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Interview with Eleanor "Sis" Daley  
18 July 2002

Present: Eleanor Daley, Michael Daley, and Dr. Robert V. Remini Location: Home of Eleanor Daley (3536 S. Lowe, Chicago, IL)

[Conversation begins with discussion of access to tape]

Michael Daley: The information will be on the tape. They'll give it back to you and you'll listen to it and review it. Then you'll control the access to the tape. Is that correct?

Dr. Robert V. Remini: Right, exactly. We'll just get this together. This is fine. I didn't know if you'd prefer to reminisce about your life with the mayor, or answer questions that I might ask you?

Eleanor Daley: Oh, I'll answer questions.

RVR: Yes.

ED: Whoever it is on a summer day, about the family. [RVR laughs]

RVR: I thought there might be some particular stories that you'd like to...

ED: Well, as I go along, I'll tell stories.

RVR: Okay. That would be fine. Why don't I start by asking you about yourself? Where were you born and educated?

ED: I went to St. Bridget's School at Archer and Loomis. It's a parochial school. It's been there for years and years. Then I went to St. Mary's High School on the west side. We were taught by the Sisters of Charity. They taught at both schools. Then, after that, there was a two-year commercial course to be a secretary. So I became a secretary. I came from a family of ten, six girls and four boys.

RVR: You kept the family?

ED: I say I came from a family of ten.

RVR: Oh, so you're used to a big family?

ED: Yes, a large family. But my husband was an only child [RVR laughs]. He didn't know what hit him [ED and RVR laugh]. But he loved a big family.

RVR: You were born in Bridgeport then?

ED: Yes, in Bridgeport.

RVR: Can you tell me when you first met the mayor? What were the circumstances?

ED: He was a great sports fan. He used to play sports. I had an older brother that was a very good friend of Dick's. We were at a baseball game and he introduced me to Dick. That's

how the romance started. But we didn't start going together. Well, it was off and on because he was entering his last year of law school. He went to school at night. He went to four years of college at night and three years of law in the evening.

RVR : Were you dating him regularly then?

ED: No, just occasionally. Not at all, because he was going to night school. We didn't have much time. But occasionally, I'd do some of his typing for him.

RVR: He didn't have any other girlfriends?

ED: No [laughs].

RVR: You were the one and only.

ED: I was the one and only, I think.

RVR: Did you know you wanted to marry him right off, or did that come later?

ED: No, that came later.

RVR: That did?

ED: No, I had no intentions at that time [laughs].

RVR: If I ask any question that you think is inappropriate, please, just don't answer.

ED: Oh, that's all right.

MD: We'll tell you [laughs].

RVR: Right, Mike [laughs]. He was just a good friend, then?

ED: He was a very good friend. Then we went a little longer, and I attended his graduation from law school with his mother and father in 1933. We met just a short time before that. We didn't marry until 1936. My mother was ill at the time, so we postponed it for a little while.

RVR: But he had asked you earlier to marry him? But it had to be postponed because of your mother's illness.

ED: We went for a couple of years. We had a lot of fun. DePaul Law School was at Lake and Wabash, right where the city schools are.

MD: That's the city college.

ED: Yes, the city college. I think that's why Dick wanted to help the young people because he attended night school. The city schools would pay half of the tuition for the young students. Then they'd pay the other half. So he could see a great need for help there. But occasionally we'd go together. Of course, DePaul was just a short distance from the Auditorium Theater. That was the Opera House at the time. So he got student tickets to

attend the opera [RVR laughs]. Every two weeks, we'd run down Wabash Avenue to attend the opera.

RVR: He did go to the opera? That's wonderful!

ED: We loved the opera.

RVR: Really? That's something I didn't know.

ED: Oh yes.

MD: They were great operagoers.

ED: We always attended the opera. When my children were young, on occasion we'd take a couple of them with us.

RVR: Right, and of course to the White Sox games, too. Did he take you to those?

ED: Oh, he was a number one fan, rain or shine.

MD: What were you doing when dad was in law school, mom?

ED: I was working as a legal secretary.

RVR: A legal secretary?

ED: I worked for Martin-Senour Company. It was a large corporation. They later affiliated with Sherwin Williams.

MD: It was a paint company.

ED: It was a big paint and varnish company. Their plant was in the neighborhood, so I could walk back and forth to school. Of course, I worked for the lawyer for the company, too, a little on the side [ED and RVR laugh].

RVR: Did you work for your husband when he was practicing law?

ED: No.

RVR: You never did.

ED: No I didn't. I typed a lot of his papers when he was in law school, though.

RVR: You did? When he was in law school? This was before you were married?

ED: Right, this was before I was married.

RVR: This was before you were married?

ED: Yes. I used to go out to his house with his mother and father. We used to be there all afternoon. Then we'd have a nice dinner.

RVR: By this time, you were pretty much in love with him. Would you say?

ED: Oh yes, very much so.

RVR: Do you remember when you think you fell in love with him and what it was about him that made you love him?

ED: Well, I think his truthfulness was always so prevalent. He was a perfect gentleman.

RVR: Yes, I can imagine.

ED: He was really a very kind and considerate man. He was a young man at the time.

RVR: And he was a daily communicant?

ED: Yes, from the time he received his first holy communion.

RVR: Is that right? That's unbelievable. It's known, of course that he....

ED: Yes. He had to go to different churches nearly every morning. This was because if he'd be at one church, there'd be a crowd seeing him. The next day they'd all be there.

RVR: Oh sure [laughs]!

ED: They'd all want to talk to him.

RVR: Did you go with him?

ED: No, not all the time, but sometimes. My children were little. We had our children right after we married.

RVR: But I go back to my question. When did you discover that you really loved this man? When was it?

ED: I think it was just before he graduated from law school.

RVR: Okay, that would be around 1932 or 1933.

ED: No, he graduated in 1933. I'd say maybe 1934, right after he graduated. Then he went into the field of law.

RVR: Do you remember when he asked you to marry him?

ED: I don't recall.

RVR: You don't? Okay.

ED: It was so long ago.

RVR: But he did ask you [laughs]?

ED: Oh, he did ask me.

RVR: And you said yes right away?

ED: I said yes right away.

RVR: And you knew this was the man that you wanted to spend your life with?

ED: Yes. By that time, we were very serious. We weren't going out with anyone else.

RVR: Yes. And you were just doing things together?

ED: There were no other boyfriends or girlfriends. But he was a perfect gentleman. He really was. We had a very small wedding, I think. My mother was ill at the time. So that was why.

RVR: Where were you married, in what church?

ED: It was in St. Bridgett's Church.

RVR: Oh yes, the picture.

ED: That was the wedding picture.

MD: Who took that, mom? You always tell that story about it.

ED: In all the excitement, we forgot to make the arrangements for the pictures.

RVR: Oh [laughs]!

MD: That's the only picture of their wedding.

ED: A friend of ours was outside and snapped the picture. That's the only picture I have.

RVR: Oh really? It was just a friend?

MD: Yes. That was at St. Bridgett's, mom?

ED: That was at St. Bridgett's, right out on the stairs.

MD: That was when mom was....

RVR: Do you remember the date?

ED: June 23, 1936.

RVR: Okay. That was a little less than a month ago. And you had a nuptial mass?

ED: Yes.

RVR: And no photographers?

ED: No, there was none of those.

RVR: Did you have a reception that you went to?

ED: Yes, we had a reception. We had a luncheon out at the South Shore.

MD: It was the Shoreland Hotel in Hyde Park.

RVR: Oh, in Hyde Park?

ED: We had a luncheon around noontime. We were married at nine o'clock in the morning, a nine o'clock mass.

RVR: Did you have a honeymoon?

ED: Yes.

RVR: Where did you go?

ED: We went, where did we go [laughs]?

MD: Didn't Aunt Mayme run a reception for you at [inaudible]?

ED: Over the evening, we had a small reception.

MD: This was at her sister's house.

ED: I came from a large family. At one of my sister's home, we had a small reception for our friends and family. We left and went on a train ride from here to Denver. They had a beautiful schedule for it. Then we went from Denver to California and then went straight up the coast to Seattle. Then we took the ship over to the bay:

RVR: That was very nice.

ED: We had a nice honeymoon. We had promised to go back, but we never did make it [laughs].

