



City of Alexandria
Office of Historic Alexandria
Alexandria Legacies
Oral History Program



Project Name: *Alexandria Legacies*

Title: *Interview with Norman Grimm*

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Location of Interview: *Alexandria, Virginia, riding around Del Ray in a car*

Interviewer: *Pam Cressey*

Transcriber: *Amanda Iacobelli*

Abstract: Norman Grimm was born on September 18, 1931, and has lived in Alexandria his whole life. With a broad knowledge of the Del Ray area of the city, Norman takes us on a tour of the Del Ray streets, revealing stories of the Cottage Park neighborhood, the Potomac Yard railroad area, the “Raymond Houses,” and the changes in the area over time. He also shares memories of being a kid, sledding, and attending George Washington High School.

This transcript has been edited by the interviewee and may not reflect the audio-recording exactly.

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Home	
Pamela Cressey:	This is East Howell [Avenue].
Norman Grimm:	This is where I lived at...the ballpark and where the old house was...as a matter of fact I had a guy show me a picture at the last GW [George Washington High School] luncheon I should have got a copy. He had the poor house in the background.
P.C.:	Oh that would be a good picture to see.
Norman Grimm:	I will try to get one. Jug Head Bailey had it—well, Calvin's wife does not want us to call him Jug Head anymore [interviewer laughs]. You know how they get [unintelligible].
P.C.:	Anymore? You know what age is he, seventy-nine now? [Laughs]
Norman Grimm:	Well Jug Head is let's see, I'm 73, so Jug Head is—has to be...almost 80.
P.C.:	Oh so it's probably about time, huh?
Norman Grimm:	Yes. They said she does not want us to call him Jug Head anymore. I don't like that.
P.C.:	[Laughs] Do you remember how he got his name?
Norman Grimm:	Yes. He used to carry jugs with him to a ball game, you know, and...
P.C.:	You mean to drink?
Norman Grimm:	No. Water...
P.C.:	Yeah, well, I mean water...to drink.
Norman Grimm:	He never drank, Jug Head never drank. But every time he [unintelligible] he had a jug with him, drinking water, so his nickname became Jug Head [interviewer laughs].
Simpson Stadium	
Norman Grimm:	We'll walk right this way so that way I can point down there for you.
P.C.:	Okay. So was this originally called Simpson Stadium?
Norman Grimm:	Oh no...this was the...the...just the Alexandria Ballpark or the Alexandria Municipal Stadium.
P.C.:	But it was city property?
Norman Grimm:	Oh yes, this was all city property.
P.C.:	And was it here as long as you remember?
Norman Grimm:	Oh yes [laughs]...

P.C.:	So you don't remember them coming in and making it when you were a kid?
Norman Grimm:	Oh no...I guess it's been here since...[sigh] I guess [19]29 on up.
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	But...
The Poor House and the Ballpark	
P.C.:	...and where was the poor house, was—
Norman Grimm:	Right over here [intersection of Monroe Avenue and Jefferson Davis Highway].
P.C.:	Closer to...Route 1?
Norman Grimm:	Yes. I'll show you, that is where we're headed right now.
P.C.:	Okay.
Norman Grimm:	The...remember I told you come over the bridge and make a hard right to go down, well over that was the RF&P [Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac] property and I'll show you that later. But the poor house...set...about...on an angle...about like this, close you could sit up over here and see the traffic go by, and it was a big old four-story building, porch all the way around it...
P.C.:	Big old farmhouse or do you think it was originally built—
Norman Grimm:	...No it was a red brick house, it was built to be a poor house.
P.C.:	It was? I didn't realize that.
Norman Grimm:	Yes. It was big, it was tremendous, well at my age you know you're this small it looked big but—
P.C.:	...so the gable and...faced on Route 1...
Norman Grimm:	...No. It faced...
P.C.:	...towards Jefferson Davis Highway and Monroe Avenue.
Norman Grimm:	It faced up this way.
P.C.:	Okay, faced toward Monroe and the bridge.
Norman Grimm:	Yeah that way. Now...then, this is where I told you where they...we used to come over here with the kids on the playgrounds and it had this big old kettle. And they built a fire under the kettle, the people from the recreation department, and some adult personnel. You'd come in; everybody brought whatever they had, threw it in, potatoes, carrots, I don't care what, you just throw it in there. And we played...over all the old fields and had competition against one another, and then all of a sudden you come back over here and you

	always kept a can that you brought the stuff in like corn or tomatoes and you kept that with you. And then you had a spoon and you'd come over and dip it in that and that's what you ate that evening after the competition of events. Once a year you'd do that to have a big party like that.
P.C.:	I can just see that...
Norman Grimm:	...Oh...let me tell you...
P.C.:	...you're making it so clear.
Norman Grimm:	...it was so beautiful that,...you know we don't, you didn't realize it when you were doing it what was happening, but everyone was togetherness, everybody at Del Ray, across the bridge, you know, that's the way it was.
P.C.:	It was.
Norman Grimm:	Then, the poor house out here, then, if you can picture...uh, coming...from down here all the way around there, way past that sign over there, all the way around here, come back here come back here, was a board fence all the way around this park. Now, the stands, like where that back stops at, facing that way, the stands were right here, that way and they were all boards.
P.C.:	Solid boards?
Norman Grimm:	Yes...now what we did, sneak in, see they charged you to get into the ballgames on Saturdays and Sundays...[P.C. laughs]...oh, in that far corner where we had one board where we, we would, in the evening, pry it up a little bit, and then another one over there and another one over here. So what you could do you could look around and see if anyone was looking and you could kick the board and a couple of us would scoot in and you pull it back you know [laughs].
P.C.:	You were...[laughs]...so...you never missed an angle, right?
Norman Grimm:	Oh no. Listen[laughs] You learn it from your older brothers I think! [both laugh]
Norman Grimm's Family	
P.C.:	Where were you in the family?
Norman Grimm:	I was the youngest boy...
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	There was...Henry was the oldest, then Herbert was next, then Ralph, then was Shirley—oh no, and then it was Joyce, my sister that died with cancer, and then myself and then Shirley.
P.C.:	Shirley was the baby?

Norman Grimm:	Oh yeah, she was Daddy's little girl. My Mama used to twirl her hair and put it up in strips of brown paper to hold the little curls. She looked like Shirley Temple.
P.C.:	Blond?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah...we called her Shirley but she was Sissy, we called her Sissy.
Ball Games and Playing Fields and an Airplane Crash	
Norman Grimm:	But, this field here was not there, this was just a part of the Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac Railroad property.
P.C.:	So it was just sort of stuff around...
Norman Grimm:	Well, the highway then was just two lanes, used to be back over this way, this would have been home plate to us years ago.
P.C.:	Oh...right here?
Norman Grimm:	No to...back that way for a field, that was the big field over here [laughs], but we made this an extra field for us to...
P.C.:	...just play in...
Norman Grimm:	...play baseball and you'd hit the ball sometimes and it would go over on Jefferson Davis Highway and you had to stop. There's not too much traffic now. Then we had, if you look right down that...see where that bank goes up?
P.C.:	Yes
Norman Grimm:	If you get down that way further, which is down by the highway, and all those houses and everything was there, there was a ditch, big ditch, from there all the way back over to way over here, by the end of that building there, this is all property and you're coming off of Bellefonte Avenue, which I'll show you in a minute, and...you would park your cars in here and every day there was something going on this field. There was...we may challenge...the Alexandria team to a baseball game or a football game and that's where you played it on that field.
P.C.:	So there were lots of teams?
Norman Grimm:	Oh yeah! I mean, you like...Del Ray was one part, Hume Springs was another, Braddock Heights was another...Fort Ward was another...you know...
P.C.:	...so were they kinda informal, like the guys just got together and then you just called yourself—
Norman Grimm:	That's right. No uniforms...
P.C.:	...no uniform.
Norman Grimm:	...I could show you some old pictures of me with my brother's

	shoulder pads on and...[laughs]. But this was all field and we played on this and it was called the Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac field.
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	Because over there was the railroad.
P.C.:	But it was very informal?
Norman Grimm:	Oh yeah it was just...
P.C.:	...Did you line it out?
Norman Grimm:	Oh yeah...
P.C.:	...it was lined out.
Norman Grimm:	...oh yeah, we would...come over here and get Willy Brown to give us a bag of lime you know and we'd walk along. Willie was the caretaker of the field.
P.C.:	You'd just do it yourself?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, with a can and make a line in it...
P.C.:	What did you use for the bases?
Norman Grimm:	Well...Willy Brown would find an extra old pair of bases that was no longer any good it was...torn and stuff...and we'd just throw them on the ground, they were not tied or staked down like they're supposed to, you'd hit them and they'd fly out you know, and we made a...we didn't have a back stop. I think later on some of the older guys got together, got some wood somewhere, and made a...thing up in the air and put some chicken wire across it...
P.C.:	...now why couldn't you play on the regular field?
Norman Grimm:	Oh this, that's a no, you respected that field because it was for the adults to play on...
P.C.:	...Oh...
Norman Grimm:	...and it was kept perfect.
P.C.:	So there were adult teams too?
Norman Grimm:	Oh yeah, there was adult teams all the time...that played.
P.C.:	All different Alexandria teams?
Norman Grimm:	Oh yes, yeah, and they would bring teams in from the military places would play over here, like Fort Belvoir may have a baseball team and they'd come and play the Alexandria team.
P.C.:	So those would be more formal...
Norman Grimm:	...Yeah...

P.C.:	...games and it'd be already arranged...
Norman Grimm:	...Yeah...
P.C.:	...so people would all know and then people would show up to watch the game...
Norman Grimm:	The American Legion played here...gosh...that was, that was a big day, you know, you'd come to the ballpark...
P.C.:	Saturdays or—
Norman Grimm:	Sunday, see we had the blue law. You could not buy anything on Sunday...except at a drugstore if you needed medication and milk for a child.
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	Other than that...no beer, no whisky. No. You couldn't buy anything.
P.C.:	No store was open.
Norman Grimm:	No store was open. Except drugstores.
P.C.:	Right, right.
Norman Grimm:	Blue law. Now...
P.C.:	...Oh, by the way, did you lock your van? I left my purse in there.
Norman Grimm:	I don't know whether I did or not but I may have. I'll see...anyway we'll head back that way. I'll show you where we will drive to now.
P.C.:	Okay.
Norman Grimm:	But [laughs] it's a laugh, I got called out one night when I was commanding the department, a plane was coming through here trying to get over to the airport and he was running out of gas and they told him to try to find and look for the searchlights and look for the lights and head for them. So he thought...when he saw these lights at Potomac Yards he thought it was the airport but he realized it wasn't, so then he tried to get back up but he hit that...he hit a light pole right down the middle and dropped the plane down, and the guy got hurt a little bit but not much. It wasn't going that fast and wasn't that high.
P.C.:	And nobody else was around at the time?
Norman Grimm:	No...so [laughs] they called us out and we had to come out here and get him. That wasn't too long ago, that's in the paper somewhere. But see, this was a little league ballpark I told you about that I brought Arch McDonald [announcer for the Washington Senators] when they opened the stadium up the first year, and this was a junior league park. Nothing like what they have now. We had nothing like this I mean [laughs] that thing is unbelievable!

P.C.:	Well, baseball still stayed...softball stayed very strong in Alexandria hasn't it?
Norman Grimm:	Oh Lord, that was...we used to have more softball teams than sometimes baseball teams.
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	We used to play over here all the time.
P.C.:	So that was a real treat, when Willy Brown let you play...
Norman Grimm:	...Oh that was...
P.C.:	...on the adult field in the morning.
Norman Grimm:	...oh we'd play there in the mornings and...later on, of course, after I got married and I had my children, my children played on that same field over there by YMCA.
P.C.:	So there are really three fields here?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, yeah...
P.C.:	...essentially.
Norman Grimm:	...That was just a field that had all high elephant grass. Later on the back part of which I'll show you was knocked off and that's where my kids used to play and Paul Alan and all the kids that lived in the neighborhood.
Marriage and Baseball	
P.C.:	Did you stay in Del Ray then?
Norman Grimm:	Huh?
P.C.:	As an adult after you got married, did you stay living in Del Ray?
Norman Grimm:	When I got married in February of [19]51, my wife she was living downtown, and when we got married we moved into a small apartment on West Grove Avenue. One bedroom and a kitchen, a bedroom, everything was all in one little room...
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	...and that was where we stayed until...I guess it was about a year...[car doors open]
P.C.:	...Are we going to take off again?
Norman Grimm:	Yes.
P.C.:	Okay.
Norman Grimm:	If you wanted to make a baseball team you had to go do it yourself, that was it.

P.C.:	Do it yourself?
Norman Grimm:	That's right. And I would thank God for it, because we had to learn that if we wanted to do something we had to do it ourselves.
Touring Duncan Avenue	
Norman Grimm:	Now, this is [Leslie Avenue went all the way to Duncan Avenue]. I'll show you, but it was blocked off, you could not go through here. [next to the ballpark].
P.C.:	There was a fence you mean or—
Norman Grimm:	No, it was a big post put in the ground all the way across there so you couldn't get out.
P.C.:	So at the back of the current YMCA parking lot, there were big posts you couldn't...is that Bellefonte [Avenue] over there?
Norman Grimm:	No, that's Duncan [Avenue].
P.C.:	That's Duncan [Avenue]...you couldn't get through to Duncan [Avenue].
Norman Grimm:	Now, this is where, if you look from here all the way over there all of this—all the way over here—this is where the kids played at because they couldn't get on the field later on. And they played my sons, and Paul, Alan, and Danny Sullivan, they all played in this area right here. And that's where you knew your kids were.
P.C.:	And it was tall grass you said?
Norman Grimm:	Yes, but they knocked it all down so the kids could play in it. See, we'd come over here and knock it down so they could keep on playing.
Mr. Raymond's Houses	
Norman Grimm:	Now this house here, that's called a Raymond house. Now, I'm gonna explain that to you.
P.C.:	Okay so this is the gray one...
Norman Grimm:	...alright this but no but this was wood and it was painted.
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	And that was called one of Mr. Raymond's houses, and that one over there was one of Mr. Raymond's houses [Duncan Avenue, 300 block].
P.C.:	...the other gray wood one...
Norman Grimm:	[1700 and 1800 block DeWitt Avenue] Okay, and then all these apartments you see over here was owned by a man named Mr. Raymond. He had two brothers, one was Willis, the other was...let's see, Willis was one...I can't remember the other one, but anyhow, the

	<p>story goes—now, Mr. Raymond who always, don't care whether it was summer or winter, had his shirt rolled up here to his...this end. He was from England, and on the front of his big Cadillac or Buick—you'd have to picture this—would be three flags sittin' up the hood of the car, 'bout that tall, on the front of his car on the hood ornament, it'd be the British flag, the American flag, and some other kinda flag, all three of them was on his car all the time. Winter or summer he had shirt sleeves rolled up and he'd ride all around his property, checking and getting rent and so forth. Now [both laugh], he...and I'll show you some more of his houses right over here. That's...this is what I want to show you because it was...but Mr. Raymond's sons lived in some of those houses, the two houses, but I'll show you those. But the biggest thing was the old man was pretty good to us. I mean he never bothered you but he...the story was that he was really heartbroken because he had another son that went to New York and while he was up in New York he met somebody and they were going to take him somewhere and he was in the car and they ask him to drive. He started driving, they said go to the bank and park, and he went over allegedly to the bank and dropped those people off and he sat there waiting for them and they come running out the door, they'd shot a guy and...</p>
P.C.:	...they were bank robbers!?
Norman Grimm:	...robbed the bank. And they got...all of them got away but then they caught up with Raymond's son and they electrocuted him.
P.C.:	Oh no!
Norman Grimm:	He spend millions of dollars trying to save him...that is the story told me years ago.
Touring East Monroe and Dewitt Avenues	
Norman Grimm:	This was the Mundays' home [Southwest corner of Monroe and Leslie Avenues]. He was a railroad man and he rented rooms out to the railroad people...
P.C.:	...so that's 403 [East] Monroe [Avenue]...
Norman Grimm:	...yes.
P.C.:	And he rented rooms out?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah.
P.C.:	It always looked like such an elegant house.
Norman Grimm:	Oh it is, and that's the way it was all the time when he was a kid. Now...this church [Hand to Heaven Church] wasn't here at first, it came later on.
P.C.:	Uh huh.

