

George Harper  
9/22/16

George (G): ... something I put together for my parent's 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. First twenty years, cause they were married in 1940 and left Cuba in 1960 so the first twenty years they were in Cuba. This is basically this is something that you already have access to which is the Havana Post okay? Which is at the library.

Samuel (S): Some of it is. We have a good collection at UNC.

G: Oh you do? By the way, there was a... I think he was at UNC. Either UNC or NC State.

S: Lou Perez?

G: No. Not Lou Perez. I know Lou. This is a guy that I went to high school with who was I believe a professor at UNC. His name was Douglas Dewey.

Mystery person: Good morning.

S: How's it going?

Mystery person: Would you like something to drink?

S: I'm good. Thank you so much. That's a name I've heard because...

G: He went to Ruston with me. He was in my class.

S: He was in Carrboro. Yeah. When I interviewed Jim Benson.

G: He also mentioned Doug?

S: Yeah.

G: Yeah we were all classmates together and I hadn't heard from him in years but the last time I had heard he was teaching at on of the...

S: Right. UNC probably if he lived in Carrboro which is right there. Alright sorry.

G: I'm sorry I have to tell you I don't even know if he's still living it's been that many years.

S: I think he is because the Bensons keep in touch with him.

G: So, as I say, you probably already have access to this but what I did is I went through it as a token, as a gift to my parents and picked out things that would be of interest to them. Like, for instance, we were into baseball.

S: Local baseball? Cuban baseball?

G: Yeah. I was a batboy for the Havana Sugarcanes.

S: Really. Wow.

G: Actually the visiting teams that came to play the Havana Sugarcanes.

S: Oh no. Working with the enemy.

G: Yeah. So we were kind of into baseball. This goes back a long way.

S: Did you just copy... where did you...

G: It just took me hours. I just went to the library and...

S: The library at the CHC?

G: Yeah.

S: Okay so they do have more.

G: I think they have all of them if I'm not mistaken.

S: Alright.

G: And then anything that had to do with or that might have impacted our family, I included. Or anything that I thought they might find of interest. Just all kinds of stuff. 1951 the Korean War.

S: I have stacks of *Havana Posts* and *Times of Havana* articles in my office.

G: This is my sister. She had appendicitis.

S: And that makes the paper.

G: The social issues. Silly stuff like that. Anyway, as I say, you probably already have access to... this is Connie Mack.

S: What was the goal of this paper?

G: It was an Anglo-American community you know, just to advise them what was going on in English. You know, as a side matter of interest, I do a lot of international work and I traveled extensively in Latin America and my wife and I once went to Uruguay and we met a retired lawyer down there by the name of Eduardo Mcgillicuddy. Interesting name. And he said his, I guess it was his grandfather or great grandfather, immigrated to Uruguay from Ireland. And Eduardo, some years later, we kept up with him, became very good friends and he was named the Uruguayan ambassador to Washington. So at the time, I was campaigning for Connie Mack for senator. You know, whose name was Cornelius Mcgillicuddy. He was a grandson of Connie Mack. So I wrote to him and I said, you know, Connie, there is a Mcgillicuddy that is going to Washington and is going to be the ambassador to Uruguay from Uruguay to Washington. So I put them in touch and it turns out they

were second cousins and that his grandfather had immigrated to Philadelphia and Eduardo's to Uruguay and his grandson is now a U.S. senator in Florida. And they became very good friends and were until Eduardo passed away some years ago.

S: Wow.

G: Anyway, that had nothing to do with anything.

S: It's interesting. What type of law do you do?

G: I do international commercial. This is the Miramar Theater where we spent every Saturday afternoon. You know, silly stuff but it brought back a lot of memories for my siblings and my parents. So anyway, this is too... but they do have every issue of the *Havana Post* maybe of the *Havana Times* as well. That was a much shorter run. It was only a couple years. But this goes back to 1940...

S: And you would get both papers delivered to your house?

G: Yeah. Prenuptial party given for Ms. Betty Pardo, my mother, and George Harper, my father.

S: 1940.

G: 1940. That's the year they were married.

S: Wow.

G: So anyway, I've got that. I've got some other things here that you might find of interest.

S: So that one is online. I have the '59 version.

G: Okay. This is 1960.

S: Cathy Brown Crescioni gave me that.

G: Okay. And this is 1952-53 so these you already have.

S: Was the population of Americans getting smaller at that point? Well I guess 1960 was the last year.

G: 1960 they really started to exit.

S: So can we start with how your family ended up in Cuba? Or what is this? I'm sorry.

G: Well this might answer some of those questions. This is my... I had prevailed upon my dad to write his memoirs. My dad really had a very interesting life and the history of his family and all that. And I took an exert of a few pages from what he had written and it explains how we got to Cuba. They were in the... my grandfather, my father's father, and his siblings, there were 14 of them. Seven women and seven men. The seven men had a stockyard operation, which was pretty large for those

days. It was in St Louis, Atlanta, Charleston and several other places. In 1907, when my grandfather graduated from college, his brothers said to him, "you will run our operation in Havana," that they were starting. They bought, it says it in here, they bought some corrals and stockyards in Havana and sent him, my grandfather down there to run the operation. And that is basically how we got to Cuba.

S: What did you do... so you were importing things?

G: Importing cattle. Selling cattle. I wasn't of course, my grandfather. And all kinds of livestock. They sold horses and mules. They bought goats and sheep and all that kind of stuff.

S: And your family had a farm, is that right?

G: A ranch. Well we had a farm and a ranch yeah. The farm was a smaller operation and we had a 10,000-acre ranch that was...

S: A few of the people I've talked to remember going there.

G: Well Jimmy Benson and I and two other guys did make several trips down there. So this explains the operation.

S: So I can hang onto this?

G: You can have that.

S: Has this been published?

G: It has not been published.

S: I'm creating this collection of oral histories. I got a grant to...

G: You don't want these? These copies?

S: I'm good because I have these copies of the Mother's Club and it's so fascinating just how it's...

G: This I think you might find of real interest here. This is the... of my grandmother who married Dr. Pardo who was a very prominent doctor in Cuba and he was a highly respected guy and I was very close to him. I don't know if that's of any interest. This is his bio.

S: So this is your maternal...

G: Maternal grandfather.

S: And I could borrow this?

G: I'll tell you what. Let me have my secretary make a copy. You're certainly welcome...

S: It's good to have a secretary to make copies. We don't get those as graduate students.

