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Tidewater Voices Oral History Project

Old Dominion University

Norfolk, Virginia

For Research Purposes Only

Participants: Sex, Ethnicity, Age, City of Birth, City of Habitation

Speaker 1: F, C, 20s, Portsmouth, VA, Chesapeake, VA

Speaker 2: M, C, 50s, Norfolk, VA, Chesapeake, VA

Speaker 1: ok thanks for agreeing to do this interview with me as part of Tidewater Voices

Speaker 2: you're welcome, my pleasure um <Speaker 2: LAUGH>

Speaker 1: can we start by having you tell me your name please <P: 05>

Speaker 2: my name is [WORDS REMOVED].

Speaker 1: ok um and you are a native of Tidewater

Speaker 2: yes

Speaker 1: ok can you tell me um what part of Tidewater you were born in

Speaker 2: i was born in downtown Norfolk <THROAT CLEARING> um Lee Memorial Hospital was located downtown somewhere near the Chrysler Museum i think at that time, um in the early sixties and, ah ... the area was very rural so none of the outlying hospitals like, Chesapeake General, ah was available i'm sure_ i'm not sure about Norfolk General um at the time, um Obici Hospital was probably around but that was way out in Suffolk

Speaker 1: ok um and did you attend school in Tidewater what schools did you go to

Speaker 2: i'm_ when i was five years old... ah we moved from Chesapeake... to, Suffolk and i attended Driver Elementary School, in Suffolk Virginia, and then that was grades one through three then i transferred to Chuckatuck Middle School grades four through seven then i went to John f Kennedy High School in Suffolk grades eight and nine and then we moved back to Chesapeake um so grades ten eleven and twelve i went to Great Bridge High School which is where i graduated

Speaker 1: ok um, so Suffolk is_ remains a pretty rural area what was it like when you were there...

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Speaker 2: well it was it was very rural um... we didn't live too far from the downtown area so I could get on my bike and go downtown um some of my memories i i played little league football and i'd always ride my bike to, to the field for practice and then to the games on Saturday mornings um but it was pr- you know it was free i uh i really had no curfew uh... growing up i didn't have limitations on where i could really go you know it was pretty, pretty safe i guess and so i had i had total freedom uh to do that kind of thing, i'd leave the house sometime during the day and i'd come back when it got dark f- you know around dinner time um i had a friend who was a_ had a job i guess i was eleven or twelve and he had a job as a shoe shine boy, and so i would go to ride my bike downtown to meet him at the shoe shop and we would go over to the Woolworth's and eat lunch at the counter and we thought we were big dollar you know having a seventy-five cent hamburger for lunch

Speaker 1: did you ever ask your parents or do you know why they chose to um come to this area and raise their children here instead of moving anywhere else

Speaker 2: well both my parents were from rural North Carolina my mom was from a place called Carteret County which is the same county i believe as like New Bern North Carolina Cherry Point area not too far from there and uh she grew up on a very rural on a farm susistance, subsistence farm really level um so she moved to Virginia when she was thirteen my father moved here little later i guess in the late fifties when he got out of the army he settled here but he also grew up in...North Carolina a little but west of where my mother grew up in h- uh in Williamston area of North Carolina again very poor subsistence level farming uh and then uh so when he was a young man he joined the army and after a stint in the army he settled in this area cause the jobs were just better than they_more job opportunities here at that time then in his area of North Carolina

Speaker 1: so um when you moved from Suffolk into great bridge was there much of a difference in, um...the kids you went to school with or just overall lifestyle that you noticed

