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Dorothy Jones for Wright State University Oral History Course 685

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Dorothy Jones

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Dorothy Jones was born on August 2, 1950. She has spent her entire life, living in Cincinnati, Ohio. She was born at General Hospital, which is today called University Hospital. Her parents are Mamie and Taylor Jones. She was the second daughter born to the Jones’. Her older sister Bonnie was born four years before Dorothy. Tyline, her younger sister would come four years after Dorothy.

Dorothy doesn’t remember her younger years. This is because she got very ill when she was between the ages of five and seven. Dorothy was diagnosed with tuberculosis, rheumatic fever, and meningitis. How did she end up at the hospital? “Well, I don’t remember but what my older sister told me was we were at Old Coney and I kept tellin’ mom and dad I was sick, and they kind of ignored me. So, they took me on the ferris wheel. I passed out. The next thing I know I was in the hospital.”

She was in a coma for two and a half weeks. The doctors were only giving her a couple of days to live. When Dorothy came out of the coma, the doctors found the coma had effected the development of her eyes. Dorothy has been legally blind since this time in her life. Dorothy remembers fondly the time she spent at Children’s Hospital in Cincinnati. She would call Children’s home for fourteen months. When asked what it was like to spend that amount of time in a hospital Dorothy replied, “It was like family. I got to know everybody, everybody got to know me. I knew all the doctors, the nurses, it was nice. I liked it.” Dorothy and the other children celebrated holidays while residing in the hospital thanks in part to the Ruth Lyons Christmas Fund.
Her parents would visit once every week or so, from what she recalls. When asked about these visits, she replied, "They would bring me a plum. We would talk a little bit. And they would leave." Her sisters would not be a part of these visits. They were not allowed in due to the hospital regulations. She remembers clearly, her confusion when she was released from the hospital and re-introduced to her family. "Mom and Aunt Dorothy came up to the hospital. And they all wheeled me down with the nurse. I get outside to the car, get in the car. There was mom, Aunt Dorothy, and there was two girls. I was introduced to my sisters, Bonnie and Tyline."

Due to the length of her illness, Dorothy was two years behind the school children her age. She was placed in the third grade, and she was the age of the children in the fifth grade. She would stay behind until she left high school, without graduating. When she is asked to recall events that happened in the sixties, her first thoughts are of the music scene. "Well, that's when the Beatles came out, for one thing." She says this with a little disappointment because she was a Dave Clark Five fan. She thought they could have been bigger than the Beatles, if they would have come out just a little sooner.

Dorothy spent her teen-age years like most, she babysat and did neighborhood chores for extra money. She was not eligible for driver's education due to her vision. She found an alternative, walking or riding her bike with her radio at full blast. Listening to W.S.A.L. "I always had my radio with me. Dad say, 'Yeah, everybody knows who you are.' I said, "Yeah!""

Although her vision was bad, she achieved A's and B's in school. It was in her classrooms that she learned about the assassinations of John F. Kennedy, and Martin Luther King, Jr. The public death in the sixties that affected her the most was that of
Robert Kennedy. "Yeah. Bobby Kennedy. Yeah. I felt really bad when he got killed. 'Cause, I thought he's got ten kids." She still puts her head down and shakes her head when she recalls this event.

Dorothy married her first husband in 1968. The marriage would end seven years later and produce two daughters. She would marry her second husband in 1976, and they would have one son, two years later. This relationship would end due to her husband's death in 1987. Dorothy has never worked. This was a two-part decision. She had bad vision, and was the mother of three children. Being a homemaker in the era when women were burning their bras Dorothy was confident in her choice to stay home. "That's what I always had planned. I wanted to be with my kids." Now, she gets to enjoy eight grandchildren. "'Cause you can take'em when you want and can also give'em back. You get to do anything you want."

Transportation has increasingly become an issue for Dorothy. Taking advantage of the bus routes replaced her riding her bike. The bus is not an option Dorothy chooses anymore. She doesn't feel safe transferring in Downtown, Cincinnati. The distance required for walking has increased as times have changed. Not receiving a driver's license at sixteen didn't seem to effect Dorothy then. Now, having a driver's license would make a world of difference to Dorothy, "You know you gotta call, and I don't know. It just seems like a hassle. If only I could drive, I'd say." All in all Dorothy seems happy with the life that she has lived so far.
**Jodie Walker:** We are doing the interview in my bedroom and this is her story. Ok, mom, sit this right here. Ok, when was you born?

**Dorothy Jones:** August 2, 1950.

J.W: Where were you born at?

D.J: Cincinnati

J.W: Which hospital?

D.J: They called it General, but now its called U.C.

J.W: How many, how many siblings do you have?

D.J: I've got three.

J.W: You got three? Who are they?

D.J: Jodie

J.W: No, siblings, that's your children. Now let's just say you got three children.

D.J: I messed up already.

J.W: That's alright. So, you got Jodie first, your oldest.

D.J: Rebecca

J.W: Yeah

D.J: And Garry

J.W: Yeap, now who's your siblings?

