City of Alexandria

Office of Historic Alexandria

Alexandria Legacies

Oral History Program

Project Name: *Alexandria Legacies—Del Ray/Potomac Centennial*

Title: *Interview with Maria Patricia ("Pat") Downey McArtor*

Date of Interview: *July 22, 2008*

Location of Interview: *Mrs. McArtor's Home, Alexandria, Virginia*

Interviewer: *Barbara Murray*

Transcriber: *Roberta L. Cook*

Abstract: *Maria P. ("Pat") McArtor is a fourth-generation Alexandrian who grew up on Del Ray Avenue in the home her parents purchased in 1922. Her father worked at Fruit Growers Express, and Pat recalls her home life, her education—including attending St. Mary's Academy—and the churches, businesses, and theaters in the neighborhood and broader Del Ray area.*

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

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Pat McArtor, July 22, 2008
(Credit Barbara Murray for Alexandria Archaeology)

Introductions	
Barbara Murray:	This is Barbara Murray with Alexandria Archaeology. It's July 22, 2008, and I'm here with Pat McArtor in her home. She's going to share with us her memories of living in the city of Alexandria. Here we go. May I call you Pat?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes.
B.M.:	Pat, first, do I have your permission to record this interview?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes, you do.
Del Ray Home and Neighborhood	
B.M.:	I'd like to ask you first when and where you were born.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, to tell you the truth I wanted to tell how I happened to be in Del Ray.
B.M.:	Okay.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	I'm a fourth-generation native of Alexandria, and Daddy and his family lived on Wilkes Street. And in 1916 they decided to move to Del Ray on Del Ray Avenue, which was then Peyton Avenue. So when my mother and father got married in 1922, he wanted to live on the same street they did. So we moved to Del Ray Avenue, which was then Peyton Avenue, and so my whole childhood until I got married, was raised right there on that same street and the house is still there.

B.M.:	Do you know the address of that house?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, right now it's 109 East Del Ray Avenue, but it used to be 114 West Peyton Avenue but it's the same place.
B.M.:	They changed it. So it's 109 East Del Ray. I've just walked up that street yesterday.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes, here's the house. I have a picture of the house.

109 East Del Ray Avenue, circa 1919
(Courtesy Pat McArtor)

B.M.:	Oh, that's wonderful. Are you sharing this house?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes.
B.M.:	When was this picture taken?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	When Mother and Daddy bought the house in 1922 it was already built. It was about five years old, so I guess it was built in—about 1919.
B.M.:	This is how the house looked then?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Right.
B.M.:	It was Peyton Avenue then. This is very interesting. I walked down this street yesterday just to look at the houses on the street.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Right.
B.M.:	It was still there. I didn't know what the address was going to be.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	What's so funny about that house, of course, now it's built up on the little streets next to it, but when I was a child, cows grazed on the right hand. [laughs]

B.M.:	Were these cows that belonged to your family?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	No, they didn't. They belonged to a Mrs. Smith, who lived in the next block. She had a big barn and everything, so she used to walk the cows up Del Ray Avenue past the lot next to my house.
B.M.:	I am trying to picture this "walking the cows."
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Can you imagine!
B.M.:	Did they just follow her? She didn't have them on a leash, or something?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes, she did have them on a leash.
B.M.:	She had them on a leash.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Because, of course, there weren't very many cars in those days, so the avenue was very sparsely populated. And, in fact, on the very street, on Mount Vernon and Del Ray Avenue, Doctor Yates lived, and then there was a great big space and eventually Mr. Glassman built those two houses there. And on the other side of my house was vacant, so that's where the cows were. [laughs]
B.M.:	So Mrs. Smith brought her cows up the street. How many cows did she have?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Oh, about two.
B.M.	And they just were permitted to graze?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yeah. They didn't have any city laws that much in those days.
B.M.:	All right. That was not a yard. That part of the field was not considered part of your yard?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	No, it was a field right next door.
B.M.:	All right, and so this was 1916 approximately that this—
Maria "Pat" McArtor	Um-hm. That house was built. And of course, when the cows came by I was, like, about 12 years old, about in the [19]30s, I guess.
B.M.:	And Mrs. Smith lived across the street.
Maria "Pat" McArtor	She lived down in the next block.
B.M.:	In the next block. And Doctor Yates lived—
Maria "Pat" McArtor	On the corner.
B.M.:	On the corner and then—

Maria "Pat" McArtor:	The Barry Real Estate took over, yes.
B.M.:	So there was quite a bit of space there.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes.
B.M.:	On the street when you were growing up.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Right.
B.M.:	Were the roads paved at that time?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes, they were, and across the street from me lived the Pettis, who owned the shoe shop, and also there was a beer distributor—the Senate Beer place was right there too and the boys used to lift all the beer cases and it was amazing.
B.M.:	Did you say Senate?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes. It was the Senate Beer.
B.M.:	Like the U.S. Senate? S-E-N-A-T-E?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Owner Guiffre. In fact, the Guiffre Distributing Company, that's where it originated, on the Del Ray Avenue.
B.M.:	Okay, and the Senate Beer, was that S-E-N-
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	A-T-E. Right.
B.M.:	So they were right there. And you said one before that.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	The Petti Shoe Shop.
B.M.:	Petti Shoe Shop.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	On the corner—
B.M.:	So there was a business right there across the street from you.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Right, and on the corner was Mrs. Phillips' ten-cent store, and she was the mother of John Phillips who was one of the group, the Mamas and the Papas.
B.M.:	Oh, yes. Uh-huh. That's amazing. So he lived right on the corner?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Right. On the corner.
B.M.:	His mother lived right there?
Marie P. McArtor:	Um-hm. In fact, that was when he was a child too. So anyway, as a child we didn't have refrigerators—we had ice boxes—so the ice man came by and we used to go out on the truck and get the ice. [laughs]

