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Interviewee: William “Miss Tina” Horn (MT)
Interviewer: Barry Loveland (BL)
Videography: Ashley Famularo (AF)
Date of Interview: November 25, 2018
Location of Interview: Miss Tina’s home in Lancaster
Transcriber: Julia Bray
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Abstract:

William Horn, dressed as his drag persona “Miss Christina Louise,” Miss Tina for short, tells of their experiences growing up gay, performing as a Drag Queen and the various organizations they’ve been a part of in their life. After moving to Lancaster in their earlier childhood, they eventually performed in several plays with the Lancaster Kiwanis Club and the Fulton Opera House. Later, after moving out of their parents’ house due to several disagreements, they began performing Drag at age 21, going on to win several competitions such as Miss Tally Ho, and Miss Gay Lancaster County. They even went on to compete in the Miss Gay America Pageant in Atlanta, Georgia. They also spoke of the harassment they faced for being gay, both on the streets, in the work place and by the Lancaster Police Department. They spoke of their work with Gays United of Lancaster and attending several government meetings while dressed as Miss Tina, as well as the various AIDs events they attended dressed as such to show solidarity. They described their want to join the Air Force only to be turned down because of medical reasons and about the discrimination they faced from the police and medical professionals.

BL: Okay, my name is Barry Loveland and I’m here with Ashley Famularo, who is our videographer, and we’re here today on behalf of the LGBT Center of Central Pennsylvania History Project. Today’s date is November 25, 2018 and we’re here for an oral history interview with Ms. Tina, or, other wise known as William Horn. And-

MT: That’s correct.

BL: -do you want me to call you Miss Tina for this interview?

MT: Yeah Miss Tina’s Fine.

BL: Okay, fine.

MT: They call me Miss Tina everywhere, even when I’m not dressed as Miss Tina.

BL: Okay [Chuckles] This interview is taking place at Miss Tina’s home in Lancaster. And do we have your permission to record the interview today?

MT: You, yes you do.

BL: Okay, Great. I have a consent form that I’ll let you look at and sign at the end of the interview once you know everything you’ve talked about, so that you can give us your consent to

use the interview. And I'd like to start by having you say and spell your full name, and both, you can use both as well.

MT: Okay, okay.

BL: If you want to do that as well.

MT: Well my full name is William Horn, W-I-L-L-I-A-M, Horn, H-O-R-N. And my persona is Miss Christina Louise, Tina for Short, and that's Capital M-I-S-S, Capital C-H-R-I-S-T-I-N-A, and Capital L-O-U-I-S-E. The Qus- cueis- yeah....Christina came from the Swedish Queen Christine that was a cross dresser, was raised in a male court, and preferred the male sports etc.. etc.. and Swedish Parliament forced her to abdicate the throne and Louise was my mother's middle name.

BL: Great. And what is your date of birth and where were you born?

MT: May 24, 1955 in Warren, Pennsylvania, which is up in the North-West Quadrant of the state.

BL: Mmhmm. Alright, so, I'd like to start with talking about your early years, growing up, maybe you can talk a little bit about your family, and also the years leading up to going into school.

MT: Okay, I was, I was the oldest of three children. My sister is five years younger than I am, my brother is seven. Family life was pretty normal, we had our ups and downs, but...and I was a child that had learning disabilities. I was brain-injured when I was born, I was a blue baby and I – I stopped breathing and they were working on my mother and didn't catch me until a little bit late. So, I did suffer some brain damage, which I would outgrow, I was finally tested at the age of twelve. School was very bad for me because of my learning disabilities, my dyslexia, no one knew what that was. So I was just this "problem child" in the class. I got to high school, my sexuality was beginning to emerge and I got active in the theater and did a show for Willow Street Sertoma Club. I did a couple for the Lancaster Kiwanis's Club at the Fulton Opera House and I did several when I was in high school. High school was hell. So was, what at the time was junior high, that was also hell. There was some people who were suspicious that I was queer and rode me constantly about it. There were other people who knew I was gay because they'd been there and they weren't saying anything, you know? They were keeping themselves well out of it. But my freshman year in high school I spent some time in the New Psychiatric unit at St. Joe's Hospital and the first night that I was there, they did not have a regular bed for me, they put me in an isolation cell overnight. Now I could come and go, the door was open, I could come and go. They brought the biology clubs from my high school through on a tour of the hospital and there I sat in a padded cell looking through the chicken wired glass at sixty of my class mates. That was in the spring of my Freshman Year, and right then and there School was over for me. I suffered till the beginning of my Junior year and I quit. Held a variety of jobs, all low pay, all minimum wage, and you know you're talking back in the day [Large huff, maybe a sneeze in the background] when minimum wage was, you know \$2.75 an hour. Hasn't come very far in forty years, but – and it definitely needs to be up-upgraded. But I didn't make much money, I was pretty much on my own after I was sixteen, there were some family issues taking place then, and I met a wonderful elderly woman in Lancaster City that ran a rooming house and she took me in

and while I lived with her, her only child died, and three of my grandparents died, so she became a surrogate grandparent-mother to me and I became her surrogate son. And she just loved Miss Tina. [Small chuckle in background] In 1976 I turned 21. I had probably been developing the persona of Miss Tina for a couple of years privately, but when I turned 21 I started going, I could go to the bar, I could go out and I started doing Miss Tina every Friday and Saturday night. And every Friday and Saturday night before I left the house I had to go down to her apartment and get her approval on what I was wearing. She didn't like it, she told me so. If there was an issue she'd help me fix it, you know, because I was trying to present a class act and she was and very definitely a class act. We became very, very, very close. And in 1977 I won Miss Tally Ho and I was the first person to go to the Miss Gay America Pageant in Atlanta, Georgia. And my cheering section consisted of my sister, my maternal Grandmother, and the lady from down stairs and the lady from down stairs was in her seventies and let me tell you something, my Grandmother and that woman hung until 3 O'clock in the morning every night with us and they were up bright and early the next morning to make sure that I was ready for what I had to do that day, and then while I was rehearsing, doing interviews, etc. they were out doing Atlanta underground and sightseeing and things like that. But they were wonderful and I was – I was very close to both of those women. And in 1986, I won Miss Gay Lancaster County, but there had been an issue with the bar and the bar owner barred the four Drag Queens from the bar and we formed our own little group and the first thing we did was have a Miss Gay Lancaster County Contest, which benefitted the Lancaster AIDS Project, which was new and they were having trouble getting funding, cause nobody wanted to talk to them, nobody wanted to talk about AIDs. So I was the first Miss Gay Lancaster County in 1986. I do not get recognized by the Miss Gay Lancaster County Program now, I also do not get recognized by the Miss Pennsylvania America Program. I don't know whether it's because they don't know that I was the first or not. It was an experience for me, it was one that I will cherish forever, some wonderful memories. I learned a ton because all of those contestants were class acts, they had sponsorship from the Bar, from, you know their – they had local pageants. Pageants had been big down south all along. There all kind of local Pageants and stuff. They had sponsorship. I didn't. I made my own gowns, compared, competing against \$3000 Bob Mackey Dresses. Because that's what they were wearing. And if you look at the Roster of Miss Gay America's I knew many of them and competed with many of them because they competed over and over and over and over. So, it was a wonderful experience, one that I wouldn't trade for anything.

