yes, except for Leslie's – it might still be in the cedar chest. She's got all of our stuff in there, she saved everything, but she won't part with it. So it's in the cedar chest and Penny says it might still be in the cedar chest. Mine went in my Aunt B's auction, it was in a big stereo cabinet but –

VC: Did you know it was in there?

FR: Yeah, but I almost died that day. I had to be hauled off to University of Cincinnati Hospital – I had viral Myocarditis and I was hauled out of there – I was care flighted out of there that day so I didn't –

CW: What was it that you had?

FR: I had Viral Myocarditis.

VC: A virus in her heart.

FR: A virus that attacked my heart. So I was traumatized by the accident, my aunt B died, my uncle Ed died, my mom almost died - I mean they got hit by a semi.

VC: She was like a second mother to you

FR: Yeah, she was like a second mother to me so that was a horrible thing for me, and I nearly died of a broken heart is the way I look at it. But I was too wrapped up in taking care of my mom, she flew out of the van and lost all of her skin... So I had to move her into my house and take care of her. It was just a very traumatic time so I didn't get back over there to get my stuff out of the house.

CW: Right.

VC: As they're rolling her out of the hospital - cause' I went over to see her and she was being rolled out the side of the hospital, and I saw her coming around the corner - my husband and I saw this helicopter up there you know, hovering over and I said, "Boy somebody's not doing very good" -

FR: It was me.

VC: Then I saw her rolling around the corner! And I was telling her - I said, [*Puts her hand on Fran's shoulder*] "You better not die on me! You get well!" and all that stuff.

CW: Oh sure.

VC: I was walking with the bed.

CW: How old were you when that happened?

FR: Was I fifty? Fifty, fifty one?

VC: I'd say in that vicinity somewhere.

FR: Yeah.

CW: So beyond the battle of the bands - and that was at the GBU Hall?

VC: [*Nods head*]

FR: We played there a lot though, we went back there.

CW: What were a couple of your other most memorable shows?

VC: Um... Wing - what was that?

FR: Swim and Swing.

VC: Swim and Swing, but we also had Wing Island or something like that - Miamisburg had something, what was that called?

FR: Um...

VC: We used to -

CW: Wing Island was a -

FR: Yeah we played there.

VC: Yeah. That was when we played with Dan for the first time – Roll Over Beethoven.

FR: Yeah.

CW: That's the one that became the purple...

FR: I can't remember any of that. You have my flyers though and it's on there [*laughs*] - tells you what they are. Yeah, there was one in Miamisburg – just a little place.

VC: Yeah it was a paint shop at one time, and then they turned it into a little teen night club.

FR: Oh what was the name of it?

VC: There was like about six or seven, but Forest Park Arena was the main one.

FR: Yeah we played there all the time.

CW: Right, right.

FR: And that wasn't what it was – we called it Forest Park but it was –

VC: It was called The She at one time

FR: Yeah.

VC: And the Caverns.

FR: Yeah it was the Caverns. And that's where –

VC: We went every week just because –

CW: Yeah, it was the place.

VC: We loved that club.

CW: Yeah, yeah.

FR: Yeah.

CW: What was the biggest audience? Or the biggest venue or the biggest audience you ever played for?

FR: Probably there at Forest park, they packed that place up – hundreds and hundreds of kids.

VC: Yeah, there were a lot of people there.

FR: Loads of kids there.

VC: It was huge in there.

CW: And it's not – it's not even there anymore?

VC: No, it's not anymore.

FR: No, the whole shopping center is gone. It was in the Salem Avenue mall.

VC: North Main wasn't it? North Main.

FR: It was on Salem Avenue. On the bottom – in the back of the mall.

CW: There was another – yeah because somebody else was talking about that. About the night – about the club in the Salem Mall and how they had this big sort of –

FR: Huge stage.

CW: Upper area where the band would go and play.

VC: Yeah it was a tall stage.

FR: Yeah.

VC: Up like way high.

CW: Yeah.

FR: That's where the McCoy's played all the time.

CW: Yeah, yeah.

FR: Yeah, Rick actually told me if I would drive to his house he would teach me how to play better. Well heck, I didn't have my license until I was in my twenties. I couldn't drive clear to Indiana for that.

CW: Yeah. So what would you say the highpoint would be in your musical career? I mean I'm assuming its Vicky –

FR: I'll be honest with you, I think the first time we played at GBU Hall. We signed autographs, and people screamed, and they were on shoulders, and –

VC: Our very first time was the most fun.