RVR: [Laughs] You never did?

MD: How long were you gone?

ED: A month..

RVR: A month?

ED: A whole month.

RVR: Wow!

MD: We had some relatives in California.

ED: I did.

RVR: You did?

ED: I had some relatives out there.

RVR: Did you visit them?

ED: Yes. We had a nice visit with them.

RVR: You say your mother and father were dead at this time?

ED: Yes, both of them were dead.

RVR: And all of the children were grown, all of your sisters and brothers?

ED: They were all grown, yes.

RVR: Nobody had to take care of them?

ED: No. There was a boy and a girl that were teenagers during the depression.

MD: My mother's father was killed when she was sixteen by a car. So her mother raised her family.

RVR: I see.

ED: She was a wonderful woman.

MD: Weren't you about sixteen mom, you always said?

ED: I was sixteen.

RVR: What number were you in the children?

ED: No, I was seven.

RVR: You were seven from the top.

ED: From ten, I was seven. We're all old.

RVR: When you did marry, did your husband have a job? Was he earning money?

ED: Oh yes. He was a young lawyer. He didn't make much, but enough. Then, shortly after we were married, we had a representative, Dave Shanahan. He had been speaker of the house seven times in Springfield. He died, so there was a vacancy. He was a Republican. There was a vacancy, so Dick ran for the office. He got elected. He was elected as a Republican. He was filling that vacancy. Then, after he was elected Republican, he stepped across the aisle and became a Democrat [RVR laughs].



MD: He was elected as a Republican.

RVR: [Laughs] He was a Republican?

ED: Yes. He was a Democrat. Of course, the governor was a Republican. So the Republicans were the majority. But he was elected an hour later, at his first session.

RVR: Yes I know. When was that?

ED: That was in 1937.

RVR: But he was the leader. And he was only there two years.

ED: Yes. He was a young lawyer. And the other young fellow was a lawyer. But he was well liked and well respected, even as a young man, to be elected minority leader right away. He traveled. They put him on the education committee.

RVR: Yes, it was right at the beginning.

ED: He traveled around Southern Illinois. Of course, that was when he questioned why there wasn't a branch of the university down in Springfield. He introduced legislation for a branch university in Chicago. But it was defeated.

RVR: When was that, would you say? Was it in 1934 maybe, 1935, or 1936?

ED: Oh no. He wasn't elected to Springfield until 1937, after we were married. The bill was defeated. So it took a long time after that to get them together. It was very controversial at the time, when they wanted to build a university. Oh, it was very controversial.

MD: Didn't dad work on the prisons, too? Wasn't there a big prison board?

ED: Yes, he was on the prisons.

MD: He was on legislation. Governor Green was alive then.

RVR: So you would say he was a very likeable person? And he worked hard?

ED: He was very respected and a hard working young man. I think the older members respected that. So that's why they helped him. He had a lot of help from Republicans and Democrats, all through his terms in office. He was well respected.

[ED to MD] Mike, it's downstairs. I meant to bring it up. It's on the bookcases. Akers, the reporter for the Tribune....

MD: Oh, you mean the precinct captain? No.

ED: He had a big article in the paper. He had it framed and he sent it to me. It's a lovely letter, telling everyone to respect Dick. He was well respected. He was a hard worker.

RVR: Even as mayor, the Republicans voted for him. He had great support.

ED: Of course, during the first term, he didn't have all of the papers with him, in his bid for mayor. In the second term, he had a non-partisan committee. They really worked hard for him. They were mostly writers and reporters. They were all very good. He was well informed on the finances of the city and the county. As a young fellow while he was going to school, he went to school at night. During the day, he had a job for the county. He was the county comptroller. He worked in the county comptroller's office. So he was well informed as to the finances of the county. So after he was elected mayor, they had a big meeting of the financial men in the City of Chicago. I don't know. They're all dead now, I think. They interviewed him as to the finances of the city. I guess they were well impressed with his knowledge of government. He was well informed.

RVR: That is one of the remarkable things that are remembered about him, that is his knowledge of finance and the budget.

ED: Oh, his knowledge was wonderful.

RVR: And also his control.

ED: He was comptroller then. He worked in the comptroller's office all that time.

RVR: And that's where you think he learned it, in the comptroller's office?

ED: Yes. I think as a kid, he was always good at finances, at arithmetic, algebra, and all.

RVR: He was good at that?

ED: He always was. Of course with the kids, I don't know how much brushed off [RVR laughs]. When the children were young and doing their homework, he would always help them with it.

RVR: They told me that.

ED: He was a wonderful husband and father. He really was. He was just a natural born kind man, really he was.

RVR: How fortunate you were to marry him.

ED: We were married forty years when he died.

RVR: Forty years?

ED: On the twenty-third of this month, we would have been married sixty-three years, I think.

RVR: Did he ever get angry in your presence?

ED: No.

RVR: He never did?

ED : No. He never raised his voice.

RVR: He never raised his voice?

ED: When he came in the house, he'd close that door. He'd no longer be the mayor, because some days he'd be three or four blocks away...

RVR: [Laughs] Have you seen those pictures, when he was...?

ED: Oh yes.

RVR: So you knew that he could lose his temper?

ED: Oh yes. He knew they were all out of truth and didn't know what they were talking about. That used to burn him up. But he could change just like that. But no, he was the kindest man. He was the kindest father to his children.

MD: [Returning from the basement] You mean this thing, mom? This was the endorsement from 1955.

ED: Oh, that was that non-partisan committee. No, I think it was in a little gold frame down there. It's all right.

RVR: Perhaps you could look after the interview, then?

MD: Yes. I know what you're talking about. But I didn't see it.

ED: It's only about this size.

MD: I'll have to look.

ED: But it's a good editorial on Dick. He was really a young fellow then. But he was a very kind man. As I said, when he closed that door, he was no longer the mayor. He was the father. The kids would meet him at the door.

RVR: Right. But didn't the kids act up at times and do things that were...?

ED: Oh sure, they were normal kids. But I never had any serious problems with the girls or the boys.

RVR: Who disciplined the children?

ED: I was the disciplinarian.

MD: My father was a soft touch [MD and RVR laughs]. He never disciplined us. He wouldn't discipline the dog! [MD and RVR laugh]

ED: No. He would never say no.

RVR: He never said no?

ED: He wouldn't say no. I said to him, "They'll never forget me." He said, "Why would they?" I said, "Well, I always have to say no. I can never say yes to them, because it's always a no." Then he'd say, "What did your mother say?" Mary wanted to go to Florida with the whole group. I said, "I don't think so." She said, "Why not?" She had it down to the penny on what it would cost. I said, "Well, next year Eleanor wants to go to St. Mary's at Notre Dame." That's where Mary graduated from. I said, "Next year, Rich will be going on to college. And the other mothers said those girls are all going have one or two children. We have six more coming. And they're going to be educated just like you." We have, this summer, Michael's girl graduated from Georgetown.

MD: That's the best thing my mother and dad gave as a gift. Mom and dad always said it was an education. And they gave us that opportunity.

RVR: And did they always go to the schools they wanted, or did you pretty much decide for them?

ED: Oh no, they picked their schools.

RVR: They picked their schools?

ED: Yes.

RVR: You're implying that you really took care of the finances at home. Is that true?

ED: Oh yes.

RVR: You did?

ED: Well, we worked together on it, both of us.

RVR: You did? You went over the budget? Of course, he knew so much about budgeting. I'm not surprised that he'd go over it with you [laughs].

ED: Oh yes. We had a great life. We had happiness all the time.

RVR: Wow! That's unbelievable.

ED: We did. We really did. I tell you, when they would hear the car pull up, they'd all make a dash for the door. They'd meet him at the door, every one of them.

RVR: You never had a single quarrel? You never shed a tear over something?

ED: Oh, we had our times.

RVR: You did?

ED: We had our ups and downs. You know, nothing is perfect, far from it.

RVR: Could you give me an example?

ED: I don't remember. But I always got my way, I think [ED and RVR laugh].

RVR: I'm not surprised!

ED: Nothing always runs smoothly. I always think of Pat. Someone asked her, "What kind of a father is your dad?" She said, "Oh, he's wonderful, a very kind man. We can go to him and ask him anything we want. And he always has time to answer us and help us if he can." They asked, "And your mother?" She said, "Well, my mother is the disciplinarian. My father is a pushover [ED, MD, and RVR laugh]."