G: And then the last thing that I found before you want to start asking questions is something that I think you'll find quite of interest. This is written by a lady named Mrs. Bucock. I don't recall her first name. I remember Marian Bucock. 1942. And what she did was she interspersed the history of the women's club of Havana of which my grandmother was a president with what was happening in the world. This was during World War II. So she would say, "The Nazis were ominously quiet... etc. etc. while in our club we elected a new president." One paragraph on, and I found that kind of interesting but again I can give you a copy of this.

S: That would be fantastic.

G: So that's it. I've got, obviously, a lot more material but...

S: You and your sister both.

G: Yeah my sister has quite a bit.

S: I'm going to visit her next time I'm back at school. Alright so you came from a family that was intermarried right?

G: Right. Alicia could you make a copy of this? Just one copy of each of this. This is one page. This is just front. This is thicker than it looks but just single pages as well. Thanks.

S: So just very quickly, the question I was going to ask you, so I'm creating this collection of oral histories, which I'm going to donate to UNC's library. And so if you don't mind, this interview will go there but also if there are resources like something like this memoir, I just want to pass this along so other historians can talk about this community as well. Would you mind if I donated these materials as well?

G: I don't mind. I have to tell you that that is a work in progress.

S: Okay. If there is another draft at some point that...

G: I first started putting the whole history of the family together in 1977.

S: Oh wow.

G: And periodically updated it and that actually is an exhibit to it. It's a... and I've got some wills and all kinds of other materials in there. So I don't think you would find of particular interest our family genealogy or you know what unit they fought for in the Civil War. It's all in there. But this is the part that has to do with my father's memoirs on how they got to Cuba.

S: Right. This collection is going to be Cuba exclusive.

G: Exactly. But that's going to be static and the work I'm putting together, and I'll probably work more on it when I retire if I ever do, is going to be probably... that part isn't going to change because my dad has passed away but the history itself will evolve. But that part, that's static.

S: Wonderful. Just because I think this will add things and I'm finding this community very unique. But it seems if you look around the western hemisphere just generally, when U.S. corporations go abroad it doesn't integrate into the society, it doesn't form a community in this way.

G: Well because ours was really more than just corporations. There were people that were second, third generation that were there, like us. I was a third generation.

S: So when you were growing up, what did you consider yourself?

G: Damned if I knew.

S: What was your first language?

G: It's hard to say. We spoke English around the house obviously and Spanish elsewhere. But I spoke Spanish to my grandfather. There was a period of time, I was told by my mother- I mean when early on you're fully bilingual you only have one language and you basically pick in your mind whatever is easiest to say as a child- but there was a period of time, my mother told me, where I was quiet for a few months. I guess I was sorting out in my head what belonged with Cuba, you know, with Spanish and what belonged with English. So it's hard to say. I mean, we'd be sitting around the dining room table and they'd be talking in English but then, you know, the maid would come in bringing food and we'd just talk in Spanish to her. So it was really indistinguishable and Spanglish, you know, a lot of slang that the Americans would use, the Cubans would use, incorporating terms from both languages.

S: How did your parents... I'm sorry.

G: It was a really not only bilingual but bicultural because we bonded well with each other. We loved Cubans and Cubans loved the Americans and for this thing to happen there is something nobody could've expected. In a place like that where there was so much mutual respect and affinity for the culture the food the music. I was, I'm sure Jenny might have told you, but I was one of the teenage turntable disk jockeys.

S: Jim Benson mentioned this.

G: Yeah, you know, Sunday afternoon for two hours.

S: With Dewey right?

G: Yeah. We would play the top 40. Take dedications you know.

S: Thank you so much.

G: There were American movies and Cuban music you know and my dad, god he loved the Spanish language, the songs, like the Cuban folk songs you know that are made up as you go along. I mean, down at the ranch, we'd go down there periodically but the ranch was probably 300 miles away down at Las Villas province and you know we'd be out on horseback and stop in to say hello to the people to the workers' families and people that were there and you know they'd pick up a guitar and start strumming and eventually a song would come out that they'd make up. That was just incredible, the talent.

S: And that was cowboys? Who are these people who...

G: Yeah. They worked for my dad.

S: As ranch hands?

G: Ranch hands, foreman, my son, my eldest son, not the one who works with me now but he lives in Pittsburgh and he and I went to Cuba in 2002 and we rented a car and we went down to the ranch. We went to the town that was the closest called Santos Spiritus which is the closest jump off point, about 40 miles from the ranch and we... I had contacted the brother of a guy that I had met through the... are you familiar with ASCE? Association for the Study of the Cuban Economy?

S: No. Yeah actually I am. Yeah.

G: It's economists. They get together once a year and have conferences and stuff.

S: It's Cubans and Americans right?

G: Yeah. Right. And anyway I had met this fellow there and we became good friends and it turns out that his dad's ranch was right across the road from my father's ranch. So we were... we knew the area. And when I decided to go down there, he said he would get in touch with his brother. So his brother actually guided us from Santos Spiritus out to the ranch. There's nothing left. Everything is gone.

S: What is it now?

G: Just open land.

S: Do people live there?

G: No. My dad... the ranch house is gone, the barns. My dad had an office across the street. He had a hangar for his crop dusters, you know, and a landing strip. Even the fence posts are gone. It's just flat land.

S: How many acres was it?

G: 10,000

S: And how many people worked there?

G: I really couldn't tell you. 700 I'm sure.

S: What was the name of the ranch? Do you remember?

G: Well the name of the ranch was Los Galleguitos. It means seagull. Seagull ranch. because it was on the coast I guess. I don't know why it was named that. Anyway, we went out there with Angelo who is the brother of my friend and said to him, you know, if there's anybody left that maybe remembered my dad I'd like to say hello. He got the word out and my son and I went back the hotel, I went up to the room to refresh a little bit and I got a phone call from the lobby saying there's some people here that want to say hello. So I went down and I have to tell you, it was emotional. Because these were the kids, they were children, they were the same age as I. We used to play together, the sons of my dad's foreman. There were four of them and all four had come from, you know, some of them from a pretty long way off just so they could spend some time with us. And, you know, it was really an emotional thing. But of course they had with them a guy that I didn't know. He just sort of appeared on the photographs, which I have. We found out later that he was a representative of CDR. Comités de Defensa de la Revolución, Committee for the Defense of the Revolution. And they were going to meet with Americans and that was suspicious so they had to have this kind of company with them.

S: Got it. A chaperone. Did your father live most of the time on the ranch or was he in Havana?

G: No he would commute periodically.

S: How often would he go to the ranch?