- 5 Speaker 2: yeah well great difference um in Suffolk at the time, um Suffolk is a ver-very big city as far as land area which it still is i guess the geographic boundaries are the same um but there was no_ very few, um populated areas so the schools were all very old, um, and... far i had uh forty-five minute bus ride to school every day to and from, school...and at the time i was growing up ah the civil rights amendment was passed and the Suffolk schools tried to integrate by busing and so when i, went from middle school to high school i was bused um to John f Kennedy High School and it was eighth through the twelfth and even going from Chuckatuck Middle School to to being bused over to the to the high school which was in uh the area of the city that was primarily black um i had classes where i was literally the only white kid in the class so i was the minority all of the sudden and then when we moved to Chesapeake it was total switch there may have been you know one or two black, kids in the classes at great bridge so great swings in demographics in my schools

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Speaker 1: did you notice any um... any discrimination from your teachers or any any authoritative adults, in your schools since race was such a big issue

Speaker 2: um, no i didn't notice anything, even though the school the pu- the the school student body was primarily african american the teachers were primarily white, um i think one of my teachers was Mr. [WORD REMOVED] i still remember his name but he was my social studies teacher and and he was a black gentleman and he was all business you know he he'd wear a suit and took no nonsense um but the uh my other teachers were were white, and i guess this is kind of a good education story but there was this one science pr- teacher in my ninth grade class, and it was a ninth grade earth science class and he knew he could just tell that i wasn't getting much out of the class cause i knew the material already pretty much because we had it something similar in in eighth grade and it was very easy so he he asked to speak to me after class one day and so i hung around and he asked me what i wanted to be when i grew up and uh at that point in my life i wanted to be an air force pilot and so the next day i came to school and he gave me a balsa wood model airplane kit which, pretty much mirrors the actual construction of an airplane the cessnas the small type things and uh my assignment for that grading period was to put together the model airplane kit and write a report on airplane construction and so i did that and so i didn't participate with the rest of the class that whole grading period i sat in the chemical store room between the two chemical laboratories and put the airplane model together and did that so then he signed something real nice in my annual you know like you have a lot of potential hope you realize it and all this stuff and um then the next year was when i went to great bridge, um... and actually my family didn't all move to great bridge i kind of cheated and used my grandmothers address so i could go to great bridge cause she lived in Chesapeake so i could take Air Force R-O-T-C ... and then, when i got to great bridge the big culture shock, and um... Air Force R-O-T-C required you to have a military haircut and that back in those days long hair was in and so, i went out for the J-V football team and made it and, took one year of R-O-T-C but then in my, immature <Speaker 1: LAUGH> years the the popularity and the football stuff and the long hair became more important to me at that time than an Air Force career so i thought i wanted to be a lawyer because the most of the guys i was hanging out with was going to go into law, so i started taking debate classes and things like that

Speaker 1: that's cool so, how did being a football player in high school, um provide you with, the social life that you had like where did y'all go and hang out and that type of thing

Speaker 2: ah, well i wasn't really one of the clique you know so even though i played football i didn't

10 really hang around with a lot of the football players a couple of my best friends.. we hung together, we_ you know i was part of the group that we went to church a lot and so i didn't drink i didn't you know smoke or anything like that so um the guys i hung out with were kinda of the same cloth and um so we would just one of my best friends in high school his parents were Mennonite farmers off out off of great bridge area and so uh you know i'd spend some Friday

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nights over at his house and help him work on the farm the next day and things like that but, didn't really hang out too much with the real popular quotation mark kids of the day

Speaker 1: um what do you recall as being some of your favorite, places to go when you did hang out with your friends in great bridge

Speaker 2: it was a big deal when Military Circle Mall was built cause that was the first and only mall around um i think Tower Mall was still in existence but that was far away and over in Portsmouth so we would go to the movies at, Military Circle Mall and we'd hang out and go to pizza hut you know around great bridge um... that's it pizza hut was a big hang out before and after basketball games and other school events <P: 05>

