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Contact:

Archives & Special Collections
Waidner-Spahr Library
Dickinson College
P.O. Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

Interviewee: Harry Long

Interviewer: Liam Fuller

Date: August 6, 2017

Place: Lebanon, Pennsylvania

Transcriber: Emily Scheiber

Proofreader: Lillian Sweeney

Abstract:

Harry Long was born in Lebanon, Pennsylvania in 1951 and attended Lebanon High School. After attending Millville University and becoming involved with an underground newspaper, Harry began his career of working for newspapers; in addition to doing freelance artwork. In the early 1980s, Harry came out publically as gay. In this interview, he discusses the struggles and joys of his experience affected by his sexuality, throughout his careers. Growing up in a fairly traditional family, it was a “long time coming” to be open about his sexuality to his parents. He discusses the challenges he faced in building up several successful newspapers and the relationships he made being a part of several gay rights organizations. Harry elaborates upon the importance of close friends and navigating through different jobs to find how one can be most accommodating in society. In this interview, Harry also touches on his experiences of being involved in politics and the changes (and similarities) that he has witnessed in Lebanon, Pennsylvania over the years.

LF: Okay. So, hello. I am here. My name is Liam Fuller. I am with the Central PA [Pennsylvania] LGBT [Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender] History Project. And we are going to be conducting an interview today with Harry. And today is the 6th of August, I believe? [HL: Yes. I believe. I believe it is the 5th or 6th I lost track this week] [Laughs] [HL: Laughs]. Yeah, it is hard. And then, we are in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. And yeah, I think that is all of the general information we need for the transcriber. So, the first question we like to ask is, can you tell me your name and then spell it out for me?

HL: It is Harry Long. H-A-R-R-Y L-O-N-G.

LF: Okay. And then we are going to start at the beginning of your life and can you... [Barry Loveland: Well, first of all, you are going to want to make sure we have permission to...] Oh, yeah. [HL: Oh, absolutely yeah. You are here] [Laughs] [BL: Laughs] [HL: Laughs]. Okay, true. So, let us start with your family origin [HL: Oh my] and say your early childhood development, if you can walk me through that?

HL: Wow. [BL: When and where you born, first of all?] Okay, born here in Lebanon in 1951. Yes, the latter half of the last century. Parents were, I do not know, I guess you would say the usual people of this area. My mother was Scotts-Irish and a supes ton (ph) of Swiss. She grew up on a farm to the north of here, which her father acquired during the Great Depression probably as part of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt New Deal project [LF: Mmhmm]. He had run a gas station here in town. And when the economy tanked, so did the gas station. He ended up on the farm. That is where she grew up. I do not know exactly how she met my father. I believe in school. They were in the same class at Lebanon High School. He went off in World War II, served in the Army as a medical tech or assistant kind of thing. They did not call them MASH [Mobile Army Surgical Hospital] units in those days, but that is what [LF: Mmhmm] he was assigned with. And they went—they started out in Africa and went through Italy, following the conquest. And summer around here, I did salvage from my house fire, a scrapbook of all sorts of wonderful postcards from [laughs] Northern Africa and Italy [LF: Mmhmm]. They married after the war and he bought a house on Church Street from his grandmother, which was built in 1860. All of this is pretty extraneous information [laughs] [LF: Laughs], but I had a fairly normal childhood, I suppose until, I would say, probably junior high. And that is when things got very complicated for me. I had been drawing since I was a kid [LF: Mmhmm] and I developed a more—a deeper interest in art at that point. I also kind of stumbled into theatre through some student performances at the junior high school, which was Henry Halk (ph), at the time. Also, started writing and doing artwork for the student newspaper. And all of these things kind of converge and explain some left-hand turns in my life later on. I suppose the beginning of my kind of left-wing political interest began in high school. Fell in with a Jewish crowd, became Jewish by osmosis. But, it was a whole different side of intellectual curiosity that I had not been exposed to before. Paired up with one of those guys, a guy named Phil Clarke (ph). And in junior year, we wrote a satire of Macbeth, which used the school teachers as characters in the play [LF: Mmhmm]. Having gotten away with that bit of transgression, in senior year we started what was Lebanon High School's first and as far as I know to this date, only underground newspaper, which caused a huge tizzy. And it was not—it was slightly political, but it was a more humor kind of magazine than anything else. But, apparently, it caused enough of a tizzy that talk was afoot about expelling Phil and me [LF: Mmhmm] and our other cohort Jimmy Shafer (ph). So, we are starting to see the political side [laughs], okay, married to the art and writing. Spent a year off between high school and college working as a bookmobile librarian. And somehow, I really do not remember exactly how this came about, but I became editor of Lebanon's underground—first and I believe still only [laughs], underground newspaper called Stentorium (ph). That did not last long because the publisher was not very good at getting ad sales for it, which is kind of understandable. We are, still, in a heavily Republican area [LF: Mmhmm]. But, there is another kind of nail in the coffin of artwork, journalism, and I was still doing theatre, okay. So, then I attended Millersville College; took a journalism class and worked on the school newspaper as well as getting involved in the Two Cent Plain dealer, which was Millersville College's—it is a university now of course I should remember that, underground newspaper. And that—my

involvement there did not last all of that terribly long because in hindsight—I mean at the time, I felt very out of the class with the people who were running it. I mean, when you are hearing—when you are 20 or 21 and hearing Kant and Prayle (ph) being throw around, it is like whoa. I—looking back, I think they were just intellectually pretentious. But, through the woman I rented a room from, I got involved in the Lancaster Independent Press, or LIP; again, doing artwork and eventually doing some writing. And this led to my first exposure with Gays United Lancaster. Mark Segal, who is currently the publisher of the *Philadelphia Gay News*, although at that time he was kind of just a freelance activist, was going to come to town and talk with the members of Gays United Lancaster. Now, I do not remember if I asked for the assignment or the editors assigned me, even though perhaps I was even though I was not out at the time, they had a suspicion [laughs] of what was going on. They asked to attend the meeting and just kind of cover it and talk to Mark a little bit, which I did. And that really was when I came out. I understand that there was much discussion after my first attendance at the meeting. It was like, “is he? Is not he? Do you think?” [BL: Laughs] because at that time, I was not out. I was not going to the bars. You know, they did not know me at all. But, I became involved in the group and the decision was somehow made within the group, which was run by this [laughs] wonderfully crazy guy named Barry Weaver (ph) no longer with us; I believe, another victim of AIDS [Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome]. To take their newsletter, which was a little mimeograph thing, and turn it into a publication that would be—that would go out for a broader audience, that would be sold in the bookstores; which, in Lancaster [Pennsylvania], excuse me, would have meant the adult bookstores. And because I have had some graphic experience, I volunteered to do the design, layout, et cetera. And after a period of time, I do not remember how long, whoever it was who was editing and I have completely forgotten that—whoever was editing decided to withdraw and somehow [laughs] or another, I became the new editor. And that went on for five years, until about 1980. I am not remembering a whole lot of specifics about that and that is because during that period, I was still sometimes writing for LIP; I was also pursuing theatre; I was trying to establish myself as a freelance graphic artist/illustrator. So, my life was very busy. I—the thing that I do remember about the publication, which I believe David Lees (ph), who you have interviewed, was a publisher and a very good publisher by the way, very good at getting ads, very good at getting distribution. We got into Giovanni’s Room in Philadelphia [Pennsylvania]. Is that still around? [Mmhmm]. Oh, great place. And yes, I know it is still there. I was there not that long ago with friends who live in Philadelphia. Probably the Oscar Wilde in New York and other places; but, bookstores within Pennsylvania. So, he managed that very, very—did a very good job at that. I do remember one problem we had was keeping printers [LF: Mmhmm]. We would get an issue or two with the new printer and then some lady would be like, “oh, our staff is really uncomfortable doing this. We will have to ask you to go somewhere else.” So, we changed printers frequently [LF: Mmhmm] until David and his lover, Marlin, who ran the Railroad House in Marietta [Georgia] bought an offset printer from MCC. Do not ask me why they wanted to get rid of it, but they did. And then, that was only capable of doing 8.5” by 11” sheets, you know, standard letter size. So, we did still ship out the cover, which was wrapped

around it. And then had stapling parties [laughs], where we assembled the damn thing and got it ready to go. So, somewhere around 1980 I believe—no would have been 1979, and I should back up here a little bit. In 1972/3, which was when I interviewed Mark and came out of the closet, I have been—it has been pointed out to me very recently by my housemate that that was an incredibly brave thing to do in this rural area, to be publically out because among other things, with the *Gay Era* publication; I insisted that all of the writers use their own names. I mean, if it was going to be a publication about gay liberation, you did not hide behind a phony name. The only phony name on it—well there were two, I think; one was Sadie, who was our supposed advice columnist, which was definitely a humor article. It was not real advice coming. It was these outrageous questions to which preposterous answers was posed; and it was nuts. And I believe that was probably a group effort, but it was bylined by Sadie. And at times, I may have used the name Bob Powell, so it did not look like I was writing every damn article in the paper. Oh, and I also remember, because Dave Lees (ph) mentioned me at one point when we were both involved in what became the Gay—oh, my mind, the business group. [LF: Chamber of Commerce?] Chamber of Commerce, yeah. We became affiliated with the Chamber of Commerce. He said, you know—he was saying, you know, ‘we ought to go back and start another publication, but, it should be a humor magazine’ because that is always what we did best was humor. And we also raised a little bit of ire from time to time. David came up with this insane idea that he would take the text from some other local publication about how to train your dog, use the text precisely, but re-title it, “How to Train Your Lover” [laughs]. And he and I got up in leather gear and Barry photographed us because Barry was a very good photographer; and did this article, “How to Train Your Lover,” complete with you know masks and leather and like a leash [laughs]. So, we did some kind of nuts things, in addition to the news coverage and so forth. And so, I do remember that. Around 1979, professionally, I became involved as a public relations person for a theatre company club called, the Independent Eye, run by Conrad and Linda Bishop. And that started out as just a two-person theatre company, just the husband and wife [LF: Mmhmm] performing plays, obviously. And through them, we got wind of what I believe was possibly the first gay theatre festival in Philadelphia. And I do not know if it was Joe that got the bug up his butt or me saying, “You know, the Bishops cannot do anything here because they do not have the material; but, why do we not come up with some material? We will just sit around. We will improvise. We will type it up. We will do it, which we did. And to somewhat surprising success, this was done on such a short schedule. We did not have time to memorize our lines, so we both had scripts, reading the material basically. And the crowd just loved and I was like, ‘hmm maybe we should try continuing with this.’” And we did so for about two years. The farthest of field we traveled was Spokane [Washington] and Seattle [Washington] [LF: Mmhmm]. We did one stop [laughs] in between in Bloomington, Illinois, but mostly, our beat was Philly [Philadelphia], Pittsburgh [Pennsylvania], Baltimore [Maryland], and D.C [District of Columbia]. And ultimately, we could not of it financially because the bars which could pay, never quite set things up right in advance. I mean, you have a crowd that has been discoing and drinking and suddenly the music stops; and then, we are supposed to go on and you

