

Interview of Charles Anderson by Mike Dunham
Transcript

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Mike Dunham: Its the 13th of August, 2013. We are in the Wells Fargo building in Anchorage, Alaska. I'm talking with Charles Anderson. Do you prefer Chuck to Charles?

Charles Anderson: Either one, doesn't matter.

MD: Very good. Uh, we're making these recordings as- to present a historical record for some time in the future, that the public will have access to. The intent is to store these in, uh, some way that we have yet to determine, we'll figure that out. And, uh, they'll be available to the public like I said. It won't be released without your permission, and we're going to be taking about the past, essentially. Everything you can tell me about that. If there's something you'd want to talk about, we can take that off the table, and, uh, when we get tired we're done.

CA: Ok.

MD: That's it.

CA: Understood.

MD: Very good. Then let's begin. Um, where were you born?

CA: I was born in Kodiak.

MD: And when?

CA: In 1929.

MD: What were- who were your parents?

CA: My parents, uh, my father was also Charles Anderson, and he came from Sweden. Um, in the early 1900s. Um, he married my mother, Nellie, her last name, maiden name, was Simeonoff, and she was born in Kodiak, and, um, we lived in Kodiak, actually we lived on Long Island, which is, um a few miles away from the island of Kodiak, maybe ten miles or so. And, um, he operated- I was actually born on that island- and my father operated a mink ranch at that location. And when it, uh, came time to, uh, to go to school, then of course we moved in to Kodiak and, and he reestablished his, uh, mink ranch in the town of Kodiak.

MD: What was the town like in those days?

CA: Well, y'know, that was eighty-four years ago. And, uh, um, of course, memories fade during that time, but I do remember, uh, quite a lot about Kodiak. Back then you could barely call it a town. It was more like a village. And, um, it was a great place to be raised. Um, I can remember my, um, early years, and growing to be a teenager and that sort of thing. Um, it was a great place to be raised because we were always in the outdoors, we were doing things that we enjoyed doing, fishing and y'know, and that sort of thing. But the lifestyle was more along the lines of a subsistence lifestyle. Where, where you either had to grow, uh, your vegetables and that sort of thing, um, and, um, and, and whatever else you wanted to eat you pretty much, uh, got it from the ocean. And so I feel fortunate that I was able to be raised that way, um, uh, the food we ate was pure, it wasn't, uh, contaminated with, uh, with, uh, with, um-

MD: Whatever they put in food.

CA: Well, y'know, uh, they, they, they- beef, y'know, commercially raised beef is pumped full of steroids and antibiotics and vitamins and whatever else, we don't know, but, um. So, so I was fortunate in that regard, I think. And, um, I think it has also lead to me being fairly healthy over the years. Um, but, but Kodiak was small, it was a commercial fishing village. My father, uh, when he wasn't tending to his mink ranch he was a commercial fisherman, and also a boat builder. There were no jobs in, in a town like Kodiak- or a village like Kodiak. So whatever work occurred, or whatever earning there were for work, um, you had to find it yourself. And either make work or, or struggle to, uh, to make a living in some way. So, uh, it, it wasn't the wealthy lifestyle by any means, but in, in my opinion it was, it was enjoyable.

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MD: Um, so you were there before the military buildup came? Were you there when the military moved into Kodiak?

CA: I don't remember exactly, uh, when the military buildup happened, but of course, during World War II, I, I, I have some recollection of when, when that war started. And, um, um, of course back then there was no television, and about the only source of news then was, uh, on the radio. And so, um, we, uh, we heard about the war, and then shortly after that, of course, the military, uh, came and I don't know if that was the first- (coughs) excuse me- I don't know if that was the first, um, first military that had arrived or not. I do believe, however, that the Coast Guard was there, uh, prior to the World, World War II. So yes. A, a large military buildup occurred right during the first part of that war.

MD: Um, how did that change he town? Or how did that affect your life?

CA: Well you know, in the beginning it didn't, uh, it didn't, uh, affect my life, uh, a lot, I don't believe. Uh, I was very young. And, uh, of course it brought a lot more people to the town, they were building the base, uh, a large Coast Guard base, Army base, and a Navy base. Uh, on Kodiak, as well as, as putting, um, gunning placements in strategic locations around the island. So there were a lot of people, a lot of military, and of course the town of Kodiak began to grow.

MD: The, um, did you go to high school in Kodiak then, as well?

CA: I did, I did. And, um, um, and so, um, y'know, during that time period- my father died when I was fairly young. I think I was fifteen or sixteen years old. And I had been commercial fishing with him. He died out on the commercial fishing boat, and, uh, at that point it became necessary for me to look after the family, and to work and try to, try to, uh, provide for our family. I had a brother and a sister, sister was two years older, and, uh, so at that, at that point, my, my job was to provide for the family and to, to be working in order to provide for 'em. So I, I worked in, I worked in commercial fishing, I worked on cannery tenders, and I also worked in construction. Um, one of the things that I did do over the years is, uh, I don't believe I was ever out of a job. At a young age I, I learned, at a young age I learned that it was necessary to work if you wanted to exist.

[11:37:49:27]
[00:07:38]

MD: Yeah. And, um, so you were working and going to high school at the same time? Or did you-

CA: As much as I could.

MD: Yeah.

CA: Yes.

MD: Wow. And so then after you graduated, did you take any- what was your full-time work after graduation?

CA: Um, after, after high school, um, my, my work stayed pretty much the same. Uh, there, there still wasn't a lot of work available. I was fair, still fairly young, um, fairly inexperienced, but I did work construction.

MD: Yeah.

CA: And I remember, uh, the construction company that I worked for, we put in, of course at that point Kodiak was becoming a little more modern, and I remember we did put in, we did put in all of the, uh, uh, electrical poles and telephone poles and

that sort of thing. That was one of the things that we did. And, um, but I also worked on, on commercial fishing boats.

MD: Yeah.

CA: That's really all I knew to do, at that point.

MD: When did you come over to the mainland?

CA: I, I served in the United States Army, uh, starting in 19-, starting in 1950. Um, and I was stationed at Fort Richardson. Um, after I got discharged from the army, um, I was convinced that I didn't want to go back to Kodiak. Um, there was no work, I felt, and also, I noticed that- well, you couldn't help but notice- that there was a lot of drinking, a lot of alcoholism. I couldn't see that as a part of my life, and so, uh, by this time, when I got discharged from the military, I'd gotten married, a year before that. And I married a girl who, who came from New York to Kodiak as a high school girl. And, uh, so, we got married while, after I was in the service for one year. And, uh, after, after getting discharged from the military we decided to live in Anchorage. And that's exactly what we did. We didn't live in Kodiak anymore and had no desire to, really.

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MD: Um, so what, what work did you do in Anchorage, after- what year were you discharged?

CA: I was discharged in 1952.

MD: 1952. What was Anchorage like?

CA: Um, Anchorage, for somebody coming from Kodiak, Anchorage was a big city.

