**Interview with Doug Marvy**

**We Won’t Go! (And We Don’t Want You To Go, Either)**

**Oral History Project**

**April 6, 2019**

This project is sponsored by the Minnesota Independent Scholars Forum with funding provided by a Minnesota Historical,

Cultural and Heritage Grant.

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**Peter Simmons, Interviewer**

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Name of interviewee: Doug Marvy - DM

Names of interviewer: Peter Simmons - PS

Recording 1

00:00:00

PS: My name is Peter Simmons and I am talking with Doug Marvy, M-a-r-v-y on Saturday, the sixth of April, 2019. I am in Minneapolis, Minnesota and talking with, interviewing Doug Marvy, who is at his home in Houston, Texas and we’re doing this by telephone.

This interview is part of an oral history project that is called “We Won’t Go and We Don’t

Want You To Go, Either.” It is being facilitated by the Minnesota Independent Scholars Forum and is funded in large part by a grant from the Minnesota Cultural Heritage Fund and that grant was—the application for that grant—was facilitated also by the Minnesota Independent Scholars Forum.

Now, we can actually begin here and Doug, can you please briefly explain what you were

involved in in September of 1968 that leads me to be talking to you?

DM: Well, let’s jump to September 24. And you can ask if you want me to back up from there. We had all met beforehand, that is, the fourteen of us, and within an hour or so of somewhere around six o’clock at night on the twenty-fourth, we made our way separately to, and then walked into, the draft board in Milwaukee [Milwaukee, WI].

Each person had an assigned role. I was to—there were two folks, two of us who got the keys to the nine separate draft boards. They got the keys from a cleaning lady who we knew would be there. They handed me the keys and I opened up all the nine doors. I was dressed differently from the others. I was in a kind of a gray pants and gray shirt to look like I was a custodian so that I could be walking the halls. And people went into the other nine boards; they were small boards and only one person went in and then there were the larger ones that two people went in.

In any case, actually it wasn’t fourteen; there were only thirteen of us. One guy was still outside—Jerry [Gerald Gardner], who was going to bring the gas cans, bring the cans of napalm. So they collected—they broke into the file cabinets in all nine of them. We had outfitted them, everybody, with like a pipe wrench, broke in. And everybody had burlap bags that we also outfitted everybody with, filled burlap bags up with files.

And on my signal, when things actually got a little bit out of hand. Because we were joined—we didn’t know that it was pay day and a supervisor came with the checks to be delivered to the person who was cleaning up there. And the supervisor freaked out when she saw what was happening and it looked a little out of control to me and I called everybody out. And I believe it was on the second floor. I don’t remember anymore.

In any case, people hit the street with their bags. Everybody dropped all the bags. And there

00:05:00 was a tiny little memorial out in front of the draft board, a tiny little memorial to—I don’t

know—World War I or World War II, but everybody dropped the sacks in. Jerry came from his—I think his van—with cans of napalm, this homemade napalm stuff that basically was gasoline and soap, and poured it all over the files, the bags. I threw a match. And there’s an interesting little—I guess you’d call it a pirated video—of that proceeding that somebody had made from a second floor, I think, of a building close by.

Anyhow, so the fire was raging. We all joined hands and the fire trucks and the police arrived. I think we were all searched and—I don’t remember getting patted down but I think that’s what happened. We got busted.

Oh, I forgot an important element. There was a fifteenth man, John Hagedorn, who had brought all the press, and had them in a van and when he saw us coming out of the building, he opened the van up and told them that that was their story. They had come along not having any idea what to expect.

So then, because of that event, it was all live filmed and we all went into a paddy wagon and got taken down to the city jail [Milwaukee City Jail, 951 North James Lovell Street, Milwaukee, WI], where we spent the night waiting for bail hearings and all that jazz. I think I’ll stop there and see if you have any questions. I’m sure I left stuff out. It’s been a few years.

PS: Well, we can go back for more detail in a while, Doug, but the very beginning sort of intro to what you were describing on that day in September, which was the twenty-fourth did you say of 1968?

DM: Yes.

PS: That’s what later on, or soon after, became known –you all who were arrested and jailed for that—was called the Milwaukee 14 or you all were and the basic idea was to take and destroy draft board files of the Milwaukee area draft boards that were all housed in that location, right?

DM: Correct, yes.