know, a lot of people were not necessarily happy that their festivities were being interrupted [background whispering]. The gay community centers, which were a good venue, generally could not afford to pay our fees. You know, we would do the performance and at the end, they would say, “we did not take in enough at the door. Will you take blah blah blah?” And of course, being the soft-hearted people we were, was always like, “okay, right.” But, financially, we were just dying, so that ended. That also ended my involvement in any kind of gay politics for a while. I have been doing a monologue here, have not I? [LF: Laughs] [Laughs]. And at the time, I was kind of glad I was no longer editing the *Gay Era*; and no longer doing the theatre because AIDS had come about [LF: Mmhmm] and I was thinking, “God, how would I handle this? How do you...” The Culture Shock, which was the name of the theatre company; the Culture Shock material was primarily humorous. It was satirical, social stuff, where we would look at various things. We had one or two serious pieces, but mostly it was comedic. And how are you funny about AIDS, especially at the beginning when it was so overwhelming? And even though at that point I do not think I had lost anyone I knew, it was still like [blows air]... As a journalist, maybe I could have handled it. But, everything was so up in the air; like what causes it? What does not cause it? What—where does it come from? Jeez, did we really even know much until Randy Shilts’s book? But, that ended some involvement for a while. I continued doing theatre. I kind of maneuvered around trying to, again [laughs], still trying to establish myself as a freelance graphic artist illustrator. I did, however, this would have been around ’81, heard about a gallery in New York called the Hibs Gallery (sp?), a gay gallery. And I sent the guy some samples and since I was kind of primarily unknown, he decided to put me in a group show rather than a whole show of my own. And [clears throat] when I took the material—the illustrations up to New York, I also made an appointment with *Mandate Magazine* [laughs] to show their stuff to their editor and—or my stuff rather to the editor and he liked it well enough that he had it all sent over to the art department. They photographed it for use and that kind of started me on oh, about a 17 year career of doing illustrations for gay skin magazines. Let us see, worked for *Mandate* and all of their little offshoots, *Playguy*... I forget how—the publisher—they just kept acquiring more and more titles; even bought out publications from other companies, like *Stallion*, which was originally a Charleston [South Carolina] publication; *Torso*, which I am blanking on the name of the publisher there, but he had originally done *Blue Boy* back in the day. [Points to LF] you are not old enough to remember, [Points to BL] you might be [laughs]; and also for the first hand group of magazines. And unfortunately, doing gay skin illustration does not pay particularly well, so I started referring to myself as being independently unemployed. I was also during this period of time, trying to get more mainstream stuff, primarily because it pays better. I did not have any problem doing drawings of naked men [laughs], quite enjoyed it actually. And things just did not quite pan out; so in ’97, I took a job in the pre-press department with the *Eleven Daily News*. Initially, what I was doing was in the back with the camera they used because they had not gone digital yet; even at that point in ’97, they had not gone digital. So, the pages were you know full-sized, pasted up. It came back to me; I slapped them on this bed of a camera that well, looked like King Kong’s polaroid, because it was built into the wall and it had the bellows

coming out to the lens; and I put it on the bed and flipped the bed, which weighed a ton, over and photographed the page, went into the dark room, pulled the negative out and fed it in the processor, and ran the negative over to the plating department. And that went on for about six months. I figured it was a temporary assignment. Okay, I can pay off some bills here [laughs] and get back to the freelance artwork. And eventually, I (_____???) by a man named Andy Mick (sp?), a lovely, lovely man. He said, “oh, no. The position is temporary. You are not.” So, as they transitioned, I got moved out, sat down at the computer, and without any training, started doing Photoshop work. Luckily, there were a few other people in the department that knew what the hell Photoshop was because I was like “uhhh, okay put it here in the scanner. Oh, that button. Okay.” The whole... and then what? Because you—once you have scanned it [clears throat], you have got to quote on quote “balance it” in a specific way to work on news print. So, anyways, kind of trained myself on that or you know, had help. And eventually was also doing the Internet downloads because as technology progress—the comics were not coming in on a printed page, which we then, you know, photographed or scanned. No, they were online; and I would download them and file them accordingly, and some other things. I learned a hell of a lot about computers there. In fact, at one point, one of the women in the department went in for knee surgery; and I ended up doing her tasks, which was what they called the aglet page of sports, which is that page of all the scores, in like type, you know, get your magnifying glass out. So, learned a lot about computer programs, learned about how to work on the computer. Also during that time, I started doing some freelance writing for the newspaper; initially, just reviewing CDs [compact disc] of classical music. That led to the editor of the lifestyle section asking me if I would start doing interviews with composers and performers, who were performing music at Gretna. Now, the fact is that I loved classical music; I loved jazz; I’ve had no musical education, so it was strictly what I liked, so... Basically, I ended up doing these interviews because even though I did not know any more than anyone else in the department, I was the only one that had at least enough basic knowledge [laughs] to do these interviews [LF: Mmhmm] and articles. That also led—this is getting interesting, isn’t it? [Laughs]. That also led to me deciding to start reviewing film scores for—out of a publication company called Film Score Monthly. That—well even before that, I did some film score reviewing for Cross Roads. Eric Selvy’s (ph) Magazine, do you remember that? [Mmhmm]. Whatever happened to Eric anyway? [BL: He is still there]. He is still there; but of course, Cross Roads is not [BL: Right]. It has always baffled me, particularly after running the *Gay Era* out of Lancaster for five/six years or whatever it was, that Harrisburg [Pennsylvania] has never been able to sustain its own gay publication or even its own community magazine. As far I know, I think it is like every five to ten years, a new one pops up and then it is around for a few years and then it disappears [BL: Mmhmm]. *Lancaster Independent Press* even had a sort of sister publication called HIP, or *Harrisburg Independent Press*. That is—that did not outlast *Lancaster Independent Press*. Anyway, first for Cross Roads, then for Film Score Monthly. I ended up with a monthly column in a publication called—a moving publication called *Classic Images*. That ran for at least three years. And I also started doing other articles and reviews for other classic film publications, *Scarlett Street*, *Film Fax*,

Video Watchdog, I believe that is it. And then, *Scarlett Street*'s editor died from pancreatic cancer and everyone was going on, how do we continue? How do we continue? And Richard left a lot of [sighs] tangled finances behind. And we were told—we had the legal advice that if we continued *Scarlett Street*, we would incur all of his debts. And he used a very expensive printer for what my research layers showed. So, I ended up editing something called *Scarlett the Film Magazine*, which was to continue that. And now we get back into—meanwhile, I had been with the gay Chamber of Commerce people and done some work with fundraising there, was involved with the first FAB [?] dinner. Is FAB still going on? Designed their first logo, and some other things up there. And so now that we have kind of veered back in, by the fourth issue of *Scarlett Street*, now Richard was openly gay, the magazine had a kind of gay slant, but—of course, with me [laughs], it still had a kind of gay slant. We did what I think is historically the first time a magazine devoted to, primarily, classic horror films but classic films in general, did what I called an issue devoted to the horror that dare not speak its name. The entire issue had some kind of gay content. We did an article—I wrote an article on a performer, Ernest Thesiger, best remembered as the crazy doctor in the *Bride of Frankenstein*, a very swishy, crazy doctor; put him on the cover in this giant pink Q and... We were told it was suicide to do that. I think our subscriptions did fall off a little, but there it was. As far as I know, the first time any classic magazine devoted any issue strictly to gay film—gay horror films, gay performers, and so forth. And currently, after the house fire, I lost all of my DVDs [digital optical disc], which ran into the thousands. I do not like to think about how many [laughs] thousands of DVDs it was, and my film reference books. So, I was not quite sure I could continue. My writing these days is—well, it started from the *Daily News* doing DVD reviews. The current owners of the *Daily News*, which is Ganite (ph), have decided that reviews of any kind underperformed are gone and now it is a blog called, “Long’s Short Takes” on *WordPress*. Oh, I am getting tangled in my cord here. And I am also, currently, one of the collaborators on a book on 1940s universal horror movies [LF: Mmhmm]. Same group of people that I was involved with brought out a massive two-volume and I would say, definitive look, at silent U.S. horror films from McFarland. So, that brings us up to date I think [laughs]. So, and currently, another left turn in my life, my real job is as a social worker. Where did that come from? [Laughs]. Just sort of happened. And if you want to have any questions about that, go ahead [LF: Laughs].

LF: [Clears throat]. So, dialing back a little bit [HL: Mmhmm] [HL: Lights cigarette], what drew you to writing for alternative publications? What was sort of missing in mainstream publications that you worked for?

