

10-2-1984

## Interview with Regina (Crissy) Newell (FA 10)

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INFORMANT/FIELDWORKER DATA FORMI. INFORMANT.REGINA CRISSY NEWELL

NAME [Include fullest possible name - first, middle and/or maiden, last.

For example: John James Smith; Mary Franklin Smith (Mrs. John Smith)

1320 PARK

ADDRESS

BOWLING GREEN, KY 42101

PERSONAL DATA:

Age: 42 Date of Birth: 6/26/42 Place of Birth: COALDALE, PA. Sex: FIRISH, ENGLISH, SCOTTISH ANCESTRY

RACE/NATIONALITY/ETHNIC BACKGROUND

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: [Include education, occupation, places of residence, religion, etc.)

INFORMANT HAS AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE IN HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE. SHE IS A HOUSE WIFE WITH A CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND.II. COLLECTOR.MERRI BELLAND

NAME (Include fullest possible name as described above)

1334 1/2 STATE ST. BOWLING GREEN, KY 42101

ADDRESS, LOCAL

P.O. BOX 400 WHITE SPRINGS, FL 32096

ADDRESS, PERMANENT

ACQUAINTANCE AND FRIEND

PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE INFORMANT, SUCH AS COUSIN, FRIEND, BOSS, ACQUAINTANCE, ETC.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

FA 10, F2

Interview Guide  
Merri Belland  
October 22, 1984

Tape heading: My name is Merri Belland. I am a fieldworker from Western  
Kentucky University. I am talking with: \_\_\_\_\_.

The date is: \_\_\_\_\_ . The location is: \_\_\_\_\_ .

Are you agreeable to being interviewed on tape? \_\_\_\_\_ .

Personal data:

1. Correct spelling of informant's full name
2. Date of birth
3. Where born
4. Parent's names
5. Spelling of parent's names
6. Brothers and sisters
7. Spelling of their names
8. Their ages
9. Father's occupation
10. History of father's occupation
11. Mother's occupation
12. History of mother's occupation
13. Grandparents
14. Other relatives
15. Educational background of parents
16. Educational background of informant
17. Educational background of other family members
18. Religious preference of parents

Personal data continued:

- 19. Religious preference of informant
- 20. Informant's marriage status
- 21. Informant's date of marriage
- 22. Husband's name
- 23. Husband's age
- 24. Where born
- 25. Husband's education
- 26. Husband's religious preference
- 27. Husband's parent's names
- 28. Husband's parent's education
- 29. Husband's parent's religious preference

Chronology of informant's Halloween experiences:

- 1. Earliest memory
- 2. Pre-school memories
- 3. Grade school memories
- 4. Teenage memories
- 5. College memories
- 6. Marriage memories
- 7. Raising a family

Chronology of informant's geographical locations with regional influences:

- 1. Pennsylvania
- 2. California
- 3. College years
- 4. Husband's residency
- 5. Bowling Green

FA10, P2

Interviewer's tape no.: MB One

WKU FL, FL & OHA Accession no.:

Interviewer: Merri Belland

Address: 1334 1/2 State St.  
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Interviewee: Regina Newell

Address: 1320 Park St.  
Bowling Green, KY 42101  
Date: October 2, 1984

Place of interview: 1320 Park St.  
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Other people present: None

Equipment used: Sony Stereo Cassette Recorder  
TC-D5M

Reel-to-reel tape: Brand: Size reel: Tape Mil: Speed:

Cassette: Brand: Scotch AVX60 C-30/C-60/C-90/C-120 (circle size)  
Studio Master Cassette

Amount of tape used: (Side 1): Yes (Side 2): Yes

Brief description of interview context and tape contents: This interview contains biographical data about the informant, Regina Newell. It also contains information about her parents' occupations and early family history.

Her earliest memories of Halloween are included on this tape.

B: Belland

N: Newell

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
003	N: Isn't that amazing? It's the U.P.S. truck a block away and they can sense it.. [ <u>Neighborhood dog is barking. Newell laughs.</u> ] Certain sounds.
006	B: My name is Merri Belland. I am a fieldworker from Western Kentucky University and I'm talking with Regina Newell on October 2, 1984 in her home and um, are you agreeable to being interviewed on tape?
014	N: Yes I am. B: Okay great. What was your date of birth? N: [ <u>Look of surprise from Newell.</u> ] June 26, 1942.