MD: Yeah.

CA: (laughs) Y'know? And, uh, we liked Anchorage. Anchorage was a very busy place. Uh, my wife and I, we had difficulty finding a place to live for a young couple. Um, there were so many military here at that time, all the- there was a real shortage of housing. And even if you wanted to, or if you could afford to go to a restaurant and have a meal out, you had to stand in line out on the sidewalk. That's the way 4th Avenue was. No matter what business you wanted to get into, almost, almost a hundred percent you'd, you'd have to stand on the sidewalk and wait to get in. So business was booming. So, um, so, yeah. So we lived here. In 1953, then, I, um, well actually in 1952, before I got out of the service, um, can I stop there for a minute? You know, this is not about me.

MD: No.

CA: I'm telling you my story, but this is really not me. I mean, its me.

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MD: Please do. No, it is about you. Uh, because you're the person who saw it. And that's-

CA: Ok.

MD: That's what we have to go on, right now.

CA: Ok.

MD: I can go back and pick up the Anchorage Times articles, but...

CA: Yeah. Ok.

MD: But, you know, they won't necessarily- I've never read anywhere about people standing in line to get in to a restaurant.

CA: Yeah, yeah.

MD: So yes it is about you. (laughs)

CA: Ok.

Bob Curits-Johnson: Let me just take this moment to adjust the shot a moment.

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Bob Curtis-Johnson: And we're rolling.

MD: Um, when you were first married, when- you said you had a hard time finding a place to live. What were your first accommodations as a married couple?

CA: Um, first accommodations was, was a room in a private home.

MD: Whereabouts?

CA: Uh, 15th Avenue and G Street., in Anchorage. And, um, then we kind of upgraded (laughs) after that, to another room in a private home, uh, which was, uh, located right close to the Mulcahy ball field, which was located then at 6th Avenue and C Street. Um, and from there, from there we moved, uh, maybe once, maybe once or twice, and then we lived in a home where the Lucky Wishbone now sits.

MD: Huh.

CA: And, uh, so eventually that property was sold and, uh, the Lucky Wishbone was, uh, built, and, uh, we later purchased a home, and so on.

MD: So, what, what work did you do after, after the military?

CA: Well, in, I started to say, in 19, in the later part of the-1952, I had made application to the Anchorage Police Department. Uh, for, for a position in the department. Uh, I was still in the service then, there was not a job available at that time, but I wanted to get my application in early, and so, uh. The police department was fairly small, and at that particular time there weren't a lot of job openings, so I think I waited, oh, a matter of months after I got out of the service, and I took a job in a service station, waiting for the Anchorage Police Department. Well, in 1953, in February of 1953, I hired on to the Anchorage Police Department. And actually at that time I was living in that house where the Wishbone, uh, is now located. And the Alaska State Troopers had an office about four hundred feet to the east of that building that I lived in. And I was (laughs) I was assigned, um, I was assigned to the vice squad initially. And I worked out of the Alaska- well, there was a territorial police then, I worked out of their office, so I had to walk four hundred feet to go to work every day. (laughs)

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MD: What attracted you to law enforcement?

CA: Well, um, I liked law enforcement because I knew when I still lived in Kodiak, when I was young, um, I knew the United States Marshall there. I knew, um, the United States Marshall that came after the original one left, and I didn't- I had a good feeling about law enforcement. Its something I wanted to do, and, and I also had a friend, uh, that was related to the United States Marshall.

And, uh, at the same time one of my good friends in Anchorage here, uh was a member of the Anchorage Police Department before I got on.

MD: What, what kind of cases did you handle as the vice squad? What was vice like in Anchorage in 1953?

CA: Well, surprisingly, um, there was, there was a lot of work for the vice squad. Um, the vice, the vice squad at that time was comprised of, uh, one member of the Anchorage Police Department, one from the territorial Police, one from the United States Marshall's office, and one military policeman. And, uh, we were, we had jurisdiction all over the territory. We could go anywhere. We could go to Seward, we could go wherever we were needed, you might say. And so, and so, yeah, there was, there was prostitution. There was a lot of gambling, um, and, and the city fathers and state fathers, you might say, um, were serious about ridding the state of, of those kind of activities. Um, and so as an example we'd get a call from, from Seward, and if there was prostitution going on there, -which there was, uh, there was the famous Alley B, that everybody referred to- and we would go there and make arrests, and that sort of thing, as a result of their call, so.

MD: Yeah.

CA: And the same in Palmer and, uh, Ketchikan, other places in the state as well.

MD: Um, was there much- juvenile delinquency's what I guess you would have called it, juvenile delinquency, in Anchorage in those days?

CA: Well, I don't recall it being, being overly bad. There has always been juvenile delinquency, but, uh, no, I don't recall it being out of the ordinary, really.

MD: What were the, the serious legal problems or criminal problems in Anchorage at that time, in your mind?

CA: Well, sexual assault has always been fairly prevalent. Um, all through the years. Um, burglaries, armed robberies, um, every, every category of crime was being committed. And of course, um, you know, with the population being lower, certainly lower than it is today, there weren't as many of those things happening, but at the same time we didn't have as many policemen out on the streets.

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[00:05:53]

MD: Right.

CA: So, um, so it was a fairly busy time for us. Yes.

MD: How long were you with the vice squad?

CA: Um, I think I was on the vice squad- and I actually worked undercover- for about two years.

MD: What was your next assignment?

CA: Well, my next assignment was, uh, my next assignment was, uh, on patrol duty. And I worked on patrol, and actually, during the entire time that I was on the Anchorage Police Department I only wore a uniform for about eight or nine months. Out of twenty-eight years or whatever. And so I worked plainclothes the majority of the time. Um, and, um, became a polygraph examiner. And eventually I was a training officer, firearms training officer, at one time. I worked in the training academy, I was, uh, an instructor in interviews and interrogations, and, uh, from that point, y'know, I was promoted. You had, you had to pass a written test, oral test, and all that sort of thing, and I managed to, uh, be promoted up. I served as, uh, Chief of Detectives for a number of years, and, um, and that was an enjoyable position. Uh, I seem to be more accustomed to that than almost anything else, because that seemed where my, my career was headed.

MD: Right.

CA: Um, and then I served as the Deputy Chief, and in 19, in 1974, I believe it was, I was appointed as Chief of Police.

MD: That's before unification. It was the Anchorage City Police?

CA: That was before, no, that was after unification.

MD: It as after?

CA: Mmhmm, yeah.

MD: Ok, so you had the whole borough.

[11:50:18:00]

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CA: Well we had the whole borough, and as a matter of fact, um, during that time period, and of course you know this already, the pipeline was, the pipeline and the discovery of oil in 196- what, 1968? And the building of the pipeline, and, uh, I mean we had a boom going on. A big boom. Uh, and we had, we had hundreds, maybe thousands or people come up from the oil, the other oil states. You know, oil field workers and people connected to the oil industry. So we had a population explosion. And, so during that time period that I was Police Chief, we also, I believe, took in- um, we had annexation that happened all of a sudden. Well, I think we also took in Eagle River at that point, somewhere around that same time. And I can't pin down the exact dates of those things, but. So we, we had, actually the population of

Anchorage I think doubled, during that time period. Um, and we had to run back to back, uh, training academies, because the police department was expanding at the same level the city was.