BL: Can we go back a bit. When did you move from Warren to Lancaster?

MT: Well when I was about five, we moved to Clearfield

BL: Okay

MT: Where my sister was born. And then we moved to Lancaster county about two years later.

BL: Okay. And what did your parents do for a living or – or? You said your father?

MT: Mom was basically a house keeper. And my father was a Jewel-T Man. They had brown trucks with "Jewel" written on the side and they went around, door to door and sold coffee and dried goods and pots and pans and ironing boards. And they'd go in and house wives would place their order. Dad would place the order and then the following week he would deliver the

order to the woman. And there's, they even had a china pattern I think that is now a collector's item because Jewel no longer exists.

BL: And when you settled in – in the Lancaster area what specific town or?

MT: Well our first apartment was in Quarryville, very near the Solanco High School. We were there for, I don't know, a year or so, and then we moved to Refton. Where we lived in a second-floor apartment above an elderly, very elderly couple. He had been a preacher, he was blind and I think she was a little off her rocker and it was on a cul-de-sac, in a farm house and the way the cul-de-sac would back, and it was just two houses, back there. It was back a long lane and then this Cul-de-sac, and we lived in the apartment above the Bromers and the other, the daughter and her family lived directly across. So, that was where we lived and then when I was seven, we bought a house in Conestoga. And that was where I lived until I was sixteen.

BL: Okay. And at what point did you feel that you were gay? Or...

MT: I don't know. I do know that I became sexually active when I was about thirteen. I was in a play at Lancaster, that was supposed to be at the Fulton Opera house. It was The King and I. And I played Louie. And we rehearsed on Orange St. way out on the far end of East Orange and I lived down in Conestoga and we were poor. There was no transportation. There was no public transportation and my, we had one car. And there was, the gas was always rationed. So I would walk down Orange Street, downtown, and hang out downtown and I met a lot of gay guys and sometimes we'd fool – we'd go someplace and fool around and I made some friends and if not then I'd walk the whole way down South Prince Street to Angle Side and I hitch hiked home at 11:30, or whatever it was at night.

BL: Wow.

MT: And that was how I got back and forth. So I became sexually active probably when I was about thirteen. Lancaster was very different then. The alleyway next to what is now Hagger's, I think its apartments, a little shopping mall, that was very gay. They would park back there and walk around that area and it was quite cruisy.

BL: About what year was that, do you think?

MT: That would have been 1967-68?

BL: Mhmm. Yeah...and when was the first time you went out to one of the gay bars?

MT: Well I tried to go to that Tally Ho with my friends who were getting into the Tally Ho, but George knew me and knew I wasn't 21 and I would walk in the door and he'd [mimes out a serious face shaking their head "no"] and I would have to leave. So I was 21, when I went to my first gay bar. And it was the Tally Ho in Lancaster.

BL: Did you go to any other bars in the area?

MT: Oh Yeah. At the time, well during the course of years I went to a place over in York. Had a friend, we'd go over to York, every weekend on like a Saturday night. I do not remember the name of the place, all I remember is the interior on the walls were great big monkeys. Great big monkeys painted on the walls.

BL: [chuckles] Wow.

MT: That was the décor [loud background noise, maybe a laugh in the background] on the inside. And it was a very nice bar and then right next to it was a diner and it was open all night and we would go out to the diner after the bar. I've been to Altland's Ranch several times. We used to go to the Red Star and the Glass Door in Reading. And at the time the Railroad House in Marrietta was hopping. And interesting thing about the Railroad House is that my Uncle Wo always wanted to be a hotelier. And he bought the Railroad House at tax sale for \$2500 dollars. And he and my Aunt were having issues and they ended up getting divorced so they never did do anything with the Railroad House but I remember as a kid racing through the rooms, slamming the doors. We weren't allowed on the Balcony on the second floor because it was rotten. I remember my grandmother sitting next to the big fireplace, rocking my great, my cousin's children to sleep. So we had a lot, I had some memories at the Railroad House and then for a while it was a real heavy drug place. Yeah it was really into the hippy thing and a lot of marijuana busts at the time. Marijuana was- everything was marijuana. And then it was sold and eventually I forget what the name of the guy who bought it was but, David Lease was involved and they turned it into a very nice restaurant, and gay bar and there was a steel dance floor down in the basement and a DJ and that was the hot spot on Sunday nights. Everybody came from all over to the Railroad House on Sunday nights. So I used to go there.

BL: So talk a little bit more about kind of you're early twenties, going out to the bars and what, what the community was like. How you interacted with community.

MT: At first the community was not very receptive. One of the things that Drag Queens, if they're doing a show that's one thing, and I did, I don't know how to classify myself, I'm not really a drag queen. I'm not really a transvestite. I'm certainly not transsexual. I don't know what I am. Classification wise. But they were not receptive to it. I would get comments like "Halloween's not till October!" and "I bet you think you'd look really good dressed like that" you know, things like that. It was a very hard road to break into that community and to get the acceptance that I eventually did get. And I'll tell ya I got that acceptance because I was 21 in May and in October I participated in Miss Tally Ho and at the time I had a very very well developed falsetto. And I sang Summertime from Porgy and Bess. I never performed as Miss Tina. I did the entire song with my eyes closed and when I opened my eyes there was dead silence in the bar. In a bar. Dead silence and the entire audience was sitting there like [drops jaw]. And the following year I won. And because of that, because I was always gracious I was always welcoming to new people, I always encouraged anybody who came in in drag, I found, even if they were god awful I could find something to compliment them on and because I needed to make them feel at home. Because I, I won't say because of the reception that I got at the bar and in the gay community, but I never did very well with gay men. If I wanted a woman I'd be with a woman, that kind of thing, but I've always had an affinity for straight men, and straight men have had an affinity for me. So a lot of my on going sexual relationships and tons of my one night stands were straight men, boys, whatever. And that in itself created an issue for me because I felt a great responsibility. Okay you're a straight man you're with me, you know, because I never ever went out with anybody without telling. You know I would go to the village with my friend in lights and sounds from a band, I call Big Deal, and some straight boy would buy me a drink and I would thank him for it and I would sit there and chit chat and I would let the first two passes go over my head, and when the passes started getting a little more physical or something

