

Irene Walker-Harris Interview

2/28/01

Jane Stearns, Interviewer

Jane: Irene, could you start by talking about when you moved to Asheville and where you moved from.

Irene: We moved in September of 1953 and we moved from the Maritimes, New Brunswick. In the eastern part of the state. We moved because we got so tired of the northeast climate, and I was arthritic and it seemed a good idea. So my husband found a job with American Enka Corporation and we came down here.

Jane: And the two of you moved.

Irene: And our son. Our son was 7.

Jane: And his name?

Irene: Jeffrey.

Jane: When you moved here had you been a member of a Unitarian Church?

Irene: No. I was brought up Presbyterian, but my best friend was Canon Garrett's middle son, and so I was a Presbyterian in the morning and an Anglican at night. I think that's good preparation for Unitarianism.

Jane: Quite a combination.

Irene: My grandmother was a died in the wool, John Knox, what's to be will be, and, of course that, even at age 7, I couldn't accept. I happened to be ill at the time that ordinarily I would have joined the church, so I didn't. I still went to the Presbyterian Church in the morning and the Anglican Church at night, and when I was ready to graduate from teachers' college in Ottawa, in Ontario -- Ontario doesn't have a direct separation of church and state. . .

Jane: Now this was prior to your move here.

Irene: Oh, yes, I am talking . . . you asked about my religious background. I'm give you this. And in Ontario there was the Protestant, or public school, and the separate, or Catholic, school system. The taxes from the property went to either school. Not by the owner, but by the resident. If you were a resident and the owner was Catholic, if you were a Protestant, his taxes supported the Protestant school. That was the arrangement. No religion was taught in the schools, but on Friday afternoon ministers of various denominations came to the school. And the same thing was true at teachers' college. Each denomination went to religious instruction, and I threw a coin to decide whether I'd be an Anglican or a Presbyterian. And it came down Presbyterian. Then came graduation and one of the requirements for graduation was that you be member of the church, the denomination that you had studied, and I wasn't. So I came back -- my home was about 60 miles away -- I went home for the weekend. I went to see our Presbyterian minister, who was a dear Welshman. We had been friends from the time I was 7 or 8. The public library never had enough books, but he had a wonderful library, so I was turned loose in his library from the time that I could read, and so I went to him and said, I've got a problem. They won't let me earn my living because I'm not a member of the church. And he said, well, I'd be pleased to welcome you in, and I said, but, remember, but what about preparatory service. In those days the elders questioned you on Friday night. I said I'm not a good liar and I'll tell the truth and they won't have me. So he smiled at me and said, let me pray on this. So I went back to school. Midweek I got a nice little note from the Reverend saying that he realized how difficult it would be for me to get back to Hocksberry in time for the 7:00 preparatory service on Friday night. If I would present myself on Sunday morning, he would be very happy to welcome me into the church. And then he put in brackets "it will be on my conscience". I think it's called getting in by the back door.

Jane: It sounds like that, yes.

Irene: At that time there was a movement in Canada, the United Church of Canada, Methodists, Congregationalists and Presbyterians, and some separate Baptist sects. There weren't many, but there were two or three Baptist churches. They were independent in Canada, and they joined. To me this was a move in the right direction. If there was anything to it, why all the divisions. I didn't join the United Church then, but I thought that this is really a good idea. Well, I married, moved to northern Quebec, Montreal during the war while my husband was in the chemical warfare division, and

then we moved to the Maritimes and I had my son. There was a big United Church in Campbell Town, and we met the minister and he and I became good friends. So finally I decided to join the United Church, and Jeff was christened in the United Church. Then we moved to Asheville. There was no United Church. Now because there was no United Church, I decided we'll try the Presbyterian, we'll try the Methodist, we'll try the Congregationalists. We came in September. We didn't do anything until just before Christmas. In fact it was the Christmas service we went to the Presbyterian Church.

Jane: What year was that?

Irene: 1953. And it was Greer Davis, Reverend Greer Davis. I hadn't really gotten used to the southern accent and he said "Shepherds watch their flocks by night" (with southern accent). It was a little trying.

Jane: I understand.

Irene: And the church was too big. And so we waited awhile. Then Jeff and I went off to the Congregationalist Church. Dr. Ratzell. I should say that my husband was a scientist and an agnostic so I'm not leaving him out. It is just the way it was.

Jane: What was his first name?