RVR: Right. Is that Mrs. Martini?

MD: It's Martino.

RVR: Martino rather, yes, excuse me. We interviewed her and yes, she said the same thing.

MD: She told that one time, someone questioned her and she said, "My dad is a pushover [RVR laughs] But my mother is a disciplinarian." I had to say no all of the time.

RVR: In what ways did he help you around the house, and in raising the children, would you say?

ED: Well, he helped me with their education. Everything, any questions, he always knew what was going on with the children.

RVR: Did he do their homework with them, pretty much?

ED: Oh yes.

RVR: Or did the two of you do it?

ED: He helped them. It was precious time for him. When he'd come home, after he had his dinner, they'd all sit around. He'd be with them.

RVR: Right. When they were infants, did he help you in the house?

ED: He was helpful.

RVR: Did he change diapers? Excuse the stupid question [laughs].

ED: He didn't change the diapers.

RVR: No, I never did.

ED: I don't think men did that back then. Now today...

RVR: We got away with murder [laughs].

ED: You did [laughs] !

MD: We were waited on [ED, MD, and RVR laughs].

RVR: That's true [laughs] !

MD: They were!

ED: But today they do everything.

RVR: They do.

ED: But he was very helpful to me. If I was doing something and he could help me, he'd always help me. But he wasn't one for doing dishes.

RVR: He didn't do dishes?

ED: Oh no.

RVR: How about mechanical things?

ED: No. But any other little way he could help me, whatever I wanted, he'd do. We had no trouble at all. We had a wonderful marriage.

MD: You lived with dad's parents from the time you were married. That was Lil and Mike.

RVR: Right.

ED: Yes. He was an only child. At the time we were married, Mrs. Daley wasn't well.

RVR: Right. Where did you live when you were first married?

ED: When we were first married, we lived at Thirty-third and Union, just a short distance from here. It was a two flat that we rented. His parents lived with us.

RVR: Right from the beginning?

ED: Yes.

RVR: And you didn't mind that?

ED: No. I always had a grandma that lived with us.

RVR: You always did?

ED: My father's mother lived with us. When we were young, she lived with us. The mother and father lived with us.

MD: And in the Depression, a lot of your family had to move home, didn't they?

ED: Oh yes, a couple of the girls did, with their husbands.

MD: She was the support of the family in the Depression.

RVR: Really? You were the support of the family during the Depression?

ED: Yes, two or three of us were. We all shared in helping out at home. The older brothers and sisters helped, too. They did their duty. We were all young at the time.

RVR: You felt it as a sense of duty and the fact that you loved your...?

ED: I think it was because we loved my mother. She was a wonderful mother and always so good. We also had my grandmother, who lived in the house. Imagine, ten kids and a grandmother. There was never trouble.

MD: How many bedrooms did you have?

RVR: [Laughs] That's a good question.

ED: It was a house of bedrooms. We had a two fold years ago. Now they call them sofa beds. But years ago, they were two folds, and they 'd open out.

RVR: You'd have several in a room?

ED: My grandmother had her own bedroom. It was one small bedroom.

RVR: She had her own?

ED: She had her own bedroom.

MD: Didn't some of your married family have to move home, in the Depression?

ED: Yes. This was before I married. Around that time, my mother died. Kate, one of my sisters, her husband was in the service. When he came out, his job wasn't there for him. But he did get some work, very light work. I guess he wasn't well. Yes, we all helped.

RVR: Were you working? Did you continue to work when you were first married?

ED: No.

RVR: Did you quit?

ED: I quit before.

RVR: You quit before?

ED: I quit a week before. I was going to stay home. I worked while I was in high school. I worked for the telephone company. I should tell Bill that [MD laughs]. He knows.

RVR: I know what she's talking about [ED, MD, and RVR laughs]. He doesn't know?

ED: Oh yes. He knows.

MD: Tell him about when you were in school and you used to go from the grammar school to the telephone company to work, or to the high school.

RVR: Yes, please do tell me.

MD: That was you and your sisters.

ED: In our big family, we'd all help one another. We'd go right from work to help.

RVR: I'm keeping you from your tea [laughs].

ED: That's all right. That's fine.

RVR: You were going to tell me about going from the grammar school to the telephone company.

ED: I went to high school on the west side. Then from four to ten, they had a program for high school girls. During the summer, we went to training. Then, once we started school, we went into the working program. It was helping at home. So I worked for four years at St. Mary's. It was good. They did us a favor about doing the homework. You would work from four to five. Then, from five to six, you'd have your dinner hour. And I swear, this woman was an Army officer [RVR laughs]. She was a big heavysset lady. We had our dinner and then sat at another table. Our books came right out at the table. Then we started our homework. This woman walked up and down to make sure you were doing it [RVR laughs].

MD: How did you get back and forth?

ED: I took the streetcar.

RVR: Oh, you took the streetcar?

ED: It was only a short distance from where we went to school to the telephone company office. They were wonderful people, I thought.

RVR: You were a telephone operator?

ED: I was an operator. "Hello there."

RVR: [Laughs] "Hello. How are you? Can I help you?" Whatever [ED and RVR laughs]. How many years did you do that?

ED: Three years.

RVR: But then, when you got married, you knew you were going to stop working.

ED: Well, I started work before I got married. After I graduated from the school, I then worked as a secretary. Then, later on, I met Dick and we started going together, and we married. But I had no intentions of going to work. Now, I don't think they'd marry you if you didn't have a job [RVR laughs].

MD: How old were you when you were married, mom?

ED: I was twenty-nine.



RVR: You were twenty-nine. And your husband?

ED: He was thirty-four.

MD: So you worked from high school until you were twenty-nine?

ED: Yes.

MD: All at Martin Senour?

ED: Yes.

RVR: And that was something that you wanted to do. And your husband Dick wanted you to do it, too?

ED and RVR: To stay home.

ED: Well, very few women worked then.

RVR: That's true.

ED: Not many did. Now today, I think they'd call the wedding off if they had to stay at home.

RVR: And this was in the heart of the Depression, when jobs were very difficult to get.

ED: I had a good job, too. I just didn't know that I was getting married. But I had no intentions of working.

RVR: Did the children start to come very quickly? Or did you wait a while?

ED: Yes, we started a year later.

RVR: A year later. And that was Patricia?

ED: Yes Patricia. She was the oldest.

RVR: She made it very clear that she was the oldest in the family, the eldest [laughs]. She takes great pride!

MD: She was born on St. Patrick's Day.

RVR: Oh, I didn't know that.

ED: She was what?

MD: She was born on St. Patrick's Day. That's why her name is Patricia [laughs].

RVR: Oh, is that why? I see. I thought it would have been Eleanor.

ED: I had no choice. It was either Pat or Patricia [MD and RVR laugh].

RVR: Oh, it would have been Patrick if it had been a boy.

ED: My father was Patrick Henry.

RVR: You father was?

ED: And my brother. Give me liberty or give me death.

RVR: [Laughs] That was Patrick Henry.

MD: Was Patrick Henry Uncle Henry?

ED: Yes.

MD: I never knew him as Patrick.

ED: And my dad, he was Pat.

MD: We always called him Uncle Henry. I never knew he was Patrick Henry [MD and RVR laugh].

ED: My father was Pat.

RVR: Were you still living in the two bedroom flat when Patricia was born? Were you still living there with your in-laws?

ED: Yes.

RVR: So there was five of you?

ED: It was a two flat. But then we left and moved to a larger place a year later. Then, when he decided to run for office to fill the vacancy of the Republican, we came over here. There were two lots that were vacant, right here on Lowe Avenue. So Dick said that he liked to have two lots and it'd be better to have a little space for the kids. He decided to find out who owned the two lots. And who do you think? He found the Rothschild family.

RVR: The Rothschild's?

ED: This is interesting. The Rothschild's were the bankers of New York. They had one boy. The youngest boy in their family didn't want to be a banker. The rest of them were all bankers. He wanted to be a cattleman in the stockyards. So he came here and became a cattleman, a very wealthy one, I think.

RVR: [Laughs] I would think!