PS: Okay. So we’ll talk more about the planning and the actual execution and the aftermath in a little bit here. But to go back way before that event, I’d like you to talk a little bit about your origins, where you’re from, what your youth was like and some things about what your influences were like. You were—you’re a native Minnesotan, correct?

DM: Yes, um-hm.

PS: And you were born where and when?

DM: St. Paul, on the ninth of November in 1941.

PS: Okay. And you lived in St. Paul; you grew up in St. Paul and lived there at least through your high school years, correct?

DM: Yeah, um-hm. Let’s see. Did I come back after the Navy? Yes, I did for a while. Through high school years and then a little bit of college.

PS: So you were at college here at least for a while after high school?

DM: Yes, at the University of Minnesota. Actually I graduated from the University of Minnesota.

PS: Okay, so that was your first round of higher education.

DM: Yeah. So out of high school in ’59; then a couple years in the Navy and almost four

00:10:00 years of college so it was through ’65, 1965 that I lived in St. Paul and Minneapolis.

PS: Okay, except for the couple of years in the Navy.

DM: Um-hm.

PS: And what high school did you go to, Doug?

DM: St. Paul Central [Central High School, 275 Lexington Parkway North, St Paul, MN].

PS: Okay, and tell a little bit about after your graduation from the university here, you went where for further higher education and doing what?

DM: Let’s see. From high school graduation—

PS: No, from the university.

DM: I went to college. From that bachelor’s degree I went into a Ph.D. program in economics at Yale. [Yale University, New Haven, CT]. Let’s see, is that true? Yes, I did. I went right immediately to Yale after a summer in Minneapolis.

PS: Okay, so that would have been about fall of 1965. Am I counting right?

DM: Yes, yes. So I was there for the academic year of ’65, ’66.

PS: Okay. Did you keep on at Yale after 1966? Was there a hiatus or interruption?

DM: No, I didn’t. I transferred into a Ph.D. program in mathematics back at the University of Minnesota.

PS: Okay, so—

DM: I came back there in June of ’66 I guess. I was married in October of ’66 in Minneapolis and I was in the math department there.

PS: Okay, and you continued in that math Ph.D. program for how long?

DM: Until I went to Milwaukee. Let’s see, does that make sense to me? Yes, I did, but that was through the fall of ’68.

PS: Okay. It sounds—I’m guessing from what I know about everything else that you talked about that you didn’t wind up finishing that math program because of the events of September ’68 and afterward, right?

DM: Yes. Afterward, I actually transferred back into—I got a job as a graduate assistant and was admitted to an economics Ph.D. program at Minnesota. So I went back to college when I got out of jail, got out of prison.

PS: Which would have been 1970, right?

DM: Which would have been, oh, gosh, fall of ’70. I tried to get a job in a couple of factories but one job I was told I was overqualified and they wouldn’t hire me. And I wasn’t that interested in manufacturing a different resume or anything so—and I had friends in the economics department, in the faculty at Minnesota so I took a job and restarted school there.

PS: So I’d like to back up now a little bit to the actual events in Milwaukee and what came before that, sort of the lead-in to your getting involved with that. A lot of the people who did that particular draft board raid and others in other parts of the country that happened beforehand were what people thought of then, or came to think of, as being part of the radical Catholic Left and that’s who many of the people in Milwaukee were connected to, but not you. Tell a little bit about your background that way and how you got involved with this. You do not have a Catholic background, right?

00:15:00 DM: That’s true, that’s true. Well, the immediate—let me start backwards, too, a little bit.

Just a second—I have a—my wife gave me a note here and I want to look at and see what it is, just a second. You—when you formed [laughs]. Never mind. I had gotten interested—I was interested and involved in civil rights stuff beforehand in the early sixties and even the late fifties, and sort of morphed into antiwar and other things. And I got involved in the Twin Cities Draft Information Center, which had started up; I’m not exactly sure when, probably ’67-ish, early in ’67 maybe. And one of the main activities—main things going on there was counseling and production of propaganda and so on, counseling people for how not to get into the draft. And I was going there doing draft counseling. I was one of the few people around who actually had been in the military.

And one evening while there, George Mische [George Mische (1937-)] came by. George was a member of the Catonsville 9, who will probably show up in some, several here—I would imagine—other interviews. The Catonsville group with the famous Berrigan brothers, Phil [Philip Francis Berrigan (1923-2002)] and Dan [Daniel Joseph Berrigan (1921-2016)], and they were an immediate precursor to the Milwaukee 14, personal as well as I suppose political.