D.J: No uh, I don't want to talk about that but, I guess it's my sisters (laughs)

J.W: Yeah huh (laughs). How many of them you got?

D.J: I got two.

J.W: Two? What's their names?

D.J: Bonnie and Tyline.
J.W: Who were your parents?

D.J: Mamie and Taylor Jones.

J.W: Do you know how old grandma and grandpa were when they had you?

D.J: How old was mom and dad?

J.W: Yeah

D.J: Dad was 24, so mom was either 18 or 19

J.W: Wow, I didn’t know that. Um, ok, so when you were born, what part of town did you guys live in? Do you know?

D.J: Huh?

J.W: Did you guys live on Cortelu when you were born?

D.J: No.

J.W: No, where did you live?

D.J: I don’t really know, when I was little.

J.W: So, when did they live when did they move onto Cortelu? Because that’s the first that’s the first house I remember.

D.J: About 1960, I guess it was.

J.W: So you were about 10?

D.J: Yeah, somewhere

J.W: Ok, what school district is that?

D.J: Pleasant Ridge

J.W: Pleasant Ridge, alright now you said you don’t remember a whole lot about your childhood, so why don’t you start where you remember?

D.J: Well, I remember being in the hospital.
J.W: What was you in the hospital for?

D.J: I had tuberculosis, meningitis, and rheumatic fever all at one time.

J.W: So, how did you end up, I mean tell me the story how did you end up in the hospital? I mean what made you go you know the day you went to the hospital?

D.J: Well, I don’t remember but what my older sister told me was we were at Old Coney and I kept tellin mom and dad I was sick and they kind of ignored me. So, they took me on the ferris wheel. I passed out. The next thing I know I was in the hospital.

J.W: How long had you been in the hospital?

D.J: I stayed there 14 months.

J.W: Fourteen months? Tell me about that. Tell me more about that.

D.J: Well, I was in a coma for two and a half weeks. Had two days to live. But I pulled out of that. The only thing it affected was my eyesight.

J.W: So, how did it affect your eyesight?

D.J: I’m going blind. Right now I am legally blind.

J.W: So, what do you remember of your hospital stay? Fourteen months is a long time to be in a hospital, what was it like?

D.J: It was like family. I got to know everybody, everybody got to know me. I knew all the doctors, the nurses, it was nice. I liked it.

J.W: You liked being in the hospital? Did you have a bunch of needles and stuff in ya or did you just have to take medicine?

D.J: No, they’d give me shots everyday and every so often they’d give me uh, spinal tap. I remember they gave me one the day before I came home.

J.W: Did them hurt?
D.J: Yeah, those hurt, you can’t get up or nothin, your flat on your stomach.

J.W: Did they let your parents be with you when they do that?

D.J: I don’t know mom and dad was never there.

J.W: Where were they at?

D.J: I guess at home. I don’t know.

J.W: Well, how often would they come see you?

D.J: Maybe once a week, once every two weeks.

J.W: Did Tyline and Bonnie come with them?

D.J: No, they weren’t aloud.

J.W: So, what would happen when they would come visit, do you remember?

D.J: They would bring me a plum. We would talk a little bit. And they would leave.

J.W: Alright, so your there for 14 months. So, you spent Christmas there, did you?

D.J: Yeap, I spent Easter there. I got a transistor radio for Christmas. For Easter I didn’t get nothin because I took the Easter bunnies whiskers off, so she put me down. (Laughing) She left. She went hoppin down the hallway.

J.W: Pulled her whiskers off?

D.J: I knew who she was. I knew what nurse she was. And she told me I was wrong and she was the Easter bunny. So, I said, “Ok”.

J.W: Do you know if that stuff, like that at Christmas they gave out presents was that from that …. Ruth Lyons?

D.J: Ruth Lyons. That was from Ruth Lyons Christmas Club. Yeah. And um, when I had my appendix taken out I was 13 almost 14 Ruth Lyons sent me a real pretty nightgown.
J.W: Oh really?
D.J: Yeah.
J.W: She was still alive back then wasn’t she?
D.J: Yeah.
J.W: So, did she ever come to the hospital?
D.J: I never did see her but though they say that she was there but I never did see her.
J.W: Now you gotta say that again cause we didn’t pick that up on tape. But first I wanted to ask you how old were you when you were put in the hospital?
D.J: I was between the ages 5, 6, and 7. I don’t know really how old I was. But that’s what I’ve been told, between the ages 5, 6, and 7. I was young.
J.W: Do you remember waking up out of the coma? Do you remember…..
D.J: Yeah! I don’t know what day I come out of it but oh yeah I can remember. Yeah, and the only thing I hated was they had me in a baby bed.
J.W: They had you in a baby bed?
D.J: Yeah, and they had all the other, you know I was in a four bed ward like and all the other three girls were in a big bed. And they would never take me out of the baby bed. The day I came home I was still in the baby bed.
J.W: Uh, well I guess they liked to baby you.
D.J: Yeah. (chuckles)
J.W: Do you remember, I mean when you first came out though where you like, “Where am I “, or “What’s going on” or
D.J: No.
J.W: No?
D.J: No

J.W: Ok, so you were between 5, 6, and 7. Alright, so what do you remember about coming home? The day you came home?