ED: He lived here. Then, when they started to develop the whole area, all of the cattlemen were going to move in this section of the city. But the city decided to make Thirty-ninth Street a state road to the lake, from the west all the way to the lake. So they saw the possibility of building homes right on the lake. They changed their minds about building this area, developing it. They built all along the lake from Thirty-ninth Street north and

south. He bought and lived there. It was the first thing he ever bought when he bought these two lots. It was the first thing he ever bought on his own. He wrote home and sent the deed home to this one brother, who kept it. It was years later that we bought these lots. And he still had the deed. He said he'd be happy to sell if a family was going to move in this area. So he sold the lots to Dick. They weren't too expensive. So Dick bought the two lots. He wrote a beautiful letter. I don't know if Dick still has it. I may have it downstairs. If I get it, I'll go. He was very proud of his brother. He was the youngest one. He didn't want it. But he stayed with his own convictions [RVR laughs]. He became a cattleman.

MD: When you moved here, did you live at Thirty-fifth and Emerald? Didn't you?

ED: Well, yes.

MD: Yes, after the two left.

ED: From Thirty-third we moved to Thirty-fifth. Then we negotiated the deed.

MD: The Valentine's Boys club was on the first floor, wasn't it?

ED: Yes. They built a boys club right there, down the street.

RVR: Were there any buildings here when you moved here, when you bought the lots?

ED: No. These two lots were always vacant. They never sold the lots. The brother said he always kept them for sentimental reasons. This boy said that he was so proud that he was able to buy the two lots. It was the first thing he ever bought on his own. I thought that was interesting. Was that Nelson's family?

MD: I don't know which, mom. I know that there's a file on it somewhere.

RVR: Yes. Last week I went to Rose Hill Cemetery. And I saw the Rothschild burial spot. I said, "Are these related to the Rothschild's of Europe?" And the guy didn't know. I'm glad I asked you [ED and RVR laugh]. Now I know. You have a remarkable memory! This is really extraordinary.

MD: When you moved in the house mom, you had Pat. And Mary was a baby?

ED: Mary and Pat were the two children. Mike and Lil, Dick's mother and dad, were here.

RVR: Oh, you built this house?

ED: We built this house.

RVR: You built the house immediately, after you bought the lots?

ED: Yes.

RVR: How long did it take to build the house?

ED: On August 15, we broke ground. We moved in on November 15.

RVR: Wow! That's unheard of today!

MD: My grandfather was a tradesman, so he knew what to do.

ED: He was a guides man. He was on duty from four until ten every night.

RVR: That's Big Mike?

ED: Yes, Big Mike. He was a little bit of a man [RVR laughs]. He said that he had to wait until he was an elderly man to be called Big Mike, because we had Little Mike.

RVR: You were Little Mike?

MD: Dad was born in the next block in the second house. It was just beyond the next intersection on the back apartment. That was the house where he was born.

RVR: Oh really? What is that address? Do you remember offhand? It's in the documents here.

MD: It's the same building. I don't know who lives there. It was the second building.

ED: It's a two flat.

RVR: They should put a plaque out, you know, "On this site Richard J. Daley was born."

MD: That's where the Daley's were from around here. Right mom?

ED: Well, it was a little west of here, on the other side of Halsted, the Daley family [MD and RVR laugh].

MD and RVR: A little west!

MD: Where were the Dunne's from?

ED: The Dunne's were Lil's family.

MD: That was his mother's family.

ED: They were up there by Nativity of our Lord, on Thirty-seventh street. So they were all born around the same area.

RVR: Did they have big families? Did they come from big families, the Dunne's?

ED: The Daley's had ten. Mike had four brothers. They had five boys and five girls.

MD: How about Lil?

ED: They had about eight children in her family, mostly girls.

RVR: Lil was the sister?

MD: No. Lil was my father's mother.

\*\*\*\*\*END OF SIDE ONE, TAPE ONE\*\*\*\*\*

RVR: Now, what were we talking about?

MD: We were into Mike's family and the Daley's.

ED: There were five girls and five boys. One girl was a Dominican nun, with the Dominican Order, for years. She celebrated her fiftieth year.

MD: That was Sister Laurian.

ED: Sister Laurian. And they had five boys. They attended a public school over here. When Big Mike was a young boy, he went to McAllister High School, I think it was. In grade school, they taught algebra, back in his day. He could help the kids with any of their problems. He could help the kids with any algebra problem they had.

MD: He was a sheet metal worker. So he had to deal with dimensions. Ornamental ironwork is what he did.

ED: Oh yes. He was really good.

RVR: He was an artisan as well?

MD: He did copper on the domes of buildings. That was a specialty that he did. He was also a sheet metal worker. Wasn't he locked out?

ED: I think he was.

MD: Because he was union, he was locked out.

RVR: Oh, he was union?

MD: Yes.

ED: He did the big city hall. There was another building in Gary, Indiana. He did the copper. Anytime we'd be going up that way, we'd all be driving.

MD: That's the dome on city hall in Gary. He worked on that.

ED: He'd always say he worked on that during the winter. It was freezing cold.

RVR: You Daley's are a remarkable bunch, and what you've done for the city!

MD: They always came around, didn't they, the Daley's? A lot of them weren't married.

RVR: That's Irish [laughs].

ED: That's a typical Irish family. There was a nun and I think two or three girls that were married. John Daley didn't marry.

MD: Ann didn't marry.

ED: Marty married. Al was in the service. He was up in years when he married, too.

MD: Al never had children. Aunt Marge had two children. They were very close. They'd come here for dinner all of the time.

RVR: Oh did they?

MD: On Sundays.

ED: You know what it was. If a boy was a priest or a girl was a nun, they'd get a day a week off.

RVR: They'd come home?

ED: They'd always go home.

RVR: They'd eat a decent meal [laughs].

ED: It was for their big dinner.

MD: It was Sunday at one o'clock [laughs].

RVR: Is that right? We always had a big meal on Sundays.

ED: We always did. They'd always go to the mother's house. Then, when the mother died, they'd go to the sister's house. Then, when the sister died, Mike was next in line. So they came here. She came here and would always bring a companion with her.

MD: Sister Immaculata. Remember that?

RVR: Yes. They always had to have a companion.

ED: She was a librarian.

MD: The first Sunday of every month [MD and RVR laugh].

RVR: They came, yes? With Sister Immaculata?

MD: And they ate in here [MD and RVR laugh].

ED: Oh yes. I remember Mike always remembered when she was a young girl she loved a pineapple sundae. And every day for years, about a half-hour before she'd arrive here, he'd say, "Where does this pick up go out?" And he'd walk down to about Thirty-first street. There was a big ice cream parlor. He'd buy her the big ice cream and buy one for the other nun.

RVR: How many people would you have here for a Sunday meal? Ten? Fifteen?

ED: We'd have ten that would sit down at the table in the kitchen all the time. There was seven children, Dick, myself, his mother, and father. So that was ten.

RVR: Who helped you with the cooking?

ED: I had help.

RVR: You did have help. Was it hired help?

ED: Yes.

MD: Lil [laughs].

ED: I had a woman. My children would help, too. But I did have help. I had help that came and left.

RVR: It sounds like it was fun.

ED: It was fun. I think that when you have a large family, it's lots of fun. There's something going on all of the time.

MD: On Big Mike's side, there was Sister Laurian, Aunt Marge, Aunt Ann, Uncle Al, and Uncle Mark. There was a John and then there was a Laurian. Laurian died, didn't she?

ED: There was John, Jim, Laurian, and Jewel. That's a name you never hear.

RVR: No.

ED: But in the Irish families, there's Jewel or Julian. But they always called her Jewel.

MD: And there was Jim.

ED: Jim was the oldest.

RVR: Of your own children, Patricia was the oldest.

ED: Mary Carol was the second. Richard was the third.

MD: No, it was Ellie.

ED: No, Eleanor was the third.

MD: There was three girls and four boys.

RVR: Right. You finally got to name [laughs].

MD: I did. Eleanor was the third. Richard was the fourth. Mike was the fifth. John was the sixth. Bill was the seventh.

RVR: Bill was the seventh. I always thought that John was the youngest. I don't know why.

ED: Everyone did.

RVR: Is that right?

ED: He always was the baby. Everybody babied John when he was a child.

MD: He loved every moment of it [MD and RVR laugh].

RVR: [Laughs] Did he?