CW: That was probably –

VC: It was like we were the Beatles.

CW: Well, because you just hit like a bomb right?

VC: Yes. Because the Beatles were really big then and then it's like we kind of dressed kind of like then in our jackets and stuff and sort of like -

CW: So how long after like The Beatles –

VC: Did we come out?

CW: Yeah.

VC: Not long because we came out in sixty four and they came out in sixty three sixty four. [*Fran's phone rings*] Who's that calling you? Do you know?

FR: I hate cell phones.

CW: [*Laughs*]

VC: I don't even have one.

FR: It's my husband.

CW: Well we're almost – we'll be done here in a few minutes. So what would you say – that was the high point – what was the low point?

VC: When we argued with each other at practice, I'd say. About... I wanted them to learn certain songs, and they didn't want to, so a lot of that was kind of just small stuff like that.

CW: Right, right.

FR: The low point for me was none of that. It wasn't the arguing, it wasn't any of that –

VC: That was my low point.

FR: The low point for me was when Penny quit our band to go with Bittersweet. That hurt my feelings pretty bad, I still love Penny though, I mean we were kids but –

CW: But yeah, you'd been buddies –

FR: It felt like a betrayal to me, so that was a low point for me.

CW: And that was like right after high school?

FR: Yeah, that was right after high school. And then – but I'm friends with the rhythm player that was in Bittersweet now. We're both artists and both belong to the Miamisburg art gallery. So we're friends now, but that was a low point for me.

CW: Yeah, yeah.

VC: She's a great artist – she's a cartoonist, oh.

CW: Really?

VC: She is. She's trying to get some of her work –

CW: It's funny how a lot of musicians – it sort of translates into different kinds of art.

VC: It does, you can do different kinds of art.

CW: People who are creative –

VC: I have a grandson who is four, and he is just like me. So I am wondering if he is going to end up like me because he can sing he can dance, I mean he's like a little Vicky walking around.

FR: That's how little Ellie is, my eleven year old granddaughter, she just belts it out. She's in the elite Kettering Children's Choir.

VC: Is she?

FR: Yeah.

VC: So you know, I just got a feeling he's got charisma, too.

CW: Yeah.

VC: Like what just seemed to happen around me.

CW: Well, I think some of it –

VC: You're born with it.

CW: Yeah, yeah I think you're right.

VC: It was too easy for me.

CW: Some people just have that sort of creative –

VC: It's gifted, I'm telling you. I kept saying, like, even when I'd be in contests and I'd say, "Please let me win, God, but I'm going to feel sorry for the people that don't, but please let me win." Then I'd win.

CW: Well, you know I mean, all kinds of people love music and all kinds of people perform in bands, but some people have to work a lot harder than others.

VC: You've got to have that "it" factor, and you can always know that. That's what whatchamacallit says on America's Got Talent – Simon, he's always saying, "You've got to have the "it" factor." People always told me that when I was little and I didn't know what they were talking about, "What's the "it" factor, Mom?" You know?

CW: Yeah.

VC: Because I didn't know anything about it.

CW: And then there's some people who have to practice and practice and practice and other people that it just – the music really just comes to them.

VC: You're right, you're right, exactly.

CW: Do you – have you continued to play?

FR: Well, I still play at home.

CW: Just on your own?

VC: Yeah, just by myself.

CW: Have you ever gone out? You said that you and your family –

FR: Well, Toni mentioned to me recently, she said, "Fran, why don't you brush up and maybe you can – I don't know – play with me and Kathy a little bit." And then I played a little bit for her and I think she changed her mind, [*laughs*] because I'm not very good anymore. But if I brushed up I could probably do okay.

CW: Yeah, yeah.

FR: I probably could, but I'm still real shy about that. I have severe stage fright.

CW: Did you ever – I mean was there ever another time when you were playing –

FR: Just when I was playing bluegrass.

CW: I mean not even in band – I mean even –

VC: Did you ever play out in a band?

FR: Just – no –

VC: On stage again after us?

FR: Not really, but me and Tim –

VC: I know you practiced a lot.

FR: We played family get-togethers and just stuff like that. I do have a recording of all that – I have a recording of me singing bluegrass. And our whole band sang it. Well, he made a practice tape for us because he was so good. He played every instrument – he sang every part, and he would make tapes for us to learn from, and he was amazing.

CW: So you kind of came full circle – when you started playing again you were playing bluegrass and music like that.