MD: Yeah.

CA: And so it was, it was a busy time. And of course our crime statistics went sky high during that time period. And, uh, it appeared as though Anchorage would never be the same. (laughs) So, so, uh, but some how we got through it, and since then a lot of great things have happened.

MD: Were you involved at all with the, uh, issues of statehood? When we became a state?

CA: I did not.

MD: Yeah.

CA: No.

MD: And, um, what was the kind of feeling when, when we became a state? Do you recall anything about a mood among people when, y'know?

CA: Well, you know, as best I can remember there were mixed feelings about it. Me, my feeling about it was, was good. I thought, and most of my friends thought, this would be a great thing to have happen. Uh, that, you know, I didn't necessarily want to see Alaska, or, or Anchorage, or any place in Alaska, held back from its potential, and I thought the only way the state of Alaska could, could benefit and the people of Alaska benefit is if we, we, uh, attained statehood. And so the feeling, at least on my part, and most of my friends', was good. We wanted statehood.

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MD: What, um, what were some of your recreational activities? When you weren't n the job? What did you enjoy to do for fun when you had the opportunity?

CA: During that time period?

MD: Yeah, during the '50s, early '60s.

CA: Well, practically for my life, um, I've, I've been an avid fisherman, salt water fisherman. And, uh, I've always had a boat of some sort. Uh, including today, in Seward. And so, uh, we still participate in that. My wife enjoys that activity as much as I do.

MD: Right.

CA: So we go together. I mean, I can't even remember the last time I was on my boat without her. Um, but also, starting in when I was about (laughs) about fifty years old I guess it was, forty-nine or fifty years old, um, they built the Anchorage Racquet Club. They were in the process of building it. And, uh, so, uh, I stopped by there while the construction was going on, and there was an opportunity right there to join that club if you wanted to, and so I joined it. My wife said "Why'd you do that, we don't, we don't know how to play tennis!" and, uh, and so I told her, "Well, we're going to learn". And so tennis became an activity that we pursued for many, many years. Yeah. And, uh, so, uh, basically fishing, we built cabins, uh, we, we enjoy the outdoors. We, we built a place at Big Lake which we still have today, and, um, so outdoors. It was outdoors.

MD: Yeah.

CA: Everything we did, yeah.

MD: What were you doing during the earthquake?

CA: Uh, what was I doing on that particular day?

MD: Right.

CA: Well, I also got involved at one point in racing hydroplanes. And, um, we'd race these hydroplanes in Fairbanks and, uh, down in the Kenai, all over the state pretty much. Big Delta and, uh, here in Anchorage. And on the day of the earthquake I- we lived on 12th Avenue and, and, um, 12th Avenue and B Street. We had purchased a home there, and I was in the basement of our house when the sha- uh, shaking started. I was actually working on one of those engines.

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[00:13:45]

MD: Huh.

CA: And, uh, I mean, the shaking was pretty violent and I could, I could hear my wife upstairs, things were falling and making a lot, a lot of noise. And I rushed upstairs and, uh, um- by that time we had two children. Our daughter Patty and, and, uh Charles Jr. And, uh, so after the earthquake settled down, and of course there were numerous, um, what do they call 'em, aftershocks?

MD: Aftershocks, right.

CA: There were numerous aftershocks that went on and on and on for a long time. But I guess in the first week or so there were just a lot of big ones. Like in the range

of five-point-something magnitude, maybe six point oh, or, y'know, something like that. So y'know it was a scary time. But on that day, uh, we smelled gas, there was broken gas lines. In, in our neighborhood. And my first thought was- well, I knew I was gonna have to go to work. I mean that, that was already, that was, um, what had to be done, but I wanted to get my family safe before I went in. And so I took 'em to a friend's house out on the Seward Highway, uh, off of Klatt road. And they didn't have- either didn't have gas out there, they didn't have any smell of gas, anyway- I dropped 'em off there with our friends, and then went to work. And we pretty much worked, we pretty much worked around the clock. And we caught sleep when we could. There were, were a lot of things going on. And, uh, of course, um, y'know, a, a good part of, a good part of 4th Avenue, uh, sunk down and there were a lot of buildings damaged- theatres, schools, and so on- uh, the Government Hill School was one school that toppled down. And of course it was, it happened on Good Friday, so there were no kids in school. Um, major damage to Denali School on, uh, 9th Avenue and A Street, and that's where my kids would have been had it not been Good Friday. And, um, we were actually in the process of getting our kids ready to take 'em to a movie. And that movie theater, uh, which was on, on, 4th Avenue- I gotta get a drink of water.

MD: The old Denali?

CA: The old Denali Theatre, that's the one. Well, if, if it had happened a little bit sooner they would have been in there.

MD: Yeah. But for the police it was, uh, a very busy time, of (inaudible)

CA: Yeah, and we concentrated initially on the Turnagain area. Uh, because, uh, of the structure of the soil out there, a lot of houses went over the bluff and down, and I think mostly it was sand that turned semi-liquid, I guess, with the shaking. A lot of the houses and streets went down, and from the upper level you could see these houses that were moving closer to the inlet. Uh, in various states of, uh, disrepair, falling down and so forth. And, um, people were missing, kids were missing, and, uh, so we, we spent a lot of time doing that. And, uh, uh, y'know, uh, doing search and rescue type work.

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[00:17:36]

MD: Right.

CA: Uh, in those areas. At the same time, um, there was a certain amount of pilfering that went on. That we had, we had to, uh, concentrate on. I remember at one point in downtown Anchorage some of the military people that came into town, um, to help, they were sent in by the military, uh, and some of them were housed in, in one of the hotels downtown, and we had to arrest nine servicemen for, for pilfering. And that's probably not a good thing to have on the record, so I'm not sure about that.

MD: Yeah. But what are some of the interesting cases that you dealt with as a detective, as Chief of Detectives? Some of the big cases that would have made headlines at that time.

CA: Well, I guess one that I'll never forget is, um, is, uh, the Lane Hotel, which was located on 4th Avenue and, and, uh, C Street. Uh, it was either a two or three story building. And, uh, during this particular time period someone was going around setting a lot of fires in Anchorage. We knew there was a firebug on the loose, and we were spending- and this of course now was not during the earthquake, we've gotten away from the, from the earthquake here now- uh, I can't recall exactly the year that happened, but, um, there were, this firebug was responsible for setting a restaurant on fire on Government Hill, uh, he set, uh, on east 5th Avenue about Ingrid Street there was a big, big building, it was made of log. Um, I think it was called Fort Starns, you may even remember that.

MD: Yeah.