Norman Grimm:	Then...this old house here came later on. But this one here was a boy we went to school with me named Robert Ryan.
P.C.:	So these are the brick capes that were built in the 1940s on...
Norman Grimm:	Yeah...
P.C.:	...this is on...Dewitt [Avenue].
Mr. Raymond's Houses on Mason and Duncan Avenues and the Duncans	
Norman Grimm:	...this is Mason Avenue that I want to show you now...we'll cut up here but we're going to come back any minute...but see the houses here?
P.C.:	Yeah, they're all the old wood ones...
Norman Grimm:	...Raymond's, Raymond's, Raymond's...[laughs]...old man Raymond owned that one, he owned this one...see, all these others were put in later.
P.C.:	Right...so 404, 406, 408...
Norman Grimm:	...408...uh...this one...you can tell them as soon as you look at them that they were Mr. Raymond's houses.
P.C.:	Yeah because all the rest were built probably after the war, right before or after the war...
Norman Grimm:	Yeah.
P.C.:	How did he acquire so many houses?
Norman Grimm:	He had money. He was an investor, I think, in something. But he also borrowed money. He built these apartments, and I'll show you them, They rented them...out during the war years.
P.C.:	Did he live here, somewhere here too?
Norman Grimm:	Oh yeah he lived in apartments.
P.C.:	He lived in apartments?
Norman Grimm:	[laughs] He was not going to let anyone get around him [laughs].
P.C.:	[laughs] Quite a landlord, huh?
Norman Grimm:	Oh...he was something, you had to see this big old man, looked like a bull. People were scared of him.
P.C.:	Wow. Now were these all working class people...
Norman Grimm:	...Oh yeah...
P.C.:	...or railroad people here?
Norman Grimm:	Uh huh. Now these came in later on. These on Mason Avenue. There the homes...

P.C.:	...the brick ones?
Norman Grimm:	Uh huh.
P.C.:	Yeah. Now tell me, these are fields or trees or...
Norman Grimm:	That was mainly just open field, I'm going to take you back up in a minute and show you some of that. Now if you look here you see, that was old man Raymond's apartment building, this is Mr. Raymond's apartment building...
P.C.:	...all the ones with the columns, this is 1707 and 1706 Dewitt [Avenue].
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. Now, if you look to your...I'm going to go up this way first.
P.C.:	What? He owned...these are...all of these?
Norman Grimm:	This one, this one, this one, this one. And that's a house I just pointed out to you I said was over there...
P.C.:	...right...
Norman Grimm:	...that was a house, this was a house...see?
P.C.:	...307, 308, 309...
Norman Grimm:	...these were built later on.
P.C.:	Yeah, you can really tell the brick townhouses are different.
Norman Grimm:	Oh yeah...
P.C.:	So all along Duncan [Avenue] here, all the wood frame houses are Mr. Raymond's and the big brick apartments?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. Now the reason why this street was called Duncan [Avenue] because the guy that owned Duncan he was a big farmer as I understand it and one of the Duncans lived up here and I'll show you that. We called her Gravel Gertie, she was one of those...[both laugh]. This was...these came in later, these came in the [19]40s...
P.C.:	...Ya...
Touring Duncan and Bellefonte Avenues	
Norman Grimm:	...and I'll show you some of those. Then this is where the Barnetts, the Flemings, they lived around the neighborhood. Then...[cell phone rings].
P.C.:	Just a sec [tape stops]. So now we're turning, what street are we on here?
Norman Grimm:	Well we're coming right out now onto Bellefonte Avenue, you see, off of Duncan [Avenue], see...Duncan curves around...
P.C.:	...oh, okay, Duncan [Avenue] curves over to Bellefonte [Avenue].

Norman Grimm:	Yeah, after [unintelligible] bringing you this way, we're going back that way in a minute, but see...that was, and all those houses were here.
P.C.:	Right.
Norman Grimm:	The old house was here, there's a little house over there on your left the yellow one you see here.
P.C.:	Yeah, the little...cottage one...
Norman Grimm:	That thing at the end was not there.
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	Just that yellow house, none of these. And...there were a couple old houses here, I don't know where they went. Then up on this side, which I'm going to show you...None of these were here.
Railroad House on La Grande Avenue	
Norman Grimm:	Now there's another one of what we called a railroad house. See that right there?
P.C.:	Oh this is the gold one where La Grande [Avenue] comes into Bellefonte [Avenue]. And so right now it's got gold and green trim. Why'd you call it a railroad house?
Norman Grimm:	Because it was a wooden, lapped, stake-made house just painted gray. And people who worked for the railroad rented them.
P.C.:	Did the railroad build them?
Norman Grimm:	The railroad built them and then they rented them out to their people to...to live in so they could have a place...this boy's father worked on the railroad. None of these were here, none of these here.
The Butlers' Home and More Mr. Raymond's Houses	
Norman Grimm:	Now this home was the Butlers'; they worked at the railroad. But the Butler family was a relative to a degree with my family way down the line.
P.C.:	So it's 411 Bellefonte [Avenue].
Norman Grimm:	Yes. This...is one of the real old houses...
P.C.:	...412?
Norman Grimm:	Yes.
P.C.:	It's brick, though...
Norman Grimm:	Yes. But it was one of the first but anyway....
P.C.:	...but it is old...

Norman Grimm:	All of these were here...
P.C.:	...all right, 409...
Norman Grimm:	These didn't come in till later on. This was here and...
P.C.:	...The stucco?
Norman Grimm:	...this old man Raymond's house now. You see right there to your right where that truck's at?
P.C.:	Yes
Norman Grimm:	That was one of Raymond's houses and where Willis the son lived; he lived behind us.
P.C.:	Oh, so that's why you knew them because you had a big space there didn't you?
Norman Grimm's House and Neighbors on Bellefonte and Leslie Avenues	
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. And then this house was behind and that's where I lived, where we lived, over there. That was the back of our house.
P.C.:	The house looks big from the back doesn't it?
Norman Grimm:	Oh yeah, but it was so small [laughs].
P.C.:	It's small when you're inside.
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. And the Gaines lived here...
P.C.:	...404
Norman Grimm:	He worked at the railroad. Now later on this...they built these places in...they later on built these houses here. And then this one was where the Teshes lived.
P.C.:	So 402 is older.
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, he worked at the railroad and...these people here they...the road to the stock and [unintelligible] people I told you about at the coal yard.
P.C.:	All right, that's sort of 400 East Bellefonte [Avenue].
Norman Grimm:	Yeah...that house on the corner there was the home of Bill Cunningham of Cunningham's Funeral Home [laughs].
P.C.:	1820 Leslie.
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. The reason I'm pointing these out to you because...now this was...the Fornshals lived here. That's an old house.
P.C.:	Now that's a very small little one...
Norman Grimm:	...yeah, oh that's...just a small...he worked for the government. None of these houses were here then...

P.C.:	Right.
Norman Grimm:	Uh...
P.C.:	Just fields...
Norman Grimm:	This is where Dr. Carneal [owner of Del Ray drugstore in the 1500 block of Mount Vernon Avenue] lived later on and I'll talk to you about him, he didn't live there for a while. This is a really old house...
P.C.:	...312, so you can tell it's a different kind of brick isn't it?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. Then you see this was one of the big old homes that was still around here.
P.C.:	310.
Norman Grimm:	That was not here. These came in later. Now this big house here, that's a story over here...
P.C.:	Look at this little...306, was that there?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. Now see this one here, 305?
P.C.:	Yeah.
Norman Grimm:	Okay. There's another one of Raymond's apartments, see. But this guy here, this big old house, if you can picture from here all the way back up there where those other bricks are, that was his yard.
P.C.:	Oh.
Norman Grimm:	He had a...made a train. He worked for the railroad; he made a train that had tracks run all the way around the property and you...when we were kids you could come over ride on the train, he had an engine that was about half as big as this van. And then he had cars behind it, three cars, and he made them [unintelligible] all around like a...and you'd come over here and ride on the trains.
P.C.:	And they were for everybody's use?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, everybody, he just worked on...he loved trains...
P.C.:	And he was a railroad man, though?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. Can't remember his name but...Then these two houses were here...
P.C.:	...304 and...302.
Norman Grimm:	And this is where Corporal Ronald Mullins lived. He worked with my dad...
P.C.:	...that's 300...
Norman Grimm:	...and I had to come over here when he died. I...after he retired he and my dad would run around together a lot. But I come over here because

	Skitis [last name unknown] lived in that house.
P.C.:	So these two big stucco houses...
Norman Grimm:	...yes they're old, they're old.
P.C.:	Yeah.
Mr. Raymond's Houses on Duncan Avenue	
Norman Grimm:	Now, we're going to go back here to Duncan Avenue here towards Mount Vernon [Avenue]. See all these Raymond's apartments, now you turn to your right and you see what? More houses made by who?
P.C.:	The railroad...
Norman Grimm:	Raymond!
P.C.:	Oh! These are Raymond houses too?
Norman Grimm:	You see, Raymond house, Raymond house, Raymond house...
P.C.:	Oh my god...this is 220, 217, 218, and 215.
Touring Duncan, Mount Vernon, and Monroe Avenues	
Norman Grimm:	That was not there, this was not there, this one was here. But over here, right in this little...209...okay?
P.C.:	Yeah.
Norman Grimm:	That's where the Duncans lived.
P.C.:	Oh, so we're back on Duncan [Avenue].
Norman Grimm:	Right, now that's where the old people lived that owned the farms and all as I understand it [200 block of East Duncan Avenue].
P.C.:	That's a very small house.
Norman Grimm:	Oh yeah, that's where they lived in...
P.C.:	It looks like 205 might have been there for a while.
Norman Grimm:	That was there. Now over here this was an automobile dealership later on. Over here was nothing but a field, only the open space. Now I'm going to take you down and show you some...that right there at 1800 we'll come back by there in a minute I'm going to show you a couple of things and then come back to Mount Vernon Avenue.
P.C.:	Okay, so that was 1800 Mount Vernon [Avenue].
Norman Grimm:	Yes, now...
P.C.:	...now we're coming down to Monroe [Avenue]...
Norman Grimm:	Right, but I'm going to pass Monroe [Avenue] and come back to Mount Vernon Avenue and point things out to you.

P.C.:	Oh, good.
Norman Grimm:	The reason I do that is because it's...I get to go right down the line and save you some time [laughs].
More About Mr. Raymond's Houses	
P.C.:	Those Raymond houses, did he build them?
Norman Grimm:	Yes.
P.C.:	So he actually constructed them...the apartments too?
Norman Grimm:	...Yeah, everything
P.C.:	...the big brick apartments...
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, that was his bag, he just took everything.
P.C.:	Were they up before you born?
Norman Grimm:	Oh uh yes...no ! They were built in there...
P.C.:	... You remember them building?
Norman Grimm:	...I would say...probably [19]34, [19]35, somewhere [inaudible] in that area. Now the reason for coming down here is because—we're going to start down here at this far end and I'll pull in here in the parking lot at GW [George Washington Middle School today; formerly George Washington High School] and talk to you about this area.
George Washington High School (GW)	
P.C.:	Okay. What do you think of that new addition?
Norman Grimm:	Well I have...my days at GW were a lot different than what these people are today.
P.C.:	[laughs] Oh say...
Norman Grimm:	Lets see if we can get in here...
P.C.:	What year did you graduate?
Norman Grimm:	[19]50.
P.C.:	Oh, right, in [19]50, then you got married in [19]51.
Touring Businesses on Braddock Road	
Norman Grimm:	Uh huh. [At Braddock Road and Mount Vernon Avenue] Now that down there, that one on your right, the Mobil Gas, that was not there. The one over here on your left on this corner, that was a Gulf station and that was there for years.
P.C.:	That's been derelict for a long time.

Norman Grimm:	Yeah.
P.C.:	But the city owns the property.
Norman Grimm:	Yes. Now, the 7/11 wasn't there and all that. And where you see that bridge going across Braddock Road?
P.C.:	Yes.
Norman Grimm:	That was called Mush Pot Bridge because it was real mushy in that ground.
P.C.:	So this is on Braddock [Road] going east to West Street.
The Railroad and Railroad Accidents	
Norman Grimm:	Right. if you look at that, you got to remember there was nothing there...and that was Mush Pot Bridge...and my cousin, one of my cousins, used to sit in a little shack up on the railroad, and he counted the trains and all as they went by, you know, because he wrote down what was going on. See every train that was going north and south had to come through here.
P.C.:	Now were they all coming over that bridge?
Norman Grimm:	Oh yeah. They'd go in here and go across the railroad yard, and when they got into Potomac Yard, which I'll show you in a little while, they had to make up trains, that's when you had brakemen...
P.C.:	...Yes...
Norman Grimm:	...and the old brakeman had a big old stick like a pickaxe handle, and what he did, they'd push the car, the engine would push the cars up from the top, it would go over the Hump and start down, and then they had to divert it to which track they want it on, well he stood up there on that train that big thing turning that big wheel...like a steering wheel.
P.C.:	Yup...
Norman Grimm:	...and that was the brakes. And then after he got so far, then he had to put the stick in there and turn it to brake the wheel speed down so that they wouldn't bam into each other. Sometimes they wouldn't do it and they'd bang into one another and break up cars. Where we lived we could hear them all night long, see.
P.C.:	Clanging into each other.
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, and...that's when a guy would get thrown off the train and either cut his leg off or...
P.C.:	There were a lot of injuries there I hear.
Norman Grimm:	Oh, Lord, I went over there...right there, up that area there...that's the