Irene: Forestier-Walker. No, it was Bernard Forestier-Walker. He was English. And he had a PhD from McGill.

Jane: So you and your son Jeff then went off to it.

Irene: I thought religious education was part of education and that Jeff was going to have it someday. However the Congregationalists put him in Sunday School -- no, they cut out paper dolls, said he. So that didn't work.

Jane: Oh, he didn't like it.

Irene: He didn't like the Congregational Sunday School. So I went occasionally because I like the Ratzells. We became friends, and he was a very, very fine speaker. Then my in-laws came from Vancouver, Victoria, Canada to spend the winter. They wanted to spend some time with their

grandson. So we rented an apartment for them and they spent the winter here. Of course they were Anglican, Episcopalian. So I grabbed Jeff by the hand again and we went with Lucy to the Grace Episcopal Church. Jeff didn't like that Sunday School either. By this time he was 8 years old, and I simply said you're going somewhere. Pick one, and we don't care which one you pick. But pick a Sunday School and go to it. And surprisingly enough he picked the Presbyterian. So he went to the Presbyterian from the time he was 8 to 14. In the meantime, the YWCA was building a new building. They moved from Grove Street and built the present one, and Dan Welch and I were both on the Y Board, and we had a Saturday afternoon emergency meeting, and they served us tea. It wasn't very good tea, and Dan was frowning at the tea and saying it wasn't very good tea. So, of course, I said, "I'm married to an Englishman. Come to my house next Saturday afternoon and you'll get good tea." And he did, and that's how I met Dan Welch, and every so often he would turn up on Saturday afternoon for tea with us. And he and Forestier would discuss the sermon, and he invited us to come several times. Actually Forestier and I both went a few times, but I went fairly regularly over to West Asheville in that little house -- I can't remember the street -- Vernon?

Jane: There is a Vernon.

Irene: It was one of those tiny side streets in West Asheville. It was a living room with an arch, I guess that would have been the dining room, and the organ and the pulpit was in that area. There were just chairs in the living room. I don't think there would be more than 25 or 30 at the outside.

Jane: This was in about 1959?

Irene: Yes. Let's see, Jeff was 14.

Jane: And that was over in West Asheville?

Irene: Yes, that was where they bought the house over there. And Dan was a retired, he had been a Congregational minister and then went back and became a Unitarian, and he had retired to Tennessee, and he came to minister to -- it wasn't even a church then.

Jane: No, a fellowship.

Irene: A fellowship, yes. He was a dear. Jeff came in one Sunday and said, I can't go to Sunday School anymore. I, of course, said why. Well, he said, we've all graduated. They're all joining the church. So he looked at me sideways and said, do you want me to join the church? And I said, do you want to join the church? And he said, no. So I said, fine. I had done my part. He got his religious education. He said, Dan's a minister, isn't he. And I said, yes. He had gotten to know him on Saturday afternoons. He said, next time you go, I'll come with you. So we went together. Dan met us at the door and said, oh, Jeff, so glad to see you. Are you going to Sunday School? Jeff said, no, coming to church.

Jane: A very independent young man.

Irene: Oh, he is. Russell was the organist, and, of course, Jeff played the piano. He started to take piano when he was 10 or so, 11, and he graduated at 16, so he studied piano through those years, and he hadn't seen an organ, so Russell taught him how to play the organ, and Jeff used to bring music and they would play duets while we were having coffee.

Jane: Russell . . .

Irene: I can't remember Russell's last name. He was the organist.

Jane: There might be other people who know.

Irene: I'm sure they do. And Dan retired again. I can't remember the name of the minister who replaced him, Tracy somebody. Was there a Tracy as minister -- first name or second name?

Jane: I don't know.

Irene: I can't remember either. I didn't go very often after . . .

Jane: This was now in the early 60's.

Irene: 60's, yes. We left. We went away in '68.

Jane: Went away?

Irene: Went up to Upstate New York, and we were there for three years.

So I went to the Unitarian Church every so often in Albany and in Schenectady. The Albany was great. It was when Rockefeller was signing the legislation. We had a candlelight march to celebrate the fact that he signed the no discrimination on sexual grounds. We already had race and gender, and he added the sexual orientation.

Jane: That far back?

Irene: Yes, that was in 1969 when Rockefeller was governor. It was quite a difference from down here where you wouldn't mention the word, to Upstate New York where the Unitarians did a candlelight march down to the capitol. It was really. The two churches were do different. The Albany one was so modern and Schenectady could have been New England.