like that I would say “Wait a minute. Thank you for the drink and I have enjoyed talking to you, but this is the situation.” “Oh. Well how do you do that?” [gestures to chest] “You know. That’s a professional secret.” “Oh.” I would say maybe eight times out of ten times I would get “Welp. Can’t knock it till you try it.” But that always put a great responsibility on me because I had to make it a pleasurable experience and a comfortable experience for them. They may never do it again. They may never do it again. But somewhere down the road, they might have a child or a nephew or a niece or a neighbor or somebody in their life that’s gay and they don’t have to say, “I did it once” but they know and can be supportive of that person hopefully because of their experience. Keep the experience private, but they could still be supportive and many many many times, when we were done it was like, “Do you want to talk about what just happened?” sometimes they would, sometimes they wouldn’t. Sometimes once they got off, they hit the panic button and they were out of there. You know, but I would say eight times out of ten I got a “Well you can’t knock it till you tried it.” And someone would say, “Oh I know.” So. And there was at the time, there were more opportunities I think. There was a straight loop, went up Chestnut Street from Prince to Queen, the whole way on Queen to New or Clay or Ross or Liberty. Down one of those streets to Prince and the whole way down Prince to Chestnut and the kids, that was a right of passage in Lancaster at the time. Everybody came in from all over the county to the loop. And they would walk around, they would park their cars, and walkaround. It would be six guys in a group and you know five girls in a group and they’d connect and you know I guess they hooked up. Sometimes they didn’t sometimes they were all just a bunch of friends. But the Gay Loop was down Prince Street another block past Chestnut to Orange, up Orange to Mulberry, down Mulberry to Chestnut, and Chestnut to Prince. So the two loops intersected and it was not uncommon at two o’clock in the morning when you’ve been cruising the straight loop for two hours and you hadn’t scored to hit the gay loop once or twice. And that happened a lot. That happened a lot. I actually think I met the love of my life that way. He is now deceased, but I think that’s how I met him it was a stray off of the Straight loop. And I met a lot of guys that way. They were fun, you know.

BL: Did you ever have any negative experiences from...

MT: I had two, actually. One night was I was walking across Lancaster. It was 6:30-7 o’clock at night, maybe 7:30 and a Ford Bronco drove past and they hollered all kinds of stuff and I was walking past a gas station across from the Tally Ho and I just walked up the street past the Tally Ho and kept on going and at the ally above the Tally Ho, by the wall where the school is, they jumped out and started to beat me up. The only thing that stopped them was another car wanted to turn into the Alley and was shining its headlights on them. They – the license plate to their Bronco was folded up in half and I did report it to the police and the police were not encouraging at all. If you got mugged outside the bar, or beaten up outside the car, your car was broken into or whatever, they didn’t want any parts of it. And if you were beaten up, the first thing they would say, “Well okay, your name’s gonna be published in the paper. So do you really want to press charges, do you want your name published in the paper.” And there were so many guys that were so deep in the closet with their family they didn’t want their name published in the paper, they would not press charges. And the police would not follow through, without them pressing charges. I think that’s probably changed today. Anyway I did follow through. I did press charges. I gave the police a description of the vehicle and when these guys went home they parked right on the corner of the block and their license plate was still folded in half. The Police knew they had the right vehicle. And they got ‘em. They got ‘em both. So I did press charges.

The other time, and I was not in drag that night. The other time I was in drag. I was actually cruising that intersection of Prince and Chestnut where the two loops inter-connected and a friend of mine, female, pulled over and I sat there and talked with her for a while, you know, you know, but I was still kind of cruising and she knew it and she didn't have any problem with it and she drove away and a pick up truck came up Chestnut street and they jumped out and my hair was very long at the time and they dragged me across the street by my hair. And started to beat on me and somebody came down Chestnut street and of course they dropped me and ran. I did go to the hospital that night. The gentleman who took care of me at – at the ER, his name was Jerry, he was very nice guy. One of the people who was outside of the little cubicle where I was in being treated because I kind of sort of was embarrassed to be undressing, you know I'm Miss Tina and I have to undress and, but Jerry had no issue with it. But somebody in the ER did, because I heard somebody say, "This thing in number," I guess I was number three or whatever, "This thing in number three had a history of mental illness," because they'd pulled up my records and my psychiatric stay was on my records. Through the years, many, many, many times for one reason or another I ended up in the ER. And not for being beaten up, but for, in fact in 2013 I went in with a heart attack and Jerry was my Nurse again. He was always my nurse. Seemed like every time I went in he was my nurse and when I worked at the Amico station for a while he was a regular customer every morning getting his pack of cigarettes on his way to work. So, we knew each other you know, from that and from me always being, you know I'd get into the – the ER with my heart attack and I'm coughing terribly as somebody says, "Well when did this cough start?" and I hear Jerry's voice behind me say, "It's always been." Cause he's known me for forty years, you know? And so yeah that, those were the only two times. I did have a guy come on to me at the Village Nightclub and bought me a drink and I chatted with him, but I said, "Look you know, I have to tell you," and he got very upset and, the cocktail waitress said, "What are you getting upset about? If you want to go out with him go out with him!" you know and he couldn't do that and he grabbed his friend and he shoved him out the front door of the Village and he punched the brick wall outside. Because he'd come on to a Drag Queen. He was attracted to a guy. And he couldn't deal with that. So I've only been assaulted twice? Both times I did follow through with the police department, the police department and the politicians in Lancaster City were not friendly. There was a group called Gays United of Lancaster. And it was started by a beautician by the name of Barry Weaver. And he had a house at the corner of Centerville Road and Marietta Avenue, now it's the cite of a CVS, but he started this little group, and it was Barry Weaver, myself, Bob Hess, Michael Bullmore, David Lease, Ray Stickles, Janet Cooper used to come up from Philadelphia all the time, and I think there was somebody else but I can't think of their name. And I've lost track of all of them, and Barry is dead. But we were the group, and we hung a banner out on Barry's front balcony that said, "June is Gay Pride Month" and the house was egged repeatedly, and damage was done to the house, and the police wouldn't do anything about it. We did as a group approach the mayor at the time and had a meeting, finally got a meeting with him, and we went in and we sat there and tried to talk to him and for twenty minutes he ignored us until his secretary came in and said that his next appointment was there, or he had a meeting or whatever it was, but anyway, it was obvious a cue for us to leave. The city police were the same way. The Lancaster Newspapers were the same way. The WGAL was the same way. They didn't want any parts of it. And the funny part of it is at the same time that this was starting, so this was in the like mid-70s, the women's movement, the National Organization of Women had sued Steinman Enterprises because they had a medium monopoly in Lancaster County, and National Organization of Women had won that suit. But through Barry, through