Speaker 1: ok, um, so after high school what did you do

Speaker 2: after high school, after all that jockeying back and forth with the Air Force <LAUGH> and the law and all that mess um when i graduated you know i realized that there really wasn't any way i was financially prepared to go to college um parents didn't make enough to send me and i wasn't well versed on grants and things like that at that time took me a year or two to get versed up on all that stuff so um i worked a couple of part time jobs until i got a full time job at the Ford plant in Norfolk and stayed there for two years working the night shift and taking classes during the daytime and, it was a good paying job it paid twenty-thousand dollars back in the late seventies which was a lot of money so it was during that timeframe i got my own apartment and furnished it and got my first new car of my own and um... started taking classes at Tidewater Community College which was out in Chesapeake, and they had a Virginia Beach campus at that time too and now they have campuses all over, um but probably about a year into taking classes with the Ford plant i made an appointment with the he- the head of salary employment at Ford and asked him about courses of study that would be best to enhance my career at Ford and he recommended engineering and so i had never really thought about engineering before um but i took some classes and i was always pretty good at math so i enjoyed the engineering classes and ended up getting an engineering degree from O-D-U... later on but so i stayed at Ford for about two years and during that timeframe i ended up getting married and, um eventually leaving the Ford plant so that i could get done with the school with my engineering degree sooner because i could take a full course load instead of just a partial course load

Speaker 1: um when you graduated from high school and looking at all your different options what was what was the trend as far as other people you graduated with as far as after they graduated what did they do did most of them go to college or did most of them go straight into a career

Speaker 2: i'd say the probably the vast majority gave college a shot not all of them finished not all of them finished in the majors that they set out to to complete um a few of my friends started out in engineering at Virginia Tech and finished with business degrees um some folks started

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college and dropped out and um i guess that's with any my graduating class was fairly big it was four-hundred and thirty-some st- four-hundred and thirty students i think graduated in my class and um so that's a pretty big class so you we have a pretty wide demographic even with the advent of facebook now you know you still have contact with some of the people more so than you would otherwise have and um some of the people that i recognize from my class are in the

15 military um others are lawyers, um <P:07> I don't know any that are are like doctors or anything but um probably most of the my friends are are lawyers or business people, from high school
<Speaker 2 yeah>

Speaker 1: so um what was the working at the Ford plant like, I know they just shut it down

Speaker 2: yeah they shut it down about three years ago and even when I was <SIGH> uh working there it's when the first Arab oil embargo took place in the late seventies so the gas of_ the price of gas went up from you know sixty or seventy cents a gallon um upwards uh wh- to almost a dollar fifty or something it was like uh it more than doubled so it created a and it was it was a gas shortage in America too you would watch the evening news and there'd be lines at the gas pumps in a lot of the major cities because when the gas stations got their gas supplies in uh people would line up to use it uh as quick as they could to use it to fill their tanks cause they never knew when they would get another shipment, um so even at that point the f- the Ford plant in Norfolk only built pickup trucks so they are not very fuel efficient and so when the gas price went up just like now the price of the that the of the demand of the trucks went down and so they had periodic layoffs for a couple of weeks where they would just stop production for two weeks they'd actually have the Virginia Employment Commission come in to to process your um unemployment payments before they actually shut down so that there was you would get your uh unemployment check without any delays um but it was uh a hot job and everyday I'd go to work a- about two-thirty three o clock show up and they had a locker room so you'd they would supply you with coveralls every day because it's really greasy so you'd put on your coveralls and your work boots and then you'd go down to your the wo- the line and my job was I was uh I worked in the body shop and I was metal finisher was my title and before the trucks go to paint they before they're assembled they take the body parts put 'em together and form just the just the body of the truck and its there's no chassis there's no engine there's no seats there's no dashboard there's really no anything in 'em except metal and you you fix the dents in them before they go get painted and then they paint them and then they start really putting the whole truck together after that and um, so some nights it would be really easy the parts would come in and there'd be no dents to fix and... then other nights it'd be just a a nightmare because they'd all be dented up i guess depending upon what happened to the parts that came in on trains from around the country if the if they had a bumpy ride or somebody made a mistake putting those pieces together then they would be dented all up and you'd have to have a really miserable night, and there would be a guy called an inspector who used to be a metal finisher but he got promoted so he would he would wipe down the job with a rag and he could feel the dents and he would circle them with like this water color pen bright red water color pen and that's how you