HL: Well, what was missing was generally, they were not running the kind of things I was interested in writing about [LF: Coughs]. I figure it was also a little bit of intimidation [LF: Mmhmm]. It is like oh, I am just this little guy from Lebanon; oh, I cannot write for the local newspaper. I did not write for the *Daily News* until, you know, 1998 or so, and I grew up with the dang thing [laughs]. I never saw myself as perhaps having enough background or whatever, to fit in there. So, it started out with the alternative. You know, obviously when we are talking

Film Score Monthly and *Film Fax*, these are sold in newsstands everywhere, Barnes and Noble, and so forth. So, I guess you would call them mainstream [LF: Mmhmm]. Although, it is still kind of a fringe audience [LF: Yeah]. But, I think intimidation played a big part of it. Yeah, I have always been insecure [LF: Mmhmm].

LF: And then... So, you mentioned the fact that [HL: Smokes cigarette] a lot of these publications were in adult bookstores [HL: Mmhmm]. Sort of why—I mean, we kind of know why they were in adult bookstores [HL: Laughs], but I guess sort of why do you think [HL: Are you talking about the *Gay Era*, for instance?] Yeah, the *Gay Era*, like the legality issues and...

HL: Well, the *Gay Era* was never adult content really [LF: Yeah]. But, you know, we are talking 1973-1980 period. The local newsstands in Lancaster were not going to take it [LF: Mmhmm]. There were no gay or even feminist bookstores in Lancaster [LF: Mmhmm]. I think, one was established later; it would have been in the early '80s and its window was broken frequently by stones and bricks [LF: Mmhmm], so... It was just a feminist news [LF: Yeah]. It was run by lesbians, which I guess—but, in a word got up, but it was identified as a feminist bookstore [LF: Mmhmm]. So, we got into—we were able to get into the adult bookstores, where there were feminist or gay bookstores, because there was a feminist bookstore in Reading [Pennsylvania]; do not know if it is still around. They sold us and even they helped support us by taking out advertising [LF: Yeah], so that is who would take the publication at the time [LF: Mmhmm]. These days, I could probably get it into the newsstand up here at 9th and Chestnut [laughs], here in town, you know [LF: Yeah]. It would probably be part of the big mix of stuff they have.

LF: Yeah. [HL: Smokes cigarette]. And then, what sort of drew you to classical music? I am interested because [HL: Oh] I enjoy classical music, as well [laughs].

HL: [Shouting in background]. Oh, well my dad hated it. My mom loved it [LF: Mmhmm]. So, there were very few recordings around. I think the only classical recording I can recall being in our house was, when you think about it, a very strange compilation, one side was the *Nutcracker Suite* and on the other side was *Ravel's Bolero and La Valse* [LF: Laughs] [laughs]. It is like, okay [laughs] where did this combination come from? But in—at Millersville University, I roomed with a guy who was big on classical music. And I started being introduced to various things [LF: Mmhmm]. And oh, I like that; and slowly started, you know, buying things myself and typical, sometimes blind purchases. Sometimes, it was like stuff I heard him play [LF: Mmhmm]. I was like, “okay yeah. I want a copy of that myself.” And sometimes, I would just go through the racks and go, “ooh, this is an interesting cover” [laughs] [LF: Laughs] or “ooh, organ. Yeah, let us try that.” So, stumbled across a lot of stuff on my own. And in fact, I ended up introducing him to various things [laughs] over the years.

LF: Mmhmm. And then, did you interview any sort of hardheaded at that time?

HL: I would say the biggest name I interviewed—I interviewed a lot of people from the Philadelphia Orchestra [LF: Mmhmm] that would do like their own little string quartet or

chamber music in place of Gretna—the biggest name I snagged in terms of the interview was—would have been Chris Brubeck (ph), David’s son. And I had a wonderfully crazed interview. We kept going off topic. We must have at least—at one point, I think we spent 15 minutes on Stanley Kubrick and *Eyes Wide Shut*. So, he was willing to go the limit with me [laughs]. Bless him. And it turned out to be a really good interview, even though the stuff about Kubrick did not make it into the paper [LF: Yeah] [LF: Laughs].

LF: So then—so, was that some sort of festival music at Gretna?

HL: Yeah. It is an annual summer—well they—it is summer in Shitawqua Building. They do, I think, four concerts a year in the auditorium at Elizabethtown College [LF: Mmhmm]. Oh, and speaking of performances, one thing I forgot to mention about Culture Shock, there was I think, again, it was the first huge rally in D.C. and we were asked to perform. And so there we are. The stage is set up and directly across the way is the Washington Monument, jutting up into the sky, which of course, enlisted any number of large penis jokes from various performers. But, the most interesting thing there is that after the performance, Frank Canady (ph) and Barbara Gittings came up and introduced themselves to us, which was so cool [LF: Laughs]. And I actually maintained a bit of a correspondence with Frank [LF: Mmhmm] for a few years after that too.

LF: Oh, awesome.

BL: Was that the 1987 March on Washington?

HL: No, because as I said, culture shock went from ’79 to ’81 [BL: Okay], so what rally that was, I do not remember. Oh, and that just prompted another memory of culture shock. There was a downtown gay festival—gay street fair, whatever they wanted to call it; and we performed there and I remember several men in three-piece suits and cameras going [gestures taking pictures], which was apparently not the only interaction I ended up having with the FBI [Federal Bureau of Investigation] [LF: Hmm]. I do not know; David might have mentioned this or not, but once the *Gay Era* was being published in the basement of the Railroad House, at one point after that, their dumpster disappeared. They came out to throw trash out one morning and it was gone [LF: Hmm]. And obviously, there were the restaurant leavings and there were the proof pages. Like okay, let us get the press papers. Throw those away. So [laughs], they had to order another dumpster from the company. No one ever knew what happened quite with it. But a week later, it reappeared and only the foodstuffs was in the dumpster. All the printed pages from the *Gay Era* were gone. So, I do not know who would have done that [BL: Laughs] [LF: Laughs] [laughs], but we has our suspicions [laughs] [LF: Laughs].

LF: Yeah. That smells like something [Former FBI Director Edgar] Hoover would do [laughs].

HL: Hmm. Well, I think Hoover is still there [LF: Yeah] in ’81 was it? Or... [BL: Probably] or about ’79 or ’80. Yeah, I think so [LF: Yeah]. I do not remember when he finally fell over face-first onto his desk or.... But, yeah he was still in place when he died, so...

LF: Yeah. And then what sort of composers do you like listening to?

HL: Oh, I am big on the Eastern Europeans and the Russians especially [LF: Okay]. Yeah, like Bartok, Khachaturian, Yognve Czech, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff, Borodin. I like some English composers. I am very fond of Vaughn Williams [LF: Oh okay], French, well we've got Ravel and Debussy, but those are obvious ones [laughs] but those are the ones I happen to like most. I am trying to think if there is any Italians. German music tends to be a little heavy for my taste, but I do like the late Beethoven string quartets. Yeah, I am blanking on any Italians [LF: Laughs] [laughs]. Sorry about that [LF: No, it is fine]. Oh, and Americans, yes. There is Barber and Britten [LF: Mmhmm]. I am sorry. Britten is British. And it will come to me in a moment, I hope. Howard Hanson. Have you ever heard any Howard Hanson?

LF: No. I have not done a lot of American. I sing, so I do sort of—I like to sing sort of nineteenth century French is what I specialize in. And then also...

HL: I think it is probably very nice to have a voice [LF: Yeah], as opposed to German aria [Motions throwing up] [LF: Laughs].

LF: Well I do like Schubert.

HL: Yes, I do like Schubert too.

LF: That is the one I do like. If I am going to sing German, I am probably going to sing that. And I—this past fall, we sang the film, *Square de Nevsky—Alexander Nevsky* [HL: Oh my god. Yeah]. Yeah, that is quite a film there [laughs].

HL: I do like (____???) too, not but... Yeah, he was—I listened to his “Romeo and Juliet” ballet [LF: Mmhmm] pretty frequently. It is just gorgeous stuff.

LF: Yeah. That was a lot of [laughs]... I am a tenor, so he was really making me go up there [HL: Laughs] [laughs]. And then, what sort of drew you to the relationship between horror movie and sort of like queer identity?

HL: Wow. There is a good one. And it was late income year-round because I stumbled into horror films quite early; and I realized the psychological bent was there if [LF: Mmhmm] I was like fascinated by Egypt in third grade and started reading up on embalming practices [LF: Laughs], there is a slightly [laughs] morbid area somewhere there. And somewhere around that time, my mom caught what probably was [inhales] the first televising of the shock theatre package, as it was called in the area. And that was on channel 55, hosted by this kind of fat, beatnik named Leroy. I do not know whatever happened to him. But, he described this movie she watched, which was probably [LF: Mmhmm] based on the description, some scene she described. I was just going, “this sounds really neat.” And then in fourth grade, I think I had already started sneaking downstairs to catch this because it started at 11:30 [pm]. Now, the cool thing was, dad worked third shift, so he was out of the house, and mom was still keeping farm