MD: [Laughs] He still does! Right?

ED: Right.

MD: So that was the Daley side. On the Dunne side, Lil had...

ED: She had one brother and seven sisters, I think.

MD: I remember Edna, Joe, and Kitty...

ED: There was Edna, Joe, Kitty, and Say.

MD: And Say.

ED: Jen.

MD: And Jen.

ED: Then there was Lil. You said Joe. Is that seven?

MD: Seven, I think there was. One or two died before I knew any of them. Lil died in 1946?

ED: Yes. It was 1946.

MD: So I was three. Rich was two. My older sisters remember her, but the rest of us don't.

ED: You don't?

MD: No.

RVR: That was your grandmother?

ED: Yes, the grandma.

MD: So we only knew one grandparent, Big Mike. He lived with us and lived with my mom.

ED: My parents were dead.

RVR: Do you remember the year that your mother died? Was it...?



ED: It was 1934, my mother.

RVR: That was when your mother died.

ED: My father died in 1923.

MD: She was sixteen when her father died. Her mother had ten children to raise.

RVR: All by herself? How did she do it? Well then, the oldest children had to go out and work.

MD: And her brother, didn't he help her?

ED: Oh yes. She had a brother that lived close by.

MD: They all worked, all of the kids did.

ED: They all worked.

RVR: He had children, too. And their descendants, they're still alive?

MD: Is Billy still alive?

ED: Oh on, she's dead. They're all dead.

MD: Who's left, only the Mintles?

ED: They're all dead, only the Mintles.

MD: That would be the sons.

RVR: Now, your mother Lil...

MD: Lil was dad's mother, Lil and Mike.

RVR: [Laughs] Right. I'm getting it. Excuse me for not knowing it.

MD: There's a family chart in there.

ED: Yes. He can have it.

RVR: Well, I can return it. But I'd like very much to be able to take it back. This will help us.

MD: This was Patrick Henry. Why am I explaining it? Mom, why don't you explain it? [laughs] I'll get your glasses. Here's her grandmother. Here's her father and that was her mother. Did you know your grandfather?

ED: No, I didn't.

RVR: Now, do you know the year when she died?

ED: My mother died in 1934.

RVR: She died in 1934?

ED: Yes, before I was married.

RVR: Oh, she did die before you were married?

ED: That was right before I got married. That's why I delayed the marriage. This is my dad. My Bill looks a little like my dad.

RVR: Does he?

ED: I think so.

RVR: Oh yes. I can see it.

ED: We all get together every five years.

RVR: The Guilfoyle's?

ED: The Guilfoyle's [looking through pictures]. That's a brother. They're all dead. I'm the only one alive.

RVR: You're the only survivor?

ED: I'm the only survivor. But they all had longevity in our family.

RVR: They did?

ED: That brother was ninety-seven when he died. My grandmother was ninety-four.

RVR: Oh she was?

ED: So there was longevity. That's a sister.

MD: Here mom. Do you want your glasses?

RVR: I'll hold the book (holding the Guilfoyle's genealogy book).

ED: Now these are all of the nieces and nephews, no sisters.

MD: Where's the big chart, mom? You know that big thing you roll out, the family tree? It's in a scroll. Remember, they gave it to you.

ED: It may be in that bedroom, up on the rack over the clothes.

RVR: [Laughs] You have your moments in scattered parts of the house, I can see. These are very nice pictures, too. They really are.

ED: Aren't they? We all submitted little snapshots.

RVR: Who did this?

ED: One of my nieces did.

RVR: One of your nieces did it.

ED: She married a fellow that's in the printing business.

RVR: They put this together. Has anybody done this for the Daley family?

ED: No.

RVR: Somebody should [ED laughs].

ED: Someone should do that for the Daley family.

MD: The Daley family was small.

RVR: But somebody ought to do something like this. It's not small now.

ED: It's not small. They had ten children.

MD: Who?

ED: The Daley's.

MD: They didn't have children. They had just a couple of cousins, maybe four or five, out of a family of ten.

ED: The oldest boy had two children. And the next was Mike. He had one. The next one was Marty. He had one girl. They only had one or two children.

RVR: You're the side that provided all of the family.

ED: My Dick had seven. There were two cousins, two boys. They both had seven children.

RVR: That's a good size.

ED: There is a family tree. I'll find the family tree of the Daley's.

RVR: Yes, that would be interesting, too, and keep it up to date.

MD: Oh, we do. Mom keeps it. But the one of the Daley's I think Georgie Currie or someone has it.

ED: Yes.

MD: I'll get it.

RVR: And to be able to go back and know who...

MD: Aunt Ann kept the family Bible, didn't she? Ann Daley?

ED: Yes. You know, when you have a large family, leave the Bible to one. They promised to pass it around or to make copies of it. Well, as the years go by, it was never passed around. I have it in my family. Mary said, "Oh, I'll get it to you, Aunt Sis."

MD: But they don't want to give it up [MD and RVR laugh].

ED: No, they don't want to.

RVR: You were always called Sis? You just called yourself Sis. How did you get that nickname?

ED: My brother that was older than me always called me sister as a little girl. That was until I started school. So they had to call me something else. This was because I went to the parochial school and the nuns were named sister [ED and RVR laugh]. But he always did it and it continued on. I was baptized Nora.

RVR: Oh Nora? That's a good Irish name. But how did Eleanor come about?

ED: Would you like some hot tea?

RVR: No, I'm fine, thank you.

ED: But Eleanor, where that came along, I don't know. When I was in the lower grades, I think it did.

MD: Your mom's name was Honora, right?

ED: Honora.

RVR: Oh yes, that's really European.

MD: But you never liked Nora [laughs].

ED: No, there were too many Nora's in our family. In my mother's side of the family, there was Noras and Honoras. Honora Bridgett was her name.

RVR: What did the nuns call you in school? Eleanor?

ED: They called me Eleanor.

RVR: But in the family it was Sis?

ED: In the family it was always Sis. I think I was going with Dick several years. It was always Sis. He said to me, "What is your name?" [ED, MD, and RVR laugh]

RVR: Your husband always called you Sis?

ED: He always called me Sis.

RVR: It was never anything else?

ED: No.

RVR: And the whole world knows you as Sis. They have to think twice.

ED: It was very common. I think the Irish quite frequently nicknamed their children. They gave them nicknames. They did.

RVR: That's true.

ED: Or they'd change a name. They were good for changing names.

RVR: Your brothers and sisters probably had other names that were used. But we won't get into that.

MD: Big Mike lived with you until he passed away in 1959, right?

ED: It was 1959. He still lived with us all of the time.

RVR: What did you call him, Big Mike?

ED: Big Mike.

RVR: You never called him dad?

ED: No. My husband never called his mother or father mom or dad. He always called them Lil and Mike. And my kids...

RVR: They all picked it up [MD laughs].

ED: They picked it up right away. They'd always call them Lil and Mike.

MD: I don't know why it was like that.

ED: They were young. I think they were both eighteen when they got married.

RVR: But why your husband would call his parents...

ED: He would always call them that.

MD: He would always call Mike, Big Mike.

ED: Then the children called him...

ED and MD: Big Mike.

RVR: Even before you were born, he called him Big Mike?

ED: No.

MD: Just Mike. I remember him always as Big Mike. And everyone knew him as Big Mike.

ED: It was Big Mike, all the neighbors, everybody. He was a little bit of a man.

RVR: [Laughs] You said that. He was about your size. No, he was thin, very thin.

MD: [Laughs] Yes. Thanks. Thank you [MD and RVR laugh].

ED: [Laughs] I'll give it to you slowly.

RVR: Did he help you around the house, Big Mike?

ED: Well, we never needed anything repaired at home. He knew where it was and he repaired it immediately.

RVR: Not your husband?

ED: Oh, he couldn't drive a nail.

RVR: [Laughs] He couldn't? I'm glad to hear that. I can't either [ED and RVR laugh]! He could do other things.

MD: We never had a babysitter.

RVR: You didn't?

MD: Mike watched us.

RVR: Mike was there.

ED: I said I always had a built-in babysitter. He'd always say to me, "Have the baby ready for his nap. Then you can go." I'd always say, "I'm just trucking to up here." He said, "Oh, tell the truth, Sis. You're trucking downtown." [MD and RVR laugh] I'd go over, get on the bus, and go downtown.