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he would identify the dents so that you could fix 'em and uh the guy i worked with mostly was a guy named [WORD REMOVED] and he was a spent a lot of time in Vietnam and he wasn't he never was exactly all there <Speaker 1: LAUGH> you know <LAUGH> but he had a lot of stories a lot of funny stories about Vietnam and about his upbringing and all that kinds of stuff so a big cast of characters there uh the Ford plant um you know most of the guys who worked the line are just good ol' boys and you'd have um a foreman and he was an ex-good ol' boy but now he wears a tie and mostly good guys then you have these the engineer guys who'd walk around and i remember seeing those guys with their uh doing time studies little stopwatches and stuff white shirts short sleeve pocket protectors and stuff typical geek looking guys i guess engineer guys but they would come around um really don't pay any any mind but then a c- when i started taking calculus you know they see my calculus book up above my work station so then at that point they stop and talk to me ,about calculus and what i was doing and stuff like that so that made me feel good that they would stop and talk to me, um but it's very noisy place very hot

20 um in the uh in the summertime in the wintertime they kept it war-the machinery kept it warm uh to a point but in the uh in the summertime it was just really really really hot, but the money was good and, then i'd get off around eleven or twelve at night go home get a shower and get up to go to my eight-o'- clock class in the morning, day in day out...

Speaker 1: so after you graduated from college um did you_ how did you decide what to do with your engineering degree

Speaker 2: well this area has always had a lot of shipbuilding opportunities so when i transferred to O-D-U um i had a offer f- for a engineering internship at Newport News Shipbuilding so i i took it because i needed a part time work and it was the salary was really good and it allowed me to save money up that i needed to make it through the year and, but at the same time it gave me great opportunity to learn what different types of engineering there were in the shipyards around the area so one summer i worked in in engineering that was more hands on engineering it was uh test engineering and we they were responsible for_ all the systems got these I-C-B-M missiles out of the tube it was called launcher section and so we'd run test on the machinery on the all those equipment systems flip switches and do procedures and that was a lot of fun um but it wasn't very hard and i couldn't see for the earth of me why it required an engineering degree to do that type of work and then the next summer i worked in a design_ a desk job and they gave me lots of little research projects to do so i spent a lot of time reading and writing papers and i liked the intellectual part of that work but i hated being behind a desk all day because they the guys were really time_ they were nit-picky about the time like you had to be at your desk at a certain minute and then you couldn't leave your desk to a certain minute and you know you couldn't go to lunch until a certain minute and you had to be back by lunch at this exact minute and so that was a little bit too structured for me so i wanted kind of a cross between the two and that's when i found out about uh the nuclear engineering department which required a lot of intellect but it also gave you the hands on waterfront experience that that i liked on the first job and so i went and talked to those guys a couple of times while i was at

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Newport News found out about that um... so there was other opportunities for engineering elsewhere other companies came down and interviewed you um but i really didn't want to move, far away and i did take a couple of road trips and interview and got a couple of job offers from other places but i decided to stay here

Speaker 1: and you mentioned that while you were in college you got married <Speaker 2: yes> um where did you live at that time when you got married

Speaker 2: um lived at greenbrier woods apartments in greenbrier greenbrier was up and coming at that time uh Greenbrier Mall was built while i was living at that area and the first Chesapeake jubilee was held while i was living at that area and it was held on the grounds adjacent to the newly completed mall and Donnie and Marie were the headline act <Speaker 2 LAUGH> <LAUGH> at uh for that jubilee and um those apartments are still there um so i guess they're pretty old now huh about thirty years or so

Speaker 1: how long did you live there and then where did you move

Speaker 2: um probably lived there five or six years and then i moved uh with the family back out to Suffolk because of the availability of land and a new development in northern Suffolk uh and built a house there and the area that area itself is undergone quite a lot of growth, um actually only lived there about five years because it was a little too far out grocery store wasn't convenient really wasn't convenient to anything at that time and then we moved back to Chesapeake but in the western branch part of Chesapeake um a place called jolliff woods and