girl hours that she would go to bed around 10 [pm] and get up at five in the morning. So, I could sneak down and keep the volume very low [LF: Laughs] and watch these movies. And a friend of mine in fourth grade, and is it not amazing I remember her name after all these years, Nicky Vinovich. Her mother worked at the local news agency [LF: Mmhmm] and she said if you don't mind the cover missing, we can get you this magazine called *Famous Monsters in Film Land*, you know, when they would bring the new issue in, they get rid of the old one. They tear off the cover and send that one back to the publisher to show that one was unsold. Well really, that was it. That started. And I think [background coughing] the thing is with the classical horror films, the monsters was usually either a) an outsider and apparently, sympathetic figure. He does horrible things, but it is generally because horrible things are done to him or.... If you get to someone like Dracula, who is basically innately evil, still, he is doing what he needs to do to stay alive, which is drinking blood of people [LF: Mmhmm], you know. What do we do? We kill cows [laughs], other livestock that we eat so that we can stay alive because we have somehow convinced ourselves that vegetables alone are not going to do it. So, there is the outsider thing and the big revelation of bringing the two together was, as I said, Richard Valley was openly gay and in his magazine, there was frequent articles basically kind of doing a queer take on classic horror films. And bless Richard. He could find a queer take [laughs] on anything, even I do not know, Joe Namath perhaps or John Wayne, I do not know. But, that is when--I sort of consciously made the connection before that, but as gays, we grew up as outsiders. And that has as many drawbacks as benefits, especially if you are a kind of analytic artist or let us say, a writer [LF: Mmhmm]. You are seeing the majority of the world from a different perspective than they do. And just to throw out one example that happened to me at one time: a friend, who is actually pretty supportive of me, made some kind of comment about why do gay people have to throw their orientation and their relationships—why do they have to push that front? And she said, “Heterosexuals do not do that.” And I said, “Oh” and I grabbed the Sunday paper and opened it to the pages and pages and pages of wedding announcements, like “oh.” So, yeah. I could see that from my outside perspective [LF: Mmhmm]. She was an insider and she could not see that [LF: Yeah]. It did not occur to her that heterosexuals celebrate their lives openly every hour of every day [LF: Laughs]. And I should also throw in, because I think it is a wonderfully snarky and funny comment, another friend of mine who is also more or less supportive, at the time, I was involved with *Gay Era*, GUL [Gays United Lancaster], and writing a column in *Lancaster Independent Press* just called “Gay;” she said, “I am glad Harry is out of the closet, but I wish he would quit slamming the door.” She apologized for it years later. I said, “Marge, I am sorry. I thought it was funny at the time. [Laughs] I still think it is funny.”

LF: Yeah and that brings me back, thinking about what was it sort of like publishing alternative [HL: Drinks from mug] sort of publications at that time, when there was a lot of political unrest going on? Because that would have been during the time of [Former President Richard] Nixon or that would have been a little too early?

HL: Yeah. The '70s would have been Nixon [LF: Yeah] into [Former President Jimmy] Carter [LF: Carter and then Reagan]. Fortunately, I do not think we had hit Reagan... when was he elected? [BL: '80] [LF: '80]. '80. Yeah, I was—because theatre had taken up so much of my time, I had moved away from the *Gay Era*. We passed onto other hands and I do not think they ever even produced a single issue. They just, for whatever reasons... But, David had also moved away from the publication at that point too. But, to—I mentioned a few things obviously: the probable FBI investigation, the problem with printers [LF: Mmhmm]. I would say, possibly, my desire to pursue doing theatre in Lancaster was impacted because of my open acknowledgement. And Lord knows, the theatre is lousy with gay people. But, I was the one who was upfront about it, you know. The others might have snuck out to the bar after rehearsal; but you know, they were not publically acknowledging their orientation [LF: Mmhmm]. So, there was that. And there I was, obviously as I said, we—David and I insisted on you know, use your own name. If you are going to write for us, you use your own name. If you cannot use your own name, bye-bye. Sorry [LF: Yeah]. So, yeah. There were various impacts. I cannot recall anything specifically that was really related to the newspaper, except for the problems with the printers and a few other things like that.

LF: Yeah. And then sort of dialing back, is there anything about your educational history that we have not touched on that you want to talk about?

HL: [Inhales]. Hmm. Well, briefly, I went into Millersville as an art major, switched over to English part way through. Never did get a diploma. Just typical child of the '60s. I, you know, took the courses that interested me, and ran out of money and interesting courses at about the same time [laughs]. It was there that I really, really started getting involved in theatre because the drama group was run by a fascinating man named Paul Talley (ph), who had very unorthodox approaches to theatre [LF: Mmhmm], which at first struck me as completely nutball, but it was like, “oh, okay. This is different.” [Laughs] And I guess different has always attracted me somehow. And he and I actually became great friends after college. He would frequently come over to my apartment and visit. And his interests were so eclectic. I mean, I recall an afternoon where we sat around discussing—trying to discuss the UFO theory, which does not seem like the kind of thing a professor of theatre [laughs] is going to do, but yeah. We were just—he was just fascinated by everything. And he—there was one conversation I had with him, gay man by the way, about approaches to theatre and the Stanislavski [does air quotes] “method.” And he said, “well, I do not have a method. I do whatever seems to work. If it is a moment I remember from a Warner Brother’s cartoon, I am going to try it [LF: Mmhmm] [laughs]. If it is a moment from [Richard] Wagner opera [laughs], I am going to try it, you know, see if it works.” So, yeah his productions were really, incredibly inventive and [LF: Mmhmm] totally insane [LF: Laughs]. I loved him dearly [LF: Yeah]. He is gone now I am afraid. But...

LF: And then, is there anything we have not touched on in terms of like the jobs you had or your occupational history?

HL: Oh, let me see. Well, after I kind of decided I was not getting anywhere with you know, freelance graphic design and artwork... Although, that is still something that I do. Like when I was—did *Scarlett* and obviously through *Gay Era*, I was doing graphic design of the publication, as well as editing it... Let us see. So, after the *Daily News* and pre-press and writing [laughs], I ended up—there was a point where my mother’s health was deteriorating. And I came home one day when the visiting nurse was supposed to show up and she said, “Ella, how did you get that bruise on your face?” Bruise? And she said, “Oh, I fell over and hit the bed.” I went, “what? And you did not mention this to me?” And as I inquired further, I discovered that she was experiencing dizzy faint spells, always in the mornings. Now, the *Daily News* was a morning gig and I was getting up at four in the morning to get myself ready, get her ready for the day, and then be in there early enough to tackle that sports page if I had to [LF: Mmhmm]. And it was like, “okay, I have got to give notice and find something second-shift,” which I did. It turned out to be a factory job, which fortunately did not last long through a temp agency. But in the meantime, I had also applied at Walden Books, now gone too [LF: Mmhmm]. Is it something about me? So many of the things that I have mentioned [laughs] are no longer around. And got in there over the holiday season and they kept me on; and picked up a couple other retail jobs at the mall. That was the first time I had done retail in many years, but I had it done it. I worked at a Two Guys after college. And another coincidence, I worked in one of the dirty bookstores in Lancaster for a while. Picked up a couple more retail jobs there. And the manager of the mall noticed me when I was working at Boscov’s, optic kind of. She head-hunted me to—because she knew she had to replace the front desk person in the mall office; and she thought I dressed professionally to come to work, she liked the way I related with customers. And so, she came in and we—she talked about the job, I said, “I got to think it is a little different.” Although, I realized later: I am answering the phone, I am greeting people walk in the door. How—this is different from retail how exactly? This is different from working at the library [laughs] how exactly? So, I went back and I said, “Yes, I will accept the job.” And she said, “Fine. You have already been interviewed. You start on Monday’ [LF: Laughs]. That led to a series of front desk jobs. And ultimately, I ended up in the AARP [American Association for Retired Persons] program [LF: Mmhmm]. Well actually, it is SCSEP [Senior Community Service Employment Program]. Was begun during the [Former President Lyndon B.] Johnson administration and it has trained older workers in new job skills. But, AARP manages it locally here. So, I was in their program doing front desk at Curly (ph) and they have a computer bank for people doing job search and I—because they do not have a computer at home or whatever. And I would help these people out on the computers. There were a lot of people being laid off from factory jobs that really did not have much of a clue about computers or the Internet. So, there I was to help them along, but not too much because if they were not learning anything, I mean if I was just doing it for them. It was a little tricky balance to manage [LF: Yeah]. So, that went for a year. And AARP has to re-assign its people every so often. They cannot be locked in the same place for the four years that you are allowed to be in the program. They shifted me over, [coughs] excuse me, doing front desk at a place called Community Action Partnership, which was a social service

agency here in Lebanon. And they run—one thing they run: medical transport people who do not have an automobiles and are in one of the Medicaid programs [LF: Mmhmm]. So, it has to be Medicaid insurance and they have to be being transported to something that will be billing Medicaid, okay? That is one of the programs they run. They also have a big program on broadly speaking, shelter. So, someone becomes homeless and there is nowhere to go for them, we might put them up in a hotel for a few days [LF: Mmhmm]. This has to be someone with a plan. We do not just say, “Okay, you are in a hotel and then you are back on the street.” It is kind of like, “okay, right now I am homeless. My disability check comes in on Tuesday and then, I will have enough money to get a rented room through one of the places that has rented rooms—in a rooming house.” It is like, “okay, we will put you up in the hotel for a few days.” They also run several shelter houses, where people—well families is the main thing. We will put them up for six months to two years, depending on the program. And they have to pass an evaluation and decide if they are likely candidates for getting their lives back on track [LF: Mmhmm]. There is also a program for rent help for people who have had a financial crisis, which could be laid off from their job. They are out of work for a while, they get another job. It has to be a one-time financial crisis. Another possibility is the car breaks down, the repair is expensive. If I do not repair the car, I do not get to work; then, I lose my job, but I cannot pay the rent if I pay the car. So, they have repaired the car and they have got an eviction notice. We will give them one month’s rent help [LF: Mmhmm]. So, I was there at the front desk at AARP program for about six months and my time to be reassigned was just about to be coming up. And the guy—one of the guys in the shelter program gave notice because he was fascinated by computers and IT and all of the kinds of things I do not understand, like how to program the little suckers, you know. Friend of his started an IT company, offers him a job; he says, “Mm, yeah.” They decided, on what basis I do not know, to kind of divide it up so that he was one of the three people doing rent and doing other things. So, they would rotate around. They decided to put all of the right responsibilities in one package, all of the other responsibilities in another package, and all of the other responsibilities besides that in yet another package. And they asked me to be the rent officer. What? [Laughs]. What? I have never done anything even remotely like this before [LF: Mmhmm]. Well, I sat in on a couple of rent interviews with one guy who was still doing rent interviews, doing that until they fulfilled the position. I thought, “Well, we will give it a shot. It pays better than AARP. I will lose my food stamps [laughs]. I will lose my medical benefits. Maybe it will all end up washing out,” which is pretty much what it did financially. But, I am now approaching three years being the rent officer of Community Action Partnership. And somehow, this long strange trip has ended up with me being a social worker [laughs].