MD: She was as close to Big Mike as my father was.

RVR: Really? That's wonderful.

MD: They never had a cross word.

ED: No, I didn't.

MD: As a grandchild, when some of us lived here, he never raised his voice to any of us.

ED: Never.

MD: He took us fishing. He had the patience of Moses. And my father never raised his

voice. Mike was seventy-nine when he died in 1959.

RVR: He was seventy-nine?

MD: He was seventy-nine, which was really old at that time.

RVR: Did he go with you on vacations?

ED: Oh, everywhere.

MD: He went everywhere [laughs].

RVR: He was part of the family.

ED: If we were going out to a banquet or to dinner, seldom would you take all of the kids [laughs]. If the two of us were going out to dinner or with another couple, we'd say "Come on, Mike." He was part of the family.

RVR: And he'd go?

ED: Every big banquet and things when Dick was in office, we'd attend and the children would come. And Big Mike would come.

RVR: Was he alive when you went to the White House? Or was he dead by that time?

MD: He died in 1959.

RVR: Oh, he died in 1959, just a year before.

MD: It was in June of 1959. Remember, mom? I drove him in from the country. Remember, they put a new roof up? He went up to inspect the roof [laughs], in the country [RVR laughs].

RVR: Good for him!

MD: He was supposed to get his fifty-year pin in the sheet metal workers union. It was for fifty years as a member of the sheet metal workers. That was in 1959. He and his brother AI were one of the founders of the local in Chicago. AI was a trustee of the sheet metal workers.

RVR: Did he get the pin?

MD: He had a heart attack. He wasn't able and then he died in the hospital. Remember?

ED: It was that day.

MD: The day he was going to the dinner, I drove him in from the country. Remember? When we got here, Mike was in the car. I said, "Sit back, relax." I never got excited. He'd smoke White Owl Panatelas [RVR laughs]. When I drove him in, he sat on the edge of the chair all the way.

ED: He was a very quiet man. He'd be in the house and you wouldn't know he was there.

MD: He was something. That was the first time he ever told you he didn't feel well.

ED: No. I don't know. He was a very quiet man. He walked to the kitchen and to here back and forth. I said, "What's wrong, Mike?" He said, "I don't know. I have a little pain in my stomach." I didn't say anything. I walked out to the back and I called Dick on the phone. He was very pale looking. So Dick came home in five minutes and called the doctor. As Dick was coming in, the doctor was coming in. And he said, "You've had a heart attack, Mike." He said, "Oh, I didn't know it." Then he went up to put his pajamas on. He said, "I'll walk to the ambulance or to the car out in front."

MD: And waited [laughs].

RVR: The man had style. He was going to go his way, with his hat on.

ED: Mary Carol Vanecko is married to a doctor, Bob Vanecko.

RVR: Oh, I didn't know he was a doctor.

ED: He was a thoracic surgeon and was well respected at Northwestern University.

RVR: That's pretty good.

ED: He's a wonderful young man.

RVR: I met him, yes.

ED: Did you?

RVR: Yes, at the celebration.

ED: He's a real darling man. Well, he was on duty as a resident. He had just started out.

ED and MD: At Columbus Hospital.

ED: This was when Mike passed away.

RVR: Since we're on the heart attack of Big Mike, could I jump to your husband's heart attack?

ED: Yes.

RVR: Did he tell you he wasn't feeling well before he had his?

ED: No.

RVR: He didn't?

ED: No. He was feeling wonderful. He had a little trouble every now and then. I don't know if that was palpitation or what. Every now and then he'd go to Dr. Coogan, who would



check it. There was so much going on at the time. His blood pressure was way up. The doctor said, "Your blood pressure is so high, we'll forget about the pressure today. Come back in a week." It was a week before Christmas. So he said to him, "All right." So that day was the Monday before Christmas. Christmas was on Friday, I think So Dick said, "All right, fine." He was sitting at the desk, with the doctor talking. The doctor got up to telephone or something, I don't know. Dick sat there. Just as he left, Dick fell right down.

RVR: Were you there?

ED: That morning, we got up and went to church. He was having a breakfast for all of the secretaries in the office. He was going to give them their Christmas gift. He said, "I'm going out south. I have one more appointment. They're dedicating a park out southeast. I'm going out there around noontime. So I'll be home early." That was Mary's birthday. We were having a little dinner party at home for her.

MD: That was my sister Mary.

ED: He said, "I'll be home all afternoon. I'll rest this afternoon." But he was fine and in no pain. So we were at mass and then we went to the breakfast with them, Rich, Mike, myself, and all of the secretaries. He got up and talked to all of them. He gave them their little gifts. We walked out and went downstairs and we said good-bye to them down there. Mike walked over across the street to go to Dick's office. I walked over to the fields. Then I was coming home because we were going to have that dinner party. I said, "Oh, I wouldn't bother going out and go downtown. You're out south. Don't go downtown again." He said, "Oh, I will because I'll get it over before the holiday. I won't have to go back." So he went. But he was fine.

MD: We had our family Christmas party on Sunday on the nineteenth here, at the house.

It was a big family Christmas. We always did it the Sunday before.

ED: We had a very close friend of ours down in Texas. He was a Dominican Priest. He always spends Christmas with us and all of our kids.

RVR: I had read that he hadn't been feeling well a few days beforehand.

ED: The week before, his blood pressure was up. But he was fine.

MD: He wasn't sick, bed ridden, or anything.

ED: No, never. He would never get a head cold.

RVR: Could he tell when his blood pressure was up? I can, because I have high blood pressure.

ED: I can. Mine is up all of the time.

RVR: It is?

ED: Two hundred.

RVR: Whew! [laughs] You're joking.

ED: I'm not!

RVR: Really?

MD: She has very high blood pressure. If you take her into the hospital, they almost have a heart attack. You have to say, "Don't get excited!" They say things all the time.

RVR: Can you tell?

ED: I can tell. I get real heavy up here (points to her head).

RVR: Yes. I do, too. And I get flushed.

ED: Dick would get flushed.

RVR: Did he know?

ED: Yes. His face would get flushed.

RVR: And he was fine?

ED: He was fine. He went out there to the dedication of the park. He pitched a few hands at the basket. They were playing basketball. He made a few baskets. Then instead of coming home, he went right downtown. I knew he'd be down there. If the doctor said to come, he would go. He sat talking to the doctor, when he fell right over.

RVR: I hope this isn't painful to bring this up, Mrs. Daley. But since you were talking about Big Mike's...

ED: Oh no. His blood pressure was probably up, you know.

RVR: Did he take medication for that?

ED: He took medication very faithfully. But he was never bedridden or anything.

RVR: Well, then after Big Mike died, you were here with just the children?

ED: Yes. The girls were graduating. I wanted to tell you. We had twenty-two grandchildren. Two little boys died. One of them was less than a year. He was one of the spinabifida babies.

MD: It was Kevin.

ED: Then there was Richie, Billy's little boy. He developed a very rare virus that affected his lungs. I'd always try to find out what kind of virus it was. They'd say, "We don't know." The doctor was out of the University of Chicago. They discovered that it was a rare virus they had seen in Jerusalem. It was almost like a fungus that would affect the lung and cover the lung. If he had a strong heart, it would be a long time. They took him all over. He just keep losing weight all the time and was dying all of the time. But he'd get up and they'd

take him to different doctors all over. Some doctor came from Brazil, who was in a convention in Washington. Someone notified Dick. So he went and this doctor diagnosed it. Billy said, "How long will he live?" The doctor said, "One year." It was almost to the day. But he just lost weight until his heart gave way. He lived, but it was terrible.

RVR: How tragic.

MD: What was Rich, like eight or nine at the time?

ED: He was nine. But he was sick since he was about five years of age. That's when it happened, when they discovered.

MD: Then Kevin lived about two years mom , after he was born?

ED: Yes. But it was heart breaking.

RVR: See, that's what happens in large families. You have tragic deaths.

MD: You have lots of happy occasions and some tragedies.

RVR: Yes. And it's an abomination when parents have to bury their children. It's a terrible thing.

ED: It's terrible. I don't think Bill, Loretta, Rich, or Maggie...

MD: Or you. You buried a daughter, mom.

RVR: Yes.