25 that was much more centrally located and, uh closer to work and, just a better place to live and we also improved the house_ we got a bigger house than the one we had originally built in Suffolk

Speaker 1: and how long did you live in jolliff woods

Speaker 2: i wanna say three or four years lived in jolliff woods and then um left there because i got divorced

Speaker 1: and where did you go

Speaker 2: um at that point <LAUGH> um i went to live_ i lived in old town for a bit <Speaker 1: in Portsmouth> in old town Portsmouth section section of Portsmouth really convenient to work um and i just rented so i needed a place to just rent for a little while for til i figured out what i was gonna do long term and um so i stayed there a year and then i moved to Virginia Beach, where i eventually bought a town house and and i lived there for ten or eleven years, um in the hilltop section of Virginia Beach it was nice place um hilltop was, its it was busy then its crazy busy now um but i really enjoyed living there cause the proximity to the ocean and it was during that timeframe uh when i started i started to run a lot and become more, physically fit you know i guess to put it so i'd run down to the oceanfront run the boardwalk and then run home it was

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close enough to do that and um you could ride a bike down there if you didn't want to run and it was just a very active area that whole area of of shore drive there's a lot going on a lot to do

Speaker 1: have you participated or taken advantage of any of the um organized, athletic events or the trails or any of those types of things

Speaker 2: yeah i spent a lot of time at first landing state park a great place to run great place to to take your mountain bike um, and there's lots of like i say on shore drive there's this one store called final kick and it was kind of a kind of had sort of a cult following to put it that's the best way to describe it but a lot of triathletes would just meet there because they had a different workout to do every day of the week like Monday and Wednesday would be swim Tuesday would be interval training um Thursdays would be a b- a bike ride followed by a a run and so if you wanted to work out you always had a workout to do and people to do it with so you didn't have to go on open water swims by yourself, um, but yeah i did a lot of those organized athletic events at the uh oceanfront everything from, little five k's to the shamrock marathon a couple of times um sandman triathlon east coast surfing championship all of those things uh were fun to do

Speaker 1: um, ok that sounds good, so since you've lived in tidewater your entire life um have you taken the opportunity to travel anywhere else

Speaker 2: uh yeah my job allowed me to travel a lot of places, um Europe many times um, all over the United States, many times you know i've i've been uh to Italy probably seven times the Middle East once got to go to the pyramids um <P:05> been to Hawaii more times than i can count so and been all over the country you know from Maine t- from Maine to Arizona California a bunch of times Seattle a bunch of times so yeah i really liked seeing the rest of the country um but this has always been home probably always will be although i think, i wouldn't, rule out extended stays somewhere else maybe just to get some different experiences um but i'd always end up coming back here cause this is al- probably always gonna be home unless some unforeseen circumstances come up that i'm not uh anticipating right now um... i've also have spent a lot of time up in the Williamsburg area of Tidewater when i i went back to school and got an M-B-A from William and Mary so that took about two years and i did that in ninety-eight and ninety-

30 nine and that was a great educational experience learned a lot and, also got to go to Europe as part of that program for a couple of weeks to um to Milan Italy to Budapest Hungary and every day they would the O-D-U_ the William and Mary group would have something for us to do in the morning we'd have to go meet with the representatives from various italian companies or or hungarian companies uh we we we were given presentations by members of the U-S embassy on economic development in those countries and how they were helpin U-S businesses access those local markets and those local markets access the U-S markets so it was very educational an uh a lot of fun too

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Speaker 1: so within your um United States travels have you been asked where your from has anybody ever commented on your dialect