	<p>first time I saw a man cut in half. I was about 16 years old, I was at number two and Pudy Puker, Sidney Hammersley [fireman], he used to take the ambulance home...everybody lived in the city. He was assigned to Station 2. He lived on Howell Avenue across from us, and there were only three paid people at every fire station. There was the guy who drove the ambulance, the guy who drove the truck, the guy who drove the engine. All volunteers. So I went and sat in the ambulance while he ate his dinner, to listen for the radio. And they called out said you got...ambulance run Mush Pot Bridge, ambulance run Mush Pot Bridge...I would go and advise him of the call, he would then leave his dinner and head for the call. We came down here, we made that turn off Mount Vernon Avenue onto Braddock Road, that's when they met us and told us, "You got a man injured up here." And he says, "How bad?"...He says, "Well he's kinda...cut in half." So we had to go get some things to wrap him up, put him in the ambulance, and take him to the hospital [unintelligible].</p>
P.C.:	And how did he get cut in half?
Norman Grimm:	He fell between two trains while he was working on coupling them up.
P.C.:	While they were...so he's working on them while they were moving?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, well he was...what happened he was standing between the two to couple together the brakes, and what we think happened was that somebody gave the all clear and he was standing between the cars.
P.C.:	Right.
Norman Grimm:	And then he just fell in.
P.C.:	Not too many safety standards back then...
Norman Grimm:	No, it was so much it was pathetic.
More About George Washington High School (GW)	
Norman Grimm:	Now this was our ball field here. But you got to remember our ball field came back this way some and went down that way...
P.C.:	It was Mount Vernon School?
Norman Grimm:	GW High School.
P.C.:	Oh GW, yup.
Norman Grimm:	And this is where we played the state championship and won that 1947 or [19]48, [19]47 I think it was , I played [19]48, [19]49, and [19]50...I was a freshman playing on the varsity squad but I wasn't playing...and...Jimmy Lyles, who ran a florist business on King Street, was umpire and...the guy [Chuck Stobbs] that later pitched for the Washington Senators was pitching against GW. And an argument started...his father was a coach at...he was pitching, and I'll think of

	his name in a minute, anyhow [laughs]...they threw the—they got an argument started. Buzzy Brown hit a ball, ran to first base, and the guy threw the ball, the guy caught it, the umpire called him out, then he dropped the ball so he was safe. While they're talking and arguing, Buzzy on first base, so one of the coaches said, "Go, Buzzy, go"[whispering]. Nobody called time out. Steal second.
P.C.:	Oh...
Norman Grimm:	So Buzzy took off again. They threw the ball to second base, the guy who caught it tagged him, umpire yells, says, "You're out." Then all of a sudden, the umpire was, "No, you're safe; you dropped the ball." Well that started one of the biggest arguments you ever seen in your life. So the umpire threw the old man out who was a coach, then they threw the water boy out, then they threw the boy out [Chuck Stobbs], and he was the son of the coach. And they were all family. Now think of it, because he went to on become a pitcher for Boston and then he pitched for the Washington Senators for a year, and we used to go over there and show him the bubble gum card, it had that story about us playing the game and we'd all would go over and talk with him about the game [both laugh].
P.C.:	Everybody seemed to have a nickname.
Norman Grimm:	Oh yeah, yeah...
P.C.:	Like, did you have a nickname?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah.
P.C.:	What was it?
Norman Grimm:	Turtle.
P.C.:	Turtle!?
Norman Grimm:	I was the slowest one on two feet [both laugh]. My brother Henry [was named] Horse. Ralph, he didn't have a name, he was the one who wore glasses and...he was a pretty good athlete but he just couldn't play sports. And Herbert was Herbie, and...Joyce was Leaky Bottom...[P.C. laughs] because she used to wet the bed once in a while and we named her Leaky Bottom [P.C. laughs]...you know how you do these things...
P.C.:	Of course.
Norman Grimm:	But now this is the back of GW and over there is where we played the GW-WL [Washington-Lee High School, Arlington, VA] Thanksgiving game, which I'll show you in a minute, and that was a big thing. This is all Jack Tullock's memorial...he was a sports writer for the [Alexandria] Gazette for years, who broke in Eddie Crane that I told you about.

P.C.:	Oh really? Now do you remember when they put a time capsule in there?
Norman Grimm:	1947. And we couldn't find it. We finally found it and put another one back in. That was the first year of my high school, and then who was playing at the time was the Quantico Marines and Virginia Tech in a football game.
P.C.:	Wow! What a memory! So the first time capsule was in [19]47?
Norman Grimm:	As far as I can recall...
P.C.:	I wonder what that was marking...
Norman Grimm:	...it was marking the class of [19]47, which I was in, put that thing in, and by the flagpole which is down in the football field.
P.C.:	Out there in the football field.
Norman Grimm:	But...they couldn't find it, they finally found it later on. Now that monument right there, that's got the names of everybody killed in World War II that went to GW. My brother's name is on there.
P.C.:	Which one?
Norman Grimm:	Herbert.
P.C.:	Herbert is there.
Norman Grimm:	That's the one that the Alexandria Police youth camp is named after.
P.C.:	Yes...
Norman Grimm:	Camp Charles Herbert Grimm, and Daddy started it. I was younger but I went with him on all—everything.
P.C.:	Did you name it after he died?
Norman Grimm:	Oh yeah, this...he was killed in...at Iwo Jima, on the landing...
P.C.:	...Oh no...
Norman Grimm:	...and my other brother with him, see, both of them were in the same company.
P.C.:	They were? Oh...
Norman Grimm:	What happened is that after it was all over then Dad was tryin' to get this property and make a camp, because we used to go to Scotland, Maryland, to the camp Ernest W. Brown, a boy's camp and a patrol camp. And we looked and looked and finally found a property down in Kilmarnock [Virginia], that was about 1946, we finally put the money down on it and then in 1947 at the association meeting one of the guys said it would be an honor to name it after Henry Grimm's son Charles who was killed at Iwo, so they named it Camp Charles Herbert Grimm. That's how come we get involved in it.

P.C.:	Well that monument means a lot more to me now.
Norman Grimm:	Well, it means to me, we had a big fight over that because they wanted to move it. And I said if you move that I'll blow the whole damn place up.
P.C.:	They wanted to move it when they were redoing it just recently?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, because, see, that...see this was the school...
P.C.:	...right...
Norman Grimm:	...if you look at the GW...
P.C.:	...the front steps and everything...
Norman Grimm:	...we didn't have that railing up there.
P.C.:	Okay.
Norman Grimm:	No railing.
P.C.:	All right.
Norman Grimm:	You came here, you went up those steps or you went in the doors to the side downstairs and went to your lockers, to your classrooms and that was it. Over here, just where you see it right there?
P.C.:	Yes.
Norman Grimm:	That's the way it was, none of this brickwork and all this.
P.C.:	Right.
Norman Grimm:	Now underneath the bottom on the right side where those steps are there?
P.C.:	Yup.
Norman Grimm:	Down in that basement, that's where the cadet corps had their rifle range...one of the best cadet corps you've ever seen in your life. I mean...ideal. And they used to practice firearms down there, shooting in the basement. Then they lined up, came to every football game and policed the things you know, good things, I mean it was big time. None of this was here except for this old shop over here to your right, way over to the back.
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	That's where we had to go to the shop. And every boy that went to school took shop, either to do woodworking, automobile mechanics...somethin'...
P.C.:	Metalwork...
Norman Grimm:	...That was an option...now if he was a much more intelligent boy and wanted to work on something else he could, but most of us went to the

	shops. And we had to learn how to do metalwork, woodwork, carpentry, laying brick...anything that they could teach you. Because you would get prepared if you didn't go on to college you had a job.
P.C.:	You needed a trade.
Norman Grimm:	And then later on when I went to the police department they made a big story, they used to have me come in and speak to the classes because I did traffic right here in front of the school for years [laughs].
P.C.:	Really? Now why did they want to move the monument?
Norman Grimm:	Well, because they were trying to make a bigger walkway through there, see, and they were trying to get that moved because...[phone rings, tape is stopped].
The Football Field	
Norman Grimm:	Our football field was up this way. It went over towards where them stands are. I used to live in an apartment that was right there, and my brother lived there too.
P.C.:	Oh, in Glendale?
Norman Grimm:	Uh huh.
P.C.:	Facing...
Norman Grimm:	Right across here.
P.C.:	And now was there a bigger stadium kind of thing for the football field here?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, yeah. What happened, the...if you were sitting on those front steps, the goal post would have been right there, right in there.
P.C.:	Oh! Very close...
Norman Grimm:	We used to pack them in here on Friday nights, when we played. Fourteen, fifteen thousand people. And then on Turkey Day, they were standing around this place, between GW and W&L [Washington-Lee]. That was the Thanksgiving thing. Now, over there was where Parker-Grey was.
P.C.:	On the other side of the tracks?
Segregation	
Norman Grimm:	And, you know, people don't understand this. There was segregation, but to a degree we were not segregated. We played on Friday nights, they came over and watched our game. They played on Saturdays, the football teams, we went over to see their game.
P.C.:	Did they have a separate field?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, the one behind Parker-Gray. Now, guess what we did on

	Sundays.
P.C.:	What?
Norman Grimm:	We'd meet over here and play each other [laughs]. We were not supposed to be doing this, see. But we'd never have a fight, never had troubles, we played one another, we'd get over here and yell and scream.
P.C.:	So everybody knew everybody?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, I mean, when I went over to the police department I walked up on Black Town for two years.
P.C.:	Everybody just knew you.
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, they knew me.
P.C.:	Now you call it Black Town. I heard somebody call it Black Rosemont. Did you ever hear that expression?
Norman Grimm:	...not Black Rosemont. Rosemont is over there...but I've never heard the expression Black Rosemont, no. Back down that...whole town...those people lived over there. That's where Mattie Owens come from who worked...who, and Teenie who stayed with us, when mama was hurt. Between the Lunchfords' and our house and...we never had this trouble I mean...
P.C.:	...people lived together in peace...
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, I mean...we did not to go across that bridge, invade their territory, and they didn't come over invade ours.
P.C.:	So there was an understanding that there were parts of town...
The Hobos and Other Drifters	
Norman Grimm:	Yes, and back during that thing when the hobos were running around, we never locked the door. My mother, she'd be in that kitchen at nighttime, morning...[knocks] "Do you have anything to eat?" "Just a minute, why don't you all boys come in." She'd make them a sandwich. "What can we do to work?" "You do not have to work. You want something to drink we'll give you some water, a sandwich, and have a good time." Now, over on the other side over there, and I'll show you that, over that area, that was Hobo Jungle, that's where they stayed. And we used to go over to hobo jungle and take potatoes and stuff with us, go over there and they'd be having a party. We'd throw it in, they'd all...hobos would just talk to you and...
P.C.:	So you'd just sit, just do that for fun...
Norman Grimm:	Yes...and then the icehouse was over there. Now that was a rough place. That's where they used to bring box cars in to put ice in them to ship things because they had to stay iced down, fruit and meats. Fruit

	Growers [Express was] out on Duke Street and they made cars, and we used to come over here to the icehouse and get ice. It was Mico Ice. Mico was managed by a guy named Redding...gave us the money to help us buy the police youth camp.
P.C.:	Oh...
Norman Grimm:	We needed...\$10,000, he loaned it to the police association, he told my dad...he said, "Henry, if you can't make the payments, just pay me the interest." He was only charging 1% interest.
P.C.:	Nice guy.
Norman Grimm:	Oh yeah, I mean...
P.C.:	...Just wanted to help out...
Norman Grimm:	...he didn't sign papers, it was...
P.C.:	...no papers. Now why was that a rough place?
Norman Grimm:	What over there?
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	Because, what you had was drifters and everybody would come in there just to work. And they'd get over there with their pike poles and fight, cut, scream, they always had two women there, and they'd fight over the woman.
P.C.:	So that was different than Hobo Jungle?
Norman Grimm:	Oh yeah.
P.C.:	But they're...but they're both drifters, both groups are drifters?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah but the difference was...that was you know how you get people from down South, black people come up here—
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	These black people up here were all home here; they knew everybody. Those black ones come in they couldn't like mingle with them because those people down in the South all they wanted do is start trouble.
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	They were either drunkies or somethin' like that, well our people were not that way. So that you'd end up in fights.
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	And we used to go in the police department and have to go down and break up fights, lock 'em up.
P.C.:	Was Hobo Jungle then both black and white?
Norman Grimm:	Oh yeah.

P.C.:	So then no segregation there?
Norman Grimm:	No, I mean...you got off the train and...as a hobo you was tryin' to find a place, well a hobo's a hobo.
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	I had one of them draw me a picture...of me. One of the kings of the hobos. Drew a picture of me 'bout that big. I got it at home.
P.C.:	You still have it?
Norman Grimm:	Yes, it's at home somewhere.
P.C.:	Oh that's wonderful!
Touring East Alexandria and Mount Vernon Avenues	
Norman Grimm:	Now, all of these houses, now I was talkin' about Juggy...Juggy and Bailey lived down there in that yellow house you see down there on the right [laughs].
P.C.:	Yup, uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	That's where Juggy lived.
P.C.:	Right on Mount Vernon [Avenue].
Norman Grimm:	Yeah.
P.C.:	Actually, he was right across from school, wasn't he?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. The Baileys. Now these all came later on. Now the...on your left hand side here, this little shopping center?
P.C.:	Oh yeah, where the Chinese restaurant is?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, that used to be GW sugar bowl.
P.C.:	GW sugar bowl?
Norman Grimm:	They named it GW sugar bowl. And that had., next door was a little drugstore and over here was a little restaurant and a grocery store I think. Then you come in with this...phone company...
P.C.:	...phone company.
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. Down here, this is where we...you start [unintelligible]...
P.C.:	...Yeah what's the story about this big yellow house?
Norman Grimm:	This big yellow house was owned by a couple of people and they used to rent out rooms and everything and apartments in there.
P.C.:	Looks like they're still renting out rooms.
Norman Grimm:	They are, and...but it's been there ever since I can remember.
P.C.:	So this is East Alexandria [Avenue] and Mount Vernon Avenue.

The Cottage Park Neighborhood: East Alexandria Avenue, Wayne Street, East Nelson Avenue	
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. You're now in Cottage Park.
P.C.:	Cottage [emphasized] Park?
Norman Grimm:	That's was the name of it. Cottage [emphasized] Park.
P.C.:	On East Alexandria [Avenue]?
Norman Grimm:	I'm going to show you this, I'm going to let you take that book with you when you go [the City Directory—Year 1916].
P.C.:	...Oh thank you.
Norman Grimm:	That's the directory and then I can get it from you later. But down here was all old Alexandria people, see. This was...the way it was.
P.C.:	So these small bungalows...but then there some two-story houses too...
Norman Grimm:	Yeah,
P.C.:	I've always...this house right here on the corner of Ramsey[Street] and East Alexandria [Avenue]...
Norman Grimm:	Yeah...see that one right there?
P.C.:	Yeah the blue one.
Norman Grimm:	That was a store. That was Block's Store...
P.C.:	...218.
Norman Grimm:	...and then he lived upstairs. Alfred Block...[inaudible]. Block played football with me in high school. Albert played with my older brother. Now how do I know that store? Because I've bought many a quart of milk in there, and loaf of bread. And why? Because my grandmother lived right down here.
P.C.:	Right down with these other little cottages?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. This house here was...that was put together by my grandfather. See that...[210 East Alexandria Avenue].
P.C.:	Yeah!
Norman Grimm:	See that roof up on there?
P.C.:	I do!
Norman Grimm:	I used to get up and paint that roof. My grandmother and my aunt used to pay me five dollars and...I'd go up there and paint that roof. That was the old house. That was added onto as you can see this was the main part...

P.C.:	Yeah.
Norman Grimm:	...then later on they added that little wing in the back...see it?
P.C.:	Yes.
Norman Grimm:	Then that part in the back there.
P.C.:	So your grandfather built the house?
Norman Grimm:	Yep, built it, worked on that house and built it. And they moved here, he was a painter, his name was...Henry Denny Grimm, and he fell off a roof and I'll show you where, and got killed in 1924. I never knew him.
P.C.:	Never knew him...now had he been born in Alexandria?
Norman Grimm:	...you know I cannot find out where he was born at, I don't believe so, I believe it was...now my grandmother come from Madison County, my aunt lived in that house, who just died.
P.C.:	Oh, your aunt lived in 206 and then in...210 is the one that your grandfather built.
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. See that one there?
P.C.:	202
Norman Grimm:	Guess who lived there?
P.C.:	Oh, man, I'm running out of people, who?
Norman Grimm:	Old man Irving Linsey who was the head of the...oldest math and...teacher up at GW High School. Urban legend. He did trigonometry [unintelligible]...he did everything...
P.C.:	...Oh my god.
Norman Grimm:	...and he was a mean [emphasized] man.
P.C.:	Everybody...
Norman Grimm:	He, he wasn't mean...back at that house I showed you where my grandmother lived?
P.C.:	Yes.
Norman Grimm:	Now my brothers Henry and Herbert, when they would go to school in the morning, they'd have to come up Mount Vernon Avenue walking. They'd go in my grandmother's house and stoke the furnace to keep it...so she wouldn't have to get up and do that. And then they'd go on to school...
P.C.:	...then they'd go to school...
Norman Grimm:	...then it became Herbert and Ralph's time, then my time, and I used to come up, stoke the furnace and...keep things going and...