ED: Yes, I buried my Eleanor. Oh, she was a wonderful girl.

RVR: She always lived with you, didn't she?

ED: Yes.

RVR: And she was the teacher.

MD: Mary was a teacher. Pat was a teacher.

ED: Pat and Mary were teachers, all three of them.

MD: John taught a little bit, didn't he?

ED: John taught for a year.

RVR: But the boys lawyers, by and large?

MD: Yes.

RVR: The girls are teachers. The boys are lawyers.

ED and MD: Yes.

MD: Pat went onto administration. She was an administrator at St. Xavier's College.

RVR: Yes. She told me that.

ED: Oh yes, Pat was. They were all good and healthy. My children were very healthy.

RVR: And they're so committed to one another. I can't believe it! Families are supposed to fight with one another! [laughs]

MD: We were close.

RVR: You were close.

ED: They were always very close.

MD: They raised us very normally.

RVR: Even though your father was the mayor, and the most important man in town.

ED: No.

MD: He always reminded us that he was elected. We weren't! [MD and RVR laugh] That was our pet phrase.

RVR: That was your pet phrase?

ED: That was in 1955 when Eisenhower was president. He entertained many of the royalty, heads of states, kings, and queens. They went to Washington, Chicago, and New York. Then they would fly back.

RVR: I want to get into that later period. But I don't want to tire you, Mrs. Daley.

MD: Yes Mom, how do you feel? It's 11:30.

RVR: How are you doing?

MD: We've been doing this for an hour and half.

RVR: She's been remarkable.

ED: It doesn't bother me.

MD: No, mom's okay, other than the legs. She can't dance anymore! [laughs]

RVR: We were so sorry you couldn't come and didn't come to the celebration. It was wonderful.

ED: I get that palpitation. It comes on me and it goes away quickly.

RVR: I don't want to bring on any palpitations.

ED: But it's been fine now. How long will you be?

MD: Do you want to call it quits and do another session on another day?

RVR: I can come another day.

MD: Or do you want to go on?

ED: No, I can go on.

MD: Do you have much tape left?

RVR: Oh, I've got them in my bag [laughs]. We can go on.

MD: As long as you're comfortable mom, you can go on.

RVR: You know what I did want to ask you, and I don't want to be presumptuous. But I was wondering if you would allow me to just look. I don't want to go through the documents, but just to see the size of them and what we'll have to contend with. Would that be an imposition?

MD: Well, we have a lot in storage.

ED: Most of it is in storage. Some of it is here.

RVR: But you have some down in the basement? Would it be okay just to look at it? I wouldn't take long.

ED: Maybe they will never be. I don't have them sorted for you. Well, I'll take you downstairs and we can see.

MD: You can't go down, mom.

RVR: No, don't you go down. Is it okay with you, Mike?

MD: I think she'll want to go down with you.

RVR: Why don't we interrupt and we'll do that?

ED: I can go down. I'll take it down real slow. I'll sit down.

MD: Mom, that's not good, up and down those steps.

RVR: If anything were to happen...

ED: Well, that's what I wanted to ask, just what...

RVR: I wanted to hear of your early life with your husband and what it was like. Then go into the years when he became a political figure. We've already talked about his term when

he was elected to state legislature and he became the minority leader. You mentioned that he worked in the comptroller's office and that he had learned a great deal about finance. That's about as far as we had gotten. I'd like to then go into the later period when he became involved with people like Anton Cermak and Joseph McDonough. Do you remember Joseph McDonough?

ED: Just fairly, I didn't know him personally. But some of his family is still living.

RVR: Then there was Kelly, Adlai Stevenson and Jake Arvey.

MD: See, mom was from Archer.

ED: I always tell the story. I was from Bridgeport. This area was known for a big German settlement, here in this area. This is known as Hamburg Subdivision. My original tax bill was Hamburg Subdivision. Maybe the other one was Bridgeport.

RVR: Did you know that there was a Hamburg Social Club that your husband was the president of?

ED: Yes.

MD: It's still here.

RVR: It's still here? Excuse me.

MD: We just had our golf outing there.

ED: My grandsons belong. It's just a social club. But mostly with Dick, it was an athletic club. They had a baseball team. They had football. It was a Jewish temple that the Hamburg's bought years ago, a little building. All of the merchants along Halsted Street were Jewish. They had their own stores. It was the same way along Archer Avenue. I knew Joe McDonough when he was county treasurer. Personally, I knew his family. He had children, young girls, who went to St. Xavier Academy. It was an academy for girls.

RVR: But wasn't McDonough the alderman of this ward, and your husband the...?

ED: No. He was the county treasurer. Dick, as a young boy in law school worked during the day part time. He worked for the county.

RVR: Those early political years I'd like to discuss with you. But we don't usually go longer than two hours, at the most.

ED: Well, I can go a little longer.

RVR: You can go a little longer? All right [laughs]. You're indomitable! [laughs]

ED: Dick worked as a secretary. He went to De LaSalle High School, which is a boys Christian type school, over here on Thirty-fifth and Michigan. In their last year of high school, the boys had to take shorthand and typing. So they had secretarial courses. So when Dick and many of the boys came out, they would work while they were going to college. They were then able to use their secretarial skills. He could type really good.

RVR: He could type very well?

ED: Oh yes. And he took shorthand. So he was a secretary then. I don't know when he was secretary. McDonough or Joe Gill was in after him. And he was his secretary.

RVR: And this was before he was elected to the state legislature?

ED: Oh yes. This was while he was in law school, before all of that. Joe Gill was the county treasurer when we got married because he was at the wedding. He was a very fine gentleman. Joe Gill was a beautiful man.

RVR: When your husband went down to Springfield to attend the legislature, did you go with him?

ED: I went several times. I was there when he was sworn in. But I couldn't go down there and stay. We had a couple of children.

RVR: You had to take care of the children. I want to show you in this book (showing the UIC Pictorial History Book) your husband's picture at one point. We have a big blow up of it. There it is, at the top. Nobody else but him, it was his campus. That's gone now, that forum.

ED: These are lovely pictures.

RVR: We brought that out two years ago.

ED: He was so proud of that university.

RVR: We ended the book with your son, dedicating the library to your father. That's the last picture. Have you seen this?

MD: Yes.

ED: The new chancellor, Miss Manning, is this her first year?

RVR: Yes. She came in, well maybe it's now two years since she arrived.

ED: Is she from the east?

RVR: That's our first woman chancellor.

MD: Oh really?

RVR: We've had a woman provost.

ED: That's wonderful.

RVR: So the women are arriving.

ED: She sounds like she's a very capable woman.

RVR: She is a very capable woman. They're down in Springfield right now, at a board meeting. It's the Board of Trustees.

ED: This is nice. Did you see it?

MD: Yes. It was a history of the university , mom.

ED: I'll have to borrow this.

MD and RVR: That's for you.

RVR: I've inscribed it.

ED: There's himself [MD laughs].

RVR: That's himself , right. Did you ever refer to your husband as himself, which is very Irish?

ED: I did.

RVR: You did?

ED: Yes [RVR laughs].

RVR: Shall we continue or set another date?

ED: Yes. Don't waste any time [ED and RVR laugh].

RVR: You are a remarkable woman.

MD: She's very lucky. She'll be ninety-six next March.

ED: Ninety-six I'll be. My mother was sixty-three when she died.

RVR: Well, I had a birthday yesterday. That's when the White House called.

MD: Happy belated birthday! That's wonderful.

RVR: I was eighty-one. I think I'm holding my age a bit!

MD: You are! I'd never guess you to be eighty-one.

ED: I'd never guess it.

MD: What's your lecture going to be on?

RVR: They said, "Whatever you want." So I have to decide whether it's Andrew Jackson, who's the founder of the Democratic Party. And I don't think those Republicans would like to hear that [MD and RVR laugh]. Or John Quincy Adams, who is the son of John Adams.



ED: He was the sixth.

RVR: He was exactly that. He was the sixth president. This woman, I tell you, I can't get over it!

ED: When we were kids in school you had to memorize them. You were taught to memorize. I think I can name forty presidents.

\*\*\*\*\*END OF TAPE ONE SIDE TWO\*\*\*\*\*

RVR: You did go down to Springfield for his swearing in?

ED: Yes.

RVR: But you didn't stay there?