G: Well it depends on the time of year. If it was harvest time... because we had cattle and we also grew rice, significant commercial activities. He had an integrated rice operation. He would grow the rice, he would package it, you know, dry it, package it, sell it. He had his own brand and that was a time when he had to be down there a lot more often. And also during the roundup, you know when it was time to get the cattle ready for the market, to sell. I would go down there. I worked. It was the first job I ever had. Fifteen bucks a week and my job was to take the... what do you call it? Well anyway I would put it on the shoulder in the shoots in the corral of each bull or cows as they went by and the next guy would put the shot in. Then the next... you know against hoof and mouth disease and that sort. And then the guy behind him would take the tail and cut off the excess, you know, the hair that would drag into the ground and pick up bacteria and whatnot. So they would shorten the tail and then the last guy had these big shears and they would take and cut off the ends of the horns so they wouldn't hurt each other. That was interesting. Because if you worked in that corral during roundup time you had lines of blood just crisscrossing all over your body because they would shake their heads and the blood, you know, streaming out of their horns would go everywhere. So that was interesting and I can

never get the smell of that material off my hands. It would take like a week. It was that strong.

S: Were there other Americans that worked on the ranch or was it all Cuban?

G: I'm trying to think... well some of the pilots, the crop dusters.

S: Did they come down just for that?

G: They would come down periodically yeah. One of them actually was an interesting... my dad, I might have it in there, the guys name... anyway, apparently he was a gunrunner to Castro. He would run guns to the mountains and then he was pilot and he needed work so my dad gave him a job, you know, dusting his crops.

S: But he would've been living full time...

G: Probably in the bunkhouse with the cowboys.

S: So he wasn't living in the United States? He wasn't imported just for this?

G: No. He was not. No he just showed up one day and asked for a job. And by the way, when we got... when we left Cuba and were living here in Coral Gables, he showed up there too. Ray, I think his name was, Ray something-or-another. I think my dad gave him a loan. Kind of an itinerant pilot.

S: Did your father's business remain connected to his siblings or no?

G: No. What happened was when my grandfather passed away, he divided the business up. The ranch he left to my father, and other businesses including a smaller truck farm where they grew tomatoes and vegetables that went to the winter market here because they never froze down there. He left to his wife and to his daughters including – and there were some other businesses he left to his daughters as well - warehouses where they would store the, you know, the rice and stuff like that. Those were left to my two aunts. One of whom, by the way, is still living and we saw her last week in fact. She's 98 years old. My dad's baby sister. They live in Boston.

S: Wow. That's why you guys were in Boston.

G: Yeah. She's something else. My aunt Patty.

S: She's still pretty with it?

G: Oh my lord. Sharp as a tack.

S: That's amazing.

G: This is a little aside. Maybe you'll find it interesting.

S: But she never lived in Cuba?

G: Oh yeah. She absolutely did...

S: So who else lived in Cuba from your family?

G: Well she was born there. My other aunt Anne was born there. My dad was born there.

S: So your grandfather was the one that was one of 14?

G: Yeah. He went down there.

S: I'm sorry.

G: This is my aunt Pat. God bless her. She's so sweet.

S: Oh wow.

G: She has memories of Cuba. You could ask her, for instance, my cousins found this photograph of my dad with these street urchins all around. Apparently he had just got off a ship, he was bringing cattle cause part of his job was to come to the states, buy cattle and goats and sheep and pigs and send it down there. And he was surrounded by these urchins and there was a term that was used. I don't recall what it was. My cousin said, "What is that term?" And I said, "I have no idea." So he turned to my aunt and she knew right away what it meant. It meant, you know, street rabbler or something like that. It's a term that had fallen out of use. But she's something else.

S: So who else was in your father's family? It was the two aunts...

G: My grandmother, my grandfather died in 1948. A young man. Died of a heart attack at the age of 57 or 58 or something like that and that's when my dad had to take over the operation.

S: Got it. Were there other boys in the house?

G: No it was my dad and his two sisters and that was it.

S: Was your grandfather married to your grandmother before Cuba?

G: No. He went down there and he didn't speak Spanish. He had to learn the hard way. But they met... my grandmother was from Atlanta and he was from Jonesboro which is right outside of Atlanta. There was, you know, they met either on the train, she had gone to Cuba on a vacation and he was coming up I guess for some family thing and they met. They met either on a train or on a boat between Key West and Havana and they were married and he took her back to Cuba to live.

S: Wow. And then how did your parents meet?

G: Well they grew up together. My mother, you know, her mother was American, her dad was Cuban. They went to the same schools. They were childhood friends.

S: What school?

G: My dad went to Candler College.

S: She went to Buena Vista?

G: She went to Buena Vista. So you were knowledgeable about those things.

S: I know some of this yeah. It's my project. It's my life for the last five years. Why did he go to... what year would he have gone to school?

G: Well he graduated from Georgia Tech in 1936 so he would've graduated from high school in 1932 I guess.

S: So Ruston was around at that point but he chose to go...

G: Well in 1932 it was not like it was twenty years after that.

S: I'm just trying to figure out what was that decision process like.

G: I really couldn't tell you. Well now Candler had been established for quite awhile. I think, if I'm not mistaken, it was funded by the Coca Cola Company.

S: Because the brother of bishop Candler was...

G: Well the Candler family was very active in Coca Cola and in fact my dad tells an interesting story which I think is in there about his father, you know, he was friendly with the Coca Cola people because they were all from Atlanta. And he was from Atlanta and they came down there and they got to be good friends and they said to him, to my grandfather they said, "Why don't you take the Coca Cola operation in Cuba? We'll give it to you and you run with it and develop it?" And apparently, according to my dad, my grandfather said, "I should give up a good business like horses and mules for Coca Cola?" Probably not the greatest decision he ever made.

S: Wow. I'm going to interview the Thomases later.

G: Oh yeah.

S: They were the Coca Cola folks.

G: Oh yes they were. I guess you know about Mike.

S: I've heard... your grandfather saved them a job it sounds like?

G: Well I mean... this was a generation before. Tony and Thomas and I were in the same class. Mike Thomas, I forget the name of the second one... the third one, Mike, was like two years behind me and he was the one who was injured when he went to Cuba. He became I think it was paraplegic. I think so. Because they had an accident, an automobile accident, and he was seriously injured.

S: Wow. When he went back?

G: Yeah.

S: So after the revolution.

G: Yeah. Oh yeah. Years later when he went back to visit. They're in California right?

S: Maybe Colorado? Somewhere. Not here. It's going to be a phone interview. The reason I know all of this is that Chris Baker is a ninja and fantastic and super helpful.