P.C.:	...So you'd have coal deliveries there?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, in the back, and there's an alley back there, but that's where the old horse barn was and it was back [unintelligible]. Then all these people lived around here, these old people here, down here. And...my cousin that was name of Joe Butler lived around the corner here and...
P.C.:	...some of these houses look pretty old don't they?
Norman Grimm:	Oh these are old. Yeah, yeah they were here, this little old store used to be in this buildin'.
P.C.:	Okay.
Norman Grimm:	Now...
P.C.:	...so we're at Wayne [Street] and East Nelson [Avenue].
Norman Grimm:	Uh huh. Now I'm going to go up here...and the house that I'm going to show you where my grandfather fell, my grandfather fell off a roof, got killed...right there.
P.C.:	Oh...
Norman Grimm:	He was painting that roof. And they think he fell right there on that...side there, he...they think what he did he got too close to the edge and had his foot on the...oh half-mooned drains and he put his foot on it and leaned back and [unintelligible] down...
P.C.:	...let go...
Norman Grimm:	...and broke his neck and killed him.
P.C.:	Oh...
Norman Grimm:	And that's where Joe Butler lived, who my dad...he was on the police department, Joe was, he was a sergeant. And then Joe Butler, when he got married...my dad stood up for him. But they were [unintelligible] the house, down the line.
P.C.:	Uh huh, uh huh. So let's see. I'm trying to think...there's actually no address on that house so it's...west of 209 so I can't really...
Norman Grimm:	...that's 209 that's got to be 207.
P.C.:	Right, so it's the 207 where your grandfather...fell off the roof?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. I've got the news clipping on it too at home. There should be a number there...
P.C.:	...yeah there it is! It's over on the fence, 207. You're right.
Norman Grimm:	Uh...I got the news clipping, when he fell off the roof and got killed.
P.C.:	And that was 1924...
Norman Grimm:	...4.

P.C.:	And look at all these little cottages!
Norman Grimm:	These were, that...they called this Cottage Park.
P.C.:	But these were not railroad workers?
Norman Grimm:	No. Well, some did some did not. Some worked for the government, some...you know different ones.
P.C.:	Kind of a middle-class area...
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, I mean it was it was...
P.C.:	...regular folks...
Touring the Businesses on East Nelson, Monroe, Mount Vernon, and East Mason Avenues	
Norman Grimm:	...just people making a living, and...raisin' kids and having a good time. And then of course...when you come up here...you see that...that was the first...Penn-Jersey [Auto Store] that I remember being here.
P.C.:	Where the Fireflies Restaurant is now at...?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, that was...
P.C.:	...1500 block of Mount Vernon and East Nelson [Avenues].
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. Now over here, this was not there, that brick was not, came in later, and that end was not there. But right there where our steakhouse was that was a house. And later on...they added on, later on...that has a brick front on it, that that was an old wooden house...uh...Suburban Printing went in there...
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	...which was [unintelligible] big business out there or for [unintelligible]...
P.C.:	...Suburban's big.
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, well they do our printing for the retirees.
P.C.:	Oh good! [laughs].
Norman Grimm:	Uh, little Sam, Sam Dickens. I've known him, I walked this beat when he was starting out his business.
P.C.:	And he's still going?
Norman Grimm:	Oh Lord yes! He's still got a big business over there. Then that house there, that's where the Hitts and the Magners lived. And we used to call him little Hitler, he was the ugliest man we ever saw, B.L., B.L. Hit. Biggest thief in town, thief in town...
P.C.:	He was a thief?

Norman Grimm:	Oh Lord yes. And over there...
P.C.:	Where Mancini's is?
Norman Grimm:	Yep. That was the first Safeway store that I can ever remember being here.
P.C.:	A real super...supermarket?
Norman Grimm:	That was a Safeway.
P.C.:	Now did they call 'em supermarkets when they started?
Norman Grimm:	No. Just Safeway.
P.C.:	Just...would you say I'm goin' to the grocery or...
Norman Grimm:	...Yeah. Just goin' to the grocery store and it was a Safeway. And how I remember that was because the guy that was a meat cutter was named Sam O'Rock , and he married Bobby Lunchford's sister, Margaret. And little Sammy started as a meat cutter right there. And then later he and Margaret went into real estate. And later on they opened up a florist down on King Street where the old warehouses used to be, down about the 100 block King [Street].
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	And Bobby, who was a policeman, was a motorcycle officer in our department and lived next door to me and I'll show you that...uh...he was single, never married, saved up all his money and everything, and he went in business with his sister and then that's how come I know about the flower shop [unintelligible]...
P.C.:	...Oh my gosh.
Norman Grimm:	But then later on they added this on...Haiti rug cleaners and all that. This was a store, this was a drugstore, this was the first Pep Boys that we ever seen.
P.C.:	Where Exxon is?
Norman Grimm:	Right here...
P.C.:	Oh no on the...
Norman Grimm:	...it was Pep Boys.
P.C.:	...where Potomac West interior is on Monroe and Mount Vernon [Avenues].
Norman Grimm:	Now I'm gonna pull over [unintelligible], but that was Crump's Esso.
P.C.:	The Exxon station?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah.
P.C.:	Okay.

Norman Grimm:	Over here, was a Sinclair station and it was...
P.C.:	...where the Shell is.
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. And there was something unusual about it which I'll...I'll pull over here [inaudible] because that place was a real old building, and it had a big front on it with a roof over it, and you could drive under the roof to go get your gas...
P.C.:	...get your gas...
Norman Grimm:	...get your gas here, and then you went in that end bay which is not there, and then they had a hole in the floor and you drove [unintelligible] and that's how they changed the oil. But down this alley to your left right by that fence?
P.C.:	Yup.
Norman Grimm:	You could come in off of Mason [Avenue], which I'll show you, you'd come all the way up here and under that whole buildin' was a garage where they worked on cars.
P.C.:	Under the building?
Norman Grimm:	Yup. Now, down here, this was all Crump's property.
P.C.:	Where the car dealership is?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. That one. Back up here just a minute and show you about these places. But right on this corner here, you have I don't know whether you ever heard of the Mighty Midget Kitchens. They were...
P.C.:	No.
Norman Grimm:	Okay. Mighty Midget Kitchens were just a little old aluminum shack which is still one down on number one high[way], right there on Route 1, and I'll show it to you one day, and two women ran it. And...they'd sell hotdogs, hamburgers, and all that, it wasn't big enough to turn around in but they were all compact units you bought. They'd come and set it on the ground. And you had your water and [unintelligible] for them the workers, water and then you had hot dog, hamburgers, ice cream, sandwiches, and everythin', and they sold 'em out the window with everybody goin' [unintelligible]...
P.C.:	So like a mini-diner?
Norman Grimm:	Exactly. I guess it was about...from that car to that car and about two cars deep and that's all that was on that corner.
P.C.:	So this is on the...uh southeast corner of East Mason [Avenue] and Mount Vernon [Avenue].
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. Over here...

P.C.:	...Mighty Midget that was called?
Norman Grimm:	Mighty Midget [P.C. laughs]. Now over to your left where that blue is?
P.C.:	Yeah.
Norman Grimm:	That was a barber shop. That was Cecil Koffman's barber shop.
P.C.:	The Mount Vernon Deli?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah...no!
P.C.:	I mean where the Mount Vernon Deli is now?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah...no! Passed on the other side.
P.C.:	On the other side. Okay, on the south of it.
Norman Grimm:	Where the Mount Vernon Deli is was Barney O'Duar's delicatessen.
P.C.:	There was really a deli there?
Norman Grimm:	Oh yes! Barney's. That's where, when [unintelligible] my wife and I finally moved we moved to an apartment over here, later on. And of course you only got paid—you didn't make enough money—so I've had to charge my food over at Barney's, he wrote it on a card [unintelligible]. You remember like the first-grade pencils [unintelligible]?
P.C.:	Yes, the big ones.
Norman Grimm:	He kept one behind his ear and, yeah, he wrote all your stuff on a bag, and added it up before you got the bag and that went with you. And he would put it on a card and then when I got paid I'd come pay him first. And that was Barney O'Duar's delicatessen; he lived around the corner. The first person owned that delicatessen was a man named Goldberg, he owned it, and then he sold it to Barney because Barney worked for him.
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	Now this over here was old man Rust's [Tom Rust] building. Now, he had a construction business that's under the bottom there. But that was an apartment house and then a Rust construction.
P.C.:	Rust? Is that related...
Norman Grimm:	...R-U-S-T, Tom Rust. They're still in business today.
P.C.:	Still in business.
Norman Grimm:	That's his [inaudible]...
P.C.:	Rust...Rust, Orling, and O'Neal architects?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah.

P.C.:	Isn't that...
Norman Grimm:	...downtown...
P.C.:	...Yeah!
Norman Grimm:	...that was where his...
P.C.:	...isn't that something!
Norman Grimm:	...he [inaudible] his own council [unintelligible]. Then there was a doctor's office in there at one time. Before they opened up the emergency room at the hospital a guy name of Dr. Long...wood or somethin' like that, he later went to the Alexandria hospital when they transferred the emergency room over to have the doctors there. Plus they never had doctors there.
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	They had an old nurse and we used to come there and bring the patients and she was a rough old nurse [P.C. laughs]. But...
P.C.:	...So that was 1610 Mount Vernon.
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. Now 1704, okay, that was Winchester Packard.
P.C.:	So that was really a car dealership? It's been a dealership all these years?
Norman Grimm:	The Winchester Packard...
P.C.:	...so that's the Audi...
Norman Grimm:	...and the back part over there?
P.C.:	Yeah.
Norman Grimm:	They made Winchester tires.
P.C.:	They made the tires?
Norman Grimm:	Made the tires, right there. And that was Winchester Packard. They went from—comin' to Winchester Packard—they went out of business and...then uh Beson Motors took over. After Beson Motors went out, the...that name of the darn place down on King Street...it'll come to me, but they moved in after that, 'cause my brother Ralph worked there for a while and...
P.C.:	Is that what that chimney's left over from?
Norman Grimm:	Oh yeah.
P.C.:	From makin' tires?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, yeah. And we used to service our police cars in there. The guy I was tellin'...what motors was that...Automotors! No! Automotors was over there, excuse me. Then this was just a field in here.

P.C.:	Where the Hyundai dealership is?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, that come in later on.
P.C.:	Uh huh
Norman Grimm:	And then, on that far corner on your right was Automotors, they had Jeeps and all that and that's what's still in there now—Taylor Jeep and all I think—but that was Automotors.
P.C.:	Pretty amazing, they had Jeeps.
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, yeah [unintelligible], back during the war. And then, they'd come up here and...this is where the Beels lived but they tore that...the house is still there.
P.C.:	So that's 1712.
Norman Grimm:	And then if you look over here to your left...this building here...
P.C.:	Alexandria Florist 1800 Mount Vernon [Avenue].
Norman Grimm:	...that used to be the first Hacame that I ever saw come in town. Right there.
P.C.:	Right there?
Norman Grimm:	And then they sold that out and then there was a guy that owned it and made it a hardware store. And then it went into renting tools, and now it's sellin' [unintelligible].
P.C.:	Kinda all the same thing...Now was this sort of the center of activity for Del Ray—Mount Vernon Avenue?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. Mount Vernon Avenue, Monroe Avenue, Hume Avenue, then you get into Hume Spring and all that. But this was...the Salvation Army wasn't there.
P.C.:	Right.
Norman Grimm:	Then this low house on the corner was...
P.C.:	...Kesterson?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. Kesterson wasn't there, it was another place.
P.C.:	But they've been there a pretty long time haven't they?
Norman Grimm:	Oh yeah, yeah. Then, this gray building on the corner?
P.C.:	The cleaners at East Bellefonte and Mount Vernon [Avenues].
Norman Grimm:	The guy that opened that cleaners up...was named Smoke Kelly. Smoke Kelly was a city of Alexandria smoke...man worked for the city to check on all the smoke in the air and everything. That's why we called him Smoke Kelly [P.C. laughs]. He opened up that cleaners. And then next to that, that little building over there?

P.C.:	Oh where the Mexican restaurant is?
Norman Grimm:	That was a house in there...
P.C.:	Yeah.
Norman Grimm:	...and behind that house...down that alley to your right that was the first potato chip factory that was...uh...the potato chip factory was back there then he closed...award winners! Award-winner potato chips. He finally sold out, I think to Mann's potato chips...
P.C.:	Were they good?
Norman Grimm:	Oh, Lord, yes.
P.C.:	So you could go in there and they'd just been made?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah they'd let ya...yeah! And they'd give you one and let you taste 'em you know. We used to bag 'em up and sell 'em. Then that place...ended up behind the same place, got him a Louis Visina...went to work for him and then he stayed with him and the guy left he sold it out to another guy, the business back there...after he sold the potato chip business, they were supplying restaurants with pickles, mustard, and relish.
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	And...when I went on the police department I wasn't makin money so I had to come up here. I have to get off at 8 o'clock in the morning, change my clothes, walk all the way up here and pack potatoes. I packed mustard, mayonnaise, pickles, relish, and I got 5 cents a jar for one of those big gallons and I'd have to wipe 'em off, put the labels on 'em. Then I'd get to go home about 2 o'clock, go to bed till I get up and go to work the next day. And then, Louis Visina used to deliver it. Now Louis lived upstairs...
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	...and they changed the name of that downstairs and made it a restaurant called the Blue Fox Restaurant.
P.C.:	Where Los Amigos is now.
Norman Grimm:	Blue Fox Restaurant. It was a beer joint [P.C. laughs]. The guy that ran it was Mike Waigle, Waggle. And if you had...it was a good nice little bar but it was a lot of problems at times.
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	But Louis lived upstairs. Now Louis...Visina ended up being a weights and measures man for the city of Alexandria.
P.C.:	Amazing! [Norman Grimm laughs] Weights and measures...there's a job we don't have anymore!

Norman Grimm:	Right, he used to check all the gas stations for the gas comin' out you know...
P.C.:	...that it was accurate.
Norman Grimm:	...that it was accurate. He weighed scales at all the stores...
P.C.:	Wow!
Norman Grimm:	...to make sure that they didn't cheat the customers.
P.C.:	Wow!
Norman Grimm:	And it was unexpected, he would just walk in, say, "Okay."
P.C.:	I wonder if anybody does that anymore...
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, they got a weights and measure man.
P.C.:	Do they?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. But that was...and over on that corner that house there that was the Drakes. He was an...oil heating man who...
P.C.:	...the big brick one there on the...across the street.
Norman Grimm:	...yeah, he and his son ran the business. Now...
P.C.:	See when you look at that, you think of Louis.
Norman Grimm:	Yup. That's Louis Visina, That's where he and his wife lived for years and years. Now, over here to your left, once you look at this [unintelligible] I'm gonna explain to you, that was a Stark and Slagel, that was not there, okay?
P.C.:	Okay.
Norman Grimm:	And I'm gonna turn right—this was a home here—and then I'm gonna turn right and head back up here and I'll show you why in just a minute 'cause I can stop there and talk. But [tape ends].
Touring East Howell Avenue	
Norman Grimm:	...take care of everything for me and I'll pay you. So I paid, think I was payin'...about \$45 a month and he did all the caretaking [inaudible].
P.C.:	Were you in 204?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. I was—no, I was downstairs here, say 204, he was at 204 and a half I think.
P.C.:	204 and a half.
Norman Grimm:	Yes I think it is. And that's where...
P.C.:	...and that was 1960?