CA: Um, that was burned down, um, another building, another restaurant actually, on Gove, on Government Hill. And, uh, other, other, other fires. Well, all of a sudden the Lane Hotel started on fire. And uh, one of the things that we, we were doing, in order to keep track of all these fires, was taking pictures at how was attending these fires. And, uh, hoping that the same guy would be showing up. And eventually he did. And turned out be an ex-military, a retired- uh, not retired but discharged from the military at the time. He was the guy that set all these places on fire. Well, the Lane Hotel, fourteen people died in that fire. And, uh, so I recall we turned, we turned, we turned the garage of the public safety building into sort of a morgue and we had fourteen bodies in there, trying to get them identified and that sort of thing. And so, um, so this person that we suspected, um, he wasn't admitting anything, but eventually he did, after a long interrogation. And, uh, I was involved in that. Eventually he did, um- the interrogation actually was contested in court, because it was long and it was, uh, uh, they tried to make it seem that it was hard on him and that sort of thing. Well, as it turned out, we made absolutely sure that he was denied nothing. Uh, as we questioned him. If he wanted a hamburger sandwich, we got him a hamburger sandwich. If he wanted a drink of water, we'd get him something to drink. If he wanted a Pepsi we'd get him a Pepsi. Wanted to see his girlfriend, we'd make sure he could see his girlfriend. It just went on and on and on and on, and I think the, I think the interrogation went on for like eight or nine hours. And, uh, and so, he, uh, eventually admitted all of those fires, and his reason for burning down these restaurants was because his girlfriend had worked at- and also he had worked at one of 'em, and they fired him. But his girlfriend was mistreated at one or two of those restaurants. So he burned those down. So he had his reasons.

[12:03:50:00]

[00:21:47]

MD: Right.

CA: For doing these things. And, uh, so that was a big case, uh, I mean-

MD: Now was that before the earthquake? The Lane Hotel? I'm trying to picture it.

CA: Uh, that was before the earthquake I do believe, yeah. Mmhmm, yeah.

MD: How long were you Chief of Police? '74, '75-

CA: Only about eight years.

MD: How did the department change during those years? Those were pretty frantic years, actually.

CA: They were fr- they were frantic years, but, y'know, during the earthquake the, uh, Department doubled in size. Running like I said, running back to back, um, academies, training new officers, recruiting, even recruiting from, uh, from the Lower 48 in some cases. And, um, and, uh, we at the same time became a more modern, uh, police department. Um, so when the day came for me to retire- I never knew exactly when I would retire, I knew after twenty years I was eligible to retire.

MD: Right

CA: With full retirement. Um, but I thought, "No, I'm gonna, I don't know when I'm gonna retire, but someday its gonna feel right", and, uh, so I stayed another seven or eight years and I retired. And I wanted to retire at a good time when there was nothing, nothing on, uh, going bad in the department. Because when I came on the department in, uh, 1953, there was a scandal going on in the Anchorage Police Department. Some police officers had, uh, uh, had stolen money from, from drunk, uh, um, citizens.

[12:05:49:00]

[00:23:46]

MD: Right.

CA: And, uh, so there were, there were several police officers fired during that time period. And that is basically what gave me the opportunity to join the department.

MD: Yeah. So after you retired from the police department, what did you do then? You don't strike me as a person to just-

CA: (laughs) No, but I, you know, I thought, um, I thought it would be a fairly natural transition from law enforcement to law making. So I ran for public office. I was elected to, uh, the State House, and I believe that was in 1980 or '80- '81. I served for two years. It was relatively easy to get elected, because I had name recognition in

the community. I didn't have any bad marks on my, uh, record. And, uh, so, after two years I was pretty disenchanted with the legislative process. Um, and I soon figured out- and it didn't took two years, either-

MD: Yeah.

CA: I soon figured out that most people were interested in, uh, in getting reelected, um, and if they did anything, uh, for the people, it was quite by accident. And, uh, so I, I couldn't see, I couldn't see going on in that because I wasn't enjoying it. And so in 198- in about 1986, um, I became involved with the Cook Inlet Region Incorporated- CIRI. And, uh, which as you know is a native corporation, one of the thirteen regional corporations. And I've, uh, I've served on that board of directors until now, I'm still on that board. And, uh, I served as a Chairman up until about a month ago, and stepped aside for somebody else to become chairman. And, um, also for about the last ten years or so I'd been on the board of directors of, uh, Southcentral Foundation, uh, I don't know if you know about them. But its a, its an organization that has roughly sixteen hundred employees. Its, uh, a nonprofit organization that's related to, uh, ANMC, the Alaska Native Medical Center. And they set policy and that sort of thing for the hospital. Uh, and so I've served on that board now for- and still do-

MD: Right.

CA: For that many years, since- well, probably twelve or fourteen years.

MD: Now, um, you, you chose to affiliate with CIRI rather than Koniag when the land claims came though?

[12:08:56:00]

[00:26:53]

CA: Well in 1971-

MD: Right.

CA: When they passed the, the, uh, act, and when, when individual Native people were registering, you had an opportunity to register with any of the regional corporations you wanted to. You didn't have to stay with the regional corporation from where you came.

MD: Right.

CA: So, so, uh, in a discussion I remember with my sister at that time, I told her I was gonna, I was gonna register with Cook Inlet Region, because I thought Cook Inlet Region would have a better opportunity of success. Because these regional corporations were given a lot of land and a lot of money. And, um, and that money

and that land was to be turned into, into profits so that, uh, y'know, Native people could sustain themselves and sustain their educations and that sort of thing. And I told my sister I didn't think Koniag would be able to do that. And as it turned out, Koniag did not do very well, Koniag has done very, or, uh, CIRI has done very well.

MD: Right, yeah. Um, was there much excitement in your family when the land claims came through, and the idea of joining the corporations, was it an issue of discussion?

CA: No. There wasn't much. I was fairly, fairly young at the time, and. No, we didn't consider that some big windfall. I mean it just didn't seem like it.

MD: Right.

CA: No. Uh, lot of people were just, um, undecided, and didn't know if they wanted to get involved or even bother to, to register. I mean there was no, there was no, there was nothing said that they had to. And so a lot, a lot of Alaska Native people, um, didn't register, and they got left out.

MD: The, um, we're rolling back the clock here again to like the 1950s and '60s, where did you shop? What, what were the stores like? Or was that all your wife's business?

CA: In the '50s and '60s?

MD: Yeah.

[12:11:08:00]

[00:29:04]

CA: Well, in the '50s, um, what was really more interesting than that was when we lived in Kodiak.

MD: Yeah, what were the stores like there when you were there?

CA: Y'know, there was, um, there was one grocery store, and, uh, but you grew pretty much everything you wanted. And, uh, I don't think people had a lot of money then. Um, there was a lot of money whenever fishing season was over. And that's when you'd see, uh, drunkenness and that sort of thing happening. Uh, but there was just one, one grocery store. And back in those days you, you, you went and ordered your groceries, and then they'd deliver it to your house in a, in a flat, uh, flatbed truck. That's the way it worked. (laughs)

MD: It came in on a boat?