LF: Mmhmm. Okay. [HL: Smokes cigarette]. So then for your experience in social work... [HL: None before this], none before this, [HL: None before this. None before this.]. That is so interesting. You did not—there was not any sort of like certification or anything that you had to go through?

HL: No. No [LF: Yeah]. And the weird thing is is I look around sometimes as I am meeting with other social work positions out there, you have at least got to at least a Bachelor's [LF: Yeah] and I do not have any kind of degree [LF: Yeah. Yeah. Because I have a...]. Bachelor's, Associate's is sometime acceptable. Very rarely do you see the little thing about work experience [LF: Uh-huh] being applicable, but...

LF: Yeah because I have a lot of friends who are interested in social work and [HL: nods head] sort of AmeriCorps positions and stuff like that, I know that you usually need a Bachelor's or a Master's.

HL: Yeah. And unless you are probably working for the county or the state, like say in the welfare department, I do not think the pay is really for social workers [LF: Yeah] from what I have seen [LF: Yeah, no. Like very much across the country, it is not. I mean...]. There was a job that opened up not along ago in another social service agency here in Lebanon. It is independent—independently funded. Where I work, we have got government funding coming in [LF: Mmhmm]. Some from FEMA [Federal Emergency Management Agency], which of course you have heard of [LF: Mmhmm], HAP, which is the Housing Assistance Program, and a group called CSBG, Community Service Block Grants. CSBG is kind of independent. It is not directly government, but their funding is all from the government. And interestingly enough, the [President Donald J.] Trump budget presented some months ago, zeroed out completely [LF: Hmm]. So anyway, the funding for all three goes to the county government. The government—the county government then funnels it into, in this case, us. In other counties, it might be other organizations. But, a position opened up and the attractiveness of it was a) it was—would have been full time. I would have had benefits [LF: Mmhmm], vacation, insurance, blah, blah, blah. But, the pay was I think three dollars less than what I am making now [LF: oh, okay]. And I am part-time, do not have the benefits. But, it is kind of like when I broke—when I crush numbers, it is like, “hmm” [laughs]. Be taking home about the same amount of money, so... [LF: Mmhmm]. What is the point? [LF: Yeah]. And I like—I really, really like the people I work with, so that is a big deal too.

LF: Yeah that is nice. And then, was there any sort of religious presence in your upbringing?

HL: Oh, this gets complicated. I wonder if I want to go into all of this. Mom was a member of the Christ Presbyterian Church, which you would have passed on your way here as you went around that curve going into Lebanon, there is a long wooden curve which used to be the Coleman (ph) family estates. They had coal mining here in the area. And then, there was that little church off to the left, gorgeous little church inside. It has blue ceilings with gold stars painted on them [LF: Mmhmm]. Fanny Coleman (ph) apparently commissioned the baptismal fount and all the statuary from Italy [LF: Hmm], pure marble. Anyway, mom was a member of that through her family because her dad was a hunting companion [laughs] of old man Coleman, Fanny's dad [LF: Mmhmm]. Never knew his first name, always referred to him as old man Coleman. So, my father grew up in a household where his stepfather was very, very

fundamentalist Christian, to the extent that if his wife or children somehow did not quite fit into his designation, he felt it was his God-given duty to beat Christianity into them. So, he was very anti-religion. So, there was that kind of weird split in the household, which possibly led to I did not like attending Sunday school, partly because all of the other kids had this background. They knew the books of the Bible in order and I got none of that at home because of my dad.

However, I did love singing in junior choir [LF: Mmhmm]. And when the time came to graduate from kiddie Sunday school to adult Sunday school, I kind of told my mom, “well, I do not want to go to Sunday school anymore.” She said, “If you do not go to Sunday school, you cannot sing in the choir.” I said, “Oh, well I guess I do not sing in the choir” [LF: Laughs]. And that was the end of my churchgoing except for a couple of times at the Unitarian church down in Lancaster. So, that was religion. I could go into more things about my dad’s background, but I think we are getting a little too strange [laughs], a little too deep. Okay? [LF: Yeah] [Laughs].

LF: And then [HL: Smokes cigarette], sort of your—oh no, never mind. Can you walk me through your coming out process?

HL: It was abrupt [laughs]. It was kind of right after that GUL meeting with Mark Segal. It was like, “okay, yeah I am going to admit it to everyone,” which is not always easy; or at least I did not approach it thinking it was going to be easy. A lot of people said, “oh Harry, we always knew” [laughs]. So, it was fast. It was not gradual at all [LF: Mmhmm]. The—it was coming out to the parents [LF: Mmhmm]. It was a long time coming. And my father never could deal with that, up until about the day he died. He just [shakes head]... His brother ended up having a daughter who decided—I am not sure if she stuck with this, but she decided she was lesbian. And they were down for a visit once and his wife said, “oh Earl. I found out we have something in common. We both have gay children.” He said, “I do not talk about that” [LF: Mmhmm] [noise]. So, mother was, I guess, a little more accepting. I am not sure she was ever really comfortable with it. I mean, you are dealing with two people born in 1920 [LF: Mmhmm] and again, rural area, very right-wing. But, she accepted at any rate [LF: Yeah].

BL: Did you say that you had siblings or no? [Mumbling].

HL: I did have a younger brother who died at the age of 13. He was born with a heart defect [LF: Mmhmm] missing one valve. I do not know that it was ever told to me; but, I would say judging from the configuration from his skull, I think there might have been some down syndrome going on. But, he had a fatal heart attack when he was 13. I was 15 or 16 at the time. And intellectually, he never progressed like maybe a two-year-old [LF: Mmhmm].

BL: In terms of your [HL: Smokes cigarette] coming out, did you start dating or have relationships?

HL: Started cruising [laughs] [BL: Laughs] [LF: Laughs]. Yeah, I have never been one who is successful at establishing long-term relationships. And let’s face it, part of the whole scene in the ‘70s before AIDS changed everyone’s thinking. It was we’re kids in a candy shop. There was a

couple of relationships that did not end up going very far. And kind of looking back, it is like Harry, you should have worked harder. That might have been good [LF: Mmhmm]. So—but, here I am single and 66 [laughs] [LF: Laughs]

LF: Yeah. So then [HL: Do not let this happen to you] [Laughs], was there any—did you ever have like any sort of your own family formation in your adult life or...?

HL: What do you mean by that? I am not...

LF: Like [HL: I am trying to understand the question] [HL: Smokes cigarette], sort of a long-term relationship or maybe you constructed your own family out of friends [HL: Nods] and things of that nature?

HL: Yeah. There was the, what do you call it, an alternative family I guess [LF: Mmhmm]. There was a group of us, particularly in Lancaster. [Smokes cigarette] and then a different group after I moved back here to Lebanon, of people that I associated with [LF: Yeah] that, you know, were, sometimes you got... Well, especially when I lived in Lancaster and my parents were in Lebanon, sometimes there was the holiday gathering, the Thanksgiving dinner or whatever [LF: Mmhmm. Yeah], New Year's celebrations, and so forth.

LF: So, are you involved with the sort-of potluck dinners in that area? [HL: No]. No, okay.

HL: Not now anyway [LF: Laughs]. Yes, some of the dinners were potluck. It was like, yeah bring something [Laughs].

LF: And then, did you have any sort of involvement with the military?

HL: [Laughs] I mean, sexual [laughs] [LF: Laughs] [BL: Laughs], no. [LF: Would you have been...]. A couple of Marines, but you know... [Laughs] [LF: Laughs]

LF: Would you have been too young for Vietnam or...?

HL: No. I [sighs] was lucky that right like a year or two before, I would have been eligible for the draft. They came up with that lottery thing [LF: Mmhmm]. And my number was high enough that I did not get called up [LF: Okay]. Thank god. On the other hand, the same man that introduced to me to classical music, we kind of went through hell with him going in and declaring he was gay [LF: Mmhmm], which as it turned out much later, he was—or is, I should say. But, at the time, he was not really ready to admit it, but he was going to try that tack to get out of serving; and it was successful. That was while we were still rooming together at Millville University and the whole thing was an excruciating, edge of your fingernails kind of experience until they finally said, “okay, we accept the fact that you are queer. Go away.”

LF: Yeah. And then, can you walk me through your involvement with Gays United Lancaster? And then, any sort of other, I guess, organizations based around LGBTQ [Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer] identity that you have been involved in?

HL: I think I have said as much as I actually remember of Gays United Lancaster. Because, as I said, it was a very busy time [LF: Yeah]; and most of my involvement really was in the initial stages, when the *Gay Era* was still kind of their official publication, but it was also supposedly the gay news magazine for rural gay Pennsylvania [LF: Mmhmm]. It was never quite an RFD [Rural Free Delivery?] unfortunately [laughs]. Is that still around? RFD? [BL: I do not know if that is around anymore]. Yeah, I know it seemed like it moved from collective to collective with some frequency, two/three issues then it was with another communal living arrangement. And it is like—and it was a wonderful publication. I really liked it [BL: Yeah] because one of the benefits of running the *Gay Era* was that pretty much all of the other gay papers, you know, we traded issues. So, we had them all coming: Boston, ooh what was the Boston publication? It was not *Boston Gay News* [BL: Gay Community News]. Yes, yes. It was just called the *Gay Community News*, GCN. Yeah, *Washington Blade*, obviously the—initially the *Pittsburg Gay News* before [LF: Mmhmm] Mark acquired it. Yeah, all sorts of publications came in, so [LF: Yeah] really cool. And the other thing we certainly did through GUL was we marched in a New York parade several times. Marching is, I do not know... Would I get through that length of that parade on a walker? I do not think so [laughs]. My parade days are over, I am afraid.

BL: How exciting was that for you?