Norman Grimm:	It was about...1960, yes. Now...
P.C.:	Boy, this is a big old stucco house.
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, now that was...I forget the people, damn I can't forget her name now...uh...
P.C.:	This is the 200 block at East Howell [Avenue], 210.
Norman Grimm:	These old houses were here.
P.C.:	Yeah?
Norman Grimm:	Okay?
P.C.:	211...
Norman Grimm:	What house is that?
P.C.:	...213. Cottage house.
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, but who's is it?
P.C.:	Raymond! [Norman Grimm laughs]. A Raymond house!
Norman Grimm:	Okay, who's is the one next door?
P.C.:	A Raymond house.
Norman Grimm:	Who's house is that?
P.C.:	Raymond! [both laugh].
Norman Grimm:	You see, you're learning quick aren't you?
P.C.:	Raymond! Those are 217, 215, and 213.
Norman Grimm:	Now, there was an old house in here. But this was Captain Gordon's house, who was the captain of the volunteers at number two fire department. He worked at the railroad.
P.C.:	Both?
Norman Grimm:	Well, he was a railroad man but he was a volunteer, when they opened up station 2, which is right over there, and that's where I hung at with my brothers, and Captain Gordon was our training officer.
P.C.:	Oh!
Norman Grimm:	So that's [unintelligible] the Gordons...were great people. Captain Gordon was some kind of man...
P.C.:	...So is that, have they redone that house?
Norman Grimm:	Oh yeah. Got a big fence around it...
P.C.:	...it's 218 East Howell [Avenue].
Norman Grimm:	And then Chilton Raiford lived here...

P.C.:	...220.
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, and...Leak Dameron's father lived there, who was the...
P.C.:	...301.
Norman Grimm:	Battalion chief in the fire department but was working at number 2 when I was running over there. And this is where Leak Dameron lived, He lived in this old house on the corner which they now added to.
P.C.:	Yeah, across the street.
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, his mother and father lived over here and he lived over here.
P.C.:	Oh...
Norman Grimm:	See Leak only had that little old house there, and they added to it.
P.C.:	They added. So the big, the small green house at 302 is original.
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. The Bests lived there.
P.C.:	303.
Norman Grimm:	And...let's see, it's all new, that's new. This was the...I think it was [unintelligible] I think I'm not sure that's...
P.C.:	...307.
Norman Grimm:	This was...not here. The Fishers lived here.
P.C.:	312. 311 is a big...
Norman Grimm:	...the Robinsons lived there. And this house over here, 313, Grimsley lived there.
P.C.:	Grimsley.
Norman Grimm:	And then over here was Austin and Leonard Murray, and his father and mother lived there.
P.C.:	315.
Norman Grimm:	I can't remember who, I can't remember the boy's name now but that's where Jimmy Herbert, the Herberts lived at 319. This was not here. The Kidwells lived over here.
P.C.:	So that would be 401, is where the Kidwells lived?
Norman Grimm:	Yes. And this was the Steins...
P.C.:	...400.
Norman Grimm:	...he worked as bookkeeper for Southern Railroads. Clarence "Bozzo" Stein was his son who was the team manager for the GW High School football team when my brothers were playin'. This one, these two were not here, these were not here. This one was built later on, that was Puddy Pucker's house, that was Sidney Hammersley's house—the

	guy I told you drove for the fire department, I'd sat over here in the ambulance while he was inside to eat his dinner. His father was a bricklayer.
P.C.:	That's 404.
Norman Grimm:	Yeah.
P.C.:	Do you think the father built that house?
Norman Grimm:	No. Puddy Pucker did.
P.C.:	Puddy built it.
Norman Grimm:	And I helped him build it, I carried the brick when I was just a little kid over at his building lot. I'd take bricks in to him, he'd work on the house on his days off.
P.C.:	Ah...
Norman Grimm's Childhood Home (East Howell Avenue)	
Norman Grimm:	He built that, Sidney Hammersley. Now, these are the two houses that, where we, Daddy owned.
P.C.:	407 and 409.
Norman Grimm:	409 is where we were, lived...but actually at the time when I was born it was 309; that was on my birth certificate. If that house could talk, this was not here, that was not there...
P.C.:	...you had a lot of yard around...
Norman Grimm:	...oh, nothin' was here next to us until after that white house that was Bobby Lunchford's house, but I told you Teeny worked down there and then would come up and help my mother.
P.C.:	Yup, come over and help...
Norman Grimm:	Now, we didn't have electricity at first [laughs].
P.C.:	No electricity?
Norman Grimm:	Daddy finally had to put in. These were two old houses—wood-framed railroad houses. Nothing was finished off. You had to put it in.
P.C.:	Build it yourself...
Norman Grimm:	It was old beat up railroad houses, that's all it was. And it was, you know, we had a big old stove in the front room to keep warm, no heat upstairs, no furnace, no basement.
P.C.:	Then you'd just have oil lanterns at night?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, and then until we got, then we got the power in right away.
P.C.:	Uh huh.

Norman Grimm:	And that was after Daddy moved out here and then upstairs in this front bedroom over here on this side, that was Shirley and Joyce's. The four of us boys slept in that back one.
P.C.:	Four guys in a room...
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. And then Mom and Dad slept in a little room right up there, in the front on the right hand side of that room, wasn't big enough to turn around in.
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	Then we had the front room, then a dining room, and a kitchen, and a long hallway. A post at each corner of the porch, never forget one of those. Henry turned in the driveway one night and knocked one down [P.C. laughs]. Then we had the front door there, and Ralph—one time he was fooling around with me and so I locked the door on him. He kicked it down [P.C. laughs]. You don't think we didn't get our butt beat that day.
P.C.:	Is that still the same door?
Norman Grimm:	No, that's long gone.
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	Now, we had a front porch there that was wood and we had swings that went this way. We'd sit out here in evenings, you actually did talk to your neighbors and swing.
P.C.:	Everybody's walking by...
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, you know, you know.
P.C.:	But there weren't too many other houses down towards...
Norman Grimm:	...no, my house was here...
P.C.:	...towards the [railroad] yards.
Touring East Howell and La Grande Avenues	
Norman Grimm:	...the Rileys lived here, no house there, no house there, and the Paynes lived on the corner.
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	And the Fagans lived on the corner here next to Bobby. And that was all that was out here.
P.C.:	Now was that the Fagans like Fagan's Oil?
Norman Grimm:	No, that's Fannon's.
P.C.:	Fannon's Oil, sorry.
Norman Grimm:	But it's just the way it went and...

P.C.:	Now, and here, sitting here in your house, you could hear everything going down in the [railroad] yards?
Norman Grimm:	Oh yeah. Right there. That was Bobby's yard, side yard.
P.C.:	415.
Norman Grimm:	They have a cherry tree there, okay, in that yard. So, his [unintelligible] had beautiful cherries. So, at night time, we would sneak down here, Henri, Herbert, Ralph, and I, and get cherries.
P.C.:	No [laughs].
Norman Grimm:	Bobby was a mean little old sucker [P.C. laughs]. Well, we sneaked in one night. They sent me—I'm the youngest—so I climbed up the tree because he had a bell rigged up in the tree to keep the birds out with a string that went to the window into his house, and he'd ring the bell and keep the birds out. Well this is just about 7 o'clock, 8 o'clock at night, so I climb up the tree and I get up there, then Henry comes up, then Herbert come up, we all sitting there getting these cherries, and all of a sudden we heard a guy "Ha ha ha I got ya!" He has a BB gun he starts shooting at us.
P.C.:	Oh!
Norman Grimm:	Now, a fork in the tree I got my foot caught and I couldn't get out, he was pepperin' my butt [P.C. laughs]. So Henry, my oldest brother, said, "Lunchford, when you come out of there [unintelligible] I'm gonna get you." Henry had already beat the heck out of him on the first day we moved here. The first day we moved in Bobby said something, they got into it, and Henry had wiped the ground up with him. So Bobby didn't come out of the house for a week he was scared to death [laughs].
P.C.:	Henry was big?
Norman Grimm:	Oh, Henry was not that big but he was strong and powerful. He boxed in the Golden Gloves, he lifted weights, he did everything.
P.C.:	Wow...
Norman Grimm:	Played all the sports. He was a plumber. You know he was a big man and he was strong as could be so he [laughs] didn't come out. He didn't come out for a week, but we waited for him.
P.C.:	But he got you with the BB gun.
Norman Grimm:	Oh yeah, he peppered me good.
P.C.:	Did you have to go home and admit what happened to you?
Norman Grimm:	We didn't tell Dad about that one [both laugh].
Norman Grimm:	This house wasn't here, neither was the next one, the next one. The

	Wilshires lived down here on your right-hand side. Then there was one little small house way down there, and all these were out there, and over here on the corner the Dowdys lived.
P.C.:	So that's the northeast [corner] of La Grande [Avenue] and...
Norman Grimm:	...La Grande [Avenue] [corrects pronunciation from French "a"].
P.C.:	...La Grande [Avenue] and Howell, East Howell [Avenue].
Norman Grimm:	Yeah [unintelligible].
P.C.:	And do you know how any of these streets got their name?
Norman Grimm:	No [laughs].
P.C.:	They were already here?
Norman Grimm:	[laughs] I can't even remember...I don't know, they got stories with each one of them, you know, but I don't, in fact I was trying to find out for you about Carol Avenue, you remember?
P.C.:	Yeah.
Norman Grimm:	I knew about it and I knew about La Grande, Leslie, and all those, but I don't know how they got their names.
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	They changed so many names around here. I think when they annexed part of Arlington in 1929. Now when the Paynes lived here...Mr. Payne was a very...nice, shall we say properly dressed man. He worked in the government you know and he had a nice job. His wife was...a very nice young lady. But his son Vernon, who was one heck of an athlete, really good, grew up with us. But that house wasn't there, so this property went on down there. We used to go up here and play on the side yard, play marbles, mumbly peg, and all that. And...his mother would open the doorway and say, "Vernon, come and have your lunch, and then you have to take your nap." [unintelligible] So we used to call him Sissy Bridges [P.C. laughs], but it was because of his mother.
P.C.:	He had to do it.
Norman Grimm:	Oh he was a big time [unintelligible].
P.C.:	So that was at 418 East Howell [Avenue]?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, yeah. The Fagans lived here; he worked at the railroad. And his son Tommy [laughs] run around with Henry and Bobby. But one night, [unintelligible] there's this tree here, Tommy was a skittish sort of guy, little short, chunky built guy, he'd gone to the Palm Theater [located on Mount Vernon Avenue] and he—400 block of Howell Ave was lined with trees all through to here. And he come back one night

	from seeing a scary movie, and Bobby Lunchford got up in that tree. It was a branch that was dead, and he got on that branch and when Tommy walked by he jumped on his back [P.C. laughs]. Well, Tommy was so scared he flipped Bobby over into his yard, which was a hedge there, and threw him over into that yard. Bobby never told him he was the one that jumped on his back, but it scared Tommy to death. Tommy come and told me, "Some man jumped on my back." [laughs] I mean we didn't...
P.C.:	Well that Bobby was some trouble wasn't he?
Norman Grimm:	Oh yeah, Bobby was something. But when Bobby and Henry got together there was trouble period.
More About Norman's Childhood Home	
P.C.:	Uh huh. Now were those trees in the back, are they still the ones left over a lot of those big ones?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. That one back there that big one is there was in our backyard [409 Howell Avenue].
P.C.:	Behind, yeah, behind your house.
Norman Grimm:	But you see the old chimney?
P.C.:	Yeah.
Norman Grimm:	Now see the two windows up there?
P.C.:	Yeah.
Norman Grimm:	That was up in the attic.
P.C.:	So you did have an attic.
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. And Mom and Dad slept where that one window is right there.
P.C.:	Yup, with the shutters.
Norman Grimm:	That's just about wide enough to get one bed in and that was all. And Joyce and Shirley had that room and we had the back. Then we rented this side out. Now you could go up in the attic and go across and come down the other side.
P.C.:	Oh!
Norman Grimm:	And Shirley would do that [P.C. laughs]. She would go check on everything going around.
P.C.:	Miss FBI.
Norman Grimm:	Well, yeah, and then on top of that...now Daddy, as broke as we were, people would need a place to stay. Daddy would bring them in, Mom would say "Henry, where's the rent money?" "Oh, we'll get it from them later, we will." "When will we get the money?" She was Willie

	but he called her Bill—Mama’s name was Willie Francis—and [laughs] every time he turn around, “Henry how about the rent money?” “Well, we’ll [unintelligible].” Then she [unintelligible].
P.C.:	Well it’s pretty good that he was able to buy.
Norman Grimm:	Oh yeah.
P.C.:	Yeah, but that’s because it was so run down, right?
Norman Grimm:	It was run down. He paid twenty-five dollars a month.
P.C.:	For the mortgage?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. I mean it was big time, man, we, we lived a happy life and didn’t care about things.
Touring East Windsor, Leslie, East Custis, and La Grande Avenues	
Norman Grimm:	A million times I played in that field over there next to Clarence Stein’s [400 Howell Avenue]...
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	...I baked potatoes right there and cooked frogs legs on a slate . I’d go gigging for them over to the airport, and the reason I did that was because (my friend Frank Dixon and I gigged frogs all the time)...the Vias lived in this purple house, Jimmy and Alvin [laughs]...they fought like cats and dogs. They bought a canoe one time, this is a true story [both laugh]. They bought a canoe, and Alvin wanted to go to the Potomac River with the canoe. Jimmy said, “You’re not taking the canoe.” Alvin said, “Yeah. I’m taking the canoe, half of it’s mine.” Jimmy says, “No, you’re not taking the canoe.” And they were fighting. First thing you know Jimmy comes out of the house. “I’ll take care of it.” He took a saw and cut the canoe in half. True story. [P.C. laughs] “Take your half and go on and leave mine here.” [P.C. laughs]. I mean they fought all the time,
P.C.:	So that’s the purple house at East Windsor and Leslie [Avenues]. Unbelievable.
Norman Grimm:	Now you got to hear this one. Right here, at 403.
P.C.:	403 East Windsor.
Norman Grimm:	Okay. This whole corner lot went with that house. Their names was Dixon, Henry Dixon. He was the maintenance man for the City of Alexandria shop equipment, a little short crippled man. He had a lot of daughters and a couple sons. One son was named Henry, and the other one’s name...uh let’s see, Frank. Henry was Henry Boy...well, Mr. Dixon, his wife died early, but he had all these kids, but he always wanted to make sure they had something, for Christmas. So one Christmas Frankie, who run around with me, says, “Come over to the

	house, come on you got to see this!” “What you talking about?” “Come on you see got to see this!” So I came over to the house and in that front room—there was a big old wooden porch around the house—his father had bought him two ponies and took them in the house tied to the Christmas tree [P.C. laughs]. Nellie was one pony, and I’m trying to remember the other one. Anyhow, we used to take those ponies down to the George Washington birthday parade and pull a wagon. This man could make anything you wanted. He ran 400 North Pitt Street—a city shop—and he ran that whole shop. And that’s where he made wagons. He didn’t care what you needed he could make it. He made a whole playground and put it beside his house on Bashford Lane when they moved over there. And that was in the newspaper, you can probably look that up in the [<i>Alexandria</i>] <i>Gazette</i> .
P.C.:	Yeah, yeah.
Norman Grimm:	But the funny thing about Mr. Dixon—back there was a barn and over here was a haystack. Well, Frankie and I, one time, we were young we wanted to smoke [P.C. laughs], so we stole a pack of Mr. Dixon’s cigarettes and went out in the back in that barn, and we’re sitting in there puffin’ away, and God forbid here comes Liz Dixon, she caught us. I think it was called Flyer cigarettes, I don’t know...Wings, that’s what it was. So I jumped up and ran and she said, “You can run Norman Grimm but I know your father [unintelligible].” [P.C. laughs] So they pull Frankie in and then beat his little butt, and the next thing I know Daddy’s home and Mama hadn’t told him yet, because Mama was told by Mrs. Dixon you know. But she hadn’t seen Daddy. Daddy riding motor. So he pulls up in the driveway and I was standing out front. He says, “Come with me.” I said, “Huh?” He says, “You know what it’s for?” He couldn’t know because he hadn’t been home. Old man Dixon, Henry Dixon, he was good friends with my Dad. He says, “Mr. Dixon just saw me. Come on.” Took me up there and gave me a pack of cigarettes, he says, “Smoke.” I said, “I don’t want to.” He says, “You were smoking over there. You’re going to smoke here.” He made me smoke every cigarette out of the pack. I got so damn sick [laughs]. I didn’t want any cigarettes [laughs].
P.C.:	Boy! Unbelievable!
Norman Grimm:	Tore me up, man.
P.C.:	Unbelievable.
Norman Grimm:	The Harts lived here, the...
P.C.:	...405.
Norman Grimm:	Lets see, Jerry Haskey lived down here further. He was with the water company and the gas company.
P.C.:	Uh huh.