B.M.:	Can you describe what the ice box looked like? Some of us have never seen an ice box.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Oh, it was just a plain square ice box. I guess it would be about five foot high and in the bottom where you put the ice to make it cool. We always had it on the back porch.
B.M.:	So the ice person would come and ask amount of ice [you needed]…
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	They would bring the ice—
B.M.:	—some large chunk of ice?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Right.
B.M.:	It would be broken up. It would be a big chunk of ice.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	And it would be put in the ice box.
B.M.:	And they would drop it into the ice box.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	And before they came, we would always put a little square, a cardboard card in the front window saying whether we wanted five pounds, ten pounds, or fifteen pounds of ice.
B.M.:	And so how often did you have ice brought?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Oh I guess about once a week.
B.M.:	So it would last a whole week?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes, it would. And then if it didn't, Daddy would take our car down in Alexandria to the icing platform—and get some ice and put it on the running board and bring it home.
B.M.:	And is that the same place where that ice house is today?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes, the same place. As far as school's concerned, I went to Mount Vernon School. And the old Mount Vernon School has been torn down, but the Mount Vernon School next to it used to be a high school before GW [George Washington High School, now George Washington Middle School] was built. And anyway, we always came home for lunch.
B.M.:	Was that Mason, Mason High School?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, George Mason.
B.M.:	George Mason High School, at that time.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Right.

B.M.:	We're talking right now about elementary school?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes.
B.M.:	Elementary school you went home for lunch.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes, exactly.
B.M.:	So how much time did you have?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, I guess, I guess we had an hour. But it was so funny. Nowadays, children have buses and everything and we used to come home in snow about two feet high and didn't think anything of it.
B.M.:	So you had a long lunch period.
Marie P. McArtor:	Yes.
Father and Mother	
B.M.:	And you'd be home and your mother would be there?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Mother would be there. Mother was always there.
B.M.:	Did she fix lunch?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	She fixed a hot lunch. We'd have hot sandwiches.
B.M.:	So you went home and spent the lunch hour with your mother.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	And Daddy came home too. He worked at the Fruit Growers Express Company. Which mostly everyone in those days worked for the railroad, either the Potomac Yards or the Fruit Growers.
B.M.:	So the Fruit Growers—
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Remember those yellow cars? That was the refrigeration end of the railroad.
B.M.:	So that was really part of, it was a railroad employment—
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Oh, yes, definitely.
B.M.:	—to work for the Fruit Growers.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Oh, yes.
B.M.:	What did he do?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, he was a foreman and worked there 46 years.
B.M.:	Wow! [laughs]
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Can you imagine!

B.M.:	Do you have an approximate time frame that he was working there?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes. He went there when he was 19, which was in 1920, I guess, something like that. And stayed there all those years. And, in 1947, he became a city councilman in Alexandria, Edward Downey.
B.M.:	Excellent.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	So he was quite a young man. He played the piano and so did my mother. So in the neighborhood, we always sang and all the neighbors used to always come on the front porch and listen to us.
B.M.:	So you had a piano when you were growing up?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Oh, yeah.
B.M.:	What kind of music did you play?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, we had every kind of music. Popular music, mostly. In fact, to this day I still sing down at St. Elmo's—
B.M.:	Oh, you do.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	—on Del Ray Avenue on Thursday night.
B.M.:	I'm going to come down and see you. [laughs]
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	That's so funny.
B.M.:	Well, what songs did you sing?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	In those days?
B.M.:	Can you think of any that you—can you remember?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Do you mean in those days?
B.M.:	Yeah.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Oh, we sang all popular songs and, "Buy A Paper Doll." Remember that? [singing] "Going to buy a paper doll." You know, one of those songs. And then when we were children we sang. In fact, Mother and Daddy made up a song about the cherry blossoms. We never did have it published, but it was very nice.
B.M.:	Oh, that's nice. So when you lived at home, was it just you?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	And the two sisters.
B.M.:	Your parents and your sisters. So you didn't have anyone else—
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	No.

B.M.:	—living in the house at any time. What was the house like inside? You had electricity?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Oh, yeah.
B.M.:	Running water? You didn't have a well?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	We had four bedrooms—each one of us had our own bedroom, which was very unusual in those days. And Daddy was buying the house, which was very unusual. Most people in that area rented places. So he was buying a house, which was very unusual. And what was so funny, we had one bathroom for five people and we never thought anything of it. Now they have a bathroom for every person.
B.M.:	I'm wondering if we could follow on here, find on this map, and follow your route that you walked to school. I think you were right down—
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Pretty close to school.
B.M.:	—Mount Vernon Avenue.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes, about three blocks.
B.M.:	Pretty close, so you just came down—
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	From Mount Vernon Avenue.
B.M.:	You were on—
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Del Ray.
B.M.:	Well, was this the same street that was called Peyton at the time?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, yes. It was. Del Ray was Peyton in those days.
B.M.:	And you just kind of went around the corner—
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Right.
B.M.:	—and walked up the street like that?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Right.
B.M.:	Just a few blocks?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes.
B.M.:	And do you remember what was on that—was it called Mount Vernon Avenue at the time?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes, it was. And there [were] two or three drug stores. In fact, Bowman's Drug Store and the Haywood Hamilton's Drug Store,