Jane: I didn't realize that they were that different. Maybe still are.

Irene: The churches are probably just the same. I haven't been back in 15 years or so now.

Jane: You were there for how long?

Irene: Three years.

Jane: And then what happened?

Irene: Well, my Englishman husband didn't like Upstate New York. He adapted very easily to the south, being an Englishman.

Jane: Is that right.

Irene: But the drive -- the cutthroat approach to . . . he was a research man. He had no business being in business anyway. He was fine at Enka because that was Dutch, so he was very unhappy, and decided to take early retirement. And a friend in Richmond died, and he had been running a laboratory for the Ford Foundation, a preservation laboratory. So the board asked Forestier to take over the laboratory. We were coming back here because I'd bought a house in Hendersonville, so we went to Richmond instead, and had a very, very nice 7 years in Richmond.

Jane: In Richmond?

Irene: Virginia.

Jane: Your husband was comfortable there.

Irene: Very comfortable, and running a laboratory -- as he said, it was so great to really do something at the end of his career. He developed a method of treating books, and so all the rare books in Virginia had been treated. The equipment went into the state library, and they brought books from all over the state and treated them all. It was a very interesting time. I think I went to the Unitarian Church only about twice in that time.

Jane: Why did you come back here?

Irene: Forestier died.

Jane: In Richmond?

Irene: Yes. Well, he was closing the laboratory anyway. I had bought a house. I had every intention of coming back here. We were going to retire back here. When he took retirement, you know, you fix your assets so you can live as comfortably as possible, and then you go back to work, all you're doing is working for Uncle Sam. In those days I bought the house and depreciated it according to law, which was very favorable to the landlord at that time. In fact, I'd forgotten that Forestier didn't like old things. I bought a 1905 farmhouse. He took one look at it and said, have you lost your living mind. But by the time he was ready to retire he had realized that my house was a nice little farmhouse after all, and besides it had saved us many, many dollars in taxes.

Jane: Was that in Buncombe County?

Irene: No, Henderson. It was Hendersonville.

Jane: It wasn't in the country? You said farmhouse.

Irene: Yes, it was a farmhouse in the country. Six miles from town.

Jane: So that's where you moved to then when you came back, to

Hendersonville.

Irene: But one of the first things I did was come over and go to church here.

Jane: The Unitarian? Did you join the church?

Irene: Then I did.

Jane: And what about your son?

Irene: Oh, he was gone. He was in college. On his 17th birthday he went off to college. He went to Brooklyn Polytech. Don't ask me why.

Jane: Well, he was obviously his own person from the time he was very young.

Irene: Well, as a junior in high school he was a National Science Fair awardee, and he won a week at sea with the Navy, invitation to Annapolis. He got a citation from the army. He was a Westinghouse Talent Search scholar. He could have gone to any technical school in the country. I said, you've got to get out of the south. You came here. You're a southerner. There's more to the U.S. than North Carolina. So pick your school, but out of the south. So we visited a few, and Brooklyn Poly was the school he wanted.

Jane: After you joined the church here then. You were alone then. Your husband had died and your son had grown up, and you joined the church. Were you involved in the church in any way?

Irene: Not too much. Actually I met with Jim then. Jim was the minister.

Jane: Jim Brewer?

Irene: Jim Brewer. No, it wasn't. It was Hammond.

Jane: Bill Hammond.

Irene: Bill Hammond. My mother-in-law was still living. We left her in Richmond because she was living with a nurse, a widow who had two or three elderly people. She was very comfortable and she died one month

short of 100. So you don't move -- she had been in Richmond for several years and was very happy, and I could go back and forth. However, I moved in August and she died in October. I only had a couple of trips. When I went to church, I met Mr. Hammond. I told him I wanted to have a memorial said for my husband because we had lots of friends here. Some of them knew he had died and others didn't. It was the easiest way to do it.

Jane: You wanted to have a memorial service?

Irene: No, just ten minutes or so before the sermon. And John Bridges, a friend of mine here, sang.

Jane: Who was that?

Irene: John Bridges. He had been the librarian here for years. We were friends in the theater way back.

Jane: The John Bridges?

Irene: Oh, yes. John and I go back to the 50's.

Jane: This is very interesting.