Norman Grimm:	That house wasn't even here and...
P.C.:	...Now between what all of you did you basically ran the town, didn't you?
Norman Grimm:	Oh yeah. Yeah this is...Knick Knack Noy lived here, that's Roy Thorn [both laugh].
	415, Knick Knack?
Norman Grimm:	He couldn't talk [takes a nasal voice, mumbling] noy knick knack noy [both laugh]. We had names for all these people. Johnny Murnan, the one I told you about playin' baseball with my brother all the time lived on that corner?
P.C.:	Yeah!
Norman Grimm:	He was a pilot of a B29 in World War II.
P.C.:	In that stone house?
Norman Grimm:	Right here, it wasn't a stone house it was a wood house, they put that flagstone one.
P.C.:	Oh 420 they put the flagstone over it.
Norman Grimm:	And then, there's a whole lot of people right here but I—and then Aggie Payne lived down there. And let's see, I'll take you over here. The Embreys lived in this corner. He was a policeman in Arlington County, and then when they swung over to the City of Alexandria, he swung over from Arlington to become an Alexandria policeman. That was George Embrey and he worked at King and Washington Streets.
P.C.:	So that's at East Custis and La Grande [Avenues], southeast corner, which is really 501B.
Norman Grimm:	501. No, there's no B to it. They made two apartments out of it now.
P.C.:	So it's just 501 East Custis [Avenue].
Norman Grimm:	And then my mother's brother lived over here, at 510.
P.C.:	510.
Norman Grimm:	Stonewall Jackson Smith [laughs].
P.C.:	Wow!
Norman Grimm:	He worked for the Potomac Yards, as an engineer, Stonewall Jackson Smith.
The Railroad and Trestle	
P.C.:	Now are there any more of those railroad houses still around?
Norman Grimm:	Oh yeah, yeah. On this corner was just a hardware store. Over here was a little grocery store. Okay.

P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	But the reason I'm coming to show you that—you're going to read somewhere within your books and things about the...oxygen, gas, and all that...
P.C.:	Yeah.
Norman Grimm:	...when they had tanks of 'em. That's where they were.
P.C.:	Oh! Right there, at the end of Custis [East Custis Avenue] right at Jeff Davis [Jefferson Davis Highway].
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, now the reason I brought you here is because I want you to see this. Right across here if you look going that way around the angle...
P.C.:	Yeah?
Norman Grimm:	...that's where the trestle went across Potomac Yards leading to the Potomac River.
P.C.:	Oh!
Norman Grimm:	So we'd come over here—the railroad tracks come out across there, see the hill up there?
P.C.:	I see the hill.
Norman Grimm:	All right, that's where the trestle came all the way across here...
P.C.:	...and that's where the piling is over there.
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, And it all the way across way over that way. Okay?
P.C.:	On the other side of the bridge?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, way across the railroad track. See where the houses are, see the power plant over there?
P.C.:	Yeah.
Norman Grimm:	It ran just to the right of the power plant.
P.C.:	The trestle did.
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. So we walked the trestle from here, all the way over and go to the river, which I told you about when my Dad had a place, we had a shack built out of doors we...but, that's the train. This is where we had got up here on a track one day and the engineer ran over a little boat that a guy named Tar Baby he named it, Chilton had a boat and pulled it over here, put tar on it, waited for the tar truck to come by, fixed it all up, the guy gave us some tar, he was taking it back and the train ran over it.
P.C.:	Oh...
Norman Grimm:	See, you had to get down on the pylons when the train was coming, so

	we got all mad about it so we come up here and stood here and threw eggs at the engineers. First thing we knew putt putt putt...oh my goodness, it was my Dad [P.C. laughs]. They called the police department for kids throwin' eggs, and guess who shows up riding his motor—my Dad.
P.C.:	He probably knew it was you, huh?
Norman Grimm:	He knew it was all of us I guess.
P.C.:	So that's right behind the Del Ray Animal Hospital?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, I'm going to take you up here further and show you. But we got to go round and come back again and I'll show you where Slagel's coal yard was.
P.C.:	Oh, good. Did you have to come up here to get your coal?
Norman Grimm:	Well, no, we got it from Fannon's. But over here when the trains went by [laughs], those guys on the train were pretty good to you, they'd, they'd be up on that train, they'd throw coal off of it.
P.C.:	Really?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, and then we'd wait, get it in a wagon, and take it home.
P.C.:	You'd go collect it up?
Norman Grimm:	You'd go collect it. [unintelligible].
Touring East Del Ray, Randolph, Leslie, Terrett, and Stewart Avenues	
Norman Grimm:	Roy Lee Beck lived over there. Now, Roy Lee Beck's brother Walter Beck, who got killed at number two fire station washing down the apron...
P.C.:	Oh...
Norman Grimm:	...after the war uh, Roy Lee and I fished together all the time.
P.C.:	That's 411 East Del Ray [Avenue].
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, we'll take you up here because they've cut the streets up so much you see that you...
P.C.:	Oh so there weren't as many streets.
Norman Grimm:	See Mount Ida, see Mount Ida Avenue...
P.C.:	...used to go down didn't it, all the way to Jeff Davis [Jefferson Davis Highway]?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, but I'm going to take you up here because...
P.C.:	...was that little park up there?
Norman Grimm:	No, we never had we had no parks [P.C. laughs]. We'd be lucky even to have a house. But...

P.C.:	So all these little cottages were here, huh?
Norman Grimm:	Oh yeah. George Bowler the plumber back there, my brother worked for him. Right there in that little house the Fittons lived. F-I-T-T-O-N-S. He's a multimillionaire now, he's on the board of directors Burke and Herbert Bank.
P.C.:	Really?
Norman Grimm:	Oh yeah, he went to school with me...
P.C.:	...so that's on the corner of East Randolph and Leslie [Avenues].
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. All right now, I'm going to try to get you to, I got to get my bearings straight here because...I'm going to show you that, but I know it's interesting because I think [unintelligible], the Huffs lived there H-U-F-F, and I know that because my brother ran with one of the daughters [laughs].
P.C.:	So that's at Terrett and Stewart [Avenues], 2601 Terrett [Avenue].
Norman Grimm:	As a matter of fact they still come to the GW [George Washington High School] luncheon. You have to come to one of those luncheons...
P.C.:	...I want to!
Norman Grimm:	...you would really meet people...
P.C.:	...I want to!
Norman Grimm:	...that you know.
P.C.:	Aren't you usually down in Fredericksburg or Dale City?
Norman Grimm:	No, I was down in Dale City sometimes.
P.C.:	Oh, Dale City, that's easy.
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. I was trying to go a little down there, that was another guy I know. Okay. Randolph [Avenue], see, comes up here and it turns to the right, up here on this bend?
P.C.:	Yeah.
Norman Grimm:	All right. That's the back of the...back of Raymond...it's the back of Raymond. Okay, I'm trying to get my bearings straight. They've changed so much of it here. But right over in this...if I see back here, let me, right back in here...
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	...you can see the top of the warehouses over there?
P.C.:	Yes.
Norman Grimm:	That was where Stark and Slagel's coal yard was, but the office was

	up on Mount Vernon Avenue, you remember when I told you?
P.C.:	Yeah.
Norman Grimm:	Now I'm going to take you up there and show you some of it but, that's why it's so cut up now that we used to come through...
P.C.:	...Right. So this is...
Norman Grimm:	...all the way through, this comes all the way back down to where that little store was.
P.C.:	Yes, uh huh. So that's behind the 2600 block of East Randolph [Avenue], the coal yard.
Norman Grimm:	Right. See, then, like Mount Ida Avenue ran all the way across to number one Mount Vernon Avenue.
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	And Uhler [Avenue] would come across it. And we used to slay ride off of Mount Ida hill and come all the way down to Mount Vernon School.
P.C.:	Al the way down?
Norman Grimm:	Oh yeah. If you made it by that tree that was on the corner where you made a turn.
P.C.:	Was this a sled?
Norman Grimm:	Just a sled.
P.C.:	Just a sled. Did you make 'em or buy 'em?
Norman Grimm:	Well they were bought, but we ended up having to fix—some of us didn't make the turns and we hit that tree head on, and tore them...[both laugh]. This was the cleaners one time, Scotts Cleaners and the Scott [unintelligible] business.
Mount Vernon School	
P.C.:	Now was Mount Vernon School stand...
Norman Grimm:	Mount Vernon School was here.
P.C.:	...was that there?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, this was here but the whole school sat over there on top of the hill. See where that stuff is there?
P.C.:	Yeah.
Norman Grimm:	That was the Mount Vernon grade school, that's where I went to grade school, and this is Mount Vernon School. They've added on to it, but this used to be used for the high school once in a while.
P.C.:	Uh huh.

Touring Randolph Avenue	
Norman Grimm:	Now...where that hair place is there?
P.C.:	Yeah.
Norman Grimm:	That was Thompson's Delicatessen. And next over here was Hide's ice cream store and that's a sanitary.
P.C.:	2609 was a sanitary.
Norman Grimm:	And then is Hardwell Cleaners, and this was a watch shop.
P.C.:	2617.
Norman Grimm:	And this was a florist.
P.C.:	2621.
Norman Grimm:	And that's where Mom and Dad, my mother and father lived a bit later in an apartment. Down there, the little white house was Mr. Collins' barbershop.
P.C.:	Uh huh. Did your Mom and Dad live in that apartment before they bought their house?
Norman Grimm:	Oh no, this is way later, when Daddy had retired...
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	...so he ended up—I let him—he wanted a place to stay so we looked around and finally found him one. That house there is unusual too, so they told me.
P.C.:	117.
Norman Grimm:	Now, when they first built it, they didn't have enough [unintelligible]. They brought two old mattresses and everything in there and cemented around 'em to make a home.
P.C.:	So it's mattresses in there?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, anything.
P.C.:	117 East Randolph [Avenue].
Del Ray Boys Club (Dewitt Avenue)	
Norman Grimm:	That was just the way they did things. Now, the Del Ray Boys Club—I was the first one to run Del Ray Boys Club. It was right in this church. What happened is, after 1946 or [19]47 a guy come to me and—Mayor Bendheim was in the city and I was working at the Alexandria Boys Club. When I wasn't playing they let you [unintelligible]. And they come to me with old man Harry Child, Mary Child's husband. Harry Child was quite an athlete, Mary Child was head of personnel of the city. Harry Child called me one day when I

	was at the club said, “Come on, boy, I want to talk to you.” He said they wanted to open up a boys club out here. I said, “Where are you going to open up a boys club in Del Ray?” He told me about it and it was this old church.
P.C.:	So it’s 2707 Dewitt [Avenue].
Norman Grimm:	So I opened a Boys Club up in there with a guy—another guy who had been a World War II pilot, and they hired me to run it. I got I think about \$10 a week and...big time.
P.C.:	You’ve always cared about kids, haven’t you?
Norman Grimm:	Yes. I coached them all my life. I coached high school football and baseball at Bishop Ireton High School.
P.C.:	Really?
Norman Grimm:	Oh, yeah. I coached the Little League, Pony League. Railroad tracks went through there.
P.C.:	Oh! So that, I’ve always wanted to know...
Railroad tracks, the W&OD, and RF&P	
Norman Grimm:	That’s where the railroad track [inaudible].
P.C.:	...so they kind of made a park through there, but that’s the diagonal, did that...
Norman Grimm:	Goes all the way over to Arlington.
P.C.:	Goes all the way over to Arlington.
Norman Grimm:	Yes, Washington and Old Dominion [Railroad: W&OD] tracks.
P.C.:	Oh, that’s a W&OD track?
Norman Grimm:	It went all the way across that bridge, all the way across there, carrying coal and stuff....
P.C.:	Yeah. How did the W&OD and the RF&P [Railroad: Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac], how did that work over there?
Norman Grimm:	Well the RF&P, Richmond Fredericksburg Line, they brought everything north and south, okay?
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	So they brought everything north and south. Then when they got up here to the hump, then the cars had to be switched over, that’s where they switched ’em over. And when they switched ’em over that was when I told you about the brakemen riding them, you know, that they’d push ’em over the hump and there was like...they had to move the tracks making things like this to say where the train went, making up the train. The biggest part of the RFP Railroad was over here in a

	big old brick building, and a bunkhouse was over here. But what they did, people made it up, up there in the office, what number of cars went where and then they had to hand it down to people. Now I'm going to show you this, this is a rather interesting [unintelligible].
P.C.:	Did you play a lot over in the yards? Or did they allow the kids in there?
Railroad Store and Cafeteria: Sands and Company (Hume Avenue)	
Norman Grimm:	We went over there, we weren't supposed to. From that corner all the way down here was Sands and Company, S-A-N-D-S.
P.C.:	So this is Hume [Avenue] and—
Norman Grimm:	Jefferson Davis [Highway].
P.C.:	Jeff Davis.
Norman Grimm:	Sands and Company ran a store there for railroad people to buy what they wanted—overalls, gloves, hats, anything else. Big long cafeteria down here because all the crews came in over there and they didn't get paid money, they got paid in slips. So they'd take a slip over here and get if they needed like a pair of coveralls or something.
P.C.:	Yeah.
Norman Grimm:	They still got their regular pay but there was...Sands and Company was a railroad store.
P.C.:	Was a railroad store.
Norman Grimm:	Then they, down here a big long cafeteria where all the railroad people ate, see. So every Thursday night they changed the menu. Guess why all of us kids in Del Ray, we'd show up over here at about 9.30 at night.
P.C.:	To get the leftovers?
Norman Grimm:	Didn't charge anything.
P.C.:	Oh boy!
Norman Grimm:	He was going to throw it out so he'd say, "All right, I know what you're here for, come on."
P.C.:	So the cafeteria is at 428 and the store is at 430 Hume [Avenue].
Norman Grimm:	And we—you used to sit over there and eat everything we could until you get sick. [P.C. laughs]
P.C.:	I don't know how you had time to go to school.
Norman Grimm:	Oh, let me tell you...we did...I was trying to think of...[tape cuts off].