FA 10, F2

COUNTER	TRANSCRIPTION
018	<p>B: Oh, okay and your parents names?</p> <p>N: Ah, Ah, John Aloysius Crissy and Ann Elinor MacLuskie Crissy.</p> <p>B: Okay and just to make sure my records are stright, if you would spell your first and last name.</p> <p>N: My own? (B: Uh huh, your name.) R-E-G-I-N-A (B: Uh huh.) N-E-W-E-L-L.</p> <p>B: Okay. Do you have a middle name?</p> <p>N: I use Crissy, my maiden name.</p> <p>B: Is that, okay, Crissy. How is that spelled?</p> <p>N: C-R-I-S-S-Y.</p> <p>B: Okay, and then to make sure that I spelled your parents names correctly too, if you would spell their names.</p>
030	<p>N: Well, um John, do you really want(B: No, no, no, not)</p> <p>[Laughter.] C-R-I-S-S-Y. And uh, Ann MacLuskie, M-A-C, capitol L-U-S-K-I-E Crissy. (B: Okay, it was the last names I was mainly concerned with.)</p> <p>B: Okay, how many brothers and sisters did you have?</p> <p>N: One brother and one sister.</p> <p>B: What relationship were you to them in terms of age? Were you the the oldest?</p> <p>N: I am definitely the oldest. I am thirteen years older than my brother and fifteen years older than my sister. We are in essence two seperate families. (B: Uh huh.)</p> <p>B: And, where were you born?</p> <p>N: I was born in Coaldale, Pennsylvania. Ah, which was, umn, ten miles from my parents home at the time, which was Leighton, Pennsylvania, which I sort of consider my home of record I suppose,</p>
048	

FA 10, F2

COUNTER

Wife

TRANSCRIPTION

when you talk about home places. (B: Yeah.) Little big Lehigh-ton, the town (B: How.) Excuse me?

B: How long did you live there?

N: Ah, um, my father was a state policeman, a state trooper. (B: Uh huh.) So, we lived all over Pennsylvania. Yeah, I was born in Lehigh-ton, then with transfers due to the state police, ah, lived all over the state until the early 50s when our family moved to California. My father was in the coast guard and he was called to active duty during the Korean police action. And so from third through sixth grade I was in California, and then came back to this town Lehigh-ton, Pennsylvania and ah, finished junior high and high school.

063

B: What size town is it?

N: At that time it was 5000, essentially a community in the middle of an agrarian area, (B: Uh huh.) very much agricultural Penn-sylvania German predominately background.

B: So when you were growing up you really grew up and then your brothers and sisters grew up. (N: Uh huh, uh huh.) So you, gee you were thirteen when (N: Uh huh.) well, as you know my interest in [At this point a neighborhood dog begins barking and continues for 5 minutes.] interviewing you is talking about Halloween, and (N: Uh huh.) so I would be curious to know what your earliest remembrances of Halloween?

N: Earliest remembrances, ah, oh really, really good times. I guess alot of them associated once you go to school. [Dog barks again.]

I did not go to kindergarden. It was not mandatory in Pennsylvania at the time. So with first grade I can remember that I was Little Bo Peep and had a perfectly wonderful costume and a poem associated

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FA 10 1F2

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

with Little Bo Peep that I had to say when I called on neighbors.

B: Did everybody have to say that?

N: Yes, that was, umm, maybe it's old timey, maybe it's particular to Pennsylvania but, ah, you ah, you didn't have to, er, your little entertainment did not have to associate with your costume, certainly, but if you went to a door and the people inside asked you to sing or dance or at least introduce yourself, you went prepared with something to do, or tell, a recitation, you know, that sort of thing.

B: Where did they come from? The recitation?

N: Gee, I guess all I recited was Little Bo Peep, who's lost her sheep, I suppose. You know it wasn't anything organized but you just knew that you could be called upon to do that particularly by older people. I can remember grandfatherly and grandmotherly types, and then, they would try very hard to guess who you were before you were unmasked. That was part of the fun. You know, is this little so-and so from down the street. Much ado was made if you had stumped them, you know, that sort of thing.

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B: At school was there an organized party too?

N: Yes, a-huh, you wore your costumes and go to school

B: And, what was the nature of the ah?