D.J: The day I come home?

J.W: Yeah.

D.J: Mom and Aunt Dorothy came up to the hospital. And they all wheeled me down with the nurse. I get outside to the car, get in the car. There was mom, Aunt Dorothy, and there was two girls. I was introduced to my sisters, Bonnie and Tyline.

J.W: And how old were you? How old were they?

D.J: Well, when I started school I was in third grade. But I’m two years behind. So...

J.W: So you probably should’ve been in fifth grade you think?

D.J: Yeah

J.W: So, that would have probably made you about what nine, ten years old

D.J: Something like that.

J.W: Yeah, Jerrid’s in fifth grade and he’s eleven so probably about ten. Does Aunt Tyline remember much of you being home? She would’ve been littler right? Because she’s four years younger.

D.J: Yeah, she’s four years younger than me.

J.W: So, that would have put her what about six?

D.J: Somewhere.....

J.W: Like kindergarten, first grade?

D.J: Somewhere along the.. I don’t really remember. I don’t know.

J.W: Did you know Aunt Dorothy? Aren’t you named after her?
D.J: Yeah, named after her, but I don’t know her. Cause we only went there when we needed somethin. Aunt Dorothy would buy me clothes.

J.W: Aw, would she?

D.J: Yeah, for school.

J.W: Now, when, ok, so when you got out that’s when you met your sisters. And went to live with your mom and dad.

D.J: We lived on Balm Street.

J.W: Where’s that?

D.J: Mom and dad ran a store. Mount Adams.

J.W: Mount Adams?

D.J: That’s that street that cracked in the middle.

J.W: Oh, really?

D.J: Yeah, you heard about that

J.W: I don’t think I did.

D.J: Well, it cracked in the middle so they had to tear all them houses down. But mom and dad owned a store there and we lived there for a little while. We moved. We moved different places, but we only stayed like a week, week and a half, then we found one on Columbia Parkway it was an apartment. We lived there the longest. I would say about three months. Then from there we moved to Cortelu.

J.W: So, what schools, what grade schools did you go to?

D.J: I went to that one, I think they called it Kilgour.

J.W: That’s still a school. Is it on Eastern Avenue? Or by Eastern?

D.J: No. No. This is in Mount Adams.
J.W: Ok.

D.J: Kilgour. Then from there I went to Pleasant Ridge.

J.W: Pleasant Ridge, is that the same Pleasant Ridge I went to when I was in like kindergarten or something? First grade?


J.W: So, you lived on Courtelu. Now how did, how did you go as far as with all that sickness you had? Do you know how you got any of that, like tuberculosis isn't that...

D.J: Doctor said that, well my older sister had it too, t.b. She didn’t have the rest just the t.b. She got to stay home. I had to go to the hospital. But um, from the way I understand, the way he told me was we went to school you’ve got your carrier this person sits down on a seat. They leave the germ on the seat when they leave, and you come and you sit down and well my body couldn’t fight it. I picked it up. Bonnie sit on it, but her body could fight it, so that’s the reason why she got to stay home.

J.W: Rheumatic fever, what is that? I’ve heard of that, what, I mean what how did that make you, what did that, what did that do, do you know?

D.J: I don’t know. I have no clue.

J.W: You just all of a sudden felt sick?

D.J: I don’t remember that.

J.W: Alright so, now you would have been, would have been growing up in the sixties.

D.J: Right.

J.W: Right? And, that was kind of bad, I mean bad stuff happened. So tell me what you remember about growing up in the sixties.

D.J: Well, that’s when the Beatles come out for one thing. (chuckles)
J.W: Do you remember them coming over here?

D.J: Yeah, well I wanted Dave Clark Five. If they would have started a little bit sooner they would have topped the Beatles.

J.W: The Dave Clark Five?

D.J: Yeah, but the Beatles, ok. And then uh, 63’ our president Kennedy got killed.

J.W: Where were you when that happened?

D.J: I was in school. I was like in the fourth grade or fifth somewhere, I was in elementary. But um,

J.W: Now you know you were 13?

D.J: I was in math class. Well, I was in sixth grade then.

J.W: Yeah, because you would have been thirteen.

D.J: But, um, I was in math class and our science teacher came and got us out so we got to go in her room and watch it on t.v.

J.W: What did you think?

D.J: That was a, that was a trip. Ain’t never seen nothin like it. All except for Martin Luther King.

J.W: Go ahead. Tell me more.

D.J: Tell you more?

J.W: Yeah.

D.J: That was nine uh, 1968. I was in tenth grade. And uh, I was going to pass to a class and I was stopped in the hallway. Said I can’t go through there cause they got a, a sit in or something what they called it. I looked and all these black people were just
sittin. I mean the hallway was, you couldn’t get through, and uh, we had to exit through another door. They dismissed school all the rest of the day.