The Railroad Area: Warehouses, Coal Yard, Murray's Steakhouse	
Norman Grimm:	...[unintelligible] I will...Ralph Butler worked the night shift at Steve's restaurant.
P.C.:	Where the Afghan restaurant is now?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. This was all put in here later...warehouses. They took our backfield, this is where the backfield boys played, all the ones that, from Hume Springs and all would come to the backfield, we'd come [unintelligible] and play up here. You know, played against each other.
P.C.:	Right.
Norman Grimm:	This was called the backfield.
P.C.:	Okay.
Norman Grimm:	But...
P.C.:	...so what street is this now?
Norman Grimm:	This is—I'll give it to you in a minute.
P.C.:	Clifford?
Norman Grimm:	No, not Clifford. Maybe I don't know, better go there and turn around I think. These streets changed much in a way but then I want to show you the back end of the...where the railroad went through.
P.C.:	Yeah, oh, right here?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, see it?
P.C.:	Yeah!
Norman Grimm:	That's the bed of it right there.
P.C.:	That is fascinating.
Norman Grimm:	And then you see, up there is where I told you when we saw this warehouse and I was showing you up there further?
P.C.:	Yup.
Norman Grimm:	Is where you'll see the property which the Stark and Slagel coal yard.
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	See, because the train was coming by.
P.C.:	Yeah, you needed to have a coal yard by the train. Now where were they bringing the coal from?
Norman Grimm:	West Virginia.
P.C.:	West Virginia.

Norman Grimm:	See, everything had to come through Alexandria, I mean through Potomac Yards. And then they started sidetracking it, going through Ohio, cutting it off up there instead of letting it come all the way down. That's why Fruit Growers [Express] and...all were getting shut down because they were moving all this stuff.
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	Swann Avenue.
P.C.:	Okay, so that's the 300 block of Swann [Avenue].
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, then this...
P.C.:	...There was a family named Swann way back that lived over here?
Norman Grimm:	Yes, yeah yeah. Now over here, right up there I think it was, if I'm right on that now, right up there, that was the meat packing people...frozen food the first one to come, Murray's Steakhouse!
P.C.:	Murray's Steak?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah.
P.C.:	They're still around.
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, they had a big warehouse right over there.
P.C.:	Wow, so now what street is this?
Norman Grimm:	This is...damn it let me think a bit, I have to think of these new ones in there because...one of 'em was Swann Avenue, what was the other one...
P.C.:	I've never driven these because some of them don't go through...
Norman Grimm:	...Murray's Lane! [Murrays Avenue] There...
P.C.:	...Murray's Lane!
Norman Grimm:	See because that's where the Murray's Steakhouse was. This was Murray's Steakhouse. We used to come in here...
P.C.:	...Wow, oh that, that's Swann Avenue there too?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. Swann Avenue I think swarms around but...
P.C.:	...it must go in a horseshoe shape.
Norman Grimm:	No I think that that would be [East] Raymond [Avenue] over there.
P.C.:	Oh, okay...
Norman Grimm:	See, Randolph comes this way, so that'd be Raymond.
P.C.:	Okay.
Norman Grimm:	But this is where [unintelligible] highway [unintelligible]. There was

	nothing here, this was all backfield.
P.C.:	This is a huge amount of space to play!
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. And that's where the coal yard was, all over here. And a track ran on up through there.
Being Kids	
P.C.:	Now, while the boys were out doing this, what were the girls doing?
Norman Grimm:	Oh, they did...the girls had a lot of things to do, a lot of 'em stayed around the house, cleaned up, some of them worked for the government, some of them had little part-time jobs.
P.C.:	When they were kids...
Norman Grimm:	A lot of them worked at the playgrounds.
P.C.:	Really?
Norman Grimm:	Oh, yeah, we had girls at every playground you know, to teach the girls how to do certain things. And...
P.C.:	Do you think having so much freedom and being around other kids and getting in trouble like you did and...made you different people than kids today?
Norman Grimm:	I believe what it was we were so...we—Calvert Avenue!
P.C.:	Calvert [Avenue].
Norman Grimm:	Couldn't think of the damn name.
P.C.:	Good. Good.
Norman Grimm:	We were so busy trying to entertain ourselves, and if you wanted anything you had to work for it, it wasn't handed to you.
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	I mean the city didn't, the city was right, they didn't hand you anything. You, you had to work for it. If you didn't want to work for it you wasn't going get it, and that was it. Your father would tell you, "You want it? Go make the money." Know where that Alexandria Depot is?
P.C.:	Yeah.
Pepsi Cola Company (Fannon Street)	
Norman Grimm:	All through there that was a Pepsi Cola company.
P.C.:	Oh, Pepsi was up here...
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, they had their own warehouse.
P.C.:	That's on Fannon [Street].

The Bridge and the Trestle	
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. Now we're going to come right back to where the bridge, where the trestle run across the bridge. See? [unintelligible] right over there they went.
P.C.:	Right. I think they took down that...
Norman Grimm:	...they took down that, they finally broke it up.
P.C.:	Yeah that was too bad 'cause—
Norman Grimm:	...they couldn't bust it up is what it amounted to.
P.C.:	Yeah. I always liked seeing it up there.
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, so they had to blow it up.
P.C.:	How wide was it?
Norman Grimm:	Oh, God, it was...wider than this street and—
P.C.:	Did you drive over it or just walk?
Norman Grimm:	No, you walked [laughs].
P.C.:	Yeah.
Norman Grimm:	Let's see [unintelligible] up this way, I'll show you...
P.C.:	With people using coal, was the air dark?
Norman Grimm:	No.
P.C.:	No.
Norman Grimm:	Dark as you ever saw it from people using coal was like at the power plant, but they had wrappers on and knocked most of it down, you know.
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	That was that, that was that way.
P.C.:	Where was the power plant? Where it is now?
Norman Grimm:	Down on Wilkes Street down at the low end of Virginia [unintelligible].
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Touring East Windsor, Mount Vernon, Commonwealth, and East Mason Avenues and Newton and Cliff Streets	
Norman Grimm:	This is all Del Ray. This where Robert Hoffman lived, that I've run around with, and the two Harrington twins. Miss Hudson, the school teacher, she lived over in that house.
P.C.:	So now we're on East Windsor [Avenue].

Norman Grimm:	Yeah. And this is where Miss Stark lived. Old woman.
P.C.:	Uh...221
Norman Grimm:	Well, all these people were around here [unintelligible] and there's number 2.
P.C.:	And there's number 2. It looks great doesn't it?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. That's where I started at, right there in that side lot when it was all gravel.
P.C.:	What do you mean that's where you started at?
Norman Grimm:	Well that's where we played sports in the side lot...knock you down in the dirt [unintelligible].
P.C.:	Uh huh. Do you know who lived there at 201 East Windsor [Avenue] right here, the green house? I've always...
Norman Grimm:	...what, this one? Yeah, there was a guy, I can get the name for you but I can't remember it right now. But see I'm going to ride you to your left here and show you these and then we'll—I got to go pick a woman up that has a doctor's appointment for a while...
P.C.:	...Okay.
Norman Grimm:	...then I'll get back with you again.
P.C.:	Oh, this has been fun for me.
Norman Grimm:	Okay, that was a bank.
P.C.:	Oh, where Thai Peppers is—2018 Mount Vernon [Avenue].
Norman Grimm:	And up here was the barber shop I told you about where my mother stepped off a curb up there?
P.C.:	Yeah, oh!
Norman Grimm:	This is where the barber shop was.
P.C.:	Okay so...
Norman Grimm:	...Woods Barber Shop.
P.C.:	...2016.
Norman Grimm:	And then the Del Ray drugstore was over here but before that it was Glassman's hardware.
P.C.:	Where the Daily Planet is today?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. Then over here was where the post office was.
P.C.:	Oh. 207 and 209.
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. Smith's grocery store was on the corner and then Del Ray

	hardware, I mean Del Ray drugstore was there.
P.C.:	So this was kind of a center of the area here at...Now there was one drugstore Shirley said they used to hang out, she, they'd all go up there for cokes and stuff...
Norman Grimm:	...Del Ray drugstore.
P.C.:	...and there was a soda fountain and...[recording stops for a bathroom break]
Norman Grimm:	...work on the same shifts, but he, a guy broke in his store one night. And when he was checking doors, we [unintelligible] checked every door on the way out. He'd come by and the guy evidently, he must have saw the guy in there, so [unintelligible] the guy locked the door behind him so he could [unintelligible]. Send me some help 'cause I said it's a back door and a front door and I can't cover both so he moved down here so he could watch. Then he got thinking, well, hell, I can't do me no good 'cause he could go that way. So he run back into the front and the guy was there trying to get out so he hollered for the guy to stop, the guy wouldn't stop, he turned around [unintelligible] a gun, he start shooting at him. So he shot through the windows [laughs], and he hit the guy at the grocery carts, he hit the frozen food locker [laughs].
P.C.:	[laughs] He hit everything!
Norman Grimm:	Everything but the guy.
P.C.:	Oh boy!
Norman Grimm:	I tell you...
P.C.:	...so that's the buildings on Commonwealth [Avenue] and Monroe Avenue.
Norman Grimm:	That's been there, that electric station's been there for I don't know how long.
P.C.:	That substation?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. None of this stuff was here.
P.C.:	No...
Norman Grimm:	None of these houses were here. None of these houses were here.
P.C.:	A lot of open area.
Norman Grimm:	See we're right back to Newton Street [unintelligible] where I told you we came up back at my grandmother's?
P.C.:	Yes.
Norman Grimm:	So...

P.C.:	...so we just came down East Mason [Avenue].
Norman Grimm:	I want show you, show you this. We'll still get together again but I forgot to show you...
P.C.:	Okay.
Norman Grimm:	This is Cliff Street, it sort of runs around.
P.C.:	Uh huh. These are old houses aren't they?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. Now, this was because this was a side street. None of this was here, see. It was like a road coming around you could get here...
P.C.:	...Okay, it wasn't...
Norman Grimm:	...but none of these...this old houses you see, old Alexandria people.
P.C.:	Yeah.
Norman Grimm:	But these new homes they weren't [unintelligible].
P.C.:	Yeah, but there are still like four of those old ones here.
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, yeah. And you had this one down here, see they added on to the back of them.
P.C.:	Oh yeah!
Former Mayor Frank Mann	
Norman Grimm:	See, they put those apartments in later. As a matter of fact Frank Mann opened these, used to be the mayor here?
P.C.:	Oh yeah,
Norman Grimm:	He owned a lot of these apartments down here.
P.C.:	I guess you must have known him pretty well.
Norman Grimm:	Oh yeah, Frank and I he...when...we used to go to the Southern railroad to a...a get together to have a...barbecue.
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	And when I did, he'd always pick me to be his partner to play horseshoes and all because that I was a good horseshoe player [laughs]. Frank was okay. I just didn't have his money! [laughs].
P.C.:	Yeah...was he...did he grow up here?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah.
P.C.:	Oh I didn't know that. So his family had money?
Norman Grimm's Wife and Sons	
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. Commonwealth Avenue, down where my wife was born.

P.C.:	Oh!
Norman Grimm	She was born down here on...but then they moved downtown.
P.C.:	Uh huh. How'd you meet her?
Norman Grimm:	We was in high school together. I met her at a party one night. Another guy [unintelligible] wrote for the paper who'd run around with me, he said, "I was going on a double date. I want take Margie, but Margie won't go if June won't go. So [unintelligible] what you want to do?" He says, "You go with June so I go to Margie." I say okay. That's how I met her, we went on a double date.
P.C.:	That's amazing.
Norman Grimm:	Went to a picnic down on Boulevard. She was born over in a house over here.
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	Then uh...[unintelligible] over to this other part...
P.C.:	...So she was born like at 203?
Norman Grimm:	She was born on Windsor Avenue.
P.C.:	Oh, on Windsor [Avenue].
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. I got to get over here. She was born up here in this house.
P.C.:	Oh the big white one?
Norman Grimm:	I think it's this house or the one next door but I think it's this one.
P.C.:	Yeah, so 8 Windsor [Avenue].
Norman Grimm:	Yeah.
P.C.:	But what did her family do?
Norman Grimm:	Her father was a special police officer for the Washington Gas Light Company, and her mother played the organ and the piano for Saint Rita's Church when it was on top of the hill, back up on the top of the hill.
P.C.:	Oh my golly...
Norman Grimm:	And that was a big thing. Here's where we went to church. We were Methodist.
P.C.:	Oh, that's been there a long [emphasized] time.
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, gosh, I could tell you that's old [unintelligible]. That's been there ever since I can remember. That's where Shirley still got her papers, where she got confirmed at.
P.C.:	Oh...

Norman Grimm:	I don't have mine because when I married my wife then I converted over to become a Catholic and raise my children that way.
P.C.:	Yes.
Norman Grimm:	And my one son was on the Fairfax Police Department. Now he's with Triple A of the Northern region...
P.C.:	...really?
Norman Grimm:	...he's the public safety man over there. My other son Bucky, he's with Motorola. He does work for designing, putting together the radios they're using overseas for all these foreign countries and everything. He's a...
P.C.:	...electronic person.
Norman Grimm:	Oh yeah. He fit in the same league with his father [P.C. laughs]. But this is all Del Ray, but that church area, that was one of the old houses for the church, but see the church was nothing like this...
P.C.:	...over on East Custis [Avenue]...
Norman Grimm:	Yeah.
P.C.:	It didn't look that way?
Norman Grimm:	No, that church was an old church and you could open up a side...when we used to go to Bible school they had to open up the doors in the basement in the ground the steps to go to the church basement. Now that's all been modernized. But I can tell you, when we get together next time I'll start down at the other end and bring you along.
Geographical Extent of Del Ray	
P.C.:	Okay. Now did you call everything Del Ray or did those old words like St. Elmo still around?
Norman Grimm:	No, we used Del Ray.
P.C.:	Just everything was Del Ray.
Norman Grimm:	You ask people about St. Elmo, they may tell you because they read it in a book.
P.C.:	Yeah, but nobody used that name?
Norman Grimm:	No. It's like people have asked me fifty thousand times how did Del Ray get its name.
P.C.:	Yeah.
Norman Grimm:	Can I tell you, I've had three or four different tales on that, you know, for how Del ray got its name...

P.C.:	Yeah. I don't know and I've done research just on the Internet about the name Del Ray because there are lots of Del Rays in America and they all seem to start in the early 20th century. But I can't find out whoever came up with Del Ray.
Norman Grimm:	See, because, I don't know even know how it got started. None of this was here see...
P.C.:	...no.
Norman Grimm:	..I could name people lived up that street, [unintelligible] up here.
P.C.:	Now was this still Del Ray?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah.
P.C.:	On the other side, west of Commonwealth [Avenue]...
Norman Grimm:	Yeah it was all Del Ray. See what we considered Del Ray when you went up to Hume Avenue...
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	Okay?
P.C.:	Otherwise you were over in Hume Springs, Arlandria...was that called Arlandria then?
Sledding Down Mount Ida Avenue; Changes in Street Layouts	
Norman Grimm:	Yup. Now, you gotta remember that...see Mount Ida [Avenue] right there? There's an old store on that corner. But Mount Ida [Avenue] went all the way through the two schools. That was just the old school here and the new one that they used for high school now and then, plus when we went from the grade school to the next grade up, you went over to the next school.
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	And that street went all the way through.
P.C.:	So Mount Ida's been chopped up 'cause it'd go all the way down, 'cause that's where you would sled?
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. Now I'm gonna show you the hill and then I'll take you back down to the [unintelligible]. But we used to sleigh right there on this hill all the way across all the way through there...
P.C.:	...you don't think of it as a hill, anymore, right? But it really, it is going down.
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, this is what was known as Lloyds.
P.C.:	Mount Ida [Avenue] was called Lloyds?
Norman Grimm:	Lloyds I think if I'm not mistaken. But now you see this is the hill.