Irene: So he sang, and actually my mother-in-law died the week before, so I went up to Richmond. Both she and my husband had donated their bodies so there was no . . . it was just a matter of settling the legal affairs, and I came back and I called Mr. Hammond and said, look, my mother-in-law died too, and I said, you know, she really belongs in this area. She lived at the Manor. After her husband died she came back here and she lived here in the retirement hotel across from the church. So he was very nice, and it was a very nice short service. A lot of my friends came. I came in September, and the service was Forestier's birthday, October 15th. We had it on his birthday. I went to work with Legal Services in January.

Jane: Legal Services?

Irene: Yes, it was the Legal Aid Service of the Buncombe County Bar Association. When Forestier was ill I went back to school and got 44 hours of law under my belt, and was certified in Virginia as a legal assistant. I helped that Legal Services group here get grants. They had been refused by

the Federal Legal Services, and I interned with the Neighborhood Legal Services in Richmond, and the Council on Aging paid for my internship. So I was here visiting and they were saying they couldn't get any money, and I told them they were going about it in the wrong way. It was the white hairs that had the money, and they could get it under that. So they got their grant, and, of course, when I came I said they had to hire me, after all. So they did. So I worked ten years with them.

Jane: And in the meantime you were still a participant in this church?

Irene: I'm not a joiner.

Jane: Well, where was the church?

Irene: It was right here. See I came back in '77, and the church was here. And I fell in love with the church. I think Bill Moore did -- that is the most beautiful building. I could just go in and sit. Just love it. Then when they started the fellowship in Hendersonville, so many of my Hendersonville friends wanted me to go. I think I went once or twice, but I missed the church, so I drove here. I didn't do it all the time. Really, I didn't. But I came over so often.

Jane: Did you know much about how the religious education program was in the days of Dr. Hammond and Jim?

Irene: No. Not having any children and being already . . . see I was 60 years old when I came back here, so I was a senior and I was working at a very demanding job.

Jane: Did you know much about what was going on in the church program?

Irene: No.

Jane: You've been through Bill Hammond and Jim Brewer and . . .

Irene: Jim Brewer married us, my second husband. That's where the Harris is.

Jane: Jim Brewer was the minister.

Irene: We were married in that church.

Jane: You have very important connections.

Irene: Not really.

Jane: Well, that's important . . . to get married. So you were also there then when Jim -- did you know about Jim Brewer's wife or anything about him.

Irene: No, just that both he and his wife, I can't remember her name . . .

Jane: Barbara.

Irene: Barbara. They would come -- I was in the Hendersonville CareRing, and they divided us up again, and I was in the Fletcher-Arden CareRing. Bill and Carol Solinberger were very good friends, and Maude -- I can't remember Maude's last name. I've been here 8 years and I don't drive so I don't think I've seen Carol in two years. And I'm not a joiner.

Jane: But you've been here now since Jim retired.

Irene: How long has Maureen been here?

Jane: About ten years, I think.

Irene: Well, it was Bill Hammond and then Brewer, and then

Jane: Then Maureen. So you were here when Maureen Killoran came on. Maureen came, who was a very different person . . .

Irene: Oh, yes. The service is very different.

Jane: And the church has now grown. When you come there do you feel like you still know people.

Irene: Remember, I have a handicap. Unless people speak to me and say enough that I can recognize their voice, I can't recognize them. I'm not joking, I just can't see enough of your face to distinguish.

Jane: So you really didn't have a sense of the growth of this church.

Irene: Oh, yes, I'm very much aware of it because when I came back -- let's see, I came back in 77. That's 24 years ago. It was a small church. I came in from Hendersonville at least once or twice a month. Then when I moved here, it had started to grow 8 years ago, but not to the degree it is now, with the two services. I know very few people.

Jane: How often do you get to church now?

Irene: Oh, in summertime, in good weather, perhaps twice a month. I haven't been since January. I think I was once in January.

Jane: We've had some bad weather.

Irene: It's not so much the bad weather. I can't go and cough my head off through the service.

Jane: Did it seem to you that there were changes taking place with regard to the kind of services and the kinds of ideas that were being covered, and you were aware that that was happening too.

Irene: Yes, but, you see, I guess my own philosophy is pretty well set, and the thing I've always gotten out of the Unitarian Church is the intellectual stimulation. And I didn't have to be a hypocrite. I didn't have to sit there and say, I don't believe that, while I was being shouted at from the pulpit. The thing I miss is the music. I loathe singing to a piano. I want that fullness that the organ does to the human voice, so I just sort of turn off. The choir without accompaniment is beautiful. There are some lovely voices. I thoroughly enjoy it. And I love all the instrumental music, whether it's zither or anything else, I really enjoy it. Very much so.