CA: Well it came in on a boat, yeah, oh yeah. About every, every other month or so a boat would come in and supply the store, yeah. So. But in 1950, um, there were,

y'know, there were, there were a couple of stores around, y'know, here in Anchorage. And, um, but there was an awful lot of shopping that happened, y'know, at the Sears catalog and Montgomery Ward's and that sort of thing. But, y'know, as Kodiak began to grow after that, of course the we had all this- all the stores came in, and it was very much a changing time.

MD: Yeah.

CA: Yeah.

MD: And, um, the roads, I'm thinking the 1953, the Glenn Highway coming in, how much went south? What was the road system like going southwards, to Seward?

CA: Um, the Seward Highway went to Seward, all the way to Seward in those days. And it was a rough, rocky road. And it took hours and hours. Actually, in 1953, I believe it was in 1953 or '54, my wife and I made a drive to Seward, just as some exciting thing to do. And it took forever. We drove down and back in one, in one day, which was a mistake. (laughs) So, um-

MD: Yeah.

CA: And, uh, up north, of course you could drive north and you could actually drive to Wasilla, but from Palmer to Wasilla was a tough drive, because it wasn't paved, naturally. And, uh, it was pretty, pretty dusty and a pretty bad road.

MD: The, uh, what was Anchorage like to raise kids in? A son and a daughter?

CA: Oh, Anchorage was a, Anchorage was a good place. Uh, we lived, uh, like I said, in a house on 12th Avenue. And, um, lived there for quite some time. And it was a good neighborhood, it was quiet, um, I mean you weren't in fear as you walked the streets, and that sort of thing.

[12:14:23:00]

[00:32:20]

MD: Right.

CA: Um, crime was pretty well controlled, y'know, and, so even though 12th Avenue today is fairly close to Anchorage, downtown Anchorage, uh-

MD: Its still a good neighborhood, I think.

CA: Pardon me?

MD: Its still a good neighborhood, from what I hear.

CA: it is, it is.

MD: Yeah.

CA: It is a good neighborhood. So yeah, it was, it was a great community, we had a good, good school system. Um, our kids came out of school smart kids and have been successful, and yeah. I look upon that part of my time in Anchorage as very positive.

MD: Right. And, uh, Cook Inlet Regional, I mean its gone from what was originally just a name to, y'know, the large corporate offices right down the corner, um, business interests all over the place. How, how can you characterize their growth, their success? Well, you're on the board- your success!

CA: Yeah, well, um-

MD: Why have they succeeded when other corporations have not done anywhere near as well?

CA: Yeah, one of the thing that, uh, that we did right from the onset in CIRI, it was, we knew it was critical to, to hire, hire the right kind of people. Um, the right kind of professionals to work in that kind of an organization. And we recognized also that we had no experience in, in operating businesses. And so we, we made it a point to, we made it a point to, uh, uh, do mergers with other companies, or purchase companies that had, um, that had, that had a stake by a percentage, 51% perhaps. And, um, so we had, we had the good fortune, fortune of having people from those organizations to help run it. We recognized right away we didn't, we didn't have in-house expertise to do that.

[12:16:45:00]

[00:34:42]

MD: Yeah.

CA: And, uh, so many, many of these joint ventures that we did turned out very successful. I mean we haven't batted a thousand on every investment we've made certainly, but we've made some wonderful investments, and, uh, and today of course, CIRI's recognized as one of, one of the successful ones. Yeah. So. Um, And CIRI is moving ahead as we speak. Yeah.

MD: Uh, when you look at all the, at the current police department, with some of the things they have- that firing range out at Jewel Lake, and, uh the indoor shooting range and the crime center and things like that, um, have, have you visited any of the new police installations we have in town, or?

CA: You mean, for the police?

MD: Yeah, for the police.

CA: No, I haven't.

MD: That's all past history?

CA: Well, y'know, one of the things that happened after I retired, um, I don't know why this was meaningful to me, but I went, I went to the police department, um, later, y'know, I think we took a vacation or something and then went back to see some of my friends and that sort of thing. And when I walked in the door, everybody was saying "Hi chief," "How're you doing chief". Well, the chief was there too, the current then chief, and I thought it was, I thought it wasn't fair to him. He's the Chief of Police. I'm not Chief of Police.

MD: Yeah.

CA: I was, and yet all my friends were saying "Hi Chief, how are you doing", and I was not comfortable with that, and so I made it a point to not visit the police department. Um, y'know? He had his hands full, he didn't need me to complicate things for him. And so, um, and so, um, I guess that's one of the reasons I, I have never really gone back. I just kinda did not look back. And I wanted to go some other directions in my life anyway, so.

MD: Right. Is there anything you have wanted to accomplish, either eluded you because you lived in Alaska or just never had the time to get to?

CA: Well, you know, I'm, I'm pretty, pretty satisfied with my life. Um, and in looking back, I, I don't think there is anything in particular that would make my life better today than it is. So I don't, I don't have any regrets about things that I didn't do. I don't tend to look backwards anyway.

[12:19:29:00]

[00:37:27]

MD: Right.

CA: And so, uh, my life is great. My life is wonderful. And, uh, yeah, I can probably think of some things I should've done differently, but.

MD: Well, we've spoken for an hour, so. We could probably go on for a lot longer, but, just a couple of things to bring up.

BCJ: I have a question or two when you're done.

MD: Ok. Do you remember a place called Schmitty's out by Eagle River? It sounds like a very dangerous bar. I remember driving by it; I can't remember exactly where it was, but.

CA: No, actually I don't. Um, I don't know how long ago that was, or if it was in the police service area or not.

MD: Oh, that may have been it. But the, and then a man named Jim Barker, uh, served in the Anchorage Police Department about the same time, the '50s, and then he became a police chief in Juneau. And, um-

CA: It wasn't Baker, was it?

MD: Baker, yeah! Jim Baker? I thought it was Barker. Or, um, anyway-

CA: Well in the 50s we did have a Jim Baker, but I don't know that he went on to, uh, be a police chief somewhere.

MD: Yeah, I think that was a Juneau thing. Kay, um, you had a question?

BCJ: Two, two topics I'd like to touch on- one, um, after hours joints and that kind of stuff, and on, some people have talked about, earlier in Anchorage, discrimination, discriminatory practices and that kind of stuff and I, so we get kind of a mixed bag about experience on that and I just wondered if you had any rumination for that, that-

MD: So yeah, those-

BCJ: I used to live around the corner from the after hours joint, and everybody knew what it was and was kind of amused that it was there and in sight and everybody-

[12:21:22:00]

[00:39:19]

CA: Well you know, the after hours joints, it occurred to me a little while ago while I was talking, and for some reason I forgot to bring that up. Um, yeah, I knew where they all were. I have been in most of them. In one, (laughs) one way or another.