G: Yeah there were other American schools there. Lafayette was our main competitor in basketball and baseball and all of that.

S: So this is an interesting question for me because something like Candler was not considered an American school.

G: It had evolved into a Cuban school. But originally it had started out as an American school. In fact, when I was up in Boston last week, my cousin brought out my aunt's scrapbook and it had a lot of materials about Candler college in there and a lot of kids that went to Candler went together to Georgia Tech and I guess because it was the closest engineering school to Havana, etc. So my dad went to Georgia Tech and I went to Georgia Tech.

S: Your maternal grandparents, you said he was a famous doctor?

G: Yes.

S: Was he educated in the United States?

G: He was, he got some of his degrees in the U.S. He was educated primarily University of Havana medical school but as you'll see in this material, he got his post grads at the University of Pennsylvania. I forget what else. But that's where he met my grandmother in fact.

S: So he married an American woman?

G: He married an American woman. Yes. She was from, originally she was from Ohio but she was a nurse. She actually was a nurse at the Carlisle Indian School where Jim Thorpe and all that... And if I'm not mistaken I think she was there at the same time as Jim Thorpe. Those letters that my sister has have a lot of references that she wrote from there about these Indian children and how they reacted to being "Americanized" and all that.

S: That's so interesting.

G: So here... he went to New York and became a post graduate student at Columbia University and did his postgraduate work at Pennsylvania University. He was a pathologist in North Town, Pennsylvania for the... My grandfather was a world-renowned expert on syphilis. Yeah. And then he married my grandmother in Philadelphia in December 1960.

S: Was he Catholic?

G: Catholic? I think he was Protestant. Why do you ask?

S: I'm just curious if it was an interfaith relationship.

G: Oh I don't think anyone was very religious. My parents were married at the Episcopal Church, the bishop Blankenship.

S: I interviewed Hugo.

G: Yeah? You met his son Wyatt?

S: Hugo, not Wyatt. Everybody says Wyatt. He was a little older I think.

G: Okay. And we were raised Episcopal. In fact, we're still Episcopal. My wife and I were married in the Episcopal Church and have been all our lives.

S: What language did your maternal grandparents speak to each other?

G: My grandmother had a tough time with Spanish. She spoke it but with the most god awful accent you've ever heard. So it was English. My grandfather spoke very good English.

S: But you spoke to your grandfather in Spanish?

G: Well occasionally. Sometimes and then sometimes in English.

S: What was their social network like? Were they hanging out mostly with Americans or with Cubans?

G: I would say probably a combination. They were pretty social. They moved in social circles so they had Cuban friends and they had American friends. My parents were the same way. You go to a New Years Eve party for example and it wasn't just Americans or just Cubans. They were both there. Most of the music, it was Cuban music. They would very rarely, in those days, I would say in the forties or fifties, I mean our generation in the fifties were into rock and Elvis Presley and all that kind of stuff but before that, you know, Glen Miller. They were into Benny More you know, the Cuban beat.

S: Do you think that your family, and it's interesting that you brought this up at the beginning cause one of the things that I think I'm going to be arguing is that these long term members of the American colony in some ways served as a bridge between some of these corporate executives that were down there for four to six years or...

G: Yeah there is no question. No question.

S: ... because you guys were so integrated into the society.

G: That's absolutely true. There were... those that came down for short periods of time, you know, they were transferred there from the headquarters up in the states, they didn't integrate as well as those of us that had been there for a long time. Do you know the Hedges? The Hedges family?

S: Yeah I interviewed Avis.

G: Did you? Was it Jimmy? No Jimmy passed away didn't he?

S: Avis is the daughter who married Tony Navarro.

G: Okay. Okay.

S: And then Helen Hedges is the other sister. Jimmy is the son I think.

G: That was a family that my grandmother Harper was very close to. And I forgot... Hedges...

S: Dayton.

G: Dayton's wife... Anyway she and Dayton's wife were very close friends. Social friends. And they because they had a lot in common because it wasn't just in and out. They weren't there for just two or three years and then leaving. They were there for, you know, for the long haul.

S: Did you ever visit the Hedges? I heard they had quite a house.

G: Yeah. Yeah they sure did. Out in Ariguanabo.

S: Right. Where the mill was.

G: Correct.

S: It was on a lake or something? Someone was describing it to me.

G: I don't know but another family was the Colemans. Henry Coleman. Did you know about them?

S: Yeah I interviewed the Campbells.

G: Campbell is different.

S: Right I'm thinking Culligan not Coleman.

G: Oh Culligan. Yeah. No Coleman was also, I remember because the lady was a close friend of my paternal grandmother. And again because of this second, third generation. He had... actually I went to visit. The Coleman son was... went to the Naval Academy. I don't even know who would've appointed him. I guess whoever the ambassador in Cuba... I don't know how that works. But they had a very famous restaurant there called The Yank. Have you ever heard of The Yank?

S: No.

G: Ok. The Yank was where us kids went and our parents didn't necessarily know about it and Mr. Coleman kept his mouth shut. But you know, because they didn't really have a drinking age then and rum and coke was pretty cheap.

S: Sure.

G: You get two for a quarter. I have a soft spot in my heart for Mr. Coleman.

S: Can't find that in Miami Beach.

G: Right.

S: What else do I have for you? So when your parents talked about the world, about the politics of the world... did they vote in the United States?

G: My mother was a Cuban citizen, she couldn't vote anyway. My dad was an American citizen, expatriate but I don't know that he ever voted in the U.S. election until he left and then he did.

S: So your mother couldn't vote even though she had a mother who was American?

G: Right. No she was a Cuban citizen. I was born a Cuban citizen. I'm a naturalized U.S. citizen but I mean she was naturalized after she left Cuba and then could vote and all that but while she was in Cuba she...

S: So was there special attention paid for Cuban politics as well?

G: There was no way to get away from it. Cuban politics, you know, was pervasive because it was volatile. There was a coup in 1952. There was an attempt in 1948. Chibas, you know, kills himself on television.

S: Do you remember those events?

G: I don't remember those in the 1940s.

S: But you remember Chibas?

G: I remember hearing about it yes, in those days, everybody was talking. And of course I do remember, you know, Castro and the attack on...

S: Moncada?

G: Moncada.

S: So you remember '53?

G: Yeah. I was young but you can hear people talking and you remember those things.

S: Were you class of 1960?

G: Class of 1960 yeah.

S: When this coup happened you were 9 years old, but what's going on in your house?