Speaker 2: uh yeah cause it's kind of a southern dialect eh it's not as strong as a lot of southern dialects but primarily when i go up north uh people w- they won't comment but in a professional setting but if you if you're out in the evening having dinner or something and the the um the subject of dialects come up then um i've had the comment made more than once that you have a southern dialect um but traveling around everybody you know i recognize dialects too and um i don't think i have one because i recognize southern dialect in a lot of people that live um close here and we do business with people from Tennessee uh there's a company in Florida we deal with some some folks from Georgia and you know those to those folks i don't sound southern at all because they sound really southern to me so uh i think Tidewaters an area where your dialect is very neutral

Speaker 1: where would you say has the most um recognizable dialect that you've been

Speaker 2: definitely the i think well i think the the in New York of course they have the very heavy northern accent um, which is definitely recognizable and distinct but also s- in the south um i guess the southern dialect can be more spread but you know if you if you hear that dialect you know it's from New England but if you hear a southern accent it could really be anywhere from North Carolina to Texas

Speaker 1: do you find that um you mentioned you've been to Seattle

Speaker 2: yes

Speaker 1: did they have a specific dialect that you've noticed

Speaker 2: no n- pacific northwest doesn't California really doesn't, that i think_ i've never recognized one there

Speaker 1: um and when you've gone to Hawaii do the locals tend to use a similar grammatical structure as far as the way they say their sentences obviously they're gonna have a very strong, um dialect

Speaker 2: there's a Hawaiian dialect um there's a Hawaiian language of course but there's also even when they speak English they have a distinct dialect and uh it's recognizable their sentence structure the sentence structure is the same but there dialect and the words they use are are different, and and again it's easily recognizable

Speaker 1: mhm um in your current job now do you hire people or deal with people in a professional sense a lot of times in person or on the phone

Speaker 2: yes

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Speaker 1: have you found dialect differences or um just any general way of speaking to be more off putting than any other

Speaker 2: no i i don't think it's dialect it's more grammatic grammatical you know people can express themselves in a cogent manner then it really doesn't matter what dialect i'm hearing it's the information that they're that they're transferring

Speaker 1: so you don't have any stereotypical if someone calls you and they're obviously southern you don't immediately jump to the conclusion that they're lacking in education <Speaker 2: no i don't> or that kind of thing ok um well let's talk a little bit more about your um personal life as far as traditions and that type of thing um when you were growing up um what were some of the household traditions important things that your parents, emphasized during your childhood

35 Speaker 2: um well like i said earlier when i was a kid i had lots of freedom to do the things that i really wanted to do i you know you think of a typical stereotypical boy and that's really what i was uh i played a lot in we had wooded area behind the house so i played a lot back there built a lot of forts um i had a lot of friends and we had pick up baseball games and pick up football games um my home was pretty traditionally southern um my mom was a stay at home mom for most of my youth and so she would be there all the time and you know we had dinner as a family every night um it wasn't always healthy food, i remember i remember seeing the big spoon and the crisco jars being slapped into the front with loads of white crisco being um slabbed into a fry- a cast iron frying pan on the stove lots of fried chicken lots of fried breaded and fried pork chops um round steak that was breaded and fried and then gravy made out of the grease drippings so it was pretty bad <LAUGH> um but then you know as the news and my my dad and my mom smoked for a while so i remember that but then as the news you know and of smoking, and the problems with smoking on your health came up they both quit um and the diet got better over time as well as they became more educated about ways, to eat um i always had chores to do like i had to do dishes at night i didn't like that uh but i had to do it so i did it... um we always had family live nearby my mom's brother and his family lived next door and my mom's father my granddad and and his wife they lived close by as well... so you know typical southern upbringing i guess, um we went to church wherever my grandmother went to church my mom's mom where ever she went to church my dad's family really didn't he didn't have anybody up here his family in North Carolina and his parents died when i was young my his father died before i was born about a year before i was born so i never knew him and his mother died when i was like five or six so i h- have some visual memories of her but i don't have any you know i can't say i know her because i don't i don't remember talking to her i just remember giving her a hug um and she was she was uh sick at the time when that memory occurred, um my mom's parents both lived until well my mom's father lived until i was fourteen and my mom's mom lived until i was, almost forty... so i had more interface with my mom's side of the family extended side of the family um she had also had other brothers who lived in the area so and a sis- and sisters who lived in this area so um and i_ that's because like i said before my mom's family