J.W: So, how did you get out?

D.J: We went out the back way.

J.W: Did you?

D.J: Yeah.

J.W: How did that affect, where were you grow, where were you at when Martin Luther King, I mean where, you guys live on Courteleu still?


J.W: Woodward High School?

D.J: Yeah.

J.W: So, did you see a lot of stuff happen between race issues, like black and whites fighting each other and stuff while that was going on? Did you see a lot of that stuff?

D.J: Actually, not then up until he got killed. After he got killed that’s when the more violence and everything has broken out. I mean it was more peaceful.

J.W: Before they killed Martin Luther King?

D.J: Yeah.

J.W: And you also, that was also the same year Bobby died. Bobby Kennedy.

D.J: Yeah, Bobby Kennedy, yeah. I felt really bad when he got killed. Cause, I thought he’s got ten kids. That, that was sad. But he would have been our next president.

J.W: Think so?

D.J: Oh, I know he would’ve. Even dad said he would have been the next president.

J.W: Grandpa was a republican wasn’t he?
D.J: Well, at times. Until the seventies.

J.W: Alright, so you grew up in the sixties, you seen some people die, and you also seen flower power is that right?

D.J: Yeah. Were the hippies and uh, the yuppies, I don’t know what else they called them. But I never knew about it until the seventies.

J.W: You didn’t?

D.J: No, not until I met Garry. Learned a lot when I met Garry.

J.W: Did you? What kind of stuff did you learn when you met Gary?

D.J: Well, just like I told you I didn’t know, I never knew none of that. (laughs)

J.W: Alright, so what kind of stuff did you like to do when you was growing up being a teenager? In the sixties, which was the great era of music.

D.J: Well, what I always did was I went to the store for this old lady. I used to ride my bike, carry my radio. I always had my radio with me. Dad say, “Yeah, everybody knows who you are.” I said, “Yeap.” Hmm.

J.W: Care it with you, have it on playing music?

D.J: That’s right. I had it up full blast.

J.W: Well, see that’s where I get it from.

D.J: Yeap. Taught you well didn’t I?

J.W: Uh-huh. So, what kind of tunes did you listen to?

D.J: WSAI.

J.W: WSAI well, their still around. Who were the d.j.s back then?

D.J: Yeah, but they changed. Dusty Rhodes.

J.W: Oh really? The guy on the oldies station?
D.J: Yeah, and Scott, I can't think of his name, but Scott. And there was another one. I can't think now. Dave somebody.

J.W: So, WSAI didn't have Wolfman Jack?

D.J: Yeah, they had Wolfman Jack. Late at night.

J.W: He was pretty popular back then wasn't he? So, did you like school?


J.W: Now tell me about the old lady. You said that there was an old lady you did somethin for?

D.J: Oh, I went to the store for her.

J.W: Did ya?


J.W: Is it?

D.J: Yeah, and my snack money. (laughs) I used to carry her garbage cans in once a week. Made a quarter.

J.W: And what would that get you?

D.J: A pop and a bag of chips, candy. Whatever I wanted it got me.

J.W: Was it Pepsi?

D.J: Yeah, you know it!

J.W: Yeah, I figured it was. So, grandma and grandpa didn't buy a bunch of pop back then huh?

D.J: Nope. They didn't buy nothin like that.

J.W: So, how was, when you, when you got out and were being a teenager and stuff did, you said your eyes were affected, so did you try to get a drivers license?
D.J: No. I could never drive. That's what the doctor always told me. I'd never be able to drive. So, I had no desire.

J.W: You had no desire? Not even once when you like turned 16 did you think, well?

D.J: No, nope, no. I walked where ever I wanted to go.

J.W: So, how was datin in your house with three girls? And a mom and a dad. When did he become a preacher? Did he become a preacher when you were growing up or was that after you were grown?

D.J: After I was grown.

J.W: Oh, so, you didn’t have a preacher daddy then?

D.J: He was an alcoholic.

J.W: Well, from one extreme to the other.

D.J: And he was also a gambler.

J.W: Was he? Did grandma work the whole time you was growing up?

D.J: Yeap. She used to work down at Husmanns. Then I think she went from Husmanns to Owens Illinois.

J.W: Owens Illinois, now supposedly there was a lot of people who got sick from working there. Do you know anything about that?

D.J: What at Owens?

J.W: Yeah.

D.J: No.

J.W: That is what Becky was sayin.

D.J: I haven’t heard nothing about it.
J.W: Somethin about Uncle Carl put in his thirty years at Owens and then got out, because somethin in their lungs, asbestos or somethin.

D.J: I'll have to ask him because I haven't heard nothin about that.

J.W: So, what was it like growing up? Did you go out on a lot dates? Did you and your sisters have a lot of beauty fights?

D.J: No. No. We weren't aloud to date. What's wrong with you?

J.W: Well, I know that but they don't know that

D.J: Oh, (laughs)

J.W: So, what did you do for fun? Carried around your radio, listened to music.

D.J: Played kickball. When we was aloud outside. We weren't aloud out a whole lot.