N: Oh gee, it's so long ago. I think there may have been, ah, a parade perhaps in the auditorium or gymnasium. I seem to remember that sort of thing. And, ah, I don't remember awards or prizes or anything like that which is probably a good idea that nobody was thwarted. Everybody was wonderful, but parties, uh, you know candy and apple cider and bobbing for apples and that sort of thing in school.

B: What kinds of candy?



COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

N: Oh always ah candy corn, witches teeth.

B: Is it like it is today?

N: Yeah, yeah, exactly, exactly. Except you can't impale them on your teeth and walk around and look as though you've got these wonderful canines. You know, ah, until they melt you'reea mess.

B: When you were a kid you put them on your teeth and made fangs,

(N: Uh huh.) right?

N: Uh huh.

B: That's great.

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N: I can remember taffyssand of course this is long enough ago, I am 42 and ah, I've discovered I have remembrances that my husband doesn't have. He's older than I am but from another part of the country. Uh, you still could buy alot of penny candy and it really was a penny. Amm, flavored liquids in um, um paraffin bottles and you broke the bottle and drank the liquid and then you chewed on the paraffin, and got in a lot of trouble in school because, of course, you wern't supposed to have chewing gum and that was not gum, officially, technically, but you were chewing and that's not what you were supposed to do. That kind of thing was favorites, Mary Janes. You know what those are?

B: Yes, I remember Mary Janes and I remember those, um, paraffin candies.

N: Uh huh, an awful lot of homemade thing, popcorn balls, ah, homemade cookies and cupcakes, that sort of thing.

B: What about your Little Bo Peep outfit? Where did that come from?

N: Ahh, I don't know. I know my mother didn't make it because she didn't sew, but it was more elaborate than what we would now con-

F.A 10 IF2

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

sider a dime store outfit. I remember it very clearly as being yellow printed with, ah, you know the lacing at the bodice and those puffy things on the hips, and I had a crook and I had a little hat that matched that tied under my chin.

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B: I wonder where that came from?

N: I have no idea. It may have been, you know, purchased, but it was, it had to have been, I don't think my mother had it made, but it was just something that was, as I say, just a little bit more elaborate than seems to be available in general right now.

B: What did you carry to collect the candy, the trick-or-treat candy?

N: I don't remember, I think it was just a plain bag.

B: And then did you go with your parents when you were young or was, was, (N: Neighborhood, neighborhood children.) was it organized?

N: Ah, not terribly, except that we were all going to meet at a given time and go.

B: And you were probably all the same age?

N: Uh huh, oh and another wonderful thing, we lived, I lived, umn, this is getting a little bit beyond first recollections, but I ah, in Hazelton, Pennsylvania, which is not the town where I was born, but in the anthracite coal mining area on the top of a mountain and we lived next door, right across the street from a cemetery, because neighborhood was just a wonderful place to be on Halloween but we didn't have that early childhood fear of the cemetery because that's where we went. It had cobblestone walks, and it's where we went to bicycle and rollerskate. We were very much at home there, so, ah, but everybody else. We were sort of the insiders at Halloween. We

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COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

knew there was no danger over there but everybody else, but have found it very wonderful to go to the homes on the four street that faced the cemetery. [Thump noise.]

B: Well, did you ever put any kind of scary decorations over there to enhance it?

N: Not in the cemetery. I think we were too young to think of that kind of mischief. My mother always decorated for Halloween and every, every holiday, [Thump noise.] it would seem. Ah, I think with the change of weather and harvest and all that kind of thing that one of the things you thought about was, oh yeah, fall decorations.

B: When, when would your mother decorate for that?

N: Umm, I gather in, recollection is hard, but I would say, oh you know, mid-October, have things up for a couple of weeks before Halloween came.

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B: What sorts of things?

N: I still own some of them. One I remember very vividly. It was papier mache, ah, jack-o-lantern who was from the, uh, dime store and he had paper eyes but they were translucent so that if you put a, a light bulb inside, you know, he was just quite wonderful. And I guess because we kept things up for such a long time that that was real practical and then you didn't do your jack-o-lanterns until later. And I've got a paper, oh string of jack-o-lantern faces that is, is, dates back to my childhood and, ah, it's very fragile now but you unfold it. It's sort of jointed on brads, (B: Uh huh.) and I hang it on the mantelpiece and each face is different. That was just cardboard but that too was from the dime store.

B: Regina, why did you save those?