I had never even heard of them, the radical Catholic—that was not part of what I knew anything about. And George came through and was talking about—introduced himself to those of us who didn’t know him, which included me—and was talking about a meeting that was going to happen that evening. And I started talking with him, where he came from, what had gone on and he told me about the Catonsville event and it just lit my fire immediately. Immediately I said, “This is fantastic. I’m going where you are going.” I remember that feeling so strongly that an event that could hit the national press and cause a big, you know—had the possibility of reaching a lot more people like that, really turned me on.

I went to the meeting that night. I don’t remember the date of that but I can guess it’s like oh, July, early July, as early as—it could have even been into August but I doubt it. In any case, I went to the meeting and George and others had organized a rather large event that was going to take place in—on Labor Day weekend, early September at a retreat place in New Jersey. Several hundred people were there.

I went and that’s where I met probably—I don’t remember if all fourteen of the guys were there or not—but pretty close, because at that event, which had several hundred people, it was known—it was advertised among us that there would be some private— there would be a

00:20:00 private get-together for anybody who was interested in action. And we got together privately

and it was out of that that the Milwaukee 14 group grew out of that meeting. At least that was

one thread to it. Another thread was the Catholic Worker House in Milwaukee where Dan Berrigan had met, I believe, with some people there and sort of targeted Milwaukee as the next place for action. I didn’t really care where we went and had no connection whatever to the Catholic Worker community or any of that.

So that’s how I ended up with the group. I really had not even studied or didn’t know about the, you know, the past history, Dorothy Day and all that stuff, a name I’d never heard of or anything.

PS: Well, your background was, as far as I know, was comparatively secular. Is that right?

DM: Yes.

PS: Although as far as distant background goes, you are Jewish.

DM: My parents are Jewish—

PS: Well, yeah—

DM: and they told me I was and when I found out that it was a choice, I stopped. Yeah, secular is a good description.

PS: So you didn’t—in your eagerness to be involved in all this, it didn’t have a spiritual or a community of belief kind of connection except for your involvement with the Draft Information Center. Is that about right?

DM: That’s true. My connection to the Milwaukee 14 action was quite a bit more strategical, I think, than anything else. It just—it seemed like a strain of the antiwar movement that I wanted to help emphasize and I was willing to, I guess, you know, risk whatever that took. I was also I must add—I was also extremely angry. That had a lot to do with my politics.

PS: Angry about?

DM: Angry—I considered myself as a—I considered myself fighting for the Vietnamese and I would have gone armed if that’s what I could have done. This particular Milwaukee 14 group struck me as very worthwhile. The nonviolent character of it was—for me—was strategic.

PS: Okay. So I wanted to ask about prior years before that. You said that you’d been involved in or at least paying attention to civil rights activities and maybe doing things like that. Had you been involved in any kind of civil disobedience or close to something like that or people who did that in the years prior, not related to the draft?

DM: Yeah, I had a particular aunt and uncle who were quite involved from early on, about the late forties, I think. And as far as—and they were heavily involved in supporting oh, bus boycotting in the south and so on.

PS: You mean the Freedom Rides?

DM: Yeah, and I met people—in particular I met young people who came up, young black kids really—my age or a little younger even who were getting out of prison, getting out of jails who were coming on speaking tours. My older sister and her husband were involved in

00-:25:00 bus boycott stuff in Alabama, Mississippi and I met folks through them—some black folks in

Minneapolis who were involved. It just kind of became a part of what I was doing, you know, while I was starting out at the university in the early sixties. My uncle was subpoenaed before HUAC, the House Un-American Activities Committee and that became a big deal, picketing them and at those hearings. And meeting a lot of people who were very active in organizing labor unions in the forties and fifties, older people like that. My aunt’s mother had been a very well-known writer and coming out of the Communist Party in the 1930s.

PS: Can you give some names to these people you’re describing?

DM: My aunt’s mother, Meridel Le Sueur [Meridel Le Sueur (1900-1996)], and even her grandmother, my aunt’s grandmother, [Marian LeSueur (1877-1954)] had been involved in labor activity and her grandfather, [Arthur LeSueur (1867-1950)] going back to 19*;* I don’t know, 1910? 1900? There was a very rich history that I felt like I was sort of becoming a part of, although I also was—at the same time, impatient and arrogant about what I knew and what I didn’t know. I mean I—by that I mean, I didn’t gather a lot of information about what these people did and what they thought about and what worked and what didn’t. I knew that they had been active and I knew I wanted to be. So that my involvement with the antiwar movement was sort of caught up in the midsixties sort of anger. I didn’t, for example, join any of the older Socialist parties or get involved in any organized Marxist parties; I just sort of—I was—like I say, I was young; I was angry and I struck out from there.