J.W: Why was that?

D.J: That's how mom and dad was.

J.W: What did you do? Sit in the house?

D.J: Had to clean.

J.W: Well, if you weren't aloud to date, how did you meet dad?

D.J: At church.

J.W: At church?

D.J: Mmhh.

J.W: Is that Helen and Troy's church?

D.J: Yeah, he was goin…

J.W: You liked them. You liked Helen and Troy. That's grandpa's cousin right? Troy is grandpa's cousin.

D.J: First cousin.
J.W: And Helen is his wife.

D.J: Yeah.

J.W: Now they have a bunch of kids.

D.J: They got seven

J.W: And you babysat a lot.

D.J: Yeah. They got six girls and one boy.

J.W: And Helen keeps swearin that you named your baby after her baby.

D.J: Nah. It was your grandma Lambert that named her.

J.W: Alright, so you met dad at church.

D.J: Yeah, yeah he was goin with Cheryl at the time. Cheryl told me she was breaking up with him and she gave me his ring to give to him. I said, “Well who is he? Which one?” So, she pointed him out to me. I took his ring to him and I told him what she said. The next thing I know, he was at my house.

J.W: What was he doin at your house?

D.J: Tryin to date me.

J.W: Tryin to date you? How did you like that?

D.J: I did, but I got accused of being on his motorcycle.

J.W: Dad had a motorcycle?

D.J: Yeah.

J.W: What kind of motorcycle did he have, do you know?

D.J: He had a Honda, but I don’t know other than that. Yeah.

J.W: I ain’t never seen you on the back of a motorcycle.

D.J: Well, I got killed for it believe me. Never was on it.
J.W: Well, how did you two date if he had a motorcycle that you was never on?

D.J: Oh, we found our ways.

J.W: How long did you guys date before you got married?

D.J: Well, actually, I hadn’t seen or talked to your dad for like a year. And, uh, mom come in from work told me and Tyline to string these beans. So, while we was stringing these beans mom went through my purse, found these four packs of cigarettes. They weren’t mine, but I wasn’t going to tell whose they were. But I got killed over that. So, I took out of the house once I got my purse. I was going up the street, dad was pulling into the drive, or, yeah, into the driveway. I come back with the police with me. But the police lied to me. They told me they would stay there and wait you know, and then take me where I wanted to go. And they didn’t. They said they weren’t aloud to take me out of the house. I would have to walk out on my own. So, anyway, after they left then dad said, “You love him?” Yeah. “You want to marry him?” Yeah. “Well, get him on the phone. You get ahold of him right now.” Him and mom was going somewhere. He said, “By the time we get back you better have him here tomorrow night.” So, that’s how we got married.

J.W: You got married the next night?

D.J: No. No, he had to come to the house so he (laughs) knows he’s getting married. He didn’t know he was getting married.

J.W: Now, did you get along with his family alright?

D.J: His mom, I loved her to death.

J.W: Now was you around when Uncle Bernie, his youngest brother, cause now Vietnam was going on too.
D.J.: Yeah.

J.W.: Wasn't you around, wasn't you.. something was pulled with him?

D.J.: He went AWOL. And we found him. A couple of times he went AWOL. But we found him walking home from Susie’s house.

J.W.: Susie, that was his girlfriend.

D.J.: Yeah, uh huh.

J.W.: Now where was he based at? Was he just in the boot camp? Had he just started?

D.J.: Yeah. Yeah, but now how he got out of the service and that I don’t know. That I could never understand.

J.W.: Do you know what branch he was in?

D.J.: I’m tryin to think what the uniform, I think it was the Army or the Marines. One of the two. But I think it was the Army.

J.W.: Now did you, did you uh, protest the Vietnam war? Did you get involved in any of that?

D.J.: No.

J.W.: What did you think about all of that?

D.J.: Really, and truthfully, I didn’t really understand what was going on. I know Bonnie’s husband was over there. But that’s about all I knew. I didn’t really understand why we were fighting to begin with.

J.W.: But you didn’t say nothing?

D.J.: No.

J.W.: Did you do that because of Uncle Jimmy being in there? I mean, do you think, if Uncle Jimmy wouldn’t have been in the service maybe you would have been..?
D.J: I don’t know.

J.W: Did you write to him?

D.J: No.

J.W: No?

D.J: No, that was Bonnie’s boyfriend and her husband.

J.W: Well, I didn’t know if you all sent him like letters you know.

D.J: No.

J.W: And how long was he over there?

D.J: Uh, he was in the service two, I believe it was two years maybe three.

J.W: Now were you and dad together when he was over there?

D.J: We got married, no he was already out of the service I guess. Because Bonnie and Jimmy got married in 66. I got married in 68. So, I think Jimmy had just gotten out of service.

J.W: So, how long did it take to plan your wedding? Sounds like grandpa got it rollin for ya.

D.J: I’m tryin to think. It was like a week. I think it was like a week we had.

J.W: So, you all got married a week after grandpa said call him over here?

D.J: Yeah, yeah, we had, it might have been three days, but I’m sayin a week.