N: I just had an opportunity. My mother is deceased and when I was going tha [Through.] closing out, ah, I was, ah, executer of her

PA 10 F2

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

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executor of her estate and as I was cleaning out the house and so forth, that we eventually sold, I came across them. She had saved then. She used them, and so among the things that we divided were these treasures that she had decorated with over the years. As I say, she did all those things and so, um, that's what I got. I got the old stuff since I was the old child. [Newell laughs.] The kids got the things, get the things, that they remember that were special to them, you know, my younger brother and sister, and (B: I mean, the memories; in those decorations, as simple as they are, must be wonderful.) uh huh, and of course they're, they're probably collectors' items now. You know you just don't see them, obviously in, in that, on a practical side makes them even more wonderful, but the sentimental side obviously is why (B: Well, do you use them?) uh huh, yes.

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B: What, when do you put them up?

N: Same thing, I'm thinking now. This is October 2 and I was just thinking of, you know, going up and getting the boxes before long, and and again, I think because we've had a snap of cold weather and it feels like autumn and the apples are in season and that kind of thing, you just start to, I've already bought a couple of pumpkins.

B: I know, it's that time of the year.

N: Uh huh, uh huh.

B: Even at Diemers' they've got their great pumpking display up.

N: Wonderful, sure, uh huh. [Newell laughs.]

B: I think I'll take this opportunity and check the tape (N: Good.) and see how it's going. [33 second pause.] Okay, the recording level sounded real good to me so we're back, uh, recording again. Umm, we were talking about pumpkins and the things that you found as a child.

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COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

Have you found any of your early costumes?

N: No, I don't know what became of them. I have no idea. Probably because we moved so often the, the one house near the cemetery, ah, we moved from there to California and had left some things behind, my doll house and carriage and mother's chaise lounge and things that, we rented the house while we were gone and eventually we sold it while we were in California so that some of those things disappeared, and I think they might have been among them.

B: How old were you when you moved?

225

N: Aaaah, had my eighth birthday out there. I was in third grade.

B: Okay, so now you're eight years old and you've moved to California (N: Uh huh.) do you remember Halloween (N: Uh huh.) there as being any different?

N: Well, I would say quite a bit different. Aaah, a, ah, I've given some thought to this as we were anticipating this taping and ah, most vivid memory, as you were talking about, what kind of treats. Ah, of course we're older and a little bit more sophisticated and even my outfit, now we've come from Little Bo Peep and witches and things like that, first Halloween out there, ah, my father had been on a coast guard cutter and had gone to Japan, and so I had wonderful silk pajamas to wear and that's what I wore, silk pajamas and my hair up with all the ornaments in them and so forth, and ah, zori sandals which were not, these were straw with a velvet thong between your toes like the rubber ones we wear now, and I really thought I was quite nicely tricked out. Back to the treats, ah, something I was given; this is California, bunch of grapes. Whereas in Pennsylvania I had had apples, you know the harvest we had available, had a bunch

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COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

of grapes which I thought was the neatest thing in the world, how nice in this little, ah, and they were loose, I guess it was before the days of all the plastic baggies and things like that.. So You, you, so I had them in my hand and I had my bag of less stellar goodies in the other hand and running down the driveway, really you know kind of delighted with the whole situation and in those wonderful velvet straw shoes, I fell and squashed my grapes. Tell ya, this, this, [Newell laughs.] that's pretty California to dress up, I think and I was wearing makeup. I don't think we had masks on. I had a lot of makeup then, ah, oh, a little bit of white face and oriental eyes. I guess I was trying to look Geisha although I didn't have a kimono on. [Tap on table.]

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B: Do you think you wore the makeup because you were older and it was (N: I thing so, that was forbidden to do except for Halloween, and "boy, wasn't this terrifically sophisticated." Didn't we look grown up? And we fell on our grapes.) [Newell laughs.] Oh, come back home.

N: Oh, it was so sad. I don't think I injured the costume because I had that for awhile afterward and I wore it for slumber parties and things like that but, I did loose the grapes altogether.

B: Well, do you remember, ah, your performance? Did you have a poem?

N: No, no longer. We're not doing this in California. You just went and asked and got the goodies, and I remember a good yewee really didn't approve of, we were given walnuts at one house and of course in California we had nine walnut trees on less than as acre property at our, you know, house, development house, that sort of thing. I've come from, ah, an old neighborhood to a brand new house in a California

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COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

subdivision, and, ah, it had walnut trees, so did everybody else, and some stingy person [Newell laughs.] probably worked very hard harvesting the walnuts, gave us walnuts, and we just thought that was not too swell, not that we didn't like them but we all had them. That was mundane.