MD: (inaudible) How did they operate?

CA: Well, over the years, um, you know Anchorage has changed its bar closing hours, uh, different times. And, uh, basically too, too early for some people, I guess. And, uh, so these after hour places, uh, would pop up here and there. And, uh, and they would, they would turn out to be, they'd have, uh, full gambling facilities, all the necessary tables and that sort of thing for gambling. And also a full stock bar, and, uh, by word of mouth- and of course they couldn't advertise- but by word of mouth people would learn about 'em, and they'd, they'd do a bang-up business on, on, on

most nights. And especially on weekends. And they were usually in a private home somewhere, and, uh, there have been after hour gambling joints in Fairview, Mount- every place in town over the years, that I can recall. And, uh, one, one of, one of the people that- of course I can remember most of the people that operated 'em too- but one of, kind of a notable guy that operated one of 'em was John Rich. Johnny Rich.

MD: Johnny Rich, sure.

CA: You remember Johnny's Girl, the book?

MD: Yeah.

CA: His daughter wrote?

MD: Yes.

CA: Well, and of course he got killed by some of his friends. Uh, but I can remember he had an after hours place in, in Fairview. Gambling, um, alcohol, uh, loud music, you know, the whole thing. And, uh, I can remember, I can remember we raided that place one night in the dark of the night. And, uh, when we went in of course we had to break the door, and we had, we had a search warrant and all that kind of stuff, had to break the door and go in. And of course everybody scatters. But they can't get out, they're just scattering wherever. And, uh, um, I vividly remember, uh, this little girl sitting, as we came in the door, sitting at the top of the stairs crying. And, uh, and that was, that was Johnny's-

MD: That was Kim.

CA: That's Kim, that's Kim. Little girl sitting up there, and all the other officers they went to corral these people that were going everywhere. And we didn't have a policewoman, we only had two policewomen on the department and only one was on duty that night. And so, uh, I went to comfort the little girl, because I didn't want- I mean here we are a bunch of big ugly people with guns and everything else, you know, and she's sitting up there crying, wonder- wondering what's going to happen to her, you know, and her father and whatnot. So I called for a policewoman to come in, to take her, and, uh, eventually she showed up and, and, uh, and then the little girl was taken someplace where she could, y'know, could be.

[12:24:55:00]

[00:42:52]

MD: Yeah.

CA: Until her father bailed out and that sort of thing. So yeah, there were, there were these places everywhere. By and large the professional gamblers in my, in my experience anyway, were not violent people. They had, they had, they, they had violent people around 'em. But they didn't have, they didn't, they themselves were

not violent. They were fairly passive people. And I'm talking about the ones that actually ran, ran the places.

MD: Right.

CA: And I knew a lot of 'em. So well that we called each other by first name, actually. Yeah.

MD: And, uh, and then the issue of discrimination, was there a sense of, that minorities faced any discrimination in Anchorage in the '50s that you were aware of?

CA: No, but, y'know, there- when you're around a group of people, inevitably- and I'm talking about it like a group of policemen or a group of any people- inevitably at some point you're going to hear disparaging remarks about minorities.

MD: Right.

CA: I mean it just, it happens. And, uh, I don't recall that necessarily being pervasive.

MD: Right.

CA: I mean, you'd hear that once in a while. Nobody necessarily would agree with what was said or anything of that sort, but it, it'd be kind of like name-calling or something. And, um, and of course, eventually, and I don't remember exactly when it happened, but, uh, the city of Anchorage, uh, established the Human Rights Commission. And of course then there were a lot more complaints, complaints about various city departments, and of course, y'know, the police department was always represented in the complaints.

MD: Right.

[12:26:46:00]

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CA: So, uh, but I don't remember that being really a, I don't recall discrimination really being a- I mean, like on the police department, as a matter of fact- and I guess you're talking about, you're talking about, uh, only men? Or women too?

MD: I'm thinking, uh, I'm thinking too things. One is discrimination against Native Alaskans. Uh, that some people have told me they felt when they were in Anchorage, and then also against Black people, especially during-

CA: Yeah.

MD: The '50s with the service-

CA: Yeah, there were, there's- yeah. There's still a certain amount of, uh, discrimination against blacks, you know that. Um, I don't know, I don't know exactly how it manifests itself much these days, but. Um, um, people get the name-calling and that kind of thing. Now as far as discrimination as far as housing, employment and that sort of thing, you hear complaints of that. I'm not knowledgeable about that, and so, uh. The same thing goes, y'know, for the Natives. I'm close to the Native community here in Anchorage, y'know, because my association with the Southcentral Foundation. Uh, about fifteen hundred of the, about fifteen hundred people work out there, as I said, and most of those are Natives. And, uh, so, so, uh, yeah. There's, there's still discrimination against Natives. The same name-calling and that sort of thing. Now, if there's, if there's discrimination in housing and employment for Natives, I'm not aware of it.

MD: Yeah.

CA: Um. But, y'know, as far as employment, employing females in the police department, that was an issue at one time.

MD: Yeah.

CA: And, uh, before I became chief, we did have two, two female officers. They were assigned, uh, they were assigned duties that seemed to be at the time more fitting for female officers than for men. They worked juvenile cases, they worked bad check cases, non-violent kinds of cases. Um, and when I became chief, um, we hired our first police officer to do patrol duty just like any other police officer. And, uh, we learned fairly (laughs), fairly soon after we did that, uh, that they were making complaints. Well, first, and this is kind of funny in a way, one of the first complaints we got is that there's no no uh, locker room for women-

MD: Right.

[12:29:32:00]

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CA: To change into their uniforms and that sort of thing. Well, we didn't. We were in the old Public Safety building, which at that time sat at 6th Avenue and C Street. And, uh, we didn't have private bathrooms for the women. The men, they'd go use the bathroom as men do, but nothing for the women. So we had to change a lot of things, but we did hire 'em and they were performing regular patrol duties. Some of 'em weren't cut out for it, they immediately asked for a transfer to juvenile or bad checks or, y'know, frauds and that sort of thing. They didn't want to work the streets. Even though they fought for it, y'know, and wanted it.

MD: Yeah.

CA: Um, and I don't think it was a mistake. There are female police officers out there now doing a wonderful job.

MD: Yeah.

CA: But there is also, uh, there is also a feeling, I believe, and the reason I say this, is on occasion I'll monitor the police fre- one of the police frequencies. And I haven't even talked to anybody about that, I just do it for my own entertainment, you might say, on a busy Saturday night or something, just to see what's happening. And I can see the officers, the male officers, uh, taking extra steps to make sure the female officers are protected. And that's, and that's not exactly a good thing. I mean, if an officer is distracted from his, what he's supposed to be doing, because a female officer is present, and he has to kind of look out for her, that distraction is not needed there. And I'm not saying the female officers should be, should be fired or, you know, anything of that sort, it just is what it is. You know. They're, they're taking extra little precautions here and there. Uh, like if, if a car in a particular area, a police car in a particular area is dispatched to a seemingly violent call of some sort, um, inevitably they'll also dispatch a male officer.