J.W: Well, that was fast.

D.J: Yeah, it was fast. Didn’t even have a car, no place to live (laughs). It was, it was terrible.

J.W: What did you guys do?
D.J: We lived with mom and dad for about a week. Dad got an apartment ready for us. Then, we moved there.

J.L: So, grandpa owned property already then?

D.J: Yeah.

J.W: The property, property down on Eastern Avenue?

D.J: Right.

J.W: And then you were married to dad and you had kids.

D.J: Yeap.

J.W: So, how did you like that? You didn’t have any complications because of your childhood sickness?

D.J: Well, my doctor was with me when I had you. Yeah, but he was shocked when I had Becky.

J.W: Was he?

D.J: Yeah, and I had her natural.

J.W: So, he was surprised that you had Becky huh?

D.J: Yeah. I was too.

J.W: Yeah you too? Well, I thought you had planned to have.. two years.

D.J: I did.

J.W: Ain’t that the story? Tell that story.

D.J: I did. Dad come to the hospital told me when I had you. He said, “I bet you aren’t going to have no more are ya?” I smiled at him, held up two fingers, and I said, “Two years.” In two years he come back to the hospital he says, “Hmmm, you already got one, you don’t need this one. Why don’t you give this one to Bonnie? You know she can’t
have any. Don’t you feel sorry for her? Why don’t you give her that baby?” I said, “If Bonnie wants to have a baby she can have one on her own. This ones mine.” Hmm, that’s how it went.

J.W: Now you said grandma Lambert named Becky, that’s dad’s mom.

D.J: Right. Yeah, she come to the hospital and she asked me if I had a name for the baby and I said, “No, not really I was thinkin.” She said well, she said, it’s up to you she said but I would really love for you to name her after my mom. And I said, “Well, what’s her name?” She said, “Rebecca.” “Yeah, I said, I can do that.” And that’s what I did.

J.W: You were pretty close to grandma Lambert?

D.J: Yeah. Yeah, I was. She was more like a mom to me.

J.W: You guys usually stayed pretty close to her. When you guys were married. I mean ‘cause I remember always livin like close to grandma.

D.J: Well, we lived underneath her, (laughs) above her, I mean yeah, we were pretty close. She taught me how to wash clothes. Taught me how to cook somewhat, a little bit. Still wish she would have taught me how to make her lemon murgange pie though. She could make those.

J.W: Now, you and dad divorced. You got married in 68 and you divorced in?

D.J: 75.

J.W: How did grandma Lambert react to that?

D.J: She never did say anything to me about it. I guess she knew I was kind of tired the way your dad was doin me.

J.W: What do you mean?
D.W: Well, he was seeing his other women. Wouldn't hold a job either. I never knew where we was gonna live from day to day. I got tired of it.

J.W: Yeah, I remember. You got real tired. Pam threw a pop bottle at his head as I recall.

D.J: Nah, that was my cousin.

J.W: Yeah, Pam wasn't it?

D.J: Well, he accused me of going out. Here I find out that he was cheating on me. I just didn't want to come home because I knew that I had yous there, with me drinkin cause that was the first time I really had anything to drink. And I knew your dad was there and I thought well he can take care of yous for one night. And he got mad.

J.W: How did grandma and grandpa react to you and dad gettin divorced?

D.J: Oh, they were happy about that.

J.W: Were they?

D.J: Yeah, they never did like your dad.

J.W: Was grandpa preachin by then?

D.J: I don't know when he start... no, it had to be close to the eighties I guess. Because Tyline said that's when they bought that church or uh, when they were going to church. Whatever. That's how she got to date Bob. Cause mom and dad was never home.

J.W: She was 26 then wasn't she? No, she was 26 when they got married.

D.J: Yeah.

J.W: So, after the divorce you met Garry. He would become your second husband. You guys would be together until he died in 1987.

D.J: And we still would have been together if he hadn't have died.
J.W: Yeap. You guys had G.W., Garry.

D.J: Seventy-eight.

J.W: When did you guys get married?

D.J: 76.

J.W: 76? When you guys first got married, is that when you bought the house in Price Hill?

D.J: No, actually Garry was buyin that before we got married. That’s the reason why it wasn’t in my name.

J.W: I didn’t know about that.

D.J: That’s what I said about Becky. It’s not in her name. Even if she marries him it won’t be in her name.

J.W: So, when you got pregnant with G.W. did you want a boy?

D.J: I knew it was going to be a boy. I did. I knew right off. I had the same feeling when I was pregnant with you. I said you was gonna be a girl.

J.W: Did you?

D.J: Doctors and everybody was shocked, ‘cause you were a girl. ‘Cause they kept tellin me it was a boy.

J.W: Well, back in 1969, weren’t you supposed to have the boys first?

D.J: Well, (chuckles) no, I wanted the girl.

J.W: (laughing) I wanted the girl. So, what’s it been like watching these kids of yours grow up?

D.J: I love all my kids. Even though the one don’t think I do, but I do. It’s been an experience.
J.W: Well, tell me more about that.