PS: So in any case you had a lot of family background behind you before that was helping you feel like this was the natural thing to do or the natural direction for you to go in next?

DM: I’m not sure. I’m not sure how much emphasis I would say a lot. It was—I had to seek it out and, for example, my parents were not involved in that at all, in fact were antagonistic if anything. And those were the only—that one particular aunt and uncle were kind of the only ones. I had another aunt and uncle who were involved in like a Socialist Workers Party politics and Trotskyite stuff going back as well, but I didn’t pay much attention to their politics. I only knew that it existed.

PS: Doug, the aunt and uncle that you mentioned who were connected to Meridel Le Sueur were who? We want to have names if we can.

00:30:00 DM: Oh, of course, yes. That was my uncle, Ken Tilsen [Kenneth E. Tilsen (1928-2013)],

my mother’s youngest brother, and Meridel. Meridel’s maiden name was Le Sueur. She married—did I say Meridel?

PS: Yeah.

DM: I’m sorry. That’s the mother. Ken’s wife is Rachel [Rachel Le Sueur Tilsen (1928-1998)].

PS: Yeah.

DM: And that was the couple that I spent a considerable amount of time with. I mean, because in my mother’s family there were five children and I was near the oldest in our family so Ken and Rachel were not quite—they were old enough—they were like a half a generation above me so their kids, their five kids, were for me, very young cousins at the time who I would babysit and stuff but I was kind of midway between my cousins and my aunt and uncle in terms of age. So I enjoyed just hanging out with them, you know, late at night, listening to music, smoking, drinking, etcetera.

PS: So they were near contemporaries of yours, not quite, but—

DM: Exactly, yeah.

PS: Okay. And they were the influence that you were talking about before—to the extent that you absorbed and knew about these things—it was through them?

DM: Yes.

PS: Okay.

DM: Not entirely, but yes.

PS: In large part.

DM: Um-hm, um-hm. I had also gotten very involved, socially, got very involved in the black community in St. Paul while I was in high school that was independent of anything else.

PS: Okay, so the pathway that you took included this sort of—absorbing this background from others, including family members, but not only them. I think I asked before and I wasn’t clear if you answered, had you ever actually taken part in anything that we call civil disobedience before 1968?

DM: Well, yeah, I mean, I—let’s see. When did I march? When did I go to the Pentagon? Oh, gosh, ’67 and early sixties anti-House Un-American Activities stuff and draft card burning things.

PS: So, Doug, to get—back up to—

DM: I didn’t do any small group civil disobedience that I recall.

PS: So you hadn’t been arrested before 1968?

DM: Not for anything political.

PS: Okay. And you mentioned going to those House Committee hearings. So you actually went to Washington for those hearings at least once?

DM: No, the Committee was traveling. The hearings were in Minneapolis.

PS: Oh, okay. And those hearings, the person—the ones in particular who were subpoenaed for those were Ken, correct?

DM: Yes.

PS: And any other relations or was it just Ken in particular?

DM: No, just Ken.

PS: Okay. So when it got to the point of your being with, on sort of short notice, ready and willing to get involved with this event in Milwaukee, although you would have gone anywhere, you’d been—this sort of thing was familiar to you but you’d never taken part in anything nearly like that directly yourself, right?

DM: Right.

PS: Okay. So I’d like you to talk a little bit more about the—what led up to the draft board raid that you and all the others were part of. Now you mentioned earlier that at the event itself,

00:35:00 you were attired to look like you were a custodian or something of that kind. Everyone else—

Isn’t it true that everyone else who took part in that was, or well, was either clergy of one kind or another, mostly Catholic clergy or Brothers or part of the Catholic Church in some fashion and looked like that at the event?