Jane: But not the piano.

Irene: No, not the piano. Actually he's a very fine pianist in the pre-service music. Quite often I'll come ten minutes or fifteen minutes before to listen. But like I say, I just can't stand to hear voices with a piano.

Jane: Well, our music people are working to know what kinds of changes we need, what we need to add and that kind of thing, so any remarks about

that part of the program are . . .

Irene: I don't think I've every said anything. Well, I may have said to Maureen, for goodness sake you have an organ, why don't you use it.

Jane: Oh, you have said that.

Irene: Somebody said it was while Anita had the wrist -- of course I didn't know that she'd broken her wrist, so I felt like an idiot.

Jane: Who broke her wrist?

Irene: Anita.

Jane, Oh, yes.

Irene: Remember that. I guess my dislike is well known. I taught music, you see, in the schools. That was another thing. I went back to summer school one time and took music so I could teach voice, teach choir and what not, you see. I couldn't sing but I could teach other people to do it. You got \$50 a year for every extra class in a large school, and that meant five or six hundred dollars that I would get for teaching music, and enjoyed it all the time.

Jane: Where was this?

Irene: I taught in Ontario and retired. I taught in Quebec because a teacher had a breakdown and I filled in, for a year and a half. And I taught in New Brunswick. I started when my son went back to school, but we only were there one year, and then we moved to the states. We put him in Country Day School. You'll enjoy this. I knew it would be a tremendous adjustment to him. Speech pattern alone, he found a difference. When we decided to move we put our furniture in storage, gave up our house and came up to Montreal where my parents lived. He went to school there. Now, the difference in language in French Canada area -- even English people speak with a "don't you know", and I knew it would be different again here, so I thought a small school, and we had made inquiries and Country Day School was at Grace Presbyterian Church in those days, and why we lived in North Asheville is that we bought a house where Jeff could walk to school, because I think getting to school is your business, not your parents' business.

Jane: So first you bought a house in North Asheville.

Irene: Oh, yes. In '53 we lived on Griffing for fifteen years. So this is home for me.

Jane: I see. It was later that you bought a farmhouse, as you call it, in Hendersonville.

Irene: Yes, that was when I came back after being away. And I was 16 years in my farmhouse. I had a wonderful time doing it over.

Jane: You really belong here, don't you?

Irene: Oh, North Asheville, yes.

Jane: This is home.

Irene: The head of the drama department at UNCA set up a summer stock out at Sams Branch, that ranch . . . Max Coburn is the . . . Pisgah View Ranch. Have you been out there?

Jane: No, I haven't.

Irene: It's a very, very nice ranch, farm vacation for city people.

Jane: Do you remember the name of the head of the drama department?

Irene: Just a minute . . . his wife was Lois.

Jane: It isn't essential. Did you know Patricia Snoyer of the drama department, who is a member of our church?

Irene: Just by reputation. When I came back I went to work for Legal Services. I was really busy. In fact I couldn't do much theater. I did a couple of plays, but I would have to take vacation so that the judges would know I was not available for hearings. it was very demanding.

Jane: How many years were you with them?

Irene: Ten years with the Service, and then I worked four years pro bono until I couldn't read any more.

Jane: I know you're not terribly in the church . . .

Irene: I'm not at all involved. I just go.

Jane: Are you aware of any things that you particularly would like to see changed in some way, or things that you would like to see continued as they are, in any aspects of the church program?

Irene: No, I'm comfortable.

Jane: Do you sit near the front?

Irene: I sit in the second row because I use my peripheral vision. By sitting in the second row I can see Maureen at the pulpit, I can see the chalice.

Jane: I am asking you that just for my own personal reasons. I'll be looking for you.

Irene: I always sit in the second row on the side.

Jane: On the side, not in the middle. Well, you probably sit on the same side that I do then.

Irene: I usually have to go around because there is someone sitting on the edge who looks as though he's not going to move.

Jane: Maybe it's someone who is going to be a participant.

Irene: Exactly. I check first to see if it's somebody I know who will recognize me and let me in. If not, I go around and go down the center aisle and then come in. It's the only place I can really see. Any other place . . . there is nobody in front because you see the front row are the participants and they're going, and then they move off to the side, I think, when they realize I have a vision problem.