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B: That was common?

N: Uh huh.

B: You had them at home?

N: Yeah.

B: What about your mother, did ah, here she's moved to California, did the decorations she put up change?

N: I don't think so. I think she probably bought all the same things. I don't have, you know, vivid images of what was on a particular wall or anything like that, but they were there. They were just always there. This was part of it. My mother worked. I don't know if I mentioned that, all the time (B: No.) we were growing up my mother was a nurse and, ah, just stayed at her career, always and just worked her career, ah, children, so least I give the impression that this was some homebody that stayed home and decorated for holidays and things like that, that's not the case. She was quite busy and some how squeezed all this in, and ah, I think too, I can remember your taking the pumpkins. I can remember about my father coming home in his state police uniform with a, with a pumpkin he had, you know patrolling the highways, a self to see best in the county, or see best in the particular state police district and he would come home with really good ones, you know, so it wasn't just mother's job. My father was interested in all this carrying on too.

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COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

B: Did your whole family then celebrate other holidays as well?

N: Uh huh. [Newell nods her head in agreement.]

B: What were the major holidays?

N: Well, obviously Christmas and Easter and ah, but probably second to those, ah, Halloween. We made a big fuss about Valentines Day, always with lots of valentines exchanged in school and more parties and that sort of thing and ah, just sort of traditions that still exist here.

B: Thanksgiving?

N: Ah, yes. Very much so.

B: What about personal holidays like birthdays?

N: Oh, fantastic. You just don't forget birthdays in, in our house and it wasn't unusual to have a birthday cake with your own family, perhaps have a party for friends. When you went to visit aunts and uncles or grandparents you had another one. I mean your birthday was just not a one shot deal. If, if it dragged out it was wonderful.

B: Was there anyone in the family that had a birthday occurring near Halloween?

N: No, no, none of us, I'm a, no my mother was born in spring and I in summer and my father was a Christmastime baby.

B: Yeah. I would have been curious to know if that would have been incorporated into the holiday. So, let me get this stright now. How long were you in California?

N: Umn, hmn, hmn, [Expressed musically.] amn, three almost four years I guess.

B: Okay, so you were eight years old?

N: It must have been four, because I, I think I was either twelve or almost twelve. I was getting ready, it was middle of sixth grade.

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COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

that sort of thing, so.

B: So, elementary school years? And did you go to a public school?

N: Uh huh. Always. (B: Okay.) Yes.

B: When you moved to California were the parties, or the, was that Halloween was celebrated in the school system, what differences were there? Or the similarities?

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N: I'm having trouble remembering but I just, I don't remember that they were, um, tremendously different or less elaborate or anything like that, maybe not as full of traditions as I remembered from the northeast but I assume, California being a state of transplants, people brought a lot of their own traditions with them and, and, ah, we were near, ah, ah, a naval base so a lot of us were transplants, you know, shared traditions but I don't remember a lack of good things to do. There were parties at school and that sort of thing and the same sort of neighborhood trick-or-treating, but I didn't feel left out or hurt that I'd come to this barren locality. That wasn't the case at all. We had a good time.

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B: And you make friends easily?

N: Uh huh. Uh huh. [Newell nods her head in agreement.]

B: Okay, think back on those times and tell me if there is anything that strikes you, that as a child you would consider a particular symbol or symbols for Halloween

N: Just from all of childhood you would say? (B: From, yeah, from all of childhood.) Well definitely, (B: Elementary, okay, that's the era.) uh huh, okay, definitely carving a jack-o-lantern. That has to be it. The mess. The, you know, sloppiness of getting all the seeds, stringy.

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

B: Was that a family activity then?

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N: Bless her heart, I think my mother permitted us to do it and I say us because even as my brother and sister came along you were allowed to do that. I mean, you, you, you had supervision obviously with a knife and so forth but that mess. You had a pumpkin that you carved and gave your own (B: So.) personality.

B: Each person in your family, like your brothers?

N: Uh huh, uh huh, not necessarily mother and dad but, but we did, and then I carried that tradition on with my own children. Whoever is home does the jack-o-lantern.

B: And when would you do it, like would it be a couple of days before?