MD: Right.

CA: Um. And like I say, there's, there's no answer to that.

MD: Yeah.

CA: There's no answer to it. It just happens.

MD: Are there, uh, other ways that police work has changed in fifty, sixty years?

CA: (laughs) There's a lot of ways, absolutely. Absolutely, and of course, uh, one of the, one of the great, um, guides for law enforcement is, is what the courts come down with. Uh, and, uh, cases that go up on appeal and so forth. That sort of sets the tone for what's happening in law enforcement.

[12:32:23:00]

[00:50:21]

MD: Right.

CA: And, um, there's nothing in particular, its just kind of a, kind of a slow evolution, you might say. Um, the, um, the equipment gets better all the time. Um, and, uh, the educational standards increase constantly.

MD: Right.

CA: And, uh, so I would say certainly without, without question, that the police officers of today are far, by far more educated and trained to be police officers than those that came out of the '50s and '60s. No question about that.

MD: I think that pretty much winds up anything I have to say. Anything you want to add?

CA: No, can't think of anything, no.

MD: Its been a pleasure.

CA: Well, I'm not really that accustomed to this, but.

MD: Neither are we.

CA: Do what you can do, y'know.

MD: Its kind of a lark for us.

CA: (laughs)

MD: Bob's a professional.

CA: Hey, its a job, isn't it?

MD: Well for me this is mainly really, really fun. I try to tell people about what I think Anchorage is like and they don't believe me-

CA: Yeah.

MD: So every time I can find corroboration-

CA: Yeah.

[12:33:39:00]

[00:51:37]

MD: I mean, the reason I mentioned Jim was, uh, he had the same process. He came to Alaska, worked for years as a glazer before he could get on the police department, and got to be chief shortly thereafter.

CA: Oh, how long ago was that?

MD: It was, I believe he was Chief of Police in Juneau through the '70s. Um, but yeah, he talked about one time when there was a bear on top of one of the buildings in downtown Juneau.

CA: (laughs)

MD: Well you know they're all kind of interconnected there. Fish and Game didn't want to do it 'cause its in the city, and animal control didn't want to do it because it was a wild animal, so it comes down the police to have to get down this black bear.

CA: Yeah.

MD: And he goes down on those roofs, and there's all these things sticking up, he can't see a thing, except down on the street the whole crowd is down there that's poured out of, poured out of bars, and he's trying to tell where the bear is from the way everyone's eyes go back and forth. And he still can't see anything. Got his-

CA: You know, in law enforcement-

MD: Yeah, he's got his '37-

CA: One of the things that really has changed law enforcement a lot, and, uh, its the violence that police officers are faced with nowadays. Um, almost all, all officers that are dispatched to a call, almost automatically now they send, uh, backup. Uh, because of the potential for violence.

MD: Right.

CA: Um, I mean, we don't have to think very far back to remember the officer that was sitting out in Fairview in his patrol car and somebody came up and shot him through the window?

MD: Right.

CA: I mean, people are, people are so, so violent anymore. And, and back in the early days we didn't have gangs, y'know. We started to have gangs. I mean they didn't just happen, they've been around for a while, but, um, but y'know, it just seems like they, they don't think twice and they're using a gun. Yeah. And, and what this causes is, uh, complaints against the police department because the police go in aggressive to begin with. They have to.

[12:35:47:00]

[00:53:46]

MD: Yeah.

CA: In a lot of cases. So one thing leads to another, y'know.

MD: Wow.

CA: I think we're fortunate in Anchorage. We have a very professional police department. We have a good man in charge. And, uh, they're highly trained, they have continued training constantly, and, uh, and only once in a while do you hear, do you hear of, uh, some bad egg within the police department. And of course we all hate that, but, y'know, that's a part of life too, I guess.

MD: You didn't have a lot of training, uh, in your, in your day, the '50s. It sounds like you kind of just applied and they took you in and then you wound up training other people.

CA: Well, um, yeah. Like in the '50s, yeah. Um, y'know, it was a pretty small department, I think we had like thirty people on the department then. Now we're talking hundreds.

MD: Right.

CA: And, uh, when I retired we're talking hundreds. But, um, y'know, um, they, they had a training, they had a training academy.

MD: Yeah.

CA: Uh, in the '50s. Um, nothing like they have today. And, um, the, uh, the training that occurred then I suppose was fitting for the time. Um, but a lot of the training happened out on the street. You were put with a training officer, and you worked alongside a training officer for several months. Which was almost much more valuable than, than classroom training. So you did get some experience, yeah. And I, I can even remember, I can even remember my first call that I ever went on involved a gun. I was scared.

MD: Yeah.

CA: (laughs) You know? But that's neither here nor there.

MD: What was, what was the, what was the incident?

[12:37:58:00]

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CA: Well, I was in training of course, because I was new. And, uh, the first dispatch we ever made was to the old Federal Building down at 4th and F. Uh, a man with a gun. In the hallway. Threatening people. And so the officer that I was with dropped off at the front door. I went around to the side door, which was on the west side of that building, and, uh, we went up to the first floor, half a flight, I think it was then. And, uh, as I ran down the hall towards the front of the building, this guy with a gun and I crashed into each other right on the corner, going around the corner. And his gun went scooting down the- that was my way of, uh, disarming him. (laughs) So. So,

yeah, I mean, when you hear, when you hear the dispatch say, y'know, "Answer this call, there's a man with a gun", that's not good to hear.

MD: No.

CA: Really.

MD: The Federal Building was like the center of town.

CA: Yeah. Pretty much, yeah.

MD: Everything happened there.

CA: Yeah, 4th and C was kinda like, between 4th and C and, uh, and the Federal Building, pretty much the center of town. And in the early days, I can't remember when they paved 9th Avenue, that was somewhere in, somewhere in those early days. Yeah.

MD: The roads just keep getting better, that is one good thing.

CA: (laughs) They do.

BCJ: I'll throw in a question to you about, I heard- if you're aware of this in your experience- that there were beat officers in that south division that would walk around downtown and look for chimney fires.

CA: Look for what?

MD: Chimney fires. In the residences? Uh, and if they saw something, like, somebody hadn't got their stove damped down or their fireplace tamped right, they'd actually enter the house, 'cause it would be unlocked, and they'd adjust the fireplace. And this may be going back farther, or maybe this is just one person's memory, but I thought with your time in law enforcement, maybe you had any kind of anecdotal connection to that at all.

[12:40:31:00]

[00:58:30]

CA: Nope, doesn't sound familiar at all to me, no.

MD: People in Kodiak, when you were young, didn't lock their doors much, did they?

CA: They still don't.

MD: (laughs) But-

CA: Actually, I know people in Kodiak-

MD: Yeah.

CA: And they don't lock their doors. Yeah. I think there's some people here that don't lock their doors too. (laughs) But, you know, I mean, there's a ton of cases I can tell you about, but this is not, not necessarily where you guys want to go, I'm sure of that. Um, lot of funny stuff happens over the years.