HL: Oh my god. That was amazing. The first time especially. It is just like, I did not know there was this many gay people in the planet. And of course, Rollerena ended up going around. You [points to BL] [BL: I do not remember] are probably not old enough to remember Rollerena, she—it is she or he rather. I am told, and of course I believe there are all sorts of stories, supposedly a button-down Wall Street worker, 364 days of the year, Rollerena got up in outrageous drag in these huge sequined sunglasses, well like Dame Edna wears, and just went through the parade on roller skates [LF: Yeah]. Did she carry a wand? [BL: Yeah] [BL: Laughs]. Yes, yes, had a fairy wand [laughs] [BL: Laughs]. Yeah, those—the first parade I said was just completely overwhelming [LF: Yeah]. Later, it became a fun thing. You went home so charged up [LF: Mmhmm] with such a feeling of euphoria and empowerment. And of course, after a week or so, you got used to what was going on in Lancaster [Laughs], Pennsylvania; like okay, here we are again. And I remember too, being so pissed off. Sorry to suddenly interject profanity this late [LF: Laughs] in the interview. Normally, I have the vocabulary of a sailor by the way [LF: Laughs]. When the news coverage would come on, if any news coverage, we would tune into NBC [National Broadcasting Company] or CBS [Columbia Broadcasting System]. And sometimes, there was not even an acknowledgment it had happened [LF: Mmhmm]. And if there was, the crowd size was announced. It was like, no way. No way are there only 5,000 people. No way [LF: Yeah]. So, the—I mean, it was another reason to absolutely, and I do not want to make a case for the *Gay Era* in particular, I do not think it was in the top rank of the publications at that time. But, it just kind of underlined the necessity [LF: Mmhmm] for us having our own media outlet [LF: Yeah]. Of course, you know, Donald Trump feels the same way about Twitter [Laughs]. But, yeah it is like, you know—it is not even impacting the *New York Times*. It is not

impacting the *Washington Post*, at least it did not at that time [LF: Mmhmm. Yeah]. So, mm yeah. Next question! [LF: Yeah]. I think I have run out of what I have to say there [Laughs].

LF: Yeah. Well, of course looking back at like media coverage of the time, if any [HL: Nods], it was probably was not extremely positive either [HL: Yeah]. Yeah, what was it—I looked through articles that were written at the time Stonewall happened. It was not—and now we look back and we are like, that was the first sort of like moment where it all exploded and everything like that. They would call a group of fairies or something like that.

HL: Yeah. I did not even know Stonewall happened. And face it, I graduated from high school in June of 1969. Hello [LF: Yeah]. That is—I mean, it could have been the same day as my graduation ceremony [LF: Mmhmm]. I never double checked the calendar. But, I only found out about it months later because the guy who decided to do the *Lebanon Underground Newspaper Centurion*, had a newsstand; and he brought in, and kept under the counter, the alternative publications, not *Village Voice*. That was out with quote unquote “normal” newspapers. But, there was an even more underground New York paper, the Village something or—the *East Village Other* [LF: Okay]. He kept that and well, *Screw* and whatever gay publications were out at the time. And it was through the gay publications, which even out of New York, were heavily into softcore porno photos [Laughs]. But, at least there was some news coverage [LF: Mmhmm] and that is how I even knew there had been a Stonewall.

LF: Yeah. And then, how exactly would you say your gay identity influenced other aspects of your life via your family life, social life, religious, civil, political, and spiritual?

HL: Probably entirely [LF: Mmhmm]. I do not know how else I can quantify it. I would never—although, I might say I was out; I would never deny it, but I did not take out a billboard. I have been open in all of my jobs; although, possibly never more so than my current one. It is not a secret there. For those who could guess it, fine. I would not, on the other hand, take a job where I felt uncomfortable with the political viewpoints, particularly if they were the homophobic variety [LF: Mmhmm]. That is just—no, I am not going to pretend that I am straight and talk about my girlfriend and... [LF: Yeah]. I mean, I remember when I was at State Farm, which was, let me think, 2005 to 2010, [sighs] yeah the owner was [exhales] pretty right-wing Christian and right-wing political; so, I really kept a muzzle on it there. One of those times—and I cannot believe I did that that late in my life, where I took a job because it paid well. [Inhales] it is like, “Harry, did you not learn your lesson about this 20 years ago?” But, one of the other agency kept throwing, you know, personal questions to me [LF: Mmhmm]. And the one—the look on her face after she said, “Oh, you like to cook?” I knew [LF: Laughs] that the penny had finally dropped [BL: Laughs] for her. She had been holding it for a long—for several months, but the penny had finally dropped. It is like, “okay.” [Music in background playing] It was certainly no secret when I was front desk for the Lebanon Valley Mall [LF: Mmhmm] or in any of the retail jobs I held there. Really, it was just kind of like this unspoken thing while I was with Career Link [LF: Mmhmm]. But, I was not hiding anything either. In fact, I actually, while I was at

Career Link, I was at the front desk with another AARP woman and this young Puerto Rican guy came in, very gorgeous [LF: Laughs], but also you know, kind of obviously not straight. You know, and he went back to use the computer. Then, another young Hispanic man came in and joined him. And it is like, [nods] “okay, boyfriend. Okay.” And this woman said, who I did not realize at the time but I found out later was heavily [sighs] involved in a kind of fundamentalist Christian church. But, she said, “I feel sorry for these people who do not know what they are;” and she did this gesture [Has palm facing outward and motions to the left then right]. Now, if she had done [Moves hand from palm-out to palm-down] that gesture, which is one of those things that just sets me the hell off [LF: Mmhmm], I am not sure how I would have reacted [LF: Laughs]. But I just said, “I am one of those people” and she said, “no you are not” and I said, “yes I am and I know exactly what I am” and she said, “oh, I am sorry. If I had known, I never would have said anything.” It is like—and I am thinking, “Yeah, that does not change your attitude not saying anything.” It comes out later that her son is gay. And I mean, when I heard that from one of her coworkers, I—my heart broke because I thought, “How does he deal, knowing his mother cannot accept who and what he is?” [LF: Mmhmm]. It is—the tragedy of a moment like that is overwhelming. And here we are in [sighs] 2017 and we have not quite erased everything. We have got gay marriage legal in 50 states. My god, I never thought that would happen [LF: Mmhmm], not when I was starting out. And of course, the whole philosophy was, “oh, we are not straight. We are not going to do anything straight people do,” which kind of gradually changed after AIDS made monogamy a very attractive proposition [LF: Mmhmm]. And then, gay couples started getting married or at least committed, which didn’t stop a lot of, you know, fooling around for many of them [laughs]. I do not think I know a single gay couple that does not do some fooling around on the side. But anyway—and then adoption. I don’t want any kids around. I’ve got enough of the four-footed children in the house. So, that was never for me either [LF: Mmhmm]. But yeah, and now we have got gay marriage of course, it looks like socially there is trying to be some kind of rollback between Mr. Trump and Mr. [Jeff] Sessions on various fronts. But, I think we have come too far for much of an impact to happen. That is my optimistic hope.

LF: Yeah. And it is so hard with finding a job or occupation-wise because the protections are so patch-work in Pennsylvania [HL: Nods]. It really depends on the municipality rather than statewide.

HL: You know what flipped me the heck out? [LF: Mmhmm]. Red county, Lebanon, Pennsylvania. We actually had a city councilman, who actually once—a Democrat, and he did win. But, he ran on the platform of, if Mickey Mouse ran on the Republican Party, he would be elected. Something about that connected with the voters and they said, “No, we’re going to elect you too”. But, flipped me out when I first got the handbook for Lebanon County employees and I read the non-discrimination policy [LF: Mmhmm] and sexual orientation is in there. It is like [Makes mouth into “o” shape]. And I said something to my supervisor, I said, “how the hell did this happen in this area?” And she said, “they hired a very smart lawyer” [laughs] [LF: Yeah].

And there it is, county employees. And in terms of the services we offer, through our agency, we are obviously not allowed to discriminate on the basis of all the other stuff and sexual orientation [LF: Hmm].

LF: Yeah. We have recently got ours in Carlisle [Pennsylvania].

HL: For the whole community or just the state—local government employees?

LF: Yeah. Not the local government. Everyone.

HL: It is everywhere.

LF: Yeah. It was in the fall, it happened.

HL: The guy who had been, I believe, an accountant on the West Shore somewhere [BL: Dan Miller] Pardon? [BL: Dan Miller]. Yeah, yeah. Which community was he in on the West shore? [BL: Camp Hill]. Camp Hill, yeah [LF: Yeah. That is right by us]. I mean, progress in Camp friggig Hill [BL: They just passed a...]. Did they really? [LF: Yeah]. And what has become of him? Because I know that he is trying—he started his own company with his lover and then got sued for like six figures, like hundreds of thousands of dollars by the former company because I guess, you know, a few clients decided to go with him rather than just stay with them. What—that was the last I heard of the story. What happened after that? [BL: He was very successful. He—his firm has been very successful. And he got elected to the city council]. That is right. I do remember that. [BL: And he got elected to comptroller. And now, he is city treasurer]. Whoa, whoa [BL: Yeah]. There is kind of progress from 1973 in a nutshell, is not there? Yeah. What—was the lawsuit ever thrown out or did he have to pay off? [BL: Yeah. He had to pay off, but he is doing great so...]. That is terrific [LF: Mmhmm]. That is really terrific [BL: He is one of my best friends, so I know]. Yeah, I read—my house mate gets the *Sunday Patriot*, so I read the article, was it this past Sunday or the Sunday before?, which of course included a photo of yours truly, not yours truly [points to himself], but yours truly [points to BL] [BL: Yeah]. And it mentioned him, but it did not say anything really beyond that case. I was going, “oh, you know, I kind of lost track of what happened there” [LF: Yeah]. That is great. That is really great. Yes, our revenge will be slow and [LF: Laughs] excruciating [BL: Laughs] [laughs] [LF: At least it is happening]. Yeah.