N: Yes, yes. (B: Or a day?) Well you know, we, I think we've learned from experience, depending on the weather you can keep them a little bit longer and they're wonderful it they start to, [Neighbor hood dog barking.] their faces start to shrivel and crush, crush in,

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they're even more wonderful at Halloween, of if anybody was particularly anxious to go ahead and carve their pumpkin we never said, "no you have to wait until the twentieth of October." They just went ahead and did it.

B: And then once they were carved and here's Halloween day, did you do anything specific with them for the celebration of Halloween?

N: Well, they had to go someplace very obvious. You know, up on the front porch or up the sidewalk, or in the window, you know just depending on the architecture of the house, you know, what was available.

B: Okay, so a pumpkin was one symbol that you remember. What about anything else?

N: Umm, [Newell clears throat.] let me see. Apples, umm, witches, the scary, scary side of things with black cats, you know, and your

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

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own art work and things you do at school, and stories of some goblins, that sort of thing. Amm, I may be getting off the beaten track but something I hadn't mentioned from Pennsylvania, they had a , and they still do it, the night before Halloween is sometimes designated mischief night. And you go out (B: In Pennsylvania?) uh huh, and it may still be, I don't know, I've lost touch and of course don't have any children in that area any more, but a, Newell clears throat. tic-tac night, that was another, that was what it was called or mischief night and a, of course you look back, you don't thing of anything really mischievous going on, you want to have happy memories. I'm sure there were awful things that went on, soaping windows and egging and so forth, which are fairly benign but one tradition we had and ah, I'm jumping up into high school, just mention it because it's part of, this was (B: Well.) not a costume night it was before (B: High school though? You're back when you were twelve or thirteen.)

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[Newell is saying "Uh huh" throughout Belland's comments.] right, and one, one tradition of mischief night was that somebody, everybody, usually seniors took the principals' gate from his front fence and ran it up the flagpole at school and he knew and we never lost the hinges, you know, he just knew that was going to happen, so it was sort of a benign happy thing to do, ha ha, big joke every Halloween day there was Mr. Farren's front gate, which was a, I recall, um, kind of fancy cyclone fencing. If you remember sometimes they had an arch at the top and a little bit of filigree, probably in the aluminum. It was no great work of art but it didn't suffer any damage when we ran it up to the top of the flag pole, instead of the flag next morning there it was, and there was the tic-tac, the name tic-tac came from the

COUNTER

TRANSCRIPTION

sound that dried corn made. You would go into the farmer's field and field corn, you know that was left in the field, amn, and take it off the husk and throw it at doors and windows. You know people, everybody was wise but we didn't think so, you know would think it was someone at the door and they would answer the door, hahaha. What a great joke, sort of like ringing the door bell but you were further away because you could throw the corn at the windows. And I'm sure windows were broken, you know with hand full of corn, you know hard field corn being thrown at them but, umn, the intent wasn't really to do damage but just a little mischief and it was more benign but as I say memory is always kinder than the actual fact I'm sure. [Newell and Belland laugh.] Less than happy things occur and there were windows broken and things like that but soaping windows, car windows, neighbors' windows, particularly somebody if they were mean and cranky, that was sort of an opportunity to kind of get, get even at them. The revenge of the neighborhood kids.

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B: But as a young child, in elementary school, the trick part wasn't there?

N: No, no, no, not, not so much, although there was, we didn't participate as young, young children, but the tradition of a mischief night was there. It was for the older crowd.

B; So when you got to high school was there, was there any certain age level where this was the age group that got to run the fence up the flag pole?

N: As I say, I think it was upper classmen in high school. It was just an unwritten law, you know, would be tied, a freshman or junior, We were all in the same school by the way, junior high through high

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school.

B: Do you remember the first year you did that?

N: I, I was quite grown up, I mean, I was, might have been sixteen.

(B: Uh huh.) And ah, a.

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B: Did you get together and plan this event?

N: As best I recall and believe it or not it was, it was, I think the idea was hatched that year in a student council meeting. I mean, these wern't vandals. These were pretty good kids, with a streak of vandal in them I guess.

B: What was mischief night?

N: That's what it was, that sort of thing,

B: It was the night before (N: Uh huh.) Halloween night. What happened if Halloween came on a Sunday? Or if Halloween came on a Monday and mischief night came on a Sunday?