Janet, through these people, I went to my first gay pride parade in New York, I went to two of them. And Governor Shapp was the Governor of the time, and he issued an executive order, proclamation and the Gay community became very motivated at that point. And there was a meeting in Harrisburg, and Barry said, "I think Miss Tina ought to go." And I went "no" [drags the O out]- and Janet said, "Oh yeah that'd be great! Miss Tina's gotta go to that!" well they talked me into it and we drove to Harrisburg, I didn't know where this meeting was. The next thing I know we're walking into the capital building, "what the hell am I doing walking in the capital building dressed like this? I'm not sure this is such a good idea folks." You know. Well then we get to the door where we were going in and it says, in gold lettering on the frosted glass, it says 'Governor's Office', oh dear god what have I gotten myself into? What have I gotten myself into? So we go in and the secretary nods and points and we go over another frosted glass door it says 'Conference Room'. So we went in and there's a huge table and the table is packed, and all around the edge of the room are chairs that are all packed. There's two empty seats. One, two seats in from the door, and the others on the other side of the room. And Janet flopped into the one by the door. So I had to walk the whole way across the room and I'm dying thinking "What the hell am I doing here? This is crazy this is insane I shouldn't be here." And so I went over and I sat down and a little while later a guy came in that was all in leather and chains and the whole bit and the big topic of discussion that day was what to call this group. And somebody finally said, "Well, obviously we have a drag queen, and we have somebody in leather here, and perhaps it should be the Pennsylvania Commission for Sexual Minorities." And that's how it got its name. I did lobby for Gay Rights in Harrisburg. The only name that I really remember, other than Sam Deetz, who I saw his video on your site, was Tommy Avacoli from Philadelphia. And I have no idea what's ever happened to Tommy, but everything, everybody was super motivated at the time and we met with the legislators and I lobbied in drag. And one of the things that I think a lot of the gay people community held against me was I was the personification of what people think gay people are. Gay people can't be prison guards because they might get raped by the inmates. So it's for their protection that we don't let gays be prison guards. Gays shouldn't teach in schools because they're gonna wanna wear dresses to school, and we can't have our kids exposed to people wearing dresses. So I was the personification of what they felt was people's perception of the gay image. So that also created some issues with me, but eventually I was very well received by that group. I attended a lot of functions with them, there were a lot of meetings in Reading and Harrisburg, and you know Philadelphia and stuff that I went to and participated and I always went as Miss Tina, and I did develop, I think, a pretty good rapport with the group and I got a little bit of respect from, but you know I – I can testify to going into a state senator's, or state legislators office and listen to this, line of bull that they believed. It's – it's just mind boggling the stupid stuff that came out of their mouths. And I'm sure that even today when it comes to the Me Too movement and things like that they got the same stupid things coming out of their mouths. Very obvious with the Kavanaugh hearings it's the same stupid mentality. There's no rationalization to any of it. So I don't think that that has changed that much. But I did experience that first hand and I don't think most of them realized that I was a guy. Because I've always passed in public. I'm not a painted up drag queen, I strived for a very natural look. So I've always passed in public, and I don't think a lot of the legislators knew that I was a guy.

BL: So, after the Gays United Lancaster Group did you start doing your drag shows in the clubs at that point?

MT: [Nodding] Started doing my – my Drag Shows at the – in the bar. I did do one or two at Altland's, I didn't do any anywhere else in York. I never did any in Harrisburg or Reading. I did, of course in '78 I went to the Miss Gay America Pageant in Atlanta and I performed there. And I had a friend who lived in New Haven, Connecticut, and I went up and I participated in some shows in New Haven, Connecticut. And then after George barred the four Drag Queens from the bar, and we started our own little group we actually went to Atlantic City and they made arrangement for – for us to do some quick shows in Atlantic City at one of the Gay Clubs. And it made a nice day, we took a bus trip down, everybody went to the casinos, etc. etc. we did the Drag show in the evening which everybody came to, and then we all got on the bus and came home. So you know, I've also preformed in Atlantic City, New Haven, Connecticut, Atlanta, Georgia.

BL: And was there a name to the group?

MT: That was the Nous Cagelles. Because Ca-sha-four [ph] was big at the time and we couldn't come up with any kind of a name and I suggested that and that's what they went with. I also participated with Stars Fantasy. And the Nous Cagelles and Stars of Fantasy both did all of their shows for charity. And with the Nous Cagelles I think we raised about 10,000 dollars for charity. Stars of Fantasy was not put together as well as the Nous Cagelles were, and they probably raised five [thousand] in the course of all of their years. Outside of what we had raised for the bar owner. And that was really the issue when he threw us out of the bar. Look we make you money, and you're gonna treat us like this? And that's when I called everybody together and we started our own little group. So.

BL: And what charities did the groups raise money for?

MT: Lancaster AIDs Project was the first group that we did a project for. At the time AIDs was new, it was big. The churches, the other civic organizations did not want to be associated with the AIDs Project. The AIDs – AIDs project was started by Bob Kingston. And Bob is now deceased, but he's the one that started it. And my mother was actually their secretary, when it first started. And we did for Make a Wish foundation, and muscular-dystrophy. So we did for some pretty big organizations. And we actually for the Make a Wish foundation we had news coverage from WGAL, and so those, those were some of the things that we had done, charity wise.

BL: I think your mother had mentioned earlier that some of the organizations it was tough to get them to even agree to take your money. [Chuckles]

MT: Right it was, it was very tough to get some of the organizations to take our money because they associated gays and AIDs and they really didn't want to have anything to do with it. The AIDs project couldn't get funding or help from anybody, Lancaster General Hospital would not treat you if you were HIV positive, you had to go over to St. Joe's Hospital. You had to be treated by infectious disease specialists. And things like that. So it was very, very, very difficult and the AIDs project, I guess no longer exists now, its eventually developed into Alder. Alder Health Services. Out of Harrisburg. They had an office here in Lancaster for a while but they closed it. Apparently they just didn't have enough Gay community support here. But the AIDs Project was the beginning of that. Of course all of these programs develop through the years and they change their names. When I was child mom was a member of the Lancaster Association for

Brain Injured Children, it is now something completely and totally different, and that outfit wouldn't even know anything about Lancaster Association for Brain Injured Children, but it was all an off shoot and development of that. And that happens a lot. With all kinds of things, you know. And we were talking this morning at church about these testimonies that are video taped that need to be video taped for Gays, for Civil Rights people, for survivors of the Holocaust, you know things like that because today's kids don't know. And we don't want to lose, we can't afford to lose that history. And we need to remember people like Barry Weaver and Bob Kingston. That actually did something and got something going. If you would have told me when I was in my twenties, even in my thirties, I'm sixty-three now, even in my thirties, that it was, that getting married legally was a possibility I would have told you, you were out of your ever-loving tree. This would never happen in my lifetime. It would probably never happen in my nieces and nephews' lifetimes. Maybe in my great nieces and nephews' lifetime. And look where we are today. Its there. Its, we couldn't adopt, and gay people are adopting all the time. I had three dreams when I was in high school, as a teenager. Home of my own, a job that I could support myself in, and a partner. Well as a sixteen-year-old, from out in the country, out in the boonies, whose had nothing but one night stands, this partner thing's a little crazy. This, this doesn't happen. I've since learned that it does and there have people that have been together for decades. So it is a possibility, but now I can even get married. Unfortunately I have no prospects, but the home of my own has never come to be, and I've always spent my life working for minimum wage. And I think part of that was my sexuality. And I've had a lot of problems in the employment market, with my sexuality. I've had some supervisors who were real, you know, and I had – I had one who didn't like me one time, oh he hated me. Hated me. And I had emergency gallbladder surgery and when I got back, I went back to work I was told I no longer had a job. You know, so and I know that was because of my sexuality. I know it was. He was blatant about it. Very blatant about it. So my three dreams have never come true. Comme ci comme ça.