P.C.:	It's a good one.
Norman Grimm:	Oh, let me tell you, it started all the way up at the top. But I gotta see if that tree is still here I don't...know because I thought it was down here. There was a big tree that used to be around here, we had it there for years. You come around this curve...
P.C.:	...yeah did you have to make that turn?
Norman Grimm:	Oh yes!
P.C.:	Oh!
Norman Grimm:	You came round here, 'cause you started way up there [laughs].
P.C.:	Uh huh. That's a good long ride!
Norman Grimm:	Yeah you had to know when you started here at Mosby Street, see, you had to know when you started up here, you had to know which side of Mount Ida to get on to get that curve to make a turn.
P.C.:	Oh yeah, this is really the top of the ridge, isn't it, 'cause otherwise it goes on down over to Russell.
Norman Grimm:	Yep, yeah. Here's where we started right here.
P.C.:	Ah...
Norman Grimm:	Either somebody push you or you belly-flop. Now you go down here, now you gotta know there was no cars out here.
P.C.:	No...
Norman Grimm:	You'd come down here so you had to know that you had to negotiate this curve. So you had to learn to get over here, okay?
P.C.:	Close to the right.
Norman Grimm:	Yeah. And then start turning a little bit over here, then you had to start bringing it back, you see, because there was a big tree right here...
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	...and that's where I told you we cracked up every time...
P.C.:	Yeah! I can see why you would!
Norman Grimm:	See, if you're trying to make this curve and it start goin' sideways on you and there's a great big tree, right there.
P.C.:	Yeah.
Norman Grimm:	And if you didn't make that turn, you had it, you [inaudible].
P.C.:	You wiped out.
Norman Grimm:	And then you'd come across here...

P.C.:	...so that turn was right at Stanford...
Norman Grimm:	...and really picked up, you picked up all the speed, you'd go ride through here. And then the street went right straight across there...
P.C.:	Right through the school, today.
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, right there. But, see, they've got it over this way?
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	Because, you see, the school's over that way, came right through here and we'd come right down off hill right through here all the way to Mount Vernon Avenue. [laughs]
P.C.:	Boy, I can just feel it the way you tell me!
Norman Grimm:	I'm going tell you something. Now I'm going to show you Lloyds Lane.
P.C.:	Okay.
Sledding Down Lloyd's Lane; the Boundaries of Del Ray	
Norman Grimm:	And then I'll...but right now I'm going tell you about Lloyds Lane [both laugh]. Now this is, this was Carol Avenue [unintelligible] Uhler [Avenue].
P.C.:	Uhler, right.
Norman Grimm:	Remember, you said it was Uhler [unintelligible], I'm glad to know that because I think I...my dad would tell me these things but you got to remember you don't remember everything when you're a kid.
P.C.:	You don't remember when you're a kid.
Norman Grimm:	But now we used to slay ride off of Lloyds Lane, which is Bellefonte Avenue.
P.C.:	Oh...was Bellefonte [Avenue] called Lloyds all the way down?
Norman Grimm:	No.
P.C.:	No? Just up here.
Norman Grimm:	But the [unintelligible] of Lloyds road was back up that way over Mount Ida. You might look it up when you get back or something when you get a chance.
P.C.:	Okay.
Norman Grimm:	But...[laughs]. We're going go up Bellefonte [Avenue] and I'll show you that...where we'd end up. See because this is Howell [Avenue] comes all the way this way all [unintelligible] all the way down there.
P.C.:	Yeah.

Norman Grimm:	Now, at Bellefonte [Avenue]...
P.C.:	...Oh look at this hill!
Norman Grimm:	...we'd come all the way down here.
P.C.:	Oh...
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, but here was the problem. Russell Road.
P.C.:	Russell [Road] was there.
Norman Grimm:	Oh yeah. So what you had to do was have a couple of your buddies stand down on the road and block...you know stop cars coming because someone's coming off the hill. And I want you to notice something. Stupidity plays a lot when you grow up [P.C. laughs]. See that right there, that little hill over there?
P.C.:	Yeah.
Norman Grimm:	Where that...coming off there?
P.C.:	At Russell [Road] and Lloyds Lane.
Norman Grimm:	A guy had a set of skis one day, and he said to me, "You want to ski?" I say I never been on skis in my life, but I always seen him jump, you know, when he get there. So I got up on that top up there and I skied down there. Right there at the edge? I tried to jump, you know, like you do because I was hoping I could make it to the road.
P.C.:	Yeah?
Norman Grimm:	I didn't make it to the road [interviewer laughs]. Next thing I know my butt is going like this, right into that black top there [laughs].
P.C.:	Oh, oh, oh!
Norman Grimm:	Now, right over there, hidden behind those bushes is a spring, you can get spring water.
P.C.:	Now, that's not Hume Spring?
Norman Grimm:	No. Hume Spring is up there and I'm going show you that...
P.C.:	...yeah, did this have a name?
Norman Grimm:	...we'll go next time...that was the guy that owned Sand and Gravel. His son had...Campbell, old man Campbell owned all that property.
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	But now here is Lloyds Lane. [laughs] Now this is a good hill, baby!
P.C.:	This is a good hill! A good hill! Now were these big houses up here then?
Norman Grimm:	Oh yes! You started right up here.

P.C.:	Right at the top!
Norman Grimm:	Right here. Right here and you belly-flopped and then when you went down over that hill and we're going go back down [inaudible]. But when you belly-flopped, you better hang on [P.C. laughs], because you had a dip in the road. We were not supposed to be up here, see, because orders from headquarters your father [P.C. laughs]. Nothing up there for you people after you get across Russell Road.
P.C.:	Nothing up there for you.
Norman Grimm:	Right. Our boundary was Russell Road, back to Del Ray and Braddock Road this way, and Hume Avenue this way, and Route 1 this way.
P.C.:	So, do anything you want in those boundaries.
Norman Grimm:	Those people have money, they got more money than we ever thought of, you [unintelligible], don't be around there you get in trouble. Now here you come off this hill, picking up speed...
P.C.:	Oh this is fast!
Norman Grimm:	[Laughs] Wait a minute...
P.C.:	Look at the [unintelligible] !
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, this is where you hang on, baby [laughs]. Because you was picking up speed. Now they had to stop cars. Sometimes we'd build...out here [P.C. laughs]. And you hit this, okay, and then over this way...
P.C.:	Boom!
Norman Grimm:	Now right there was Mr. W.B. Fulton who was the old mayor.
P.C.:	Uh huh.
Norman Grimm:	But you'd come down off the hill you hit that dip, hit the other dip, then you coming on down here.
P.C.:	You must have loved it!
Norman Grimm:	Oh, man!
P.C.:	Fabulous!
Norman Grimm:	And then come right down off this hill, all the way down until you got here to Commonwealth Avenue. Now if you were lucky you'd go across Commonwealth [Avenue]. We used to have contests see how far you could go.
P.C.:	So you have to have somebody down here flagging down traffic too.
Norman Grimm:	Oh yeah, because it was only one way here see.

P.C.:	Oh it was one way?
Norman Grimm:	It wasn't, wasn't dual road.
P.C.:	Really?
Norman Grimm:	No. So you just took off, baby, with a...
The Trolley, Luna Park, and the Racetrack	
P.C.:	Now was the trolley still here?
Norman Grimm:	No. See, the trolley had gone, I don't remember...I don't, only thing I remember about the trolley is what Daddy told me. The trolley ran right down Commonwealth Avenue and got all the way down there by [unintelligible] it cut back over and went over towards Number One Highway. That was where they had...Lunner Park or somethin' where they...
P.C.:	...oh, Luna.
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, park.
P.C.:	Luna Park.
Norman Grimm:	Now there was a racetrack downhill from Commonwealth Avenue. I'll show you that next time.
P.C.:	Yeah, I'd like to see. I've seen it on a map, but I've never seen where it was.
The Streetcar	
Norman Grimm:	It's right there behind Mount Vernon School. And then there was an old store over on that corner there.
P.C.:	Okay.
Norman Grimm:	That's where the streetcar would come by, and I remember Daddy telling me that [laughs] they wanted some crabs one time and so him and his brother, my Uncle Paul got on a streetcar and went to [Washington,] D.C. Picked up a bushel of crabs, coming back on a streetcar. Somehow or another they—somebody kicked over—they dropped the basket and the crabs started coming out, falling all over the floor [P.C. laughs], the streetcar, and I mean...he said, "What a mess." He was jumping full of crabs throwing them back in [unintelligible] threw 'em back in. [speaking to person outside the car]
P.C.:	That's the littlest dog isn't it?
More About Mayor Mann	
Norman Grimm:	...but this is Frankie Mann's apartments, you know.
P.C.:	Oh, Frank Mann's owned all these? On Monroe [Avenue]. He's still living, isn't he?

Norman Grimm:	Yeah. But you know I don't know. Is he down at...area?
P.C.:	...he's moved, I know.
Norman Grimm:	Because, see I, I have a, I still get the paper from Kilmarnock, Virginia, which I've been getting for the last forty-seven years, and I get one a week. They get printed there on Thursdays, they send it to me and I get it on Friday, because I still look around and I see you know a lot of people there. And I read letters about Frankie Mann...complaining about something or that. And it's always against the Republicans so he was a Democrat...
P.C.:	He was, big Democrat. I know he had some health problems but...
Norman Grimm's Parents, Family Life	
Norman Grimm:	Oh he did, yeah. Now that bank there, that's Burke and Herbert. I went there in 1954, [19]53. I used to work there on Friday nights.
P.C.:	You did?
Norman Grimm:	Old man made three dollars a night.
P.C.:	That's pretty good.
Norman Grimm:	Yeah, man. I sat there as a night watcher, guard, while they worked on Friday nights.
P.C.:	You worked half the places around here.
Norman Grimm:	Hey [laughs], I didn't let anything grow under my feet, because I figured that I seen my Dad scrap and scream just to get things done, and I'd be unable to give him anything. Never forget one time we went by the house at up at, the apartment, he was eatin' scrambled eggs, steak, fried potatoes, and two biscuits and coffee. I walked in and I said, "Pap," I said, "Eatin' high off the hog ain't ya?" He looked at me and said, "Boy, when I had all you little [unintelligible] snappers around I couldn't even eat." He said, "Now I'm gonna eat."
P.C.:	Isn't that great?
Norman Grimm:	Oh yeah, I told him one time too we was, all of us were there we always used to meet at the house of [unintelligible]. He loved to drink beer but he's not a drinker. He liked Rolling Rock beer and Swiss cheese. So we'd get six Rolling Rock beers and go by...we'd sit there and talk and have a beer with him and eat some cheese. But he'd drink one or two beers and he's gone. So I told him one day I said, "Pap, you know...I've been thinking about it, you know if they had police brutalities when we were growin' up you'd've been in jail. [P.C. laughs]. He looks over at me and says, "Yeah you'd be dead." [laughs]. My father had more ways of just cuttin' ya you know, just...
P.C.:	You could never get one over on him.

Norman Grimm:	Oh no! Let me tell you, when you sat at that table and it was time to eat. Mama was there, Daddy was here, all of us down the side. You didn't touch anything until...
P.C.:	He did.
Norman Grimm:	...he did. And like there'd be one piece of pie left on that plate and you want it so bad but, and it was Mama and Mama said, "Anybody want the pie?" 'cause she knew we wanted the pie, see. [Unintelligible] but my [unintelligible] we always had on the Sunday, after the meal, we had lime Jell-O with [unintelligible] in it. Every time Sunday.
P.C.:	Every Sunday.
Norman Grimm:	So [sigh], when my Mom got real old, Dad passed away, Mom was living in a nursing home, because we couldn't leave her by herself. I would sleep over there sometimes up at her apartment. But she [unintelligible], she'd fall, call Shirley [unintelligible]. So finally they said they got to do something for Mama and I said, well, where would she have gone to a home, and she said, "I can't put her in a home, you put her in a home and no one will come over there." So I had to go put Mama in a home. Anyhow, I—when she turned 86 I think it was—we all went over there to have a get-together. Everybody was bringing gifts, she was in a wheelchair, she couldn't walk anymore, so I said I'm gonna fix this up so I took it over, had it all covered up, they all [tape cuts for a second]. So when it come time to give the gifts we was there talkin' and hangin' out, I said, "Mama, I got somethin' for you." And I opened that thing up and it was lime Jell-O with... I said, "I had to eat it every week, you gonna eat it now." I thought those [unintelligible] crazy.
P.C.:	Oh, I bet she was just so surprised.
Norman Grimm:	Really. But she got so bad towards the end I, like I went to see her one morning just before she died. I always, I'd be leaving my house and I'd always go to the nursing home and then go into work because I was an early riser and I wasn't due in the office because I was captain and sometimes acting chief. I wasn't due in there until 8 or 9 o'clock, but I'd get up at 5, go by and see my mother later on and go on into work. So I went by to see her, and she was sitting there in a wheelchair, the nurse had got up early because they always know I'd come early. I walked in said, "Hey, Ma, how you doing?" She said, "Where have you been?" I said, "What do you mean, Ma?" She says, "Your father's waiting for you down at the barn."
P.C.:	Hmm...
Norman Grimm:	See, Daddy and I had to camp and that was a big barn, that's where we met to get things done. She said, "He's been hunting for you, wants to

	know where you at, you better get down and see him, he's got something he wants you to work on." "Okay, Ma," I said. "I think I'll walk you outside." So I took her outside, [unintelligible] Braddock Road. She said, "Uh huh, no horse and buggies any more." I said, "No, Ma." She was...
P.C.:	...in another time.
Norman Grimm:	Yup. And I never forget that. I had just seen her that morning she died. I got out went over and saw her. She was sitting up on the side of the bed. I talked to her. I said, "I'll see you later, Mom." I left there and went to my office. I had not got far and they called me on the radio and said you better go back. The nurse said she was sitting there fine, and all of a sudden she just keeled over. Which was, you know, good rather than see her wasting away.
P.C.:	Yeah.
Norman Grimm:	Now my Dad, now all his...times where he, every time he'd go to the hospital he had me take him [laughs]. Last day I was going to give a talk one night at a meeting and Dad was in the hospital and he'd been real bad. But when I went there he was sitting up in bed...bright as could be, no tubes in him. But I knew that he was having the last burst of life. I've seen too many deaths, I knew what was coming. So I talked to him a couple of minutes. He says, "Where you going?" "I have to give a talk." He says, "Okay, see you later on." I started out the room. Pop said, "Hey, boy." I said, "Yeah." He says, "Coming home tonight."
P.C.:	Wow.
Norman Grimm:	I walked out the room, went over right to the phone and called my sister Shirley. I said, "Sis, get up there."
P.C.:	This is it...
Norman Grimm:	Shirley said, "Oh no, he's fine." I said, "Shirley, get up there." I went to the meeting, made my speech, come back, out received a radio call to my Detective Cruise as soon as I got in. The dispatcher said you better report to the hospital. I knew what it was.
P.C.:	Was he still alive by the time you got there?
Norman Grimm:	No, he was dead.
P.C.:	He was gone.
Norman Grimm:	Yes. and I phoned sister Shirley, I got her and she came over and then I went to tell Mom who was living in Southern Towers [End] [tape cuts off].