G: Well you're told, you know, stay in the house, keep your head down, don't go out. You know, the schools were closed anyway and it basically disrupts your life for a few days and then you can go back to normal. I remember when Fidel made the trek from the mountains into Havana and he got... he came not very far from our house and we were having lunch on a weekend I guess and some shots rang out. So we all hit the deck, got down on the floor but you get used to that sort of thing down there.

S: Yeah. You're living in a revolution. When did you realize you were living in a revolution?

G: We really thought that Fidel was just pesky. He was a pesky distraction. He would disrupt things. My dad, for instance, when he would come back on weekends or he would come back after being down there on the weekends, you know, he would drive and there was checkpoints every several miles and he'd have to stop, open up the suitcase etc, etc.

S: Even though he was American?

G: Yeah. I mean, he was very Cubanized. He spoke perfect Spanish, you know, and the fact that he was American was not going to... I mean there were several Americans that were sympathetic to Castro. So... but... I was personally very surprised. It happened on January 1<sup>st</sup> and the night before we had gone out, New Years Eve. I woke up late and I came into the living room and my dad...

S: Where did you guys go out for New Years Eve?

G: Some nightclub. I don't remember.

S: One of the ones that got trashed the next day or no?

G: I don't... We did our high school prom, our graduation prom at Tropicana but that was like six months later. So I came out and I slept in and my dad was watching television and there was this guy on TV haranguing against Batista and I said, "Dad, what's going on?" And he said, "Where've you been? Batista fled the country last night." I was shocked. I did not expect that. I realized that change was upon us.

S: Were you, it's interesting talking to people, some people... I mean, especially given your place in this society where it's not like a Benson where you're still American. You know, your identity seems a little more...

G: More Cubanized.

S: Yeah. So when these events were unfolding were you sympathetic to the events that were going on or just sort of apolitical?

G: Absolutely not. My grandfather's brother, my great uncle, was a police captain in the Batista regime and he was a decent man, you know, he wasn't on the front lines but he was in supply or something. But, you know, we were close to him and, you know, of course he was kicked out. We didn't think anything good about Fidel... at first it was, everybody was saying that Batista was such a bad guy and such a crook and this and that and the other. We never saw any of that directly. We never went to the gambling casinos. Those were things that happened the last few years. And I mean we went once or twice just to see what they looked like. I remember our church had a youth group outing to one of the casinos. Just to see what it was like. We didn't habituate them. We didn't support them. It was just kind of a thing of interest so all that stuff that supposedly went on with Batista and the mafia and Santos Trafficante, you know, that's not something that got an awful amount of play down there.

S: Were you aware of some of the violence going on surrounding the...

G: You couldn't miss it. You couldn't miss it. In fact, my mother came upon, I forgot the guys name... one of the generals who was assassinated.

S: In the hotel?

G: No in the street. In Miramar.

S: Oh wow.

G: What was his name... anyway she came upon his body and we find out that... things like that, it was tough to avoid. I had a date with Jeannette Lamas, my girlfriend at the time. I don't know if you know the Lamas family?

S: I've heard the name before.

G: They live in... well her parents are dead but Jeannette lives... we still communicate. She lives in Georgia near Savannah. I had taken her out and Fidel... no it was before Fidel... and I guess I didn't have a drivers license and my mother had picked us up from this dance and I was walking her to the front of her house and this car came up right in front of where my mother was waiting in the car and my little brother was asleep in the backseat. And when... so I left Jeannette at the front of her house and turned around and went back and there was this car there and as I came out they took me, they turned me around and I put my hands on the car, searched me. And at that point my little brother woke up and he got up and their machine guns just turned around like this cause they saw the movement. But I mean, they said, "You've been around here before." and I said, "Well I came to pick her up. We went to this dance." And they said, "Yeah but your car was sort of circling the neighborhood." And I said, "No it has not been. My mother is behind the wheel." So they eventually let us go. But that kind of thing did happen occasionally.

S: Got it. Yeah. Were you... did your connection to the Anglo-American colony at all offer a shield against some of the repercussions for being in the wrong place at the wrong time or was it basically these are the events for everybody?

G: I really couldn't tell you of any instance where being a member of the Anglo-American community resulted in us being treated differently from anybody else. I think there was a lot of suspicion, a lot of concern, a lot of fear amongst the regime and members of the regime. They didn't care if you were Cuban, American or Chinese if you were deemed to be suspicious, you know, they're going to check you out. I don't think so. Maybe at some levels there were. Possibly if you had contacts at the embassy or something but we never really had that. We never got to the point where you had to find out if that was the case.

S: The Hedges were very close to the Batista government. Did your family know Batista?

G: His son Reuben went to school with us at Ruston but no, we didn't. I mean I knew people that were in his government and children of people who were in his government.

S: Did you know people in the first revolution... that first cabinet? Like the Pazos.

G: Yeah. Lopez Frequet was a good... well his wife is American so they were part of the community. They were in, you know, the Anglo-American directory and all that. And his children, we were friends with his children. I can't think of anybody else though.

S: Not like a Pazos or...

G: Actually Philipe. Yeah. I'm glad you... Philipe was also, he went to school at Ruston. Philipito.

S: He lives in Venezuela now? Is that right?

G: Yeah.

S: And there was a woman who was pretty close to the American colony too I feel like or the Anglo-American community... I'm blanking on the name. Sorry. In that first cabinet though... And it's interesting because both Fresquet and Pazos married American women. Was there some sort of unity formed around this intercultural marriages? Did you guys hang out together...

G: We didn't really... I had friends, for instance Jeannette. Her mother was from Savannah, her father was Cuban. There were a lot of us, you know, sometimes we were involved with American things and sometimes with Cuban things.

S: Cause if you go through the directory, I think something like 1/5 of the relationships are Cuban-American.

G: Bicultural.

S: Yeah. It's interesting to me.

G: That's why I say... because I think a lot of it goes back to the Spanish American War. I really believe that that's where, because I've been giving it a lot of thought and there was, I think, sort of an assumption that Cuba was going to be... at the point the 47<sup>th</sup>, 46<sup>th</sup>, whatever it was, become a state. So Americans, including my grandfather, went down there to be the firstest with the mostest as they way, be the first. And it never turned out that way but they became acculturated, acclimated and you know, liked it and decided to stay. I don't know if there are any other... maybe Canada. And maybe Mexico I suppose. There are a lot of Americans living there. I don't know how Mexican they feel. But yeah, Cuba there was always this close affiliation of the cultures. A lot of the Cuban kids went to school in the states. They went to Universities here and, I mean, not just from Ruston but from a lot of the other high schools as well.