BL: Well do you want to talk a little bit more about your work history in terms of how you've been treated at various places because of your sexual orientation.

MT: Well, as a teenager, young adult, I worked in a couple of hotels and restaurants, I worked for one place where it was tour bus hell on the weekends. We'd have fifty tour busses in the lot and we just ran them through. We ran four buffets in the building, my buffet because I became a line runner, I was the person who kept the buffet stocked, and cleaned and my buffet was on the second floor. And I would tell them what I need down in the kitchen, and by the time I got down to the kitchen one of the other runners had taken it, so a lady I had worked with named Carol Anne, was wonderful, she would start collecting for me and putting on a cart and sending it up in the dumbwaiter and sometimes she'd even send me up in the dumbwaiter with the car because I could do that. I did work at the Tredway which is now the Eden Resort, as a busboy. The nickname for the Tredway at the time was Princess Palace. I wonder why? The guys that worked the front desk were gay, all the guys in the dining room were gay, you know, the guys over in convention services were gay, everybody was gay at Princess Palace! And then I did do convention services set up there, with a wonderful gentleman by the name of Lester Firn. And we'd finish up setting up for the banquet tomorrow and he would take me home and say, get dressed I'll pick you up an hour, hour and a half and I'd become Miss Tina and we'd go out to dinner and dancing. He was a wonderful friend at the time. So yeah that was my early years, well then, later on, in the mid-70s I worked at Olden Mills as an appointment secretary. Had an affair with the supervisor. And the day that I got back from Miss Gay America I had to go from the

airport basically straight to work. And at the end of the week, and I think I was two hours late, but they knew I was gonna be two hours late, at the end of the week we didn't punch a clock or anything, we filled out our time cards, you know, 12-9, 12-9, 12-9, 12-9,12-9, 9-5. And I put in 12-9 for Monday and I got fired for falsifying my time card. It was a mistake, you know? I mean 'cause we just did it every week, we did it at the end of the week, I forgot that I was two hours late, but I got fired for falsifying my time card and I think that had something to do with my relationship with him. Was interesting while I worked at Olden Mills, our photographer got married, everybody at the studio was invited to her wedding but me. Things like that sort of happened all along. I worked at The Host, had no issues there. I worked at a place called Armons [ph], no issues there. I really didn't have a lot of issues in the service industry. I've done a lot of customer service, the supervisor that I had that was so nasty, that was at Staples, office supply. And I really didn't have any issues there, I did get a little harassment. I worked as a cashier, nights, at a convenience store gas station. I had some rowdy neighborhood kids that always gave me a hard time. You know it was, I was on the, its shift change one night and there's a line up because I got to do all this report on the – on the register. And my replacement is in there and one of them is singing "Dude looks like a lady" you know and he's playing with himself, the girl that was relieving him, she tore into him up one side down the other for being so ignorant and so rude. And so I did have a little bit that way, but on the whole in the service industry I did not have a lot of issues and I didn't have a lot of issues with customers.

BL: and did you dress as Miss Tina when you were working or?

MT: Probably, yeah I always did it for Halloween.

BL: Okay, okay.

MT: And, in fact a couple years ago I did it for Halloween. Right now I'm on medical leave, but I work part time at a McDonalds and I did Miss Tina for Halloween, and got tons and tons and tons of compliments for weeks on my makeup. And my outfit. You know, so I've done it that way, you know. At my last real big job I was a general manager of a banquet facility in York and it was owned by eight people, sixteen had owned it, but eight was the number it was down to. They had no vision for it. I did they didn't and it was a cash cow to them, so I'd have a big banquet and there'd be nobody – there'd be nobody to pay anybody because the account had been drained as soon as the money was put in. And so there were some issues there. I was there six months before I got fired, you know because of my payroll being too high. I kept telling them, "look, I've gotta have people on the floor and I've gotta have people on the buffet. If I only had one set of people, and they're on the floor, the buffets not being taken care of, if they're on the buffet, the floors not being taken care of. The only thing I have to offer is service. I could seat 1000 people but I could only have 200 spoons, and you won't let me buy spoons". So the only thing I have to offer is service. They didn't get that and I got fired. C'est la vie. And then I bounced back and forth, I did work with a lady, we traveled all over the country, selling equestrian jewelry and gift items, went as far west as Oklahoma City and as far North as Frankford, Massachusetts. And I worked, bounced back and forth between here and Kentucky for a while, and kind of got out of the shows at that point and I came back to Pennsylvania, got my job at McDonalds, and within the year I had a heart attack that had major complications, five surgeries, five months. I was a mess for two years. It does helped the cleavage a little bit, I have a big scar, and then got sick last December, and finally in April, what – my mother insist that I go see a doctor, and my doctor couldn't see me, so they sent me to another branch of his practice,

another Doctor saw me, sent me to a Pulmonologist, Pulmonologist sent me to a Cardiologist, Cardiologist did a catheterization, beginning of May, and just about a month later I had another heart attack. And they put in four stents. Those four stents, I feel amazing. I want to get back into life. I want to get back into shows, I want to get back into these things. I want to make my statement. So I'm, I'm really grateful for the four stents.

BL: So, once the bar let you back in, did you – did you – did you continue to do shows?

MT: We continued to do our shows, but we did shows at the bar too.

BL: Mmhmm. Alright.