DM: No, no. My guess is maybe seven of them. I mean, even Jim Forest [James Forest (1941-)], who was Catholic and who was I think at the time an editor of the *Catholic Worker* and stuff [*Catholic Worker* published by Catholic Worker Movement, New York City, 1933-present] was not clergy or anything and not dressed like that. I think if you, looking at—there were maybe two or three Brothers, monks, I guess you’d say, and maybe three or four clergy but that would be it. Other people were—there was one Episcopalian or John Higgenbotham, had something on that would look a little bit like clergy garb, but I don’t think—no, I think maybe at least five of us were not.

PS: But you were the only—you were the only person there whose background, whatever your affiliation at the time really, you were the only Jewish-background person involved at that point there, correct, far as you know?

DM: Yeah, I was the only non-Christian, let’s say that.

PS: Okay. So I think you described the raid itself pretty well. You had to interrupt what you planned on and get a little spontaneous when this unexpected person showed up and decided you need to take things out and set the files alight. Tell a little bit more about the preliminary planning for that, not the retreat with lots of people in New Jersey, but the actual setting up of, you know, who was going to do what and the recruiting of the press. You mentioned all those things a little bit but I’d like to know a little bit more about some of the, you know, lead-in to the actual event.

DM: Well, the lead-in to the event was essentially, John, the fifteenth, John Hagedorn and I that planned everything. And John, who lived in Milwaukee, and had—was active in the draft board and other politics, he’s the one that did all of the press arrangement and how to get them there and everything. And as far as who was going to do what when, that was all planned for the other twelve or thirteen and we got together the night before when people came to town for the first time except there were, I think, three other people that actually lived in Milwaukee. I could, if need be, figure out who that was but—

PS: But mostly people were from elsewhere then, very—the large majority?

DM: Yes, three people from Boston [Boston, MA]; three or four from Minnesota; St. Louis [St. Louis, MO] Notre Dame, Indiana [Notre Dame, IN]; and yeah, probably ten out of the fourteen were not from Milwaukee. But we, John and I, I don’t remember exactly when and

00:40:00 where but we connected several times between that meeting in New Jersey, which was just a

few weeks before the event. That meeting in New Jersey was Labor Day weekend and then our event was the twenty-fourth of September, so there were really only three weeks and it was pretty—John and I were quite active.

John figured out, more or less, how to get—break into the actual lockers that the draft board—that the draft files were in, and I remember buying all of the—getting all of the sacks, the burlap sacks, in Minneapolis and talking all kinds of different little detail things and who would do what; who would go into which draft board; and what they would do when and what they were, you know, who was going to get the keys from the cleaning lady and all that stuff. People were just—they were—the others were not involved in those discussions. It was just when we got together it was like, You do this; you do that and so on.

The only questions when we—we met a couple of hours before the event. We met in a—I think it was kind of a vacant—I don’t remember if it was the second floor of a warehouse or maybe an office building but it was a vacant space within sight of the draft board. We met there a couple hours before, where things were clarified, who would do what.

I remember one very intense conversation with Jim Harney [James W. Harney (1940-2008)], who challenged everybody. Jim had been involved in civil disobedient individual acts previous and he challenged everybody to their commitment to nonviolence and said that if there was anybody in that group that could not possibly react nonviolently when we were arrested, that he was going to leave. That part of it was extremely important to him. And he basically got everybody’s commitment. That’s really the only piece of the conversation that comes to mind because it was so heavily emotional. All the other stuff about, you’ll go to this room and you’ll go to that room and when I knock on the door it’s time to quit—and all that sort of stuff, I don’t remember. What I do know is those people were simply told what to do.

PS: So in that—all the planning that went on beforehand, that was really you and John Higgenbotham who did—

DM: No, not Higgenbotham—Higgenbotham was one of the fourteen. That was John Hagedorn.

PS: Oh, okay, sorry. So you and John Hagedorn were the real architects of this and others were just—came on the scene shortly beforehand more or less.

DM: More or less. Jerry Gardner, the person who brought the napalm, was possibly involved in some of that a little bit beforehand, yeah. He would have had to have been.

PS: Well, that’s close enough I guess. In general, these, though, again, were people from out of town, many of them from far out of town, who’d been recruited so to speak at or through that retreat in New Jersey that George Mische had taken part in organizing, but they came for the purpose of the raid for the most part, right?

DM: Yes, not for the most part, but definitely. I mean, that was what they came for.

PS: Right, I mean people who didn’t already live in Milwaukee.

DM: That’s right.

PS: Yeah, okay. You mentioned Jim Harney challenging people about their commitment to

00:45:00 behaving nonviolently. How did the—well, you said before, you needed to get keys to get into

the offices from one of the cleaning people there. Did that feel like it was kind of—was that a—discussed a lot about, well, how do we go about doing that? How much coercion or—?