S: In what ways do you think that people like you served as a cultural translator? In what ways when a kid like James Wynn or something right? He gets there in 1958 not speaking much Spanish. In what ways do you kind of aid that or do you not really and those shorter-term people kind of form their own clicks?

G: I think a lot of them just... they weren't there long enough to really pick up on the positive aspects of the Cuban culture. They knew they were going to leave. I mean, they were there for a short period of time. Like Jim. They would come in, look around and take off. So no, we... I don't know that... A lot of those people did pick up on it but I don't know if I acted as a cultural bridge. You know they did or they didn't. It was really kind of up to them, not up to me. I didn't purposefully say, "Listen this is a good place..." you know.

S: How did someone gain access to the Anglo-American community? How would a Cuban? Because there were a lot of Cubans that seemed to associate with this group of people.

G: Well I think the way anybody does. The social group, social activities, things that you have in common, schools, churches, you know, that sort of thing. Interests in common, baseball.

S: Were you the only person working for the Sugarcanes as an American?

G: No no. Well my brother Rich who passed away some years ago. Bernie Hamilton. You know Bernie?

S: I know the name. I haven't interviewed him yet.

G: Bernie Hamilton. I think his brother Billy who also passed away. There were three or four of us who rotated.

S: How did you get that job?

G: Bernie. Bernie said, "Do you want to do this with me?" And I said, "Yeah I'm happy to do this with you."

S: How did Bernie get the job?

G: Bernie was a good athlete and he was very into baseball. You know what? I think it came through one of the owners of the team. Bobby Maduro I think, if I'm not mistaken. He knew the Hamiltons and invited them and it was a great experience. To this day people still say, "Really? You were a batboy for Satchel Paige?" And I said, "Yes I was."

S: Wow. During the winter league?

G: No. That was in the Triple A. Triple A international league. Satchel Paige was close to 60 years old. He was a relief pitcher. I remember seeing him out there and coming into the game.

S: How did he do?

G: I don't know. He'd last an inning or two. But there were some great players. It was a great time. And when the Marlins baseball team, you know, was first established here, I was on the board or directors of the historical museum here in southern Florida and I said, "You know what? We really ought to have an exhibit centered around baseball in Miami." And we did. You know the old Miami Marlins was a Triple A team that played the Havana Sugarcane, Richmond Virginians, Rochester Redwings or Maple Leafs and all these other teams. So they put it on and I happened to meet there a guy named Tim... I forgot his last name but he's a lawyer here in Miami and we got to talking and he said, "Yeah I was a batboy for the Miami Marlins here." And I said, "I was a batboy for the Miami Marlins when they went to play the Cuban Sugarcane in Havana."

S: Wow so you knew the same people. That's crazy.

G: Pepper Martin you know, the old Gashouse Gang. He was the manager of the Miami Marlins at the time.

S: Wow. That's very cool. I'm a Phillies fan so I'm glad you got Darren Dalton his ring. That's the one thing I like the most about the Marlins. Also you've had such exciting pitchers.

G: This last week when we were up in Boston we took in a Yankees/Red Sox game. I've never been to Fenway and it was so much fun.

S: I've never been there but Rigley I've done. Yeah. Citizens Bank is cool too. Alright a few more... are you good?

G: Yeah. Your time is my time.

S: Whenever you need to go let me know. But where did you live?

G: We lived in Miramar.

S: And what was the home like? Tell me about it.

G: We didn't have a lot of money. It was not fancy. We lived in a duplex for the first few years. I'll never forget when we came back was when my grandfather passed away. At the time my dad was working for a sugar mill down in... I forgot the name of it now. Anyway we moved back to Havana because my dad took over the operation of the ranch so it was 1948 I think and I still remember the van, the moving van. It was raining like hell and we moved into this duplex on 68<sup>th</sup> street in Miramar. And it was one of those where whenever you'd take a shower you'd have to put a match underneath the heater and turn on the hot water. No air conditioning. There were some Americans who lived around there. The Hazards lived above us. Then they moved out and then the Marcuses. We became very good friends with the Marcuses. The Freemans were there. They were Canadian actually. Carol and her brother. And we lived there, I don't know, maybe four or five or six years and then we moved out to Alturas de Almendares to a house next to Camp Colombia, which was the main military base there in Havana. And that was an interesting experience because it was a two story house and it was kind of overlooking the entrance and...

S: Did you live there through the revolution?

G: No. We didn't because there was pressure on the owner. We rented the house. There was pressure on the owner to tear it down because it was considered a security threat because it was two stories and you could peer into the... so we moved out and moved into a house in Coley which was a little bit further away. And that's where we were when the revolution happened.

S: Did you ever go home to the United States? Or home... what does that mean? What were those trips like and how often did they happen?

G: We'd go during the summer and go to summer camp in North Carolina, go to visit my grandmother.

S: Everybody went to Ashville or Greenville. Those are the two...

G: I still do. My grandkids are going there now.

S: It's beautiful. Yeah.

G: Yeah two of my grandkids went to camp and my sons went to the same camp that I did. But no, we come up... I had my aunt who lived in Washington. She worked at the State Department so we'd go to visit her and stay there a few days and then my other aunt, the one who now lives in Massachusetts lived in Ohio, Salem, Ohio. So we would go and visit with them and all the kids. My grandmother lived also there. She would sort of follow that part of the family. So we would come up fairly often. Family reunions in Atlanta. I would say during the summer we were up here for a month or maybe a month and a half at a time.

S: What did your family do socially? Was it going to embassy parties like the Hedges or was it...

G: My parents probably did. I didn't. I was too young. But they were members of this country club, the Biltmore, yeah. Which we went to visit by the way when we were there, my son and I, and it's interesting that in the hall. He's here. I don't know if you'd like to meet my son but he has some great photographs. In the hall of the Biltmore still are some old pictures of activities that I don't know if they still have or not but my brother Rich, the one who passed away was very athletic. He was baseball, basketball, football you name it and they have a photograph of him still in the hall going up for a basket against... cause it was the Big 5 and the Big 5 social clubs.

S: Yeah. I was talking to somebody actually about the Big 5 and we could only come up with four. Do you know... we got Vedado, Havana, Biltmore, Miramar... What am I missing?

G: Profesionales.

S: Profesionales. This is Harry Skilton. He says hello by the way. Profesionales. Where was that one?

G: That was in Miramar.

S: Alright.

G: In fact it was one of the few that had an American football team. In fact my brother Rich and I both played for that team. We were members of the Biltmore but we signed up for Profesionales just so we could play football.