LF: Yeah. Lucky to grow up during it. So [HL: Drinks from mug], is there anything in terms of engagement with the community at large locally that you want to touch on that we have not talked about?

HL: Other than through my work, I do not really have any. Physically [adjusts himself in chair], we are—you know, I am not much up for various things. There is the back problems, there is mobility [LF: Mmhmm], there is, and we still do not know the cause of it is, but I have got extreme neuropathy [LF: Mmhmm]. So, even driving short distances is painful, gripping the

steering wheel for [LF: Yeah]. Suddenly, that hypersensitivity of the nerves is like [makes gripping motion with hands]. No, the last real political involvement I had was with the Gay Chamber of Commerce [LF: Mmhmm] and when it went from being, I forget what they called it... [BL: Bagel]. Bagel, yes. Yes, oh my god. Were you ever involved with Bagel? [BL: Yes]. I just do not remember you from... [BL: Early on]. Sorry about that. And I believe David Lees (ph) got me involved [laughs] in that somehow—or no, no, no. One of the alternative family friends here who had a printing business heard about it and called me up and said, “I am going to Harrisburg for this meeting of gay business people. You want to come along?” I was like, “okay,” and became a member, attended every meeting for however many years. And when they decided to become the Gay Chamber of Commerce, which is a long, long history of anti-gay policies and generally, right-wing political stances [LF: Mmhmm], I was kind of just like [sighs], “I cannot quite feel comfortable with this.” And it—when did they become the Chamber of Commerce—the Gay Chamber of Commerce? [BL: I forget what year that was, but it is not that long ago]. No, I—it was—I was still hitting... [BL: But, it is not really...]. I was still going to meetings while I was at State Farm, so some time after 2005 I think is when I stopped attending [BL: Yeah]. And of course, I was in Paul Meyers [Pennsylvania], so it was a very, very quick drive to Harrisburg. I think one of the last meetings I was at was paper lion, a wonderful place. Is that still going? [BL: Yes. Mmhmm]. Good, good for them [nods head].

LF: And then [HL: Smokes cigarette], are there any important events or turning points in your life that we have not talked about that you would like to bring up?

HL: [With cigarette still in mouth] I think we have hit them all [laughs] [LF: Yeah]. Lots of left-hand turns, were not there? [Laughs] [LF: Laughs].

LF: And sort of what—we have sort of touched on this, but over—looking back, what changes have you seen for the community, in terms of wider acceptance or anything like that? And what challenges do you think still remain?

HL: Ooh. Well [sighs] if we look at polls just in the last few years, the acceptance of gay marriage has gone up well beyond 50 percent [LF: Mmhmm]. And it used to be somewhere around 30-something rather, which oh, is that not Trump’s approval rating? [BL: Laughs] [LF: Laughs]. So, there is that. There is a wider acceptance. It is still not at 100 percent, and Lord knows we are still facing issues about Black and Hispanic civil rights—civil rights for any people of color. Heaven knows how [sighs] soon that will change [LF: Mmhmm]. And you know, the world has a history of hating people who are different. And we can just look at, for instance, the Middle East, where there is all these followers of Muslim...but they are different sects... It would almost be like if there were, in this country, the Presbyterians and the Lutherans and the Methodists were at war with each other. That is what is happening in the Middle East [LF: Mmhmm]. The differences can be so freaking minor, but that goes back to I suppose, the dawn of history [LF: Yeah] or the dawn [laughs] of time, even before history was around [LF: Mmhmm]. So, will it ever totally happen? I doubt it. Will it get better? I hope so. I think so.

There is progress being made. As I said, gay [laughs] marriage legal in all 50 states. That is nuts [LF: Yeah]. Never—and really when you think about it in terms of the struggle, we are a relatively young civil rights struggle [LF: Mmhmm], as opposed to the Black civil rights struggle, which dates—precedes us by a couple of decades [LF: Yeah]. I am sorry. I have lost track of the question. We were talking [LF: Mmhmm] about progress. What was the rest of the question?

LF: Yeah, just progress within the community and sort of, wider acceptance within...?

HL: Within the Lebanon community [laughs], no. It is still 1946 in Lebanon [laughs] [LF: Mmhmm]. It—I think it is getting a little better. I mean, I was frankly... A couple of clients have come in that are lesbian couples and they were very open about it [LF: Mmhmm], which is cool. One of—when I was still working retail in the mall, Walden Books had the calendar kiosk every season. And one Christmas, I was there tending the calendar kiosk and two men walked by, holding hands [surprised expression]. So, yeah. I mean, I thought, “jeez, I wonder if I would have the balls to do that, even now” [LF: Hmm]. So, you know, I—it all... When you think about just that aspect, that is what propels progress: people being willing to be publically open [LF: Mmhmm] because that is what happened post-Stonewall [LF: Mmhmm]. We decided to come out; we decided to say who we are—some of us did. There was a whole—I mean, that was one thing I do remember about some of the gay people I knew, when I was doing Gay Lancaster; like Harry, “what is the point of being out? What is the point? We have got the bars.” [Confused expression] “Yeah, maybe our goal should be set a little higher [LF: Laughs] than we get to drink and dance to disco music.” Oh, jeez. I just happened to remember something else. This is interesting, I think. And I do not know if either of you would have... [Points to BL] you might have heard about it. It was while the *Gay Era* was still being published, so we are talking about that '73 to '80 timeline, sort of. The first gay conference in Pennsylvania was held up in the Poconos [Mountains]. Were you there? [Points to BL] [BL: No. But I...] But you remember? [BL: Yeah, I remember]. And [BL: clears throat] David and Marlin and I all went up. I interviewed a couple of people. The only one I remember interviewing was Tom Wilson [LF: Mmhmm], if that is a name that rings any bells these days. And then, I think the second was held at the Quaker Church in Harrisburg. Can that be right? I remember a large—a pretty large venue with a lot of people. Is it possible—was that...? [BL: The state museum had one also]. That might be the one—that was what, about the third Pennsylvania conference. And people actually came in from Pittsburgh for that one [laughs]. [Inhales] So, yeah. Hmm. Boy, and now such things are [“pssh” sound] quite matter-of-fact, I guess [laughs].

LF: And then [HL: Smokes cigarette], hmm. A question I have been asking recently [HL: Okay] is what exactly is it like to be gay during the Trump presidency?

HL: [Background noise] I probably have not gotten as scared as I should because as I said earlier, I think, certain things have gone too far to be rolled back [LF: Mmhmm]. And we keep being told that as far as LGBTQ issues are concerned, Jared [Kushner] and Ivanka [Trump] are

kind of—they have so many gay friends that they are kind of a moderating influence on the president. But, [LF: Allegedly] allegedly [LF: Laughs]. Yeah, I—that [LF: I think they need to] I could do the whole time you have got on, you know, your silicone chip for the interview, I could probably do that on Trump [LF: Laughs] right now. It is like, [sighs] dear house mate Arlene (ph) got me hooked on MSNBC [Microsoft National Broadcasting Company] in the evening. So, every night I am there, I am watching there and I am screaming at the TV [television] screen [LF: Laughs] [BL: Laughs]. Just—I mean, it is not like I do not agree with her political point of view. I adore Rachel Maddow [LF: Mmhmm]. I would go straight for her. She probably would not go straight for me [LF: Laughs], but she is just wonderful. But other commentators come up and they will mention something and Al [Sharpton] going, “Remember the blah, blah, blah” and Arlene is going, “oh, I forgot about that one.” But, yeah it is—the whole Trump presidency is infuriating, is the only word for it [LF: Mmhmm]. It is—oh Lord... I have not seen, other than the transgender in the military issue, which I do not think is going anywhere... [LF: Yeah]. The generals are saying, “What? No. He did not talk to us. We know nothing about this. We are not changing the policy” [LF: Mmhmm]. There has not been many signs that he is after gay civil rights. On the other hand, [exhales] his new Supreme Court appointee, [Neil] Gorsuch, is anti-gay marriage [LF: Yeah]. Jeff Sessions is anti-gay marriage and there may be some push to get a case before the Supreme Court, which I do not—I feel will not go well.

BL: Yeah. The battery pack just died.

LF: The battery pack just died. [BL: Yeah, just...] [HL: Oh, dear].

LF: Do you want to check in the bag over there if we have another battery? [Shuffling noises]

HL: Into your cat cave [laughs]

BL: This one? [LF: Yeah, that one].

HL: [Looking down] Oh, but you are just too nosy. You are just going to stay in there because you are too nosy.

BL: I think it is still running [HL: Oh] [HL: Laughs]

LF: It will shut off in a few minutes. [BL: Yeah]. Yeah.

HL: So the chip is still good?

LF: It might be in one of the side pockets [BL: Oh], with the—if you find probably this one over here. If you find the charger, it is usually there with the charger holder in the bag. The back-up battery, but then that battery has to be charged. [HL: Smokes cigarette]. I cannot remember if I made sure it was. [Tape Ends] Okay, we had some malfunctioning with the battery running out, so now we are on the second battery and the second part of the recording. I am here with Harry

Long. So, we were talking about what it is like being gay during the Trump administration, things of that nature.