D.J: No. (laughs) Kids are going to be kids. Just look at yours. You got 5. Are we just about done?

J.W: No, we’re not. Do you want to take a break?

D.J: Yeah.

J.W: Alright, we’ll take a break. No, go ahead, ‘cause you was just talkin. Go ahead.

D.J: (laughs) I was just tellin ya.

J.W: You just remembered. Go ahead. So, this is when we were livin down on River Road.

D.J: Yeah, we lived on River Road and this lady I used to go to bingo with I can’t remember her name or nothin she was an older lady, I didn’t go with her that night. She got hit.

J.W: Hit by a car?

D.J: Yeah. She got killed.

J.W: What did you guys have to cross the street or somethin?

D.J: Well, I would have to cross ‘cause she lived on the other side and you know I would stop and get her. And then we, we had to go back across River Road to the church to the bingo.

J.W: So, that’s where she got hit at? Tryin to cross River Road?

D.J: Yeah.

J.W: Did it kill her?

D.J: Yeah.

J.W: Did you feel guilty about that?
D.J: Yeah, 'cause I should have been with her. If I would have been with her I don’t think she would have got hit.

J.W: Did they ever say why she got hit? I mean like was it a drunk driver or an accident?

D.J: I don’t know. I think she ran, she walked out in front of it and didn’t see the car from what I hear. I don’t know.

J.W: So, when we lived on River Road that would be during that time we also had that tornado.

D.J: Right.

J.W: And that’s the same tornado of 1974 that hit Xenia, Ohio and hit it bad.


J.W: Now that’s by River Road right?

D.J: (coughs) Yeap.

J.W: Tell me about that tornado. I remember a little bit but not a lot.

D.J: Well, I was in the bathtub taking me a bath. Next thing I knew your dads hollerin come on you gotta get out, you gotta get out the telephone pole just hit the house. So, I hurried and got out. Ran out. Yeah, the telephone pole was layin up against the house and it had a transformer on it. But, luckily no damage to us. But, we went over to your grandma Lamberts and stayed with her. She only lived two doors from us then. So, that was a big walk. But yeah, it tore Saylor Park up. And you could see it goin down the river, the tornado.

J.W: Oh, really?

D.J: Yeah, that was somethin else. Scary.
J.W: So, did a lot of people get hurt in Saylor Park?

D.J: I don’t know. I don’t remember. Probably did though.

J.W: Did any of dad’s brother’s or dad help with cleanin it up?

D.J: No, not that I know of.

J.W: Alright so, you had G, Garry, you and Garry were together. He was a fishin man. You got to see the world, cause dad didn’t take you nowhere. What kind of stuff did you and Garry do? ’Cause that would have been a romance of the seventies.

D.J: (chuckles) We used to travel a lot.

J.W: He had a Chevy van....

D.J: Yeah. NO! Ford.

J.W: Wasn’t that the thing to have back then a van?

D.J: It was a Ford van. Yeah. He had his fixed up too.

J.W: So, where did you guys go? What’s your best trip you remember takin with Garry?

D.J: Cedars Point, Sandusky. It’s really pretty up there.

J.W: How long did you stay?

D.J: We stayed I think three days. Because, when we got there we found out on a certain night, or a certain day, at that uh, like Kings Island, they got date night pay you know one price your date gets in for half price. So, we went back for that.

J.W: Were you guys just datin then or were you married?

D.J: No, we were married then.

J.W: What’s your worse trip you remember takin with him?

D.J: Indiana.
J.W: Indiana, where were you goin in Indiana?

D.J: That was the day mom and dad took you kids away from me.

J.W: Me and Becky?

D.J: Mmmhmm.

J.W: How did that happen?

D.J: I don't know how it happened. But, I know your dad's mom called and told me I better leave 'cause mom and dad's got custody and their on their way to get yas. So, I told Garry this, but he had company, so we had to wait for his company to leave. Time his company got ready to leave police was already out there to get yas.

J.W: So, grandma and grandpa took us with the police?

D.J: Yeah.

J.W: And then what, you guys left to go to Indiana?

D.J: Well, we left. I didn't know where we was goin, but I found out, we went to Indiana.

J.W: What did you think? Did you think you was going for a ride or.....

D.J: Yeah. But uh, Garry got too drunk and he got pulled over by the police. We was headed back home, or to his mom and dad's house. And um, they kept him. He told me not to call his mom and dad. He gave me his wallet, you know, with money and that. He said I could bond him out the next day. Well, the next day came and I found out. Hmmm, they hadn't started court or nothin but the judge told me I better get his mom and dad. So, I went and called his mom and dad. They went into the judge's chambers, come out and the judge told me what to do to get yous back. I followed everything she said step by step.
J.W: How long did it take you to get us back from grandma and grandpa?

D.J: 15 months.

J.W: You know, that would have been what year? Seventy-six?

D.J: Seventy-five to seventy-six. They took yous away from me in 75.

J.W: So, you had us back for two years before you had G.