MT: And I think the reason was we hit him in the pocketbook. Which was our way of making a statement. You know my statements have always been low-key, I've never been a person to carry a placard, you know, be chanting, you know at the gay pride parades, you know it's fun to chant, you know "2-4-6-8, gay is just as good as straight! 3-5-7-9 lesbians are mighty fine!" all that kind of stuff. That's fine there, but that's not me. I would much prefer go to a meeting, or something that has something to do with the gay community, as Miss Tina. Because I think that statement is more powerful than the placard. When I went to the AIDs quilt and I went as Miss Tina to the opening ceremonies, and the place was jam-packed with highschool students, from every highschool stu- highschool in the county, cause at that time it was beginning to raise awareness, beginning to be a little more accepted, Franklin and Marshall sponsored the quilt, there were other corporate sponsors and things like that, I went Miss Tina. Just went as Miss Tina. And people came over to me and said, "I am so glad you're here. Because you show that we do exist here." And Miss Tina went to the memorial service, and Miss Tina went to the closing ceremonies. It was my statement and it does make an impact. You don't have to carry a Placard, you don't have to chant, you don't have to be violent. There are ways that you can do it and make an impact on the gay community and this is my way. This is my way. That's why, because most of my adult life, most of my involvement in the gay community, most of my experiences in the gay community, most, a lot of the experiences that I've had as an adult, have been as Miss Tina. And so for Bill to sit here and relate them to you I don't think it would be as powerful as Miss Tina sitting here relating them to you and I figured too that I'm probably the only Drag Queen you've interviewed so far.

BL: Not, not quite true.

MT: Not quite true? Alright. But I kinda of thought maybe that, you know, but that in itself is a statement.

BL: Yeah.

MT: You know that somebody's willing to be interviewed like this for posterity, for history. I'm never gonna be president of the United States, always thought I might make a nice first lady, but eh.

BL: You had mentioned earlier about your involvement in theater, maybe you could expand a little bit more on that and what sorts of things you did?

MT: Well when I was about twelve, I guess, Willow Street Sertoma Club did *The Clown that Ran Away* and I was the villain, Rudolf Buter Boo. I had a handlebar mustache and the whole thing, and I was quite the villain. And then this – the same lady that directed that was the director of the Lancaster Kiwanis’s production of *The King and I* which I rehearsed for for months. During that time that I was rehearsing for *The King and I* I was also growing like a bad weed and about a month before the show, they decided that I was just too tall to be an 11 year old boy, when the lady who played Mrs. Anna wore a size zero and was only about five foot tall and wore a big high hair do and had high heels all the time, and they dropped me from the cast. I was devastated. Alisha did offer me free acting lessons, which my father would not let me take. She said, “This boy is talented, I want to give him acting lessons.” And my father would not allow me do it, because they’d dropped me. And then I was in, at the, for the Kiwanis Club, I was a member of the chorus in *Applause* and I was Grover the Trained Dancing Bear in *Carnival*. And at the Fulton. In high school I was Squire Weston in *Tom Jones*, my daughter was the one that Tom was in love with and I was opposed to it. And I was the Sherriff in *Finnian’s Rainbow*. In Highschool. So those were my [makes air quotes with fingers] ‘legitimate’ stage experiences. I certainly consider my performances as Miss Tina legitimate and when I produce and direct a show, I always try and make it as professional as possible. You know, I don’t just want people standing up there, lip syncing with poor lighting and you know I’m very critique oriented. You know you’ve got all this light coming from up above and you’re wearing a wig, it shadows all this part of your face. You know I want some light down below to show that, you know so I – I’ve always tried to be very professional when I produced and directed, and I do consider them legitimate stage experiences, cause I’ve learned a lot.

BL: How do you think the theater experiences affected your performances with the drag?

MT: Oh absolutely, definitely. The theater performances and my interest in the theater has not only affected my performance in drag, but its been instrumental in the development of the persona and the character of Miss Tina. Looks wise I’ve always admired classy women. Anna that I lived with on Kings Street, my mother, my grandmother, Jackie Kennedy, Princess Grace, they’re class, it’s a class act, and that’s what I always striven for in my looks, in my carriage, in my demeanor. I’ve always tried to be approachable, friendly, you know, just a nice gracious person. Make people feel at home, [coughing in the background] making people feel welcome at the bar. Y’know there’s nothing worse than being a stranger and going into a gay bar. Or being a new drag queen. And going into a gay bar. Because you don’t know what the response is gonna be. And you don’t know what you really look like. You’ve looked at your self in the mirror, yes, but you don’t really know what you look like. You know, and that – and that – people, you know, and it happens with straight women, you see them all the time. This god awful makeup job, and they just think they’re gorgeous. They just think they’re gorgeous and drag queens are the same way. But your first time in drag in a gay bar, can be devastating to you because of the cattiness. It can be really devastating and it can stop you from doing it. If you’re not strong enough to say “the hell with you” gee I had to clean that up, “the hell with you. I’m gonna do it anyway.” Which is exactly what I did. But some people it – they quit and they may need it. That may be an outlet for them because when I – I started my make up this morning at six-thirty. I got done at eight-fifteen. Its very, very time consuming and it is an art to do it. And, so you put a lot into it. And you put a lot into it and you go to a bar, but that stroking myself, brushing myself with the brushes and – and things, that is good for my mental health too. Because I am quite literally stroking myself, and we all need to stoke our self in one way or another. So, maybe you

need that. And you do it and you go to the bar and you're in drag and you get shut down and shot down and you say "I'm never doing that again" and therefore you quit stroking yourself. What does that do for your mental health? Because you have to carry you first. You have to carry you first before you can make any kind of a political statement. You have to take care of you first, before you can achieve anything. And if you need to stroke yourself and putting on makeup is what's gonna do it for you, go for it, but unfortunately the reception is not always great in gay bars. And I think gay bars are kind of on the way out, I really do because it's so accepted now, so accepted now to go into a bar, with your boyfriend, or your girlfriend, nobody says anything, unless you really pick the wrong bar, you know, I certainly would not go in with my boyfriend to a biker bar, okay, but basically it's accepted and I think gay bars are kinda on the way out. They're losing their business because instead of driving to Lancaster, to the Tally Ho, they're going to go to the bar in Ephrata. You know, they're gonna go to the bar in – in Quarryville, so I think, I really think it's hurting the acceptance in the community now, the general community is hurting the gay bars.

BL: How large of a drag community has there been in Lancaster, you – you've done shows with other drag performers I guess so.

MT: I would say probably...maximum there's been about six at a time. Now that six rotates and I know sometimes they had a terrible time getting contests for Miss Tally Ho, and for a lot of the shows they bring in Miss Reading, Miss Harrisburg, Miss York, you know they bring them in to – to make the show longer because there are only three people. So, but I think on the average there's been about six active performing drag queens in town at a time.

BL: And you find that you socialize a lot with them or do you just-

MT: No, I do not.

BL: You do not?