BCJ: Anything specific to those early years that wouldn't be the case nowadays? In other words, something peculiar about a case that had to do with the time, the way the city was at that time, as opposed to something that could, could have happened yesterday? Something that's unique to its time period? That stands out.

CA: Um, well I know in the '50s, um, we always had foot patrol out, which we haven't always had since then. We always had foot patrol out, and, um, and of course there were no radio communications in those early days We didn't have handheld radios and that sort of thing. So if the police station wanted to get a hold of you, and you're on foot patrol, how did they get a hold of you? Well, right in the middle of town, on, uh, on E Street, at the top of the, um, traffic signal, there was a red light. And so if you're walking foot patrol you always had one eye on that, on that traffic signal to see if that red light was on, and if the red light was on then you're on the phone to find out why.

MD: Did you have to go to a pay phone? Did you have police phones set up?

CA: No, we'd go in and use the phone behind the bar or whatever, you know. (laughs) And, uh, y'know, even back in those days we had homeless panhandling?

MD: Hmm.

CA: Yeah.

MD: I was curious about the homeless.

[12:43:03:00]

[01:01:01]

CA: And you know, I was just going to say, um, and most of 'em we knew. We knew 'em. And, and one of the things in response to what you just asked, that happened back then, was public drunkenness was considered a crime. Public drunkenness is no longer a crime, its a social problem and, and so you, you can't arrest 'em for, for being drunk.

MD: Yeah. And we had a prison farm out at Russian Jack Springs. There was a prison farm out there, they grew vegetables. Those prisoners would get sentenced by the court to serve thirty days or whatever, and they'd go out there on that farm and

they'd work, they'd work the fields and that sort of thing. And, um, so then the prison farm moved out to Point Woronzof, in that area, and, uh, and it was, while it was located out there, the court system decided this is not a criminal offense, and that, that, uh, public drunkenness was a social problem. Or a medical problem. And so, um. But we knew, we knew, we even had, we even had people come into the police station, some of these people that were homeless and down and out and so forth, sayin' "I wanna go to the farm". They'd come in and ask. And I can remember one case, this guy came in, we all knew him. And it was getting towards fall, it was getting a little cold outside, and he says "I wanna go to the farm", and, uh, the officer told him "Well, y'know, you haven't done anything wrong". So he picked up the cash register off the counter, slammed it onto the floor, and he says, 'Now can I go to the farm?' (laughs) Well, he did! He went to the farm.

MD: Did, did they ever blue ticket people (inaudible)?

CA: Well that old blue ticket system, that went out way years and years before. Yeah. I can only remember hearing about that, y'know. But, y'know, uh, most, most of the time, if, if some of these, uh, people who drank and were drunk up and down the streets, uh, as I aid we knew most of 'em, they'd come to us and ask for money. Uh, if you're walking foot patrol, they come to us and ask for money. Well, you give 'em some money, but what we would do is march 'em into the restaurant and say, "Ok. You want, you want a bowl of soup or you want something else? And I'm gonna stand here and watch you eat it." See they wanted it for drinking.

MD: Right.

CA: So that's mostly what we'd do, y'know.

MD: Was it-

BCJ: Could you do a quick, a quick simple overview of the blue ticket system, 'cause I'm not sure how prevalent that knowledge is, of that, the one with the ticket-

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[01:03:51]

MD: What, what did they tell you about the blue ticket?

CA: Well I've only heard about it in the past, and, uh, they, they had a system as I understand it, where an individual who was considered to be undesirable in the community, uh- for whatever reason, drunkenness or perhaps any other reason- if he was undesirable he would be provided with a ticket out of town. And usually they were sent to Seattle.

MD: The, uh, the, the, the homeless people, or the down and out people, in the '50s, were they like the people today? At least some of the homeless people I know of seem to be preferring to live that way than to be indoors. Um.

CA: Well-

MD: I don't know if it was that-

CA: I think the, um, homeless population in Anchorage has taken on, uh, an absolutely different, uh, identity, sort of, than what it was back in the '50s and '60s. Um, back then the people that were homeless were, were residents, they lived here. Or they were born here. And they were recognizable by, by most people. Um, that knew 'em perhaps personally at some point.

MD: Right.

CA: And, uh, nowadays, as you go around and you see, you see the panhandlers and you see the homeless and you see intoxicated people, they're of every, they're of every nationality just about. Uh, so, so they're not of one nationality, they're different, they come from various places around the country, uh, and they, they're organized. There was never, back in the early '60s, to my knowledge, any, any degree of panhandling for money. People didn't hold up signs like they do today. Uh, now they seem to be a little better organized, and, uh, and, and now, um, not so much before, but nowadays there are places for these people to go.

MD: Yeah.

CA: Uh, there, in fact I just happened to be at Bean's Cafe within the last three or four days to make a donation, and, uh, these, the people that were congregating around Bean's, uh, Cafe, um, they're, they're of every nationality you can imagine.

MD: Yeah.

CA: Those, those, that's our homeless population. Its almost, almost, to educate yourself its almost worth going there just to see.

MD: Right.

[12:48:47:00]

[01:06:46]

CA: Um, and, uh, its pathetic. Some of 'em are very, very ill people that don't look like they're long for this world. Others look relatively healthy, some are completely sober. So, so there's a variety of 'em. And, uh, unfortunately, you know, the ordinance that was passed that makes it unlawful, uh, for panhandlers to panhandle, and also makes it unlawful for people to make donations to them- makes that unlawful. But unfortunately that's not working, I don't think its being enforced.

MD: Yeah.

CA: Um, and if it was being enforced I don't know what would be accomplished by it. So. So, uh, yeah. its a, its a, it certainly does not look good for our city. And we've been unable, as a, as a society, we've been unable to, uh, to deal with it. There's not fewer homeless people out there, there's more homeless people than ever, I believe.

MD: The, um, any idea what Anchorage is gonna look like in the future, another fifty years from now? I can't imagine. You look back, see what's happened in the last fifty years. No. I, I can't even imagine. I wouldn't try that, really. No.

MD: Good enough.

BCJ: You're talking to the future right now, actually. If you think of it that way.

CA: What's that?

BCJ: You're talking to the future right now. Folks that will be watching this.

CA: Oh. (laughs) Well, well, good luck people. Well, look where, look where we've gone with computers and simple things like television and, and automobiles and, and communications, all of that, look. Aircraft, everything! I mean there's no end to the great things that have happened in the last fifty, seventy-five years. And the people, and the young people, the young people I guess, its, y'know, depending on how old they are, they have no idea what's in store for them, unless they make a study of it somehow.

MD: Very good.

BCJ Thank you very much.

CA: You're welcome.

MD: I'll tell Kim Rich when I see her, about you.

CA: Do that!

MD: Yeah. Kind of funny, she and her husband tried for years to have a baby and they, they couldn-

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