FR: And I still absolutely love bluegrass, but I love blues - I love Stevie Ray Vaughn, and those were some of my favorite people. B.B King – they were my favorites in that area, but I still love bluegrass.

CW: Yeah.

VC: It's such a soulful music to play, and I could actually sing that pretty good – I could actually sing pretty good when I was younger - I could never harmonize, I could never hear that harmony part, but I –

CW: Did you ever get out and sing?

FR: Yeah we all –

VC: You didn't, you just backed up – backed me up.

FR: We did back up singing but none of us sang lead in our band -

VC: No.

FR: Except Vicky.

VC: I was the only lead singer.

FR: It wouldn't have hurt to give Vicky a break and let her voice rest –

VC: Right, because we'd play like four hours every night.

CW: Well, I know sometimes there will be like a song or two that some other band member might sing.

FR: Right, well, we didn't do that. We probably should have, because it's hard on a singer voice to screech through all those sets.

CW: I would think so.

VC: Especially on songs like "White Rabbit" and all those way up there songs.

CW: A lot of those were some screamers.

VC: *[Laughs]*

FR: But none of us were – none of us were that caliber of musician – none of us wanted to step up to that microphone and do that. We didn't want to. And probably Vicky would have welcomed it at certain point and gone, "Ugh" –

VC: "I need a break here" or something you know, I need someone to sing other than me.

CW: So Vicky, did you continue to sing like after –

VC: Only weddings – the last place I ever sang was my daughter's wedding ten years ago, and 2008 was the last time I sang in public.

CW: Really?

VC: What has happened, is through all that singing I've lost my voice, and I have – I went to the doctor to say, "Why can't I hit these high notes anymore?" and all this stuff. So they tested me out and my vocal chords are supposed to be like stretched, but now they're baggy and wavy –

CW: Really?

VC: They're stretched, and I also have post nasal drip so they sit in a puddle right here *[points to her throat]* constantly. So I'm done singing because –

FR: She can still sing pretty good, though.

VC: I can sing softly – I can't sing bursting it out like I always did.

CW: You can't sing the way you –

VC: I used to really belt it out, but now I can't.

CW: Yeah.

FR: But she still sounds really, really good.

CW: I bet she does.

FR: She does [*laughing*].

CW: Do you still go out and see music?

VC: She does [*points to Fran*].

FR: I do – I am very active in supporting local music – very, very active.

CW: You go to some of these other bands?

FR: All the time.

CW: Like Cuest and that kind of thing.

FR: All the time.

CW: Where do you – do you have a hangout?

FR: No –

CW: Or do you just go –

FR: I just go where ever they're playing. Yeah, they send me – all my friends are still playing so they send me things over Facebook and they say, "We're playing at the Riff Raff" or "We're playing at the Phone Booth" or wherever they're playing.

CW: Well, Dan is amazing because he's like, "I can't play enough right now" and I know that he didn't play for a long time.

FR: He didn't – he is a fabulous bass player.

CW: Yeah.

FR: Fabulous bass player and he can still sing, I mean can still sing rock and roll – he doesn't have any problem with that.

CW: I think you, actually... there were some YouTube clips of them playing – you might've posted those.

FR: Well, I did – I take films of them all the time so they will have those.

CW: So that was up at the Phone Booth?

FR: Yeah, and I take pictures for them and send it all to them.

CW: Yeah.

FR: I do that a lot for them, but I love going to see Ira, you know.

CW: Oh sure.

FR: I love seeing Toni play.

CW: He's – Ira's someone from the original list, he didn't talk real long, either.

FR: He has a lot to say because he knows a lot of people, and he's been a lot of places, and he's done a ton of things, and he's been in a lot of bands – Ira's got a lot of history in him.

CW: Yeah.

VC: I've known Ira since he was eleven – he used to spend the night at our house because he was best friends with my brother. They were in the same band together – December's Children, so I've known Ira since he was a little guy.

CW: Right, right.

VC: And then I sort of kind of kept hanging around with him because he got into the Pictorian Skiffuls for a while, and anyway I was hanging around with those bands at the time.

FR: Chris, why don't you come out and hear some of them?

CW: I'd like to.

FR: Yeah, why don't you do that? They're so good, and you'll get to meet Jim Snow, because he come to most –

CW: Well, I got teenage kids and –

FR: Bring them with you!

CW: Well, I'm like –

VC: Well, they can't – well, can they go into bars?