S: Wow. Did you have to join the club?

G: I think probably we did. Let me see if he's here and I could get you some of those photographs... His schedule is a little weird because he's got four kids and he's got to take them... Let me know when Sharper comes in. Thank you. I call him Sharper. Steve Harper.

S: I was going to say you named him Sharper Harper? That's so messed up.

G: We have another partner whose name is Steve Hagen so Steve and Steve. To distinguish them we call them Sharper and Shagen. That's what everybody calls them here. But of course they call him Sharper so they call me Duller.

S: Got it. My last name is a combination of my parent's names. They were... whatever Finesurrey, Fine and Surrey but my father really wanted to name me Furry instead of Finesurrey, which would've been less complicated when I had to spell it over the phone. Did you guys have live in help?

G: Yes we did. That was a custom there.

S: Yeah I haven't met anybody who didn't really. Was it a nursemaid or a cook...?

G: Yeah we had a cook and her two kids, well her son Sergio worked for my dad. He was a runner. You know, he would run errands for the business, take packages and whatnot. And then the daughter helped her mother clean the house and that kind of stuff. So there were three of them.

S: And they all lived in the house?

G: They all lived in the house yeah.

S: And were they Cuban?

G: Cuban, yeah. My grandparents had, and they had to because my grandmother's poor Spanish, had a gardener, Campbell, Jamaican, and their houseman was also Jamaican so they spoke English.

S: So the impression that I'm getting is that Jamaicans, while more convenient were also more expensive in terms of salaries because they were like a commodity.

G: Probably so. I really can't comment on that because I don't know what salaries they paid them.

S: Right.

G: But I remember Campbell in particular, he wrote a very touching letter- I may have it somewhere- when he heard that my grandparents were leaving Cuba forever. He was really affected by that. For one, he was personally affected because what's he going to do? And the other guy, I don't remember what his name was. But he had not been with my grandparents so long as to be considered a family retainer type of thing.

S: Got it. This is kind of a question that I ask just because I'm trying to get a feel from your vantage point. Why did the revolution happen?

G: Why did it happen? Well I think there were clearly inequities. There were social inequities. There was no question about that. To a great extent, you know, we didn't see it but we knew it was there.

S: What do you mean by inequities?

G: You know, rich vs. poor.

S: Class within Cuba.

G: Yeah there's no question about it. And I would say, at least with people I've discussed this with realized that change was inevitable. What we don't understand is why it had to happen the way it did. I mean, there are other ways to change things rather than to throw out everything and start over with a system that has been proven a failure.

S: I mean, why do you think it adopted this anti-American tone?

G: Well, I think Fidel personally, Fidel had resented very much Americans all the way back to his childhood. And he was a thug. He carried a pistol when he was in college. He was, you know, and egotistical thug is what he was. He wanted power. He wanted to assert himself into the international world and Cuba was too small to hold him and when the U.S. you know, pushed back, then he pushed and it just escalated from there. And he was highly influenced... I don't think he was a dogmatic communist. I really don't. His brother is. But Fidel was an opportunist. But he adopted, you know, the communist political ideology, I think in great part because it was convenient for him. That was the way to really kick the U.S. in the face. And some of the things they did over the years were absolutely inexplicable. My dad, you know, after the revolution, these edicts came out regarding the ranches and cattle and that sort of thing. And my dad, because there was a limitation put on how many breeding cattle, for some crazy reason, that anybody could own, my dad had to spend... he sent his cowboys out to castrate the majority of his herd one night. Had to castrate them and get it done before the morning. Maybe 1,000 head. I don't know. What was interesting was since that was considered sort of a delicacy, you know, you'd see these little fires everywhere. I think they were eating them.

S: It's interesting to me because everybody that I talk to seems to say that they didn't feel anti-Americanism at all.

G: Never. But maybe it's because we were so close to the Cubans. I don't know. Maybe there were some that did feel anti... but if there was ever anything that was said it was said sort of with humor. We were kidding each other. I was a Boy Scout for instance and I'd go out in my Boy Scout uniform and the kids in the corner would say, "Alli esta boy cagar." Do you speak Spanish? Yeah so cagar means to take a shit you know. I mean stuff like that. We'd laugh at it. It wasn't meant to hurt or to demean. I don't think... I don't recall ever being subjected to ridicule or any demeaning comments etc because I was American or part American. I just don't.

S: In some ways it sounds very painful for a lot of people because it goes from a country that they feel like they have a place...

G: Yeah it was our home.

S: ... how do you explain that? Was it just a top-down phenomena or was it...?

G: Yes. It was. It was imposed I think upon the Cuban people. To this day, I mean, I've been back to Cuba several times and there's no animosity, there's no hatred. You know? Basically there is affection. Even amongst the young people who didn't know the old ways, who weren't around back in the '50s and '60s. So I think it clearly was imposed from the top-down and as I say because of Castro's particular desire to take center stage in the international scene. And that was his best way to do it, to kick Uncle Sam in the face. And it was very convenient that his brother was a, you know, idealistic, dogmatic communist. He was, he was, I don't think Fidel was. He was an opportunist.

S: When did you begin to feel like you didn't belong there anymore?

G: When everything was taken away.

S: When the ranch was. When was that?

G: Well that was in several stages in early 1960. My dad... what happened was, he had 10,000 acres and there was an edict that nobody could own more than 1,000 acres. So the 9,000 of it was taken away, I don't know, maybe... I don't remember exactly when but sort of around the time we left Cuba. My dad stayed to try to salvage what was left but eventually it was all taken and he realized there was no sense in staying so I would guess that was probably in 1961.

S: Did he leave after the Bay of Pigs or before?

G: He left before the Bay of Pigs.

S: And you were in college at this point?

G: I was.

S: Where did you go to school?

G: Georgia Tech.

S: Of course.

G: My big brother was also Cuban. God I don't remember his last name... Ben. What was Ben's last name? He was also Cuban American.

S: What do you mean big brother?

G: At the fraternity house. And the day of the Bay of Pigs he came out of his room and he was wearing a, you know, Cuban flag cap and said, "We're going back! We're going back!" Cause nobody thought this was going to last more than six months or a year. We were going to go back. And it didn't turn out that way. You know, they have a saying here in Miami that Cubans, you know, a good Cuban only has three and a half fingers. And you know why?

S: Why?

G: Because every year for the last 56 years they've been saying, "This is the year! This is the year!"

S: Well that about wraps up my questions. Is there something else I should've asked you that I didn't ask?

G: I'll tell you the questions that were asked of us by Fineberg? The professor at...