Jane: Well, I will look for you. Do you have anything else concerning church that you'd like to leave us with?

Irene: You make good coffee. I used to do the coffee bit with Hugh Campbell's daughter. She married Harry Reasoner's son, Stuart. They live in Hendersonville so she probably goes to the Hendersonville Church now, but Loni and I worked in the theater together, and her father was . . . in fact Hugh and Louise, I think was his wife's name, she had a brain tumor. Died just shortly after I came back. Hugh was a great friend of Gus Young.

Jane: Oh, yes.

Irene: Gus and I go back to the 50's. You see I've got these connections, Marjorie Lockwood's daughter, Louise, went to Country Day School with Jeff so Marjorie and I were friends all through. When Forestier died she came up to Richmond and stayed with me.

Jane: She was a giant of a woman.

Irene: Yes, a wonderful person.

Jane: A magnificent person, yes. I feel lucky that I knew her. So you really know all of the . . .

Irene: I know the early ones, and Ruth I met. When I came back I met her one time and she has always been very, very nice.

Jane: That's Ruth Beard?

Irene: Yes. And she always says, Irene, it's Ruth.

Jane: I will remember that, and if I see you at church I will say, Irene, it's Jane.

Irene: And Craig, and is it Carolyn, his wife, Weis?

Jane: Weis, yes.

Irene: He's my wonderful help here. He puts my windows on and runs interference when I want something done from management. He's another one who always says, hello, Irene, it's Craig.

Jane: Well, there's something about the Unitarian Church that makes you feel like we're all sort of part of the family.

Irene: Well, I don't feel that anymore, but it's me. It's because I can't make that connection. Once in a while I'll go for coffee because there's all of these people milling around, none of whom I can recognize. Occasionally someone recognizes me.

Jane: Could I ask you one more question?

Irene: Sure

Jane: Why did you move to Asheville?

Irene: When?

Jane: The first time.

Irene: My husband was doing cooperative research at the University in Syracuse. He was director of research for Pulp Paper Company, Frazer Companies. It's one Canadian company, but it has American subsidiaries. He was asked to give a paper at Upsala in Sweden. I had never been to Europe, and never intended to get there again, so I went back, taught that year, and we saved every penny we could . . . this was to be the spring of '53, and I worked in '52. We didn't take any vacation in '52. We saved it for '53 so we would have six weeks, and we were going to go. Jeff was going to stay with my parents, and we were going to do the European tour. About the end of February when the corporate year was over, Frazer Company had not made their eleven million, only made about seven, so they cut right and left, and they cut Forestier's travel budget, oh, viciously. He could still have gone, but he says that you can't do research in a vacuum. And if he went none of the chemists would get out of northern New Brunswick for the next year, so he very blithely called the University of Syracuse -- it was his work, it is his paper -- and said, you know the Frazer Companies are having a bad year, but if they wanted that paper done, they could pay the expenses. Well they sent one of their professors to read his paper.

Jane: Oh, my.

Irene: We were livid.

Jane: Of course you were.

Irene: So here we had all of this vacation, and I had winter like I had this time, but it wasn't asthma and weather allergies. It was arthritis. I was in and out of hospital. In those days they used the Kenney method, you know, they'd do the hot towels and wrap you up. So I got out of hospital and we - I was teaching but I was still, I was out more than I was in that winter. And Forestier said, let's just take holiday and drive south, go to New York for Easter, drive south and see if we can't find some good weather, perhaps some sun. Because in Asheville here we always took our holiday in March and went to the Keys. So we said we'll go down to the Keys if we have to, but let's do that. We've got a month. So we spent Easter in New York and put Jeff on the plane, he was six, seven at the end of the summer, and took off. We got as far as Virginia Beach, and the weather was so gorgeous. It was the April that you could not believe, and ten days and I was able to swing a golf club. So we didn't go any further. We spent the whole time at a golf ranch in Virginia Beach. Then we went back up to Montreal to pick up Jeffrey, and we went to Edmundton, New Brunswick, to a meeting we had with people from Europe, and then we went back to New Brunswick, and we drove into our yard and it was snowing. This was the first of May, and it was snowing. So we looked at each other and said, why do we stay, when there is weather like that. So he said, well, let's see what we can do, and if you're director of research, you don't go -- other companies won't even interview you when you're working for somebody else. He decided he would give up his job. He made some inquiries to see

Side A ended.

Seemingly nothing on side B.