ED: I didn't stay there.

RVR: You never lived there?

ED: No. I had the children.

RVR: How long was he away then, those times?

ED: When he was minority leader, he had to get there a day early. He had to review all of the bills that were going to be called. He'd go Monday morning. He'd be gone Monday, Tuesday, and come home on Wednesday. But maybe later in May or June, at the end of the session, he'd be busier and he might have to stay.

MD: They only met every other year.

RVR: I remember that when I first came.

MD: And they had a limitation as to the number of days they could meet because of funding.

RVR: [Laughs] I know.

MD: So it wasn't like now.

RVR: Right, they just go on.

ED: It's almost a full time job, isn't it?

MD: Today it is, it's full time.

RVR: Did he discuss what he was doing with you, in the legislature?

ED: Yes. He discussed most everything.

RVR: He did discuss most everything with you?

ED: We'd talk over most of the bills he was passing. He had to have...

RVR: Someone to bounce his ideas off of.

ED: He did. He always discussed it. He discussed everything that was going on. I would know.

RVR: Did he ask your opinion?

ED: Well, as a husband and wife would. We would discuss things and I would give my opinion, give it or take it [ED and RVR laugh].

RVR: You have a sense of humor, too. It hasn't deserted you! Did you ever disagree with him on political issues, where he was taking a stand?

ED: If I didn't agree, I'd give my opinion, sure.

RVR: Do you remember what any of those were?

ED: No. I would hate to see him get excited over little things. He would say, "Oh, they don't bother me." But I could see they did. He'd get so excited over them. But he'd always say, "I wouldn't change places with that man for anything in the world." If the man was arguing about something and thought maybe he knew what he was talking about. But Dick was very fair with all of those fellows. He didn't hold any grudges or anything. Afterwards, he'd still be friendly.

RVR: Did he ever tell you his opinion of say, the governor, or any other political figure and what he thought of them?

ED: Yes. But very seldom would he give a negative word. In discussing someone, very seldom would he give a negative opinion. He could always see the good in people.

RVR: Do you remember anything he said about any particular governor, that was so good about them? Even Republican governors?

ED: He was always friendly with the governor. He always got along.

RVR: What about Ogilvie or Thompson?

MD: Governor Stratton was a good friend of his.

ED: Stratton.

RVR: He was an important man in the history of the university.

MD: He was the governor at the time dad became the mayor. Wasn't Stratton in 1955?

ED: No. Well, he was after he was in office, I think. I think Green was the governor at the time. He was a Republican. Then Stratton came in. Stratton's father, was he governor or

secretary of state?

MD: He was secretary of state, I think, mom.

ED: I think the father was secretary of state, too. At the time he ran for office, his name was very familiar with the people, because his father had been secretary for years. He just died recently.

MD: Governor Stratton died. It was about two years ago, I think.

RVR: Was it?

ED and MD: He was a nice man.

RVR: So your husband tried to get along with people, even when he disagreed with them?

ED: He did. He was very kind. I always remember when he ran for office. Afterwards, he would always call that man that he defeated. Now Rostenkowski, that was the first time he ran.

MD and RVR: Adamowski.

ED: It was Adamowski. He ran with several others. But when my husband ran for office, in all of his tenure, he would never attack the man personally.

RVR: In campaigning?

ED: In campaigning, ever.

RVR: How would he refer to him? [ED laughs] He wouldn't refer to them at all. He would just disregard him. He wouldn't say, "My opponent said this, but I say something else."

MD: He'd only talk issues. He'd never talk personally. He never talked about their family or the personality.

ED: He never attacked anyone personally or their family. I can remember many times there was information given to him about the candidate, some other member, or the candidate's family that they thought he could use to attack them. He turned it down. He said, "I'd rather lose the office, rather than to win it that way." He would not attack them personally, ever. Now, then there was when this Adamowski ran. He defeated him. Adamowski was a young lawyer at the time. Afterwards, Dick called him on the phone. he said, "You know, the election is over and I won it. If there's any way I can ever help you, I'd be only too happy. I know what it is." I think Adamowski had to spend a lot of his own personal money for the election. Dick probably heard that or knew it. Adamowski would always praise Dick for that. He thought he was quite a gentleman. So when my son Richard ran for office, the first one came out and endorsed Richard and worked hard for him. In his community, it was always Adamowski.

RVR: Is that so?

MD: That was when Rich ran for state's attorney. It was the first one that came out.

ED: The first one was hard to get [MD laughs].

RVR: Did he do that with all of the people he ran against him and lost?

ED: Maybe not all, but I think the majority of them he did.

RVR: It was a regular thing?

ED: There wasn't a mean streak in his body, I don't think. He would never speak ill of anyone.

MD: He would go out of his way to make sure that they weren't hurt by being defeated. Publicly, he'd always say hello to them. He'd go to a restaurant with them. People would see him with them. He knew what it was to lose from when he lost for sheriff.

RVR: Did you know that we have a recording? I don't know if you have it. It's when he was running for sheriff and to "Irish Eyes are Smiling," or something like that. I'll have it recorded and given to you.

MD: That'd be nice.

RVR: You can play it to remind you. I don't want to remind you of a defeat [ED laughs]! I guess that's the only time he was defeated. It's just as well that he was defeated, too.

MD: That will tell you something [laughs].

ED: In June, just before the election, the election was in November. Did he lose in the primary?

MD: I don't know. I wasn't around [laughs]. I would have been like five or six years of age.

RVR: I should know. I did some research and I can't remember. You're excused!

ED: Anyway, his mother was sick at the time. She didn't approve of him running for sheriff at all. She said, "I didn't raise my son to be a sheriff." [RVR laughs].

RVR: It was almost providential that he wasn't elected sheriff.

MD: [Showing a picture] This was when he ran for sheriff. This is in the window here. Here's dad, Rich, Mike, Mary, and Ellie. Those are the sheriff stars [RVR laughs]. That was when he was running.

RVR: Really? That's you?

MD: Yes. That's Rich, Pat, Mike, Mary, and Ellie.

ED: What is that?

RVR: You have a lot of great pictures, too.

ED: I have something I want to show you. I want to go downstairs.

RVR: No, I will not go if you come down. Your son will kill me for having brought it up.

MD: No, mom.

ED: You take him down. Show him all of the pictures.

MD: I will. They've changed it a lot. That was my father's den downstairs.

RVR: Oh, is that his den?

ED: His den, right. He had to have someplace.

MD: Tell him what Lil said about the sheriffs race.

RVR: [Laughs] Yes, she did. "I didn't raise my son."

ED: "To be a sheriff."

RVR: Did she have ambitions for her son? I read that she was the real political influence in his life.

ED: When she was a young lady, it was for woman's rights or...

MD: She was a suffragette.

RVR: She marched with all of the woman in the neighborhood. But as far as ambition of any kind, I don't know.

MD: She was very outgoing. Mike was quiet.

RVR: Did she try to urge your husband to go into politics and to go into public life?

ED: No. But when he would mention it, she would always agree with him. "If that's what you want, we'll all help you. We'll stand right in back of you."

MD: She worked and you worked in the campaign.

RVR: Would you say that your husband was an advocate of women's rights, generally?

ED: Yes, I think so.

RVR: You think so? He wanted to see women get ahead, in politics or in business.

ED: He was the first one to appoint women to the county board. He was very much in favor of them.

MD: He just did things. He didn't publicize them. He did it for the person that was happening. It didn't make any difference to him. He never looked for publicity or credit for it. He thought it would be embarrassing to that person to that person, as if they were used.

That's how he felt.

RVR: Do you remember his first election as mayor?

ED: Yes I do.

RVR: Can you tell us anything about that time?

ED: Well, it was all very new to me [ED and RVR laughs]. He ran against Alderman Merriam, from the University of Chicago. He was an alderman at the time. With Dick not getting personal with his opponent, it had stayed kind of clean, I would say. This was all his elections. That was a serious vote, a serious election. Was he an alderman at the time?

MD: Merriam was.

ED: Merriam was. His father was something.

MD: Do you want to break it here mom, and then do it from this point on, next time, from 1955 on? It's been a long session.

RVR: It has been.

MD: She was up early again.

RVR: I'm so grateful for you having me here.

\*\*\*\*\*END OF INTEDVIEW\*\*\*\*\*