S: Goldberg?

G: No. You know all those guys. Fineberg... I forget his first name and I'm embarrassed but he is a professor at I think San Diego State University. He works for the Brookings Institution and he interviewed me and several others for this book that he was writing and his question was, "If there was a change, what would you do? Would you go back? Would you try to recover what you've lost?" And I told him, "I'm 73 years old. I'm not going to start over." And he said, "What if they give you or your family and incentive to do that?" I don't think my children would take it but I am no longer, you know, emotionally or culturally attached to Cuba. The last time I went back to me I really have no desire to go back.

S: When was the last time you were there?

G: Last year. I was there in June... no in May of 2015.

S: You have to go in the winter. It's too hot in the summer.

G: It's just as hot here. Believe me. In fact, I think it's cooler in Havana because it's higher. You've got the nice breezes and all that.

S: Yeah I went to Santiago in January.

G: Did you get to Havana at all?

S: I did. I spent most of the time in the National Archive. But I got to Santiago and it was January and it was so hot.

G: I bet. These are photographs from... Oh here it is. I got the picture of my brother. This is a picture in the hallway of the Havana Biltmore. That's my brother going up for a basket against the Vedado Tennis Club, which is another one of the Big 5. That's my son Steve and me. There are other photos. I think Judy Benson is in that photo and some others. Let me see if I've got some others you would be interested in. This is an interesting photo. That's Eusebio Leal. I don't know if you know the name. He's a historian of the city of Havana who is really responsible for the restoration. Whatever restoration is there he's been responsible for it. So we had a nice meeting with him. A nice guy. That's me. That's Ray Delgado who's our paralegal who was very instrumental in making our trip a success. This is Jim Meyer, my partner, and that's my son Steve.

S: What were you going for?

G: We went sort of as a parallel. We didn't actually go with the Florida Bar International Law section but we went sort of next to him. We didn't want to do the activities they were involved with. We didn't want to go, you know, to the dances. We didn't want to go to Tropicana. We wanted to see the, you know, and we did and it got us in trouble. This is us in our taxi. This is Sloppy Joes and this is the picture that really got us in trouble because that is René de Jesús Gómez Manzano one of the high profile dissidents and we met with him in the lobby of our hotel.

S: Which hotel were you staying in?

G: Saratoga.

S: Where is that?

G: It's on the Prado. Up north on the southern end. Up the hill from the Bay. He came and he was very innocuous but the next table over there was a guy with... and he was security and we'd been told that we were not welcome back because we met with that guy. This is an interesting photo. This is a photo of my great grandmother. What year is this? 1919-1920. This is Women's Club. The directorship of the Women's Club of Havana. My great grandmother. Let's see what else we've got here.

S: The Women's Club. What did the Women's Club do?

G: I have no idea. That was almost 100 years ago. This is René Gómez Manzano, the dissident. We invited him to Miami, we gave him an award at the Florida Bar Convention. This poor young guy. Well I say poor and it ended up okay for him but it was... I forget his name. Soto I think. One of the lawyers we met with in Havana and there were a bunch of lawyers in the room and he was trying to answer questions the best that he could and somebody said, "What about the Cuban legal system?" and aspects of it and he said, "The Cuban legal system, the penal system is disgusting." He actually said that. What we didn't know is there was a reporter in the room from the Daily Business Review here in Miami and she took it down and the next day that was the headline in the DBR. This kid got fired. He was basically disgraced. He lost his job, you know, over something and this reporter should've known better. She didn't. And it was a really sad situation for him until one of the guys in the audience who went to Duke University law school, got him a full scholarship to get his Masters degree at Duke law school. So he went from here, to here. Now he's working at one of the biggest law firms in Miami at Greenberg Traurig. You know, it turned out okay for him.

S: Wow it must've been so interesting for you to go back. Just one more question, what was the goal of the Mother's Club?

G: Purely social.

S: Just social. I know they raised money sometimes for causes.

G: Maybe they did. I don't know. I was just a kid but we had athletic meets, we had dances where they would bring in teachers to teach us how to dance and all of that.

S: So you belonged to teams at Ruston, at the Mother's Club, at the Biltmore...

G: Yeah but the Mother's Club we didn't compete against the outside. It was just... yeah.

S: And at the Profesionales. So you were on four different... those were your... and a batboy at the same time.

G: Yeah sports were big in my life as a kid.

S: Were Cubans in the Mother's Club?

G: Oh yeah. Absolutely.

S: Not just Cubans like yourself.

G: Cubans if they were interested, I mean, sure. A lot of them didn't have an awful lot in common but those who had American friends or in the U.S. yeah they were. I don't know if you have the directory there.

S: Yeah I haven't looked at it too closely.

G: But yeah. there are quite a few Cubans. Rodriguez, Rodriguez Perez, Ruiz... Prado.

S: That's your...

G: No Pardo was our... But yeah there are quite a few Cubans.

S: Well I can't thank you enough for doing this.

G: So what's the goal? Are you putting together a thesis that you're writing up or is it just going to be the oral histories?

S: It's a dissertation so it will be a dissertation in history. I have this form that gives me permission if you're comfortable with what we talked about today. Oh one more question I was going to ask you about. I'm sorry. Tourism. What did you think about it? What was your relationship with American tourists?

G: Rarely came in contact with them. You mean the ones that came to Cuba?

S: Yeah. Were there opinions? I know when the Marines peed on the statue of Jose Marti that was a big...

G: It was.

S: But other than that were there sentiments within the American community about...

G: About the behavior of tourists and that sort of thing?

S: Yeah.

G: You know, we never really came in contact with them Sam. Opinions yeah I mean we wanted them to behave themselves in our home. But they stayed in the hotels, they went to the casinos, they went on tours and here, there and beyond but rarely did we have any contact with them.

S: And they occupied a different space.

G: Yeah.

S: Got it. Alright.

G: I mean, ours was like a small town community surrounded by this beautiful city that had, I mean we had an opera, we had, you know, a symphony orchestra, we had professional teams. It was a combination of the best of both worlds.

S: It sounds like an amazing place to grow up. I also am changing this name because everybody says you can't just say American it was Anglo-American.

G: It was. Yeah. Cause it was ABC, American British Canadian.

S: Anglo-American colony or community people would say.

G: Yeah.

S: So no restrictions means I'll donate it to the oral history collection as well. And then today is the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The IRB has rules.

G: I understand. I've done this before.

S: Thank you so much. I'm very excited about reading your grandmother's letters also. It's going to be a real addition to this project.