MT: No. But that's because, me personally, I'm a very private person and I'm really not into socializing that much, I'm very good at it, I'm very good at socializing, I'm able to start a conversation with just about anybody at a party, you know, things like that but basically I prefer to stick to myself, and again this is another factor in the gay and the drag queen community, there's a lot of cattiness and back stabbing, and I don't want any parts of it. I'm not gonna be participating in it. I don't want any parts of it, and therefore, I'm gonna stay away from it. It has a tendency, as in any community there are cliques. There's always the... the – the Drag Queens are a clique, and the biker/leather guys are a clique, and then there's the Gucci crowd that are a little clique, and I was very fortunate in that I rotated and was accepted in all of the cliques, you know, I – you got four guys sitting there in leather, that are y'know best buddies, and they don't talk to me, y'know so I was very accepted that way, and sort of what on the peripheral of all the cliques, including the Drag Queen clique. I was on the peripheral edge of it. And that's kind of prefer – that's kinda where I prefer my orbit to be. Around the edges. Now I'll step in, I'll take a position, you know if it's – if it's a group like the Nous Cagelles where we actually had elected officers. I'll step in to be an officer. I don't mind doing that, but other than that just give me my little orbits on the edge, because when your orbit is on the edge you can go just about anywhere and do just about anything.

BL: [coughs] Maybe we can talk a little bit about you had said that you had had a lot of sort of shorter-term relationships with people, with men, were there any longer-term relationships you've had over the course of your life?

MT: Yes, there have been. There have been no long-term romantic relationships. They were all predominantly sexual. The love of my life I saw for – for 20 years. He died, he was sprayed with agent orange in Vietnam. And it ate away his liver. And in addition to that he was an IV drug user, and he was at the bottom of the list for a liver transplant. And was never gonna go up the list. And so he died back in the early 2000s, another guy that I know, I've known him for 37-38 years. Now he's ill, we no longer have a sexual relationship, but we are friends. And there were other guys that I saw for ten, twelve, fifteen years. We've sort of gone our separate ways, I don't even know where to find some of them anymore, you know, and unfortunately a part of that is I never really knew a last name. I might, but because they didn't want to run the risk of anything, they never said they were Mike Delorico or whatever you know, so I never had last names, I only knew them as first names. So I don't even know how to look them up on Facebook or something. So, but yeah, a lot – I had a lot of long term relationships that went on for years. And they were good relationships. I had guys that came over to see me with their kids that were infants in the strollers sleeping, you know, and I have friends that I know now that I've met all of their children and their children like me and their children always ask about me. But nobody knows that daddy and I are having a relationship. It's a little hard sometimes. Loneliness gets to be very intense sometimes.

BL: Let's see... How did, what kind of religious up-bringing did you have with your family of origin, was there – was it a strongly religious family or?

MT: Well, it wasn't – I wouldn't say it was strongly – strongly religious. My religious background is kind of eclectic. We were raised Lutheran. We had Catholic foster children, so we had to go to mass. We lived way out in the country, so we went to Methodist Bible school at the church up around the corner. And we had friends and classmates and stuff that were very involved in the Brethren in Christ Church. And today I go the Lancaster Metaphysical Chapel. I would say I'm more spiritual than religious. And occasionally I do go to Torah Study with my mother, at synagogue on Saturday mornings, especially since she's needs transportation and stuff like that. So my religious background, very eclectic. Very eclectic.

BL: That's interesting. And you – you weren't involved in the military at all, correct?

MT: No, I tried to join the Air Force when I was 26-27, and the doctor who had committed me to the psychiatric ward when I was 15 would not give me a clean bill of health. Now prior to him committing me, he'd never laid eyes on me. After I was released, he never laid eyes on me, and while I was in the hospital he never laid eyes on me, and yet he would not give me a clean bill of health. My application actually was approved by everybody and it went the whole way to the Air Force Surgeon General before it was denied and the reason it was denied was because this doctor would not give me a clean bill of health. I wanted to join the Air Force very badly. But no, no military.

BL: Hm. What, what was your interest in joining the Air Force, how did that come about?
[Coughs]

MT: Well, I just thought it had more opportunities, I'm not a water baby so the navy wasn't really my thing, the army was, and marines were more into the combat thing, and the air force is more supportive, and I felt there were things I could do and I knew that I could get an education through the Air Force and I knew I would be eligible for VA financing and things like that, that's why I needed it. That's why I wanted it because I was working minimum wage jobs, and I was not getting anywhere. You know there was never, ever enough money to make ends meet, and therefore I was constantly being evicted. I couldn't afford to pay the rent 'cause I wasn't making it. You know they say your rent is supposed to be 35% of your total income. [Sarcastic laugh] I don't know what their planet or what dreams those figures come from, it ain't happening today. It just ain't happening. You know looking at an apartment in Lancaster, I mean anything nice for much less than \$900. I make \$894 on disability.

BL: [Cough] Any other sort of organizational affiliations or whatever that we haven't touched on?

MT: No...

BL: [Cough] Excuse me.

MT: My mother's been very active in the community, I get volunteered for a lot of things. I like to volunteer and I have actually volunteered her for things. They say, you know, "Your mom there?" "No she's not" "Well I'm calling about the pasta buffet on the 18th and we need somebody to take tickets at the door." "Yeah she'll be there." You know I'll volunteer her to. But no there's really no other organizational thingy's, I'm peripheral Kiwanis, I'm peripheral Mental Health America, you know I'm peripheral, that's kind of the way my life is, peripheral.

BL: Okay. Can you think of anything else, that I might have missed?

AF: I have two questions.

MT: Okay.

AF: One you mentioned that you know when you did your first drag show your grandmother and the woman that you lived with and your sister came, and that your mother has been involved throughout your life, did you – was there ever a time when you first came out, was it difficult to do so with the family or was it always like a supportive environment?

MT: Well, I never came out. I was never in. I never had the luxury of a closet. And my family was supportive there were issues, the – the one of the big jokes in the family was, my grandmother lives in Niagara Falls, NY, she had an apartment above her apartment, and Grandma was getting desperate, she started to show the apartment to straight people, you know, because all of her tenants were gay. My father has been to some shows, my father's now deceased. We did not have a good relationship, but my sexuality had nothing to do with that. In fact a funny story is, I had, it was Christmas eve, and I had a hot date, with the love of my life, and I was down at – at the bar, they were having a party upstairs, and I worked upstairs, in the loft, and they were having this party, and I was in Drag, I was Miss Tina, I was all gussied up, evening gown and everything, and a couple of things happened that night. The dress that I had on had a little cape to it, a chiffon cape, and I realized that I was late, for my date. And I ran though the bar, and this old Queen, I called him Mumsy, and he sat next to an old woman named