	and then in the next block was a movie theater, the Palm Theater.
B.M.:	The Palm Theater.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Right. The Palm Theater.
B.M.:	Did you go to that?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	All the time. And there was, I think, a real estate place and a gas station. And there was a High's store. It was so wonderful. The Rumpshins owned—they were Jewish and they ran a grocery store—
B.M.:	What name did you say?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Rumpshin.
B.M.:	Rumpshin.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	R-U-M-P-S-H-I-N, I guess. And it was so funny because I still remember to this day that the toilet paper was on the high shelf and she had to use a little machine to go get the toilet paper and bring it down. [laughter] It was so funny.
B.M.:	That's neat.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Oh, I do remember that they lost a son in World War II.
B.M.:	Oh, that's sad.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes, it was very sad.
Schooling	
B.M.:	So you lived there the whole time until—how long did you live in that house?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Until I got married. I was 22 years old. Right. And what's so funny is that my first year of grade school, I didn't go to Mount Vernon. I went down in that little white building which is now the Colasanto Center, right there at Hume Avenue and Commonwealth. That's where we went for the first grade. And in the second grade we went to Mount Vernon.
B.M.:	Do you remember what that school was called at that time?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	I guess it was just called Mount Vernon.
B.M.:	It was part of Mount Vernon School?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes.
B.M.:	They were just—

Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes.
B.M.:	Okay.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	And before it was a school...
B.M.:	Because they did have that, they had to rent out space from the bank at one point.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes, that was where it was.
B.M.:	The same building, right across the street. And so what grades were in that school when you went?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Just the first grade.
B.M.:	And the other one?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	We went to the Mount Vernon—the old Mount Vernon—
B.M.:	The old Mount Vernon, you went for two years.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Which was torn down.
B.M.:	Second through—
Maria P McArtor:	The fourth grade we went next door. The first three grades, we went there.
B.M.:	Okay, the Mount Vernon—
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	To the one next door.
B.M.:	The one next door to it.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Which used to be the high school, but then it was starting to be from the fourth grade on.
B.M.:	So there is a middle school there.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Fourth to the seventh.
B.M.:	Okay.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	In Alexandria, we didn't have eighth grade.
B.M.:	And that was Mason at that time?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Right.
B.M.:	[laughs] The story is confusing. And then it went to seven. And then after seven—
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	You went to high school—GW.
B.M.:	So you went to GW school—

Maria P McArtor:	No, I didn't go to GW, I went to Saint Mary's Academy—
B.M.:	Oh, that's right.
Neighborhood Churches	
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	—for high school. But that's another thing about the religion in the area. Most of the area was Methodist or Baptist. There was just a few Catholics—and we used to go to Saint Rita's Church right up the hill, Mount Ida Avenue.
B.M.:	And when you say we, you mean your family?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes.
B.M.:	Did other people from Del Ray also go to that church?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, the people next door, the Teshes, they went there occasionally, but most of the people went right around the corner, to the Methodist church. And we did too on a lot of occasions when they had big dinners and outside carnivals—
B.M.:	A social thing.
Maria P McArtor:	And everything.
B.M.:	You go over to the Methodist Church?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes. Right.
B.M.:	Okay.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	I want to say too that the area where George Washington High School has been built, before that, all that land is where all the carnivals used to come to Alexandria.
B.M.:	Oh, where George Washington is, so there were carnivals there. And what—can you describe some of these carnivals? Okay, for high school, you went to Saint Rita's.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Saint Mary's.
B.M.:	Saint Mary's, I'm sorry.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Academy. Yes, that's right.
B.M.:	You went to Saint Rita's Church.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes.
B.M.:	Saint Mary's Academy. Where was Saint Mary's Academy located?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, ours was the first class to graduate from the new school on

	Russell Road. But before that, it was down on Prince Street in Alexandria.
B.M.:	Where on Russell Road?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Right on Russell and Woodland Terrace.
B.M.:	Russell and Woodland. I am going to try to find that. Is that more towards Old Town?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	No. It's up the other way. Toward Glebe Road.
B.M.:	Here's Russell. And, here's Glebe, East Glebe.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	It's before that. It's where the Country Day School and all those places are. In fact, it's right up from Del Ray Avenue.
B.M.:	Oh, here it is. Woodland Terrace.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yeah, that's it.
B.M.:	That's where Saint Rita's is.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Saint Mary's.
B.M.:	Saint Mary's. I'm sorry. And how did you get to school?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	We walked.
B.M.:	All right. How did you—
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Winter and summer.
B.M.:	Can you show me the route on here that you walked?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, we went right down Del Ray Avenue and went right up Del Ray Avenue all the way up to Russell and turned right.
B.M.:	First Del Ray. Was Commonwealth there at the time?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes.
B.M.:	And it was called Commonwealth?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes, it was. And we went right on up Del Ray until we got to Russell Road—
B.M.:	Up Del Ray.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	—and turned to the right and there was the school.
B.M.:	Now did you walk with friends or your sisters?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, we walked with our sisters. Not my younger sister because she was five years younger than me, but my second sister.