HL: Yeah. I do not know how much of what I said before, of my little diatribe made it to [BL: Most of it did] the digital; but, I can only describe it as infuriating on a broad political basis that that man is completely incompetent and completely xenophobic [LF: Mmhmm]. So, there are some worries there. I do not know the tran —policy announced against transgenders in the military. I do not think he is going to go anywhere he claims he is. He talked to his generals. They said “no;” and they are not going to change the policy. One worry is that his new Supreme Court judge, Gorsuch, is—well, pretty much anti-civil rights on all sorts of scores [LF: Mmhmm], but definitely, as far as I have been able to determine, anti-gay marriage. The attorney general, Jeff Sessions, is not pro on it, so it is entirely possible. A case will be brought before the Court; and I do not think things will go well on that score. What other gay civil rights issues might come up? Who knows? [LF: Yeah]. I do not think any—I think some state governors are contesting the gay marriage issue. I do not think they are contesting anything else [LF: Mmhmm]. And yet, I wonder—as I was saying earlier, the whole thing is about being out. That is when progress happens. The more people that are out, the more progress [LF: Mmhmm]. We can think back—well, Barry and I can think back to a time when Disney Land did not even want gay couples there, would not allow like a gay group to book a day [LF: Mmhmm]. The turnaround was that they were one of the very first large business to have employment protection for gay employees. And I think everything happens kind of like from the roots up. And I think that is all civil rights, really. With gay civil rights, it is a little harder because [inhales] even—I do not know how many are still doing it, but you know, we can hide. You know, we are not Black. I guess, if we were any color, we would be lavender [laughs]. But yeah, we do not have to be upfront about who and what we are. Maybe some of us would be less successful at hiding it than others [LF: laughs], but you know... And that, I think, has always been the challenge to the whole gay civil rights movement. It is like, well, “my employer do not know I am gay, so I will not be fired. They are not going to find out. [LF: Mmhmm] Not going to tell my mom [laughs]. Not going to tell my friends. They would shun me.” So, that I really think has been, from the very beginning, it has been the challenge of the gay rights—civil rights movement; and I suppose it still is. I mean, for instance, the pretty friend I mentioned who took me to the Bagel meeting, he is heavily involved in Republican politics, [whispers] which I do not understand. How can you be gay and be Republican? [Laughs]. It just baffles me. But, certainly, he is not exactly out. He wants to—he has tried several times to run for either County Commissioner or City Council, so you know, he is running as a presumably straight boy. So, yeah I have to assume it still goes on. I think I kind of have sputtered to a halt again [Laughs] [LF: Yeah totally]. I have—seem to have a habit of doing that. But...

LF: Are there any questions about the *Gay Era* you have remaining or have we covered everything?

BL: Other than, did you have much experience going out to the local bars and that sort of thing?

HL: Yeah. I—because I liked hitting the Harrisburg bars, particularly the Rose Rouge was my favorite for a long time. I usually ended up doing the distribution of the Harrisburg bars, getting it out there where they could sell it. Well—there were only two bars in Lancaster. One was a block from where I lived, so that was easy enough, the Old Fiddler. And of course, the Tally, which is still around. Although, I believe George has given up ownership. I am not even sure if he [BL: Yeah, he sold it] shuffled off the coil or not [BL: No, he is still around]. Oh, is he still around? [BL: Yeah. We interviewed him]. Oh, and Gary? [BL: Gary] I think, the boyfriend—or partner or whatever. I do not know how [laughs] they describe their arrangement. So, those were easy enough. Did not much hit the Reading bars. I think, David may have taken care of the Reading bars and that pretty much takes care of our general area. Everything—all of the other distribution was probably done by mail. But yeah, I was a big bar hopper. I was, I guess, the kid in the candy store. I was—what did we... I am not even sure if David came up with this or not, but I ended up doing a back cover spoof on *Saturday Night Fever* [LF: Laughs]; and we called it “Every night Fever.” It is—something is telling me, it is a phrase that originated in the *Christopher Street* magazine, but [LF: Mmhmm] I am not sure. But yeah [laughs], I had every night fever [laughs], or most of every night fever [LF: Mmhmm. Yeah].

LF: And is there anything we have missed that you want to touch on?

HL: Wow. Not that I can think of [LF: Okay]. You even prompted I few things I did not touch on in the original monologue area [LF: Laughs] of the evening—or afternoon [LF: Yeah]. So, I am not thinking of anything. Barry?

BL: And are you—you mentioned you had a fire at your house [HL: Oh yeah], so you lost probably a lot of your [HL: Pretty much everything].... Yeah, so...

HL: Friends broke in and really, that is what they did [clears throat]. I had third-degree burns of the back [LF: Mmhmm], so I was helicoptered up to the Lehigh Valley Hospital Burn Unit [LF: Yeah] and was in a chemically-induced coma for several days before they brought me around. And although I am—had no inkling, you know medical staff really works with a poker face. But, apparently even after they brought me out of the coma, they were not sure I was going to make it for a few days after that [LF: Mmhmm]. Anyway, these friends—dear friends, who—straight couple who I first met while I was working at Boscov’s Optical. Mom brought her son in, who is thirteen, and one of those rare times when I wondered if I was not part of the NAMBLA [North American Man/Boy Love Association] crowd because I just thought, “my god. This kid is gorgeous.” Anyway, fitted him out for glasses and then we would run into each other at the mall from time to time. And after my mom died, she started inviting me—well, also I should probably mention that her husband is also a big fan of old time horror movies [LF: Mmhmm]. Her son has become one, but he was more into noir at the time [LF: Hmm]. So, there was the old movie connection. And she started inviting me for holiday dinners. And so, they kind of adopted me. So, anyway, her husband, who at the time was a Federal Marshall, so of course, you know typical police mentality, “I am doing it, it cannot be illegal” [LF: Laughs]. He goes to the house,

finds the extension ladder that is hanging over the backyard fence, slams it against the roof of the laundry room, climbs up, and climbs through the bathroom window. Only the first floor windows had been boarded shut with plywood, but he—so he climbs in through the bathroom window, comes down and unlocks. And he goes in and they start rescuing anything that they can, that they think is something that I would want. So, some things did get saved, but not everything. Yeah, a lot of loss. It is a very strange experience and [LF: Mmhmm]... Sometimes, it is not even the big things. I mean, all of my clothing was gone because even if the fire didn't get to it, the smoke smelled really. You can never get rid of that, so they left that behind. They are the ones who rescued the scrapbook I mentioned [LF: Mmhmm] with my dad's postcards. They also, and this is interesting, [smokes cigarette] as I mentioned, I had 10 cats there. Maybe I—that was before we started rolling. Two months before the fire, one of the cats that I had brought in, it was... I have had this strange thing if a friendly cat comes up to the door, I think, "Oh, you got away. You are lost. I will take you in. I will put the ads [LF: Coughs] in the proper place at the Humane Society. I will put the ads in the paper and your owner will contact me." You know what my success rate has been on that? [Forms "o" with pointer finger and thumb] zilch. And of course, this cat that I brought in—it was after I think she had been in maybe like a day, I do not know, I was petting her and I reached down to see if she liked her belly rubbed, I liked rubbing her belly. I rubbed and was like, "oh. Nipples. Milk sacks. You are pregnant." So, she gave birth on or about January 1st. It was a very quiet birth [background noise]. I did not know it had happened. I came down one morning and I am hearing the [meows]. I actually had to search until I found out where she had had her two kittens. So, the fire happens. The Semensa (ph) family is in doing their rescue and she is in the house and she keeps going to this pile of laundry and nudging away at it. So, they finally decide to lift it up and find out what it was; and there were her two kittens. She had gotten them in there, so they rescued the kittens. They all went to the shelter. One of them died from well, I guess, lung breathing problems [LF: Mmhmm], which is common in the shelter but could also have been exacerbated by the smoke from the fire. When I adopted, the poor thing turned out to have health problems a plenty, none of which were really from the fire. The first thing he came down with was bladder crystals and I almost lost him to that; but fortunately, my veterinarian told me what was really going on in time. And then, about let us see, I think it was about February of last year, Arlene—or I said something about it to Arlene about, "you know, he is eating well but he is losing weight." This is not gay at all is it? So, we had—she said there should be blood tests run, which we did and it came up—they cannot really diagnose it until there is an autopsy but from many of the signs, they figured he had the FIP [Feline Infectious Peritonitis] virus [LF: Hmm], which is sort of like feline AIDS but not quite the same. So, that looked like it was a two month death sentence, but we did actually get him past his third birthday and he only passed away this past year in February, about a year after he had been diagnosed. Two days after I got out of the hospital after having an appendectomy—who has an appendectomy when they are 66? [LF: Laughs]. That is a teenager kind of thing. But yeah [laughs], so I do not know how I got off on that topic. You were talking about the fire, yeah.

BL: Yeah. I guess my purpose of asking was if you have any memorabilia that you might want to donate to the History Project of your past connection with the gay community.

HL: That is just the big thing that was lost in that fire were all of the copies I had of the *Gay Era* [LF: Yeah]. Those did not get rescued, probably because the firemen did not open that cabinet and maybe even realize my connection. There was one issue where I did a cover drawing of Anita Bryant that I would have loved [LF: Laughs] to have. Maybe David—did David perhaps contribute any issues?

BL: David, I do not think so. But, Joe Burns [HL: Smokes cigarette]. Do you remember Joe Burns?

HL: I remember the name [BL: Yeah]. I am trying to remember how I remember it.

BL: He was involved a lot in the community. He was from the Allentown area and [HL: LEHIHO] LEHIHO, yeah. So, [HL: Yeah. Yeah] but he had a collection he donated in [HL: Of the *Gay Era*?] Yeah [HL: Hokey smoke]. So, I think we have all but maybe a few copies.

HL: Wow. You have more than I would have. I just moved a few too many times, so I did not save everything [BL: Yeah]. I just kind of, “oh, this was a good issue” [LF: Laughs]. It was a terrible issue [laughs]. [Motions picking up a magazine] this was not great. But, no if I would go into the basement, I might have a couple of softcore [laughs] porno drawings [BL: Laughs] from the first-hand or mandate, but [laughs] I do not know if you want those things.

BL: Okay. Well yeah, if there is anything that you find later that you might [HL: Okay] want to donate, we can give you a form to [LF: Yeah] sign up

LF: We can forward that along [HL: Okay] and probably schlep it to Harrisburg or Carlisle.

BL: We can always pick it up.

LF: Okay, we can put it away [BL: Yeah, we can pick it up]. Okay.

HL: I cannot—oh, wait a minute. I am just going to give you an idea...

BL: You are connected first [HL: Yeah].

LF: Yeah we are done [HL: Okay]. Yeah. [HL: Wow this...]