D.J: Yeap.

J.W: You didn’t have much of a relationship with grandma and grandpa for awhile.

D.J: No. I had to go live with them every once in awhile, but I didn’t have no money or nothin.

J.W: Ok, so you only would go live with them every once in awhile? Grandma and grandpa?

D.J: Yeah.

J.W: We would go live with them too.

D.J: Yeah.

J.W: Yeah. And... So what was it like not never driving? Did that make you feel like, like you had to count on other people, you know, like, I mean, how did that affect your life? Not being able to drive? Because, especially everybody drives to go anywhere. I mean you can’t.....

D.J: Back then it didn’t bother me, but as I have gotten older it has.

J.W: Why’s that?

D.J: Because, don’t have nobody to do it. You know you gotta call, and I don’t know. It just seems like a hassle if only I could drive I’d say.

J.W: Why didn’t it bother you back then?
D.J: I don't know it just never did.

J.W: Is that 'cause Garry was around? 'Cause Garry drove.

D.J: No. This is even when I was younger.

J.W: Well, when you was younger you’d walk everywhere.

D.J: Yeah.

J.W: And I remember we use to take the bus a lot. But you don’t do that so much anymore.

D.J: No. It’s not safe to go downtown.

J.W: Is that how you feel?

D.J: Yeah.

J.W: What’s changed about downtown that you don’t feel safe down there now?

D.J: There’s a lot of killin goin on and everything.

J.W: So, is the world a lot different now.....

D.J: Yeah. Yeah, 'cause back then you could go out. I mean anybody could go out and feel safe. You can’t do that no more. Even in the seventies you could go out and feel safe. Not no more.

J.W: So, what’s one of your best memories?

D.J: That I don’t know. I would think it would be the hospital. I miss being there.

J.W: What’s one of your biggest regrets?

D.J: Having Becky.

J.W: Uh-uh!

D.J: Ycap.

J.W: Why is that?
D.J: Well, for the way she’s done me. I mean, really and truthfully. This time hurt deep down inside.

J.W: Becky always, you always had trouble getting along with Becky?

D.J: No.

J.W: When would you say your relationship with Becky kind a went crazy, queer?

D.J: When I moved out on her this time.

J.W: Kind a took me back when you said your biggest regret was having Becky. I was waitin for somethin else. Do you remember when they walked on the moon?

D.J: What the three astronauts?

J.W: Yeah.

D.J: John Glenn, yeah. I was in science class. Yeah. Watched it on t.v.

J.W: What did you think about that?

D.J: I thought that was neat. I said, “Maybe one of these days there might be somebody up there.”

J.W: You know now there tryin to say that, that never even really happened, they staged that all in a studio?

D.J: What?

J.W: Them walking on the moon.

D.J: How could they stage it?

J.W: I don’t know. That’s what they were sayin on some t.v. station.

D.J: No, it actually happened.

J.W: Did you feel proud to be an American?

D.J: Yeah.
J.W: Do you feel proud to be an American now?

D.J: I guess. Not the same like I did, but you just don’t know what’s going to happen. This war, you know it’s going to be a war.

J.W: How do you feel about that?

D.J: In a way, I’m kinda scared, but not as scared as I was.

J.W: Do you think we should go to war?

D.J: No.

J.W: How do you feel about being a grandma?

D.J: I love that.

J.W: You like being a grandma, or a mom better? Which one you like better?

D.J: Grandma.

J.W: Grandma?

D.J: ‘Cause you can take’em when you want and you can also give’em back. You get to spoil’em, you get to do anything you want. Then you gotta give them back.

J.W: Yeah, when they start whining right?

D.J: Uh-huh, (laughs) that’s right.

J.W: Uh-huh. Do you worry about the boys growing up?


J.W: Now, your mom died 5 years ago.

D.J: Eight years.

J.W: Eight Years.

D.J: Ninety-five.

J.W: And grandpa just died last month.

J.W: Do you feel like you guys made amends or patched up your relationship before they died?

D.J: No. There's a lot of questions unanswered right now. One of these days I will see them.

J.W: What are you gonna say to them?

D.J: I want to know why. The way they did me. And even when they died, why did they do this to me?

J.W: Are you talking about the will?

D.J: Yeah.

J.W: How does that make you feel about your sisters?

D.J: At the moment I hate' em, but you still gotta love' em because they're your sisters. And that's somethin hard to deal with.

J.W: All in all, are you happy with the life you lived so far?

D.J: Yeah.

J.W: Did you ever work?

D.J: No.

J.W: How's that make you feel? 'Cause, women were going to work in the seventies. Did you like being at home and being a mom?

D.J: That's what I always had planned. I wanted to be with my kids.

J.W: Do you think spending time with your kids helps keep them out of trouble?

D.J: Yeah.

J.W: Ok mom, do you have anything else to say before we end this?
D.J: No, that’s about it.

J.W: That’s about it?

D.J: Yeah. You can turn it off.

J.W: I can turn it off? You don’t want to put one last life touching moment ..... or life learned lesson?

D.J: No.