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moved up as a group when she was thirteen and my dad moved in by himself to the area himself <BACKGROUND NOISE> after the army so that's what lead to that situation but i had lots of cousins to play with i had two cousins born the same year as me and we'd always be hankering our parents to get us together so we could play together and then when we'd get together we'd fight <Speaker 1: LAUGH> uh...

Speaker 1: were birthdays christmases holidays that type a thing a big deal

Speaker 2: yeah they were a big deal um, we always had cake and ice cream and birthday parties and christmas was a huge deal and i would always have trouble sleeping and end up end up getting up at like four-o' -clock in the morning to go see what christmas presents were um my brother and i would always try to sneak a look at the presents when my mom, wasn't around um and we got pretty good at it we'd unwrap a present and wrap it back and she couldn't tell we'd been

40 inside of it um so we'd pull 'em <LAUGH> out from under the tree and do that um... and my mom started baking these multi layered cakes that were like um three or four concentric circles and each of the concentric circles was smaller so it'd form like a little step pyramid or a step cone type shape and um she would decorate them with icing and and these like coconut sprinkle things but i remember those type of cakes um, and we'd always have friends over to share the cake and all that stuff so it was always uh always fun times you know we we didn't grow up with a whole lot of stuff but i never felt like i was missing anything until you know i got older and i so i went over to some of my friends' house and go wow you have a really nice house and then i'd come back to where we lived it made me a little self-conscious when i was in my later teen years... but i got over it

Speaker 1: ok have you um in your adult life with your children have you maintained any of the traditions um that you had as a child

Speaker 2: well i like to think so um, you know i always try to celebrate birthdays and make them a big deal um christmas time is always a big deal i always had trees and stuff and so yeah we always had family get togethers on the important days birthdays father days mother days you know christmastime for sure, um, when i was a kid we used to take uh vacations, and my parents bought a R-V and so we would go, not far away like down to the Outer Banks and to like Jamestown Williamsburg area things like that up to the mountains in the fall but never really far away um so those little type of trips are stuff that i tried to keep going here and there <BACKGROUND NOISE> whenever i could um.. so yeah you know just typical family traditions i always wanted to make to have a home for the kids and hopefully it was warm and loving all through the years um

Speaker 1: k um as an adult um <BACKGROUND NOISE ENDS> you mentioned well in high school that you guys enjoyed going to pizza hut and to the mall, what are your favorite things to do as an adult ev- even now or after you got a job and started working

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Speaker 2: uh well i still like to go out to eat but i like to eat <SIGH> better places yeah you know and i guess it's all what your what you like and can afford to do so you know now i can afford to do a lot more than i could of course when i was a teenager so i don't eat pizza very much anymore but i really like still like good food and i still like going to the movies and i s- um i also like going to plays you know this areas really gotten a lot better as far as the offerings from a cultural standpoint um when i was a kid downtown Norfolk was a pretty bad place uh a lot of businesses had moved out and gone under um, and it's been really revitalized uh for many many reasons the uh the businesses started to come back there was a lot of uh redevelopment the the development of Macarthur Mall a big a big impact on the area and now you know recent developments with the light rail hopefully that'll keep it going um but there's just so much more now to do so i like going to the plays at wells theatre and Chrysler Hall um O-D-U football now is a big deal um that was never around even when i was at O-D-U as an undergraduate um football wasn't around um just so much more to do now so many more offerings in this area, and uh it's just a nice place to live if it hadn't had developed this way i'm not really sure i'd stayed because

45 otherwise it would be kind of dead you know um... so the civic leaders around the area are really doing a good job i think