B.M.:	Do you have memories of any games or activities that you and your sisters or friends did when you were kids or teenagers?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Oh, yes. Well, we played jump rope and hopscotch and rode our bicycles. And, of course, all this happened in the street because it never was very many cars. And at night, sometimes we played kick the tin can or hide and seek and all those [laughs] childhood things. And children nowadays would think were very boring. [laughter] But they were fun. We were very innocent in those days, which I think was great. Of course, there was no television and we just had the radio. And, of course, every now and then we'd listen to Jack Armstrong or Little Orphan Annie and send in fifteen or twenty cents and get a little badge or something like that.
B.M.:	[laughter] So this was like something on the radio show—
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes.
B.M.:	Where they would send the badge—
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yeah.
B.M.:	And the badge would be for, what?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, the badge would be, you could turn it around and fix it so you could tell what was going to happen next time, like, Annie would get lost—
B.M.:	Oh, okay.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Or something like that.
B.M.:	So was it like a way of participating in—
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Exactly.
B.M.:	These were serials then—
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Exactly.
Interior of the House on Del Ray Avenue	
B.M.:	And, your house, on the inside, can you remember, for example, laundry, did you have a washing machine or do, did you—
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, I remember every single thing about the house. But what's so funny is my two nephews are inspectors for the city right now and they had to go down to that house because they were building something on the back of it—and he said that my parents were born and raised there. They said we could come down there

	whenever we wanted to…was the entrance to the house, and then it had an upstairs with four bedrooms and the bathroom. This had the living room, dining room and then the kitchen was here, and I remember when my mother got the first electric refrigerator with the big round thing on the top. And then she also got a new sink because before we had a little teeny sink with a drain-board. Then she got a big sink and she was really pleased with that. And then we had a pantry and she used to put up jellies and things like that.
B.M.:	Did you help her with that?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, Mother was the type of person that we didn't do anything. [laughs] She did everything herself.
B.M.:	She did all these things. So she used to make jellies—
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Um-hm. Daddy would buy things. But what's so funny is that—which I used to love—the country market that they have in Old Town, my father and I used to go down when I was even a little girl, we'd get running cedar and get all kinds of things for Christmas and also get berries and everything for summer and mother would fix them up. Strawberries and cherries and things.
B.M.:	Oh, how lovely. So your mom cooked?
Marie P. McArtor:	Um-hm. She didn't work. So she, of course, it was so great. Whenever we came home from school, we always knew she was going to be there. I think it's something sad for children these days—to never have your mother home.
B.M.:	I want to ask you about this refrigerator. You said a round thing on top.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	It was a GE refrigerator. You remember those.
B.M.:	How big was the GE, how tall was it?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, I guess—They were as tall as I was, and at that time I was almost as tall as I am now, so it was about five foot six, a little over five feet.
B.M.:	Okay, so it was a fairly tall refrigerator.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Right.
B.M.:	And the round thing on top—
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	On the top, was the motor.
B.M.:	The motor. Okay, and then for cooking, throughout the time that you lived there, do you remember what type of stove?

Maria "Pat" McArtor:	She had an electric stove that had the oven on the top—And then I remember, we had a basement and she had a washing machine with a wringer—
B.M.:	A wringer washer. [laughs] Yes. Getting things stuck and you had to break open—
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	And it was so funny, we had a little gas tank in the basement, and you'd have to light it if you wanted hot water.
B.M.:	So everyday when you wanted hot water—
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	You'd have to light the heater.
B.M.:	How about the heating in the house?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, we had a furnace in the basement and you'd either have coal and sometimes Daddy would get wood from the Fruit Growers Express Company because they built those big boxcars. They built the cars and sometimes they had the leftover wood and people could buy it. And so sometimes we'd have wood and sometimes we'd have coal. And we had one of those registers in the floor that the heat would come up.
B.M.:	So you could use either coal or wood.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	In the stove, right.
B.M.:	Did you have coal delivered to the house?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Right. Coal was delivered. They'd shoot it in the basement.
B.M.:	How large was the area where the coal would come into?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, I guess it was…about ten feet by ten feet.
B.M.:	And then someone would come and chute the coal.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes.
B.M.:	And how tall, was ten by ten round, that's like a room, a room size.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Of course, and—
B.M.:	Yeah. A small room.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	I guess they gave you a ton of coal. However much that was.
B.M.:	So it would be as high as the room was.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Exactly. And then your father would have to come and shovel it. They did a lot of work in those days.

B.M.:	Wow! [laughs] How about the gardens? I'm keeping an eye on the tape. I think it's going to end in a minute here. We'll have to switch it over. Did you have any gardens or grow anything?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, to tell you the truth, Daddy loved flowers. We had flowers and one fig tree. We got figs off of that, but as far as a garden, we didn't have one.
Del Ray Businesses	
B.M.:	We've kind of talked about the immediate vicinity of your home and your routes to school, but what else do you remember about the neighborhood itself? Like what streets and businesses were there and things you went to.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, when you went on down Del Ray Avenue, which was Peyton in those days, they had a beer garden. It was all the way down there at Mount Vernon Avenue. A lot of men would go in there and have beers. And then next to that was a grocery store, Clark's Grocery Store. And, then it was mostly residential all up that way. But coming this way on Mount Vernon Avenue we had a ten-cents store. Then we had DiJoseph's Grocery Store and another beer garden.
B.M.:	DiJoseph's?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	D-I-J-O-S-E-P-H-'S. And later years, we had the Scotts Shop.
B.M.:	Scotts Shop. Clothing.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	S-C-O-T-T-S shop.
B.M.:	Store.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yeah. For ladies' clothes. And then we had the gas station was next to that. And then in the next street was the Palm Theater. And, across the street were a couple of drug stores, and then a couple of gas stations. And that's about it. A couple of grocery stores.
B.M.:	And the beer garden, is that the same as what we think of as a bar today—
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes. Exactly. They called it a beer garden in those days.
B.M.:	Did they only serve beer?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, they served snacks but it was mostly beer. I don't know if they even served wine because I didn't go in there.