DM: No, the one thing that was discussed was who would do it and it—the mellowest folk were chosen, Larry Rosebaugh [Lawrence "Larry" Rosebaugh (1935-2009)] and I think, Basil [Basil O’Leary] was involved in that.

PS: Basil O’Leary?

DM: Yeah, it was either the two of them or just Larry, who were going to sort of corner the lady and talk to her and tell her, and do whatever they needed to do, and it was clear that they would not be doing any hands on, you know, they were not—they would be fine, whatever they did, it would be fine. And the lady, the cleaning lady, when she testified in the court trial, was very pleasant. She talked about how wonderful these guys were and how they explained to her the war, you know, what they were doing and everything like that. That all went fine, yeah.

PS: So that was all verbal and polite. There wasn’t anything threatening or coercive really in that contact, right?

DM: No..

PS: Well, that sort of clarifies that. I always wondered how the access happens sometimes when there’s a person with other loyalties involved.

DM: Yes, exactly, yes.

PS: So let’s step ahead a little bit. So all these—you all took all the files out into that small square out in front of the draft boards, soaked them with homemade napalm and you were the one who lit the match and set the inferno blazing. And soon after that, pretty much right after that, the police showed up after the press had recorded things and took you away and you were jailed, correct? All of you?

DM: Yes.

PS: How long were you in jail initially? You had a well-publicized trial not much, you know, not long after all that, but you must have been in jail for at least a few days. Is that right?

DM: A month.

PS: Oh, that long before you were out?

DM: Yeah, we—they—I think, probably—my memory was spending most of the night in a tiny little cell on a hard bench and there was a bail hearing or something like that, initial thing and it might have been very early in the morning of the twenty-fifth, three or four o’clock in the morning or something like that where—

I’m getting an awful lot of echo. I hope your recording is going all right.

PS: It sounds fine on this end.

DM: Okay. Let’s see, what was I saying? Oh, the bails were set very, very high, somewhere for the fourteen of us, I don’t remember—there’s some numbers around—a half a million dollars or whatever. And we ended up in the city jail in a few different cells. They had one cell that could hold twelve of us and another cell that held two of us. Jim Forest and I were together in a little cell right next door to the fourteen.

00:50:00 And people didn’t get out all together. People got out as bail was raised and different—there

had already existed a bail committee for the Catonsville 9 and so that was joined up with the bail, with a group from the Milwaukee 14 and people were raising money in there and different cities had different groups. The three guys from Boston were hooked up with an existing—I think somewhat existing group—that raised money and bail for them or I’m not sure. I don’t think—I don’t remember if the bail money was earmarked for particular people or not. I don’t think so. And we, in the group, decided who would get out when the money started coming in for bail.

I got out after a month. I was one of the last, if not the last to get out. And that was sort of like my personal choice. Somehow I had decided that those guys—that the other people were much more connected to existing organizations than I was. So we were in jail quite a bit together, quite a bit longer than a couple days.

PS: And it sounds like they let you all be pretty much with each other instead of splitting you up, right?

DM: Yes. During the day we were all together in one large cell.

PS: So you had plenty of chance to do planning and discussion on what would happen next and all that?

DM: Yes.

PS: So you continued to conspire while you were in jail, right?

DM: Yeah, although I’m not sure how much there was to that. Jim Forest’s memory of that was people getting to know each other, telling stories and stuff. I didn’t—several of us had never met or spent more than a half hour together before.

PS: Okay. Well, so you got to be a group there in jail more than you had ever been beforehand?

DM: Yes.

PS: Okay. So talk a little bit about what happened with you and, to the extent that you know, with the others, after getting out of jail on bail. I assume that there were speaking events and things like that. I mean, this was a national event and was widely publicized, the biggest raid of its kind to date at that point. Is all that correct?

DM: I’m not sure about the biggest. Up until then, yes, for sure, it was.

PS: Yeah, that’s what I meant, up until then.

DM: It probably was the biggest ever even afterwards because afterwards people started getting busted beforehand. There was a lot more infiltration into the anti-draft stuff. Yes, you’re correct, there were a lot of speaking engagements. Different people went out; other people didn’t. Some people withdrew completely. I started traveling a lot. I traveled with George Mische. We did a lot of recruiting for another, other events, and I spoke at different places, different small university campuses. Big ones, let’s see—I spent a lot of time at Baltimore [Baltimore, MD]. Baltimore being sort of the headquarters of the Catonsville 9 crowd. I was there regularly.