CW: Well, my siblings are ten to twelve years older than me. I can't even go out with them anymore because it's like, "I've got to go to bed."

VC: [*Laughs*]

FR: Oh, I'm not like that.

CW: But I got to get –

FR: I am 69 years old and I am still going strong and I'm not going to stop until both my feet are in my grave.

VC: She started kind of doing this about three years ago when she got on Facebook and stuff, but what's the guy – the one I knew since I was twelve? You talk to him still, but you didn't know him yet, then I told you that Mrs. Wright, my singing teacher, introduced me to him when I was twelve.

FR: I don't remember.

VC: The one – oh, why can't we think of his name?

FR: You're not talking about Dirt, are you?

VC: No, not him. The blonde – the blonde guy - and The American's – he had something... the Americans. What was his first name?

FR: Not Vondal. Vondal had black hair.

VC: He was real famous back then.

FR: Oh, I know – you've got all of his stuff. He's the one who –

VC: Sonny Flaherty! It finally came to me.

FR: Yeah, yeah.

CW: Everybody says Sonny Flaherty is somebody I got to talk to.

FR: Oh definitely, he lives in – he's in Florida now.

CW: Yeah.

FR: And I'm Facebook friends with Sonny, but he doesn't get on Facebook hardly ever.

CW: Does he ever come back to town?

FR: I don't think so, not that I know of.

CW: Yeah.

FR: He's doing country music now, he's not doing rock and roll anymore.

CW: Maybe we can figure out how to do something.

FR: He just cut another album a couple of years ago.

VC: She's kept in contact with him, I knew him way back when. We used to go to the LT Club and dance, that was a big club back then and her and I did that when we were eighteen, and he used to play out there at times. He would see me sitting out in the audience and he's go "[*Gasp*] well there's Vicky Van Winkle, I just want to let you know she's here tonight with Vicky and the Rest" and all that. It was just so cool to be a sixteen year old girl and people are recognizing you at the time.

CW: Right, right.

VC: It was so fun wasn't it? Because we were – I mean I was used to being out on stage at that time, but I'm talking about people my own age. A lot of the people before that was a lot more my mother's age.

CW: Yeah, yeah.

FR: I honestly don't think I thought much about it. When people would recognize us and make a big deal out of us I just – most of that stuff just kind of rolled off my back for some reason.

CW: Right, right.

FR: And it doesn't now, I wish I could turn the clock back and enjoy every minute of it and feel those feelings, but I don't know why I just didn't take it very seriously. I'm not sure what it was, I don't know.

CW: Yeah, well, different people experience –

VC: They didn't, and I was serious about it since I was five, because I had been in it for years and they weren't where –

CW: Performing had been your whole life.

VC: Yeah, it had. I was out in public every week so I was so used to it was kind of old hat for me by the time I met them.

FR: I don't think I really understood the meaning of being famous.

CW: So, how about when you were... that's one thing that you hear so many people say, "When I got up there and saw the way people reacted that was it, and I was hooked." Did you feel that way?

FR: Yes, absolutely. And when after our band stopped being, I longed for it so badly, it gets in your blood. You go and hear your friends play and then you hear other bands play and all you can think is, "Oh, I want to be up there."

CW: Now, did you ever wish that you were –

FR: Oh absolutely.

CW: I mean, over the years did you miss that and want to be doing that?

FR: Absolutely, I missed it terribly – yes. I still do, even at my age I still do. I miss it really bad.

CW: Yeah.

FR: But when you get older you start losing this or losing that –

VC: I don't- I don't miss it anymore.

FR: I definitely do.

VC: Because to me it was – it kind of took my life, you know what I mean? Because you have to be here, you have to be there, you know what I mean?

CW: That was like the first quarter of your life almost.

VC: But even – it was like I didn't have my own life, I was always having to go out and sing and sing and sing.

CW: Yeah.

VC: You know, I liked it, don't get me wrong, I really enjoyed it. But at the same time it was, like, I wanted to be a kid.

CW: Right.

VC: I wanted to play, you know, and just do normal kid stuff, too.

CW: Yeah, yeah. Well, I know a lot of the people we've talked to – they've come and gone with music but the ones who have found it again, they are just –

FR: In love with it.

CW: They're loving it. Just loving it.

FR: Absolutely.

CW: My brother in law, he always jokes about it and says "Well, we can only play once a month because that's all my back can take" – It's, you know, lugging all your equipment around and playing until 1:30, you know? He jokes about that, but Dan's like, "If I could play every night I would."