B.M.:	Too young.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	I remember this, that when I'd come back from Saint Mary's Academy, I'd always stop in the drugstore down there and get my mother an ice cream cone. Every day, practically.
B.M.:	Oh, that's nice.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	She said that was bad because then she started gaining weight.
B.M.:	[laughs] So they had a little snack bar—
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yeah.
B.M.:	Like a soda fountain type of thing there in the drug store.
Other Relatives Living in Alexandria	
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	And the funny part about it, the house that my grandfather and his father and his family moved is still there. They moved there in 1916.
B.M.:	And where—
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	It's right—it's on Commonwealth and Mount Vernon Avenue. The beer garden and all are torn down. But, that first house is the house.
B.M.:	So that's at Commonwealth—
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	That's the house.
B.M.:	And Mount Vernon.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	That's the house. And what's so funny, they moved there in 1916, you can imagine how old the house is. So I remember about three years ago, it was advertised as being fifty years old.
B.M.:	Oh, no! [laughs] People don't know!
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes.
B.M.:	Have you been in that house? What's the last time you were in that house?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, my grandmother, after she moved back to Prince Street in Alexandria, she rented the house.
B.M.:	About when was that?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	That must have been—I was a teenager so I guess it was in the [19]30s, I imagine.
B.M.:	So that may have been the last time you were in it.

Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Right.
B.M.:	What type of house was that?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	It had a front porch—it's still there—and a little living room and dining room. It was a square house like they used to have, and then they have the upstairs. Similar to the house that I was raised in.
B.M.:	I actually just want to describe this house to get it on tape even though we have the picture.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Here's the back of this house. There I am in the backyard [laughs].
B.M.:	How old were you in this picture?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	I guess about 16 or 17.
B.M.:	She's in a very pretty dress.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	On the back of this house on Del Ray.
B.M.:	A big smile. And she's sitting on a porch.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	On the back porch.
B.M.:	So you have a porch on the back and the front of this house.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes.
B.M.:	There's a porch that goes all the way across the front and then there's another porch on the back.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	That's right.
B.M.:	Shutters all the way around the house. It's a big square house like a box with, with shuttered windows. Two floors. Shuttered windows all the way around.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	I don't know whether that was the Sears Roebuck house or not but I know there was a lot of them in Del Ray that looked like that.
B.M.:	Yeah. And it's got this little, I don't know what you call this, little alcove.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	That's part of the attic.
B.M.:	The little alcove that's on the center of the front of the roof. And, are you donating this, or are showing me this?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	I don't whether anybody would want that or not. If you want to keep it. Yeah.

B.M.:	Did you go into Alexandria at all when you growing up?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes, I went there to go to high school. I caught the bus you see because we didn't have any transportation. I was just a teenager, naturally, and I'd stand on the corner where the bus was at Custis and Mount Vernon Avenue. Sometimes, we had our books and everything, and sometimes somebody, a couple or something, would stop and say, "You going in town?" and we wouldn't think anything about it. We'd get in the car and go in town and, of course, you wouldn't have to worry about it. And then when I started working I took a bus to go to Washington and by the time the bus got to Del Ray, it was very crowded and we'd get on and be swinging all the way to Washington.
B.M.:	[laughs] When you took the bus to school, was that the Mays bus?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes, it was.
B.M.:	That was the Mays bus at that time?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Right. AB&W [Alexandria, Barcroft, and Washington Transit Co.]
B.M.:	It was just like a straight shot—
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Right, if you got off at Washington Street. Yes.
B.M.:	I'm trying to picture this—you went into Washington Street because you were, where were going to school at that time?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, Saint Mary's Academy was on Prince Street. It was before they bought the place on Russell Road. In fact, after we moved out the Alexandria Nursing School moved into it. It's right at Washington and Prince.
B.M.:	And, did you have to pay to ride the bus to school?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Oh, yes. We paid.
B.M.:	How much was it?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	I think it was like ten cents or fifteen, something like that.
B.M.:	Each way. You took your money with you. But at that point you didn't come home for lunch any more.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	No.
B.M.:	So you ate lunch at school.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Right.

B.M.:	Do you remember what you studied in school?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	In Saint Mary's, you mean? Oh, yes, I remember everything we studied. We studied Latin, we studied French. We were college preparatory. And we studied chemistry, geometry. It was really a very elite school in those days. And that was expensive in those days.
B.M.:	Do you know what the tuition was?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	The reason we went there, my mother graduated from there. And so she always wanted her three girls to go there. So we all three did.
B.M.:	Do you have any particular memories of your school days?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, I remember the alumni association—my mother went with us before she died, so there were three girls and my mother…
B.M.:	…Well, I think it is. When you were taking the bus to school, can you remember what the route looked like?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Actually in Del Ray it hasn't really changed that much.
B.M.:	Because most of those houses are still there?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	We went down Mount Vernon Avenue to Monroe and then we went up Monroe to Russell Road, then went down that way. Monroe Avenue is still very similar to the way it was then. And, in fact, Del Ray itself hasn't really changed that much.
B.M.:	A lot of the houses were already built—
Marie P. McArtor:	Exactly.
B.M.:	—by the [19]30s.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	But I do notice that on Mount Vernon Avenue, a lot of the houses have been changed into little businesses.
B.M.:	Yeah.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Of course, Del Ray has gotten very upscale right now. [laughs] Another thing I remember, because the railroad—Potomac Yards—was so close, in the [19]30s, there used to be a lot of—they called them bums—but what they were, the people that rode the rails. They'd come up and want sandwiches and they'd beg. In the [19]30s.
B.M.:	What did they look like? Were they clean-cut, scruffy?

Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, they weren't really clean-cut, but they didn't look really "bummy"—they just looked like poor 1930s people, and so we'd give them sandwiches.
B.M.:	How old were these people?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	I imagine they were about thirty or in their twenties or thirties. They weren't old. Because they'd have to jump off the train so they had to be pretty lively.
B.M.:	How often would you see someone like that?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, sometimes they'd be in groups. There'd be, I'd say, maybe one every couple of weeks.
B.M.:	And they would just walk up the street—
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Walk up the street—
B.M.:	—and knock on somebody's door.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	—and want to know if you had any extra food or a sandwich or something like that.
B.M.:	It wasn't a frightening thing.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Nobody thought anything of it.
B.M.:	Nobody attacked anyone or anything like that?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Never thought anything of it. Isn't that amazing when you think of it?
B.M.:	Yeah. Times have changed.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	I don't think you would want to do that now.
B.M.:	No, probably not. Do you remember any place that you saw these folks congregating in?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, I understand that they did in Alexandria. But, I never did see the places.
B.M.:	But not in the Del Ray area.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	But it was near the water, where sometimes little shacks [were built] or something like that. I understand that they did in those days, but I don't remember that because it wasn't in Del Ray.
B.M.:	What do you know about your father's work when you were growing up? Did he talk about it or did you go in?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, it was so funny. It was the railroad, of course, on Duke

	Street, and Daddy never let us go down there because he said some of the men used bad language [B.M. laughs], which I thought was kind of cute. But anyway, he always brought piecework home—these big, yellow cards—and he'd write figures down on them, something about the cars. Of course, the Fruit Growers was where they built the cars—so they had to dismantle the old cars and build the new cars.
B.M.:	So he was in charge of that operation?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes. Right. He was always a very thin man because he used to walk about eleven miles up and down the track checking on people. But he enjoyed the people. He was a people person, and every now and then when, as I say, he was a city councilman, but in the old days when somebody would be running for something, he'd take him down and introduce him to some of the workmen so that they would get some votes. What's so funny, that's another thing I wanted to say is that in Alexandria, Del Ray itself used to be a ward. In other words, instead of being councilman-at-large they had this, Del Ray was the Sixth Ward…and the other parts of the city were different wards…and then in later years it was all one big ward.
B.M.:	Do you remember hearing any discussions about politics or anything about—
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, Daddy always was in politics. In fact, I've been working at the polls for over sixty years.
B.M.:	You mentioned that. You and your sisters handed out cards for candidates?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yeah, cards for the different people. Like the sheriffs or something like that. Small-town people.
B.M.:	Did your parents bring people to the house to visit? Or did you visit often?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Oh, yes. Of course, mother was the oldest of thirteen. And Daddy was one of six.
B.M.:	Oh, did they all live around this area?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yeah, they all lived in Alexandria. So that's why whenever I used to bring somebody home to date they'd always have to find first if he was my cousin, or something. [B.M. laughs] Daddy was one of six , and it was so funny, he said that all of his uncles used to have bars on the corners in King Street. [laughs] Irishmen, you know.

B.M.:	Wow!
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Oh, lordy.
B.M.:	So did they come to your house or did you visit your cousins?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yeah, we visited my grandmother quite often. She lived at 412 Prince, which is a beautiful home with about thirteen rooms, and then my grandmother Kelley on my mother's side, they had a home there at 1401 King Street, right across from the Hard Times Café. And I've got a picture of my grandfather in front of that—it's called J.J. Kelley's in those days. And it was so funny, my mother, as I say, they used to love music and play the piano, but when she lived as a girl on King Street, they didn't have any way to bring the piano, so they had to hoist it up and bring it in the second-story window. [B.M. laughs] Can you imagine!
B.M.:	Did you call Del Ray "Del Ray," the whole time you lived there?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes. It was Del Ray.
B.M.:	Always Del Ray. And what did you call what we call Alexandria Old Town?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, it was all Alexandria. Of course, Daddy was raised in Old Town, but they called it Tunnel Town.
B.M.:	Tunnel Town.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Because there was a tunnel there, you know. Near Wilkes Street.
B.M.:	Where was the tunnel?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	On Wilkes Street. It's still there. They used to always talk about Tunnel Town.
B.M.:	Very interesting. And did you ever take the trolley going back and forth to Alexandria?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	No, because that was stopped by the time I was a girl.
B.M.:	Oh, it was already ended?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yeah.
B.M.:	You don't remember—
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	On Commonwealth Avenue, I don't remember that.
B.M.:	Oh, you don't remember seeing the trolley?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	But I do know the stops—I do remember my mother mentioning it