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N: Same thing, I, I do seem to recall that the idea of a changing holidays just didn't occur. I mean, the Fourth of July was on the fourth of July, no matter what. It wasn't arranged for the first Monday after the weekend, you know by federal legislation or anything like that. It occurred, the day it occurred, and if people had to go to church Sunday night, well that was just one of the sad stories of childhood. You didn't get to go, you know, until church was over or something like that. That was not part of our tradition so I was free any night of the week to do Halloween or mischief night.

B: What time of the evening would this gate go up the flagpole?

N: Oh, late, late. It would be the time when he was supposedly asleep and our curfew, I say late, our curfews may have been 10:30 at night. On a school night I'm sure it was something like that,

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10:00. But, ah, as late as possible and sometimes it had to be left to the boys to do that. You know we girls didn't, it was a different society. I was home at 10:00 or woe-be-tied. As I said, my father was a state trooper, if I wasn't home he had connections. [Newell laughs in reminiscence.] No, but they weren't terribly strict or anything like that, was just something, you had to be home. It was the fellows who masterminded that sort of thing.

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B: I wondered when was the last time, do you remember the last time that you wore a costume, with a mask and sort of officially performed trick-or-treat?

N: Went to peoples' houses?

B: Yes.

N: I mean I, I get in costume every Halloween now. [Belland and Newell both laugh.] Still do it.

B: But was there a point where you stopped and said, this is too childish? I'm not going to dress up and go to the doors.

N: Umm, probably not. I didn't say it was too childish. It may have been mandated in some way that by a certain age you weren't supposed to be wearing, umm, masks or disguising your face. You know, just, I think its, maybe problems were created by teenagers running around with their identity hidden and so, you know, that's left, say junior high level or something like that as about the last I recall but I, I do have Halloween memories haveing come back to Pennsylvania when I was in the sixth grade, so it looks, it seems to me, sixth, seventh grade probably was about the last, twelve or thirteen years old, which is really kind of old to be doing that sort of thing. We also had Halloween parades and I believe they still do.

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B: Back in Pennsylvania?

N: Back in Pennsylvania. This was not a California tradition as I recall.

B: What happened at a Halloween parade?

N: You, ah, organizations, individuals in costume would parade, ah, your high school. Now we're not trick-or-treating, but we're going in the parade. I an remember when we were seniors, we dressed as th the senior saints. That was easy. Everyone wore a halo and wings and a sheet and we had a band on a flat bed truck and they played

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"When the Saints Go Marching In," and we all marched. And you were in competition, there were prizes awarded. And there was a devil and I forget who he was to represent but it was, you know, a character, the kind that was always tardy and in trouble at school. We, it was only too happy to be the devil and run around with a real pitchfork and bedevil we saints, us saints. And, ah, that was fun.

I remember that very vividly that you planned what your class was going to be and marched as a group. Now, this is a small high school of five hundred people. Our class was one hundred forty four, so that's a pretty good number though but participation was pretty good.

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You would say, "we are going to be this and so here's how we'll do it," and people would show up dressed. And I think that probably prevented alot of mischief and carrying on. You know you had something a little more fun and constructive to do. Our town had a boys' band and a mans' band and they always marched in this parade. You just ah, they were there. And the high school band marched. This was a very big, I mean it wasn't just costumed people walking around. It had some form to it. I don't know who organized it, if it was the

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city, itself, or the Chamber of Commerce, or something like that.

But it was organized. There were prizes.

B: When you were in elementary school do you remember those parades?

N: Well, I was in elementary school in one location. That was in Hazelton, on the map. And, ah, California, I remember the parades most vividly from high school, but I know little children participated in them as well. On one occasion we were in Halloween, in Halloween, in Pennsylvania for Halloween. My mother was ill and my sister and her beau dressed as a large Rageddy Ann and Andy. My daughter, who was then a kindergardener and had gone with me to Pennsylvania, when I was caring for my mother and she dressed as a little Rageddy Ann and they won a prize because they were so wonderful. They just entered as that sort of a unit, sort of a family unit or whatever. And, ah, so it was still going on as recently, that had to have been 1974.

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B: Was the parade on Halloween day?

N: That I don't recall. It may have been preceding it. In fact, may, you know I'm just supposing this but maybe it was put in, in place of mischief night or give people something to do to keep them busy. You know, so they don't have (B. Uh huh.) hours and hours of less than constructive time. Ah, but it must have been separate from trick-or-treat.

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End of side one.

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