FR: If you go, Chris, send me a message through Facebook, because we're friends – just send me a message and say, "I'm going to come out tonight", and we'll be looking for you.

CW: I'd love to.

FR: We'll grab you at the door and you can sit with all of us.

CW: That would be a lot of fun.

FR: And you can even meet new people that you haven't met yet.

CW: Yeah, yeah. Absolutely.

FR: Yeah.

CW: Well, and I know that you're kind of a big group of friends.

FR: We are, we all meet up and sit at the same table –

CW: And it's wonderful.

FR: It really is.

CW: I mean that through all these years –

FR: There's a comradery that –

CW: Yeah, you all seem really, really, close.

FR: Very close. I keep trying to get her to go, but she won't. I haven't given up on her yet, because they would all love to see Vicky. They all ask me about her – just the last time I had to pull out my phone and show them all pictures of Vicky and what she was doing, and all that.

VC: [*Laughing*] I'm not even on Facebook.

FR: She doesn't have to come every time, but it'd be nice if she'd come every now and then.

CW; Right. The people who got on stage and did it all are the last people who are on Facebook or that you ever see out.

VC: I feel like I've had my time with all that, you know? Now I just want family and to be close to everybody around me. I'm really just interested in being a good human being and just being a good grandmother and mother –

CW: Yeah, because I think when we were trying to get a hold of you – do you even have an email address?

FR: Yeah.

VC: Tom does, I don't. I don't even know how to use a computer.

FR: Yeah, because you had to get to her through me every time.

CW: Yeah, yeah - exactly.

FR: And I want it all, you see.

CW: Right [*laughs*].

FR: I'm a grandma of six and – I want it all.

VC: She has really taken off with this and I –

CW: Well, Fran... Fran's like a force of nature.

VC: She was quiet, now she's in reverse, and I'm the other way.

FR: And you've probably seen my doll stuff of Facebook, too, right? Because I run a doll hospital –

VC: She's great with dolls. I was taking –

CW: You seem to be extremely busy.

FR: Busy, busy, busy.

VC: I was taking doll classes from her for a couple years – made about ten dolls and –

FR: And I just operated on one of her dolls recently.

VC: Yeah, because her arms were getting loose – the elastic in them, so I said “Could you put her back together?” Because she put her together the first time. We’re so close, we’re like sisters.

CW: Yeah –

VC: I can’t even tell you how close we are. It’s so fun.

CW: Is there anything else that we haven’t talked about?

FR: I think we just about covered everything. At least everything I can remember.

CW: Well, thank you guys so much for coming in.

VC: We really appreciate it.

FR: We had a good time.

CW: It was fun talking to you and it was great to hear a little bit more about Vicky and the Rest. That just sound like – I’m kind of living vicariously through you guys.

VC: Oh, that’s cool. We like that, don’t we?

FR: We had a lot of fun.

VC: If we can bring joy to anyone that’s nice.

CW: Well, that’s why this is so neat, because you can talk about, you know – the British invasion and The Beatles and how they affected everyone, but to hear your stories of –

VC: - of common-isms that everybody has with us, really.

CW: Yeah, and you get a taste of what it must’ve been like.

VC: Yeah, we were a garage band there at first.

CW: Yeah, yeah.

FR: Practicing in my mom and dad's garage all the time – the neighbors would come – Terry Walters, have you met Terry yet?

CW: That's another name that's been mentioned.

FR: Oh Terry, I love that man - he's just the kindest human being. He's still playing actively – still got a voice to die for, and his band is great. With that being said, Terry used to come and listen to our band practice, and he told me just a few weeks ago – I saw him at the Miamisburg Bicentennial – he said. “Fran, you taught me my first chords.”

CW: Really?

FR: Yeah, that really touched me.

VC: That's sweet.

CW: That's nice.

FR: So, you forget some of the little things that you do, but it meant something to him because he remembered it. I didn't remember that.

CW: Yeah, that's great.

VC: We've just had a lot of fun and giggles. I mean we were sixteen, now we're getting close to seventy –

FR: And we're still laughing.

VC: We're still laughing. So it's been great. If anything happened to either one of us, it would just kill us.

CW: Well, keep on going.

VC: We love each other so much.

CW: Thank you again for –

VC: We were so opposite in the beginning and now we're exactly alike almost.

FR: Thank you for doing this.

CW: You're so welcome, it was my pleasure.

VC: We really appreciate it a lot.