	because she lived on King Street, on King and West Street, and Daddy lived in Del Ray, so when they were going together she'd get the trolley and come down and when they'd see each other they'd wave on the trolley on Commonwealth Avenue. [B.M. laughs] But, as I say, when I was a child, it had already stopped.
B.M.:	I guess I don't have a clear picture of when it ended—
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Right. It must have been ended around the early [19]30s, I guess.
B.M.:	Did they still have any stops?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes, they incidentally had stops. But I don't remember where they were.
B.M.:	You don't remember seeing them? What they looked like?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	No, that was all before my time.
Entertainment and Shopping	
B.M.:	Did you ever work at any of the businesses in Alexandria?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	No, I didn't. I worked for the government, because most of the time, it was during the war and we all worked in Washington. I never did work in any of the areas in Alexandria [except] during Christmas and summers I worked at the Alexandria Post Office. But I do remember they used to have a bakery around the corner.
B.M.:	What about the Palm Theater? You and your friends went there—do you remember what you paid to get in?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yeah, I remember ten cents. And then to go in later years, we paid twenty-eight cents. I didn't realize it was as small as it is until I grew up, but we thought it was huge. It was two sections, I guess it was about ten seats on either side. And some of our friends, you know, ran the machine upstairs—then, of course, they had three theaters in Alexandria in those times, the Ingomar, the Reed, and the Richmond. And then in later years they had the Virginia.
B.M.:	Were they in Old Town?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes. The Ingomar and the Richmond were in Old Town. And then one of them was a little bit further off of King Street.
B.M.:	Did you go to those?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yeah, we went to all of the theaters.
B.M.:	They were all about ten cents or something like that?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yeah.

B.M.:	And what types of things would you see there?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, in the [19]30s we used to see the [19]30s movies. And then on Saturday, they'd always have a serial and you'd go back every Saturday to see what was going to happen to Tom Mix. It was so funny. My grandmother had never been to the movies and when they had the serial, she jumped up and said, "Look out, Tom!" And she thought he was getting ready to be shot and she didn't realize it was film.
B.M.:	Was that something that you all used to do, too? Would you actually speak to the [screen]?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	No, she just did that—
B.M.:	You just watched...
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes.
B.M.:	I'm wondering also where did you go shopping when you were growing up? Did your mom do all that or did you go?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Do you mean for food?
B.M.:	Food, clothes, anything.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Daddy had the car so he'd always go by the store and bring the food home. Mother would give him, like, a list beforehand. And then just small things, we'd run down to Clark's Store on Del Ray Avenue—and Commonwealth to get the extra things. And we had milk delivered. The Chestnut Farms Chevy Chase Dairy delivered milk. And so that was good.
B.M.:	That was just the bottles?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes.
B.M.:	You put the container on the porch?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	And it was so funny because in those days they weren't homogenized and so when it was frozen the cream would go up and we'd always want to take the top off and Mother would say, "No, we have to wait so we can mix it all up."
B.M.:	Did you go into [Washington,] D.C. and, if so, what for?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Oh, to work. Of course, Daddy would drive us in, you know, in the car when we were children.
B.M.:	So you had a car.

Maria "Pat" McArtor:	We did have a car.
B.M.:	Did most people have a car?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	No, they didn't. But Daddy had a car—off and on. A couple of times he didn't have a car, but most of the times, it was so funny because there were five of us…and he had a car that had a rumble seat. So he and Mother would set in the front seat and I would set in the middle and then, it was really a very tight squeeze at that time. But then we had a bigger car as time went on. But the big deal was driving down to Mount Vernon. We used to go in the evenings. We'd stop at Washington Street and get an ice cream cone and then we'd ride to Mount Vernon on real hot nights. Because there wasn't any air conditioning.
B.M.:	You'd take a drive to get some air.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Get some air, right.
B.M.:	And what, would you do something at Mount Vernon?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	No, we wouldn't actually go to, we just drove down.
B.M.:	It was just to go for the drive.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	And then we would drive back.
B.M.:	Yes, that was, lovely country drive.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	It was at the time.
B.M.:	Beautiful, yes?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	It still is, really.
B.M.:	Yes, it is.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	And then as far as Washington is concerned, every now and then we'd go to Washington to a movie or something like that but most of the time when we went shopping it would be in what is now Shirlington. And they'd have Lansburgh's and Jellefs and different places like, different stores like that.
B.M.:	Can you describe what Shirlington looked like at that time?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, in those days it wasn't all built up like it is now but just one little street right down the center. And they'd have stores along there and I don't remember any eating places, but they might have had a few. But it was mostly stores, like the baby shop, and we used to buy clothes. They weren't huge, they were small but it was nice. And then in Alexandria, they had Penney's, and