Gladius, and they were there every Friday and Saturday night, they were there most nights of the week. But Mumsy was this real old queen. And he looked at Gladius and he said “Tell me fairies don’t fly” with this thing billowing out behind me. So I went out and, Barry picked me up and we went out, and did our thing and he took me down to my Parents, in Conistoke, because my gifts were there, you know, my – I had clothes down there, everything was there, he just took me down there when we were done. And my grandmother was still up, it’s like two-thirty in the morning, grandma was a night owl. Its like two-thirty in the morning and she’s still up. So I go in and I sit down, you know, on the couch and she’s sitting on – in the chair. And I take off my earrings and I put them on the end table, take off my necklace and put it on the end table and everything and eventually I went to bed, took off my makeup and went to bed. Well, the way our house was set up, when you came out of the master bedroom there was a little hallway that went past the bathroom, and the other two bedrooms into the family room. And the first piece of furniture in the family room was the end table, that I had put my jewelry on. And my father walked over and he picked up this glittery rhinestone necklace and he held it up and he said, “Well, I see my son is home.” So, they’ve been very supportive. And my brother and I don’t really talk about it. My sister went with me to Georgia, mom has helped with sewing, she’s helped with the different groups that I’ve been involved in, she’s come to shows, you know, she’s helped in C-shows, things like that. My step father was involved. He was 23 years older than she was, but he was involved with the AIDs project, and he came to some shows. So, all in all even my step-mother had came to a show. She was not my step mother at the time she was my mother’s best friend, but she came to a show, so yeah I mean. They’ve been very supportive.

BL: That’s good.

MT: Tell ya, the people who were not supportive were the Lancaster City Police. I lived in the four hundred block of East King Street and it was about a six block walk from my house to the bar, and vice versa. I cannot tell you how many times I was arrested for something, held, and not charged. I went to a Queen of Hearts ball at Altland’s Ranch in York, and I had on a white chiffon evening gown, very tight, beaded bodice, and it had long chiffon sleeves, and I had sprained my wrist, so this hand is all bandaged in an ace bandage, which wasn’t really noticeable with the long sleeves and stuff, so I left the Tally Ho and I walked up to Queen’s street, walked up Queen to King and I started walking up King and as I’m passing the old court house I see this figure in the next block, run across the street and throw something and I hear glass break and an alarm goes off. Well sirens start coming down Orange street and lights, or Duke street and around the corner to this place and up King Street to this place. I just kept on walking. I was arrested for breaking and entering. They handcuffed me, now it had snowed, it was sloppy out, it was real sloppy out. It had snowed, the back of the police cruiser was like a mud bath, and they hand cuffed me and threw me in the back of the cruiser, ruined the dress and said, “Oh they found some – some fluid at the scene. They thought maybe that was semen. It had to go to the lab to be tested” You’ve all driven past me, a block away. I’m wearing white chiffon, is this the chosen outfit for breaking and entering. It does – didn’t make any sense, and they took me to the police station, and now they’ve got a dilemma. They can’t put me in the cell with the women because I’m a man. They can put me in the cell with the men, because I’m dressed like a woman. So now what do they do? Well I spent the night hand-cuffed to a filing cabinet. And was released about 8:30 the next morning. But I was never charged. There were so- I came home from, again, York one night, my land lady was in the hospital, and we pulled up to the house, and every light in the house was on. It was a big house. Every light was on. And so, the person dropped me off.

They just dropped me off and left and as I approached the house I realized that the front door to the vestibule and the inner door were both ajar. And I thought, I am not going in there. So I went across the street to the pay phone and I called 911, and the Police came and there was this big Black man in there. He had eaten almost everything out of the refrigerator, he had strewn cheese curls from one end of the apartment to the other, her apartment to the other, and was sitting there watching TV. And he told the police that he picked me up downtown and they would not press charges, even though I told them, "I just came back from York! I have witnesses that I just came back from York." They would not charge him. Absa-possibly [ph] would not charge him. I was going home one night and my hair was long like I said, and all of a sudden, my head was jerked back, cause somebody had grabbed a hold of my hair, and I had a knife [gestures to having a knife at her throat] and he dragged me back in between the buildings, and he was gonna rape me, that was the intent, and I decided, I – I can do this, and so okay y'know I'll go along with it, you know, but I have a lot to take off, etc.. Etc.. and he dropped his pants, and as soon as his pants were down around his ankles I pushed him over and ran like hell. And I called the police and reported it. Just so they would know that somebody was out there. Nothing ever happened, except for the article in the newspaper about female attired male repulses attacker. So the Lancaster City Police were certainly not supportive, they were very harassing. If you got beat up outside the bar, forget it. We had a whole parking lot of cars that were broken into one night, and – and ransacked. They wouldn't come. They would not come. And there was speculation, I think it might have been pretty well-founded speculation, but at times, you would see an unmarked car in that parking lot taking down license plate numbers. So there was a list somewhere. Somebody had some kind of a list going as to who was going to the Tally Ho. And they were a major problem. They were more of a problem for me than being assaulted was. [Pause] It was a different world then. Very different.

BL: Is there any thing else that you can think of that we didn't cover that you wanted to add?

MT: No. I just think it is important to remember the people that were active in the area, Barry Weaver, Buck Kingston, they're dead. There's nobody there to sing their praises. Keep their mind, keep their name alive, in the community, and they were so active in it. And I know they're others, they're others that were deceased from every community, every gay community that were active, that are not around anymore and its important that there be a record of them and what they stood for. And the things that they went through. I mean I saw Barry Weaver, like I said he was a hair dresser, I saw him throw women out of his shop with their hair half done. Because they were coming down on him for being gay. "You don't like the fact that I'm gay?" He'd yank those rollers out and go, "get out of my shop." I don't think that was right, but I saw him do it. And his actions – his actions, his activities, Bob's activities, they all need to be documented and remembered. The Pennsylvania Commission for Sexual Minorities doesn't exist anymore and like I said, I have no idea what happened to those people that were involved in it. And there were probably a hundred, the only name I remember was Tommy Avicoli. Out of Philadelphia. And Janet Cooper, she was a professor at Shippensburg. And Barry and Bob and Sandy Deetz, and the members of our little group, and a gentleman by the name of Kevin Smith, from Erie. He lived in Reading at the time, but his name was Kevin Smith. And those – those people are the ones that need to be remembered. Because they all gave. They gave. And that I think is one of the reasons I wanted to do this. Was because there does need to be a record of them. And their activity, their involvement, and their contribution, because kids today have no clue. And its important that all of these testimonials from the Gay movement, the Black

movement, the Holocaust, anything like that, be preserved. These testimonials be taken, and be preserved. Cause that's our history. Of us, not only as Gay people, but of our nation, and our world. So I think that's important.

BL: Well said. [Chuckles] Alright. We want to thank you so much for the interview and we are definitely appreciative of your participation in our history project.

MT: Well thank you very much for having me. As part of your history project. I do think its important. Wish I had a car to be a little more active in things like that but, it is what it is right now. But at least this way I could give something, so.

BL: Yes, definitely. Alright so thank you.

MT: So thank you for having me, and inviting me and agreeing to do it.

BL: Great, alright good job.

[Video end]