	Lerner's.
B.M.:	The Penney's was on Washington Street at that time?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes, it was. And it was so funny, they used to just have a tiny little ten-cent store when I was real little and then a Kresge's and two or three other, and then when they built Murphy's, which was, in those days we thought that was practically like Wal-Mart, but as I look back it wasn't that big but it was great!
B.M.:	[laughs] It seems like they had everything.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	It was *huge* then.
B.M.:	What did you used to buy at the ten-cent store? Did you just go to browse?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	No, you had clothes there and goldfish. You could buy just about anything.
B.M.:	Goldfish.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Everything.
B.M.:	Were things really ten cents that you bought there?
Marie P. McArtor:	Well, everything wasn't ten cents. But some things were ten cents. But that was a great store and there were three ten-cent stores right together, right there on King Street.
B.M.:	[laughs] You'd think they'd compete with each other.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Right.
B.M.:	We've covered quite a lot. I don't want to keep you too long. Let me stop this so you can get your…[pause in recording].
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	…But, my father was in a theatrical group at the Knights of Columbus in the 1920s, the minstrels, Alexandria, Virginia.
B.M.:	Oh this is a photograph.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	And there he is. [looking at photograph]
B.M.:	Which one is your father? So, he's in the top row here.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes. They evidently had plays and everything.
B.M.:	One, two, three, fourth from the left.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	And, in fact—
B.M.:	Did you ever go attend any of these or this is before your time?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	No, this is before my time. But, anyway, what's so funny is that I

	have a place at Colonial Beach and one of the people down there is the son of one of these people and I gave him one of these pictures. He was so happy.
B.M.:	Oh, that's lovely.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	And I want to show you this one little picture, too.
B.M.:	Can I take a picture of this one? I don't know if it will come out, but I can try.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Oh, sure. But here we are, so this is Del Ray Avenue right here and this is the first house, which is the first house at Del Ray and Mount Vernon Avenue. This is the back of it and here we are—my sister and I—when we were children, in the back yard of the house. And here's that big house that's right there at Mount Vernon and Del Ray.
B.M.:	That is lovely. I have only a couple of more questions here and I want to make sure you've covered everything on your list, too, that you wanted to cover. You talked a little bit about the religions in Del Ray. Were there any other religious groups or ethnic groups that you can think of that were living in Del Ray? For example, you mentioned one Jewish family.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, there were two Jewish stores. But they're just about the only people that I knew of as far as that goes.
B.M.:	Did they live in Del Ray, the owners or the proprietors?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	I think they lived at the store.
B.M.:	And were there any children?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yeah, there were children.
B.M.:	Did they go to school, the same school?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yeah, they went to GW. I told you the one boy died in World War II. And, let me see, there were two or three churches. There was one right down Del Ray Avenue but on the other side of Mount Vernon Avenue. That was the Baptist church. And then they had the Methodist church. And the Catholic church. But there was, every now and then, Holy Rollers—
B.M.:	Oh, the revivals.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	—Would come in great big trucks in those days.
B.M.:	Where did they set up?

Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, they did set up sometimes on that lot, you know, about where I told you the—
B.M.:	The carnivals were.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes.
B.M.:	Did they call themselves Holy Rollers, or is that what other people called them?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	I don't know whether they called themselves Holy Rollers or not, but anyway, what's so funny is that a bunch of them were kind of a no-no in those days. Anyway, they'd come in great big trucks and they'd come all around Del Ray, you know, at nighttime to let people know that they were going to be having their revival. It was really something. [laughs]
B.M.:	Did you ever go to one of these?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	No. That was a no-no.
B.M.:	I just wondered what that might have been like.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	But I do remember one time they had a group that came to a store right there at Mount Vernon and Del Ray on that corner up there and they were rolling around the floor and everything. They literally rolled. In those days. That was really years and years ago. Of course, now they're nothing probably like that but it was something in those days. That's about the only group that I knew of—
B.M.:	But you did go to carnivals—
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yeah, with my father.
B.M.:	What type of things did they have at the carnival?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, they had a woman with a snake going around her neck and then they had a little Ferris wheel and very innocent-type stuff. You know, as far as that goes. And, weighing you and you'd get a prize if somebody could weigh you for the right weight or something like that. They weren't anything risqué or anything.
Alexandria Recollections	
B.M.:	Is there anything else about growing up in Del Ray, any favorite memories that you want to share that you haven't shared yet?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, I do remember, I don't know if it is Del Ray, but I know it was on Halloween, everybody in town would go down to King

	Street and everybody would be completely dressed up and walk up and down King Street. Even some of the men in their long red underwear and all. It was really hysterical.
B.M.:	Do you remember some of the costumes?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, I do remember the red underwear.
B.M.:	The union suits.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	And I do remember when the war was ended, we rode down King Street with noisemakers.
B.M.:	And we're talking about World War II?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yeah.
B.M.:	So people rode down in cars?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Get excited and things like that.
B.M.:	Going up and down and celebrating?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Right. It was something.
B.M.:	How has Del Ray changed since you've been grown?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Well, when I was a child, it was very much like it is now. It was very lovely and trees and it was a wonderful place to live. And then it went downhill, long after I left there. And then in the last fifteen or twenty years, it's going up again.
B.M.:	Going back up again.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yeah. But it had gotten infested with drugs.
B.M.:	Wasn't there a lot of flooding there?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	No, there never was any flooding.
B.M.:	I must be thinking of farther down. So there was a lot of problem with drugs.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Yes.
B.M.:	Crime and that type of thing.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Crime, yes, with the integration and everything.
B.M.:	So that's [the crime is] now—
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Gone.
B.M.:	Settled.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	Right. Yes, now the houses are like five hundred thousand. Daddy

	paid thirty-five hundred dollars for that house. And now, I think it's probably worth about eight or nine hundred thousand. [laughs]
B.M.:	Is there anything else that you want to share?
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	I can't think of anything. I hope I've helped a little bit.
B.M.:	Oh, you've shared quite a lot. This is great. I want to thank you once again.
Maria "Pat" McArtor:	I enjoyed doing this.
B.M.:	I've certainly enjoyed talking with you. And with that, I'll just stop the tape. [End]