We were out on bail. Our trial was, I think, was in May so we were out on bail for a half a year. Anyhow—

00:55:00 PS: So during that time, during that six or more months, all of you were as mobile around

the speaking or other events as you cared to be it sounds like and some more than others.

DM: Yeah. I’m not sure what—I don’t know what any of the others were doing. Some people went back to doing what they’d been doing beforehand; some people dropped out completely, only to show up maybe when we had the trial and two people didn’t even come to that.

PS: I didn’t know about some sort of withdrawing or backing away like that.

DM: Yeah, Jerry and Michael [Michael Cullen]—I can’t tell you too much about—Jerry had—

PS: Last name? Jerry—?

DM: Jerry Gardner—had either just gotten married or was about to or just had a child. His son, Jerry’s son, was at the dinner where you and I talked in Milwaukee for the fiftieth anniversary and he was born around 1968. Anyhow, Jerry might have went back into his family thing as far as I know and didn’t do speaking and so on.

PS: Okay. Well, go ahead, keep going.

DM: I don’t know a lot about them and Michael Cullen decided he didn’t want to go to jail and he was also an Irish citizen and got himself a separate lawyer and so we didn’t—I mean, I never spoke with him again.

PS: Okay, well, talking about your trial itself that happened in early summer of 1969, that was locally a very big event and there was I understand, something out of the ordinary about the trial in that you were all not charged federally at first. Is that right? Talk a little bit about that.

DM: No, we were all charged both federal and state but the state trial proceeded first, much to the disappointment of the federal judge. I forget how we learned this but the federal judge and prosecutors all tried to stop the state from proceeding but they didn’t. So the state trial went ahead and we were charged with burglary, arson and theft as opposed to going with the federal trial, where we were charged with conspiracy to destroy the Selective Service and other things like that.

PS: So talk then a little bit about the state proceedings. This went on for some days and you had—what happened? You had gatherings in the evenings after each day of trial, things like that. Describe how that all worked and what the testimony was like and so on.

DM: Oh, gosh, let’s see. Oh, I remember getting together with some of the expert witnesses that originally were called. Our attorney, Bill Kunstler [William Moses Kunstler (1919-1995)], who was already nationally notorious for other things—and then we had three attorneys: Kunstler and one Wisconsin attorney and another guy from Detroit. And we had

01:00:00 expert witnesses from Howard Zinn [Howard Zinn (1922-2010)]—came, you know, to talk

about civil disobedience, the history and all this sort of stuff. And the judge wouldn’t let him talk.

We had a guy from the watch-a-call-it, the I guess, the Nuremberg trials [Nuremberg trials, November 1945, Leipzig and Luxembourg] and we brought the jury into a filming room to see the films from the event and our point was to talk about the nonviolent character of it and all that but the judge basically wouldn’t let anything go forward, saying that it had nothing to do with civil disobedience. It had nothing to do with anything except for burglary, arson and theft and he shut up our attorneys and whenever they tried to do anything, he said, you know, he threatened them with being in contempt of court.

And then finally Kunstler decided and he suggested that we publically let it be known that we were going to fire our attorneys and that we were going to represent ourselves. And that way we could talk about kind of what we wanted to talk about. And so that’s what we did. We got rid of our—the attorneys stopped coming and we all kind of did some interrupting or those of us who felt like it.

As far as details, Pete, just some random memories. I remember the—during our trial the Chicago—there was a

End of Recording 1

01:02:08

Beginning of Recording 2

00:00:00

group of fifteen folks in Chicago who raided the draft boards and sort of dedicated their event to us and I remember getting a bunch of newspapers. It was a big headline and putting all these newspapers on the desks of the prosecutors and stuff like that. And I made a big thing about never standing up for the judge, about taking my shoes off and putting bare feet up on the table and sitting there and stuff like that—sort of attempting minor, little acts of disobedience and disruption. I—we had time—I spent a lot of time in a law library as well. I presented a long motion to dismiss because the draft files—I argued that the paper that they were on was worthless and that it was a misdemeanor and all kinds of stuff like that. That was more like just had fun than anything else. But basically, we said—we argued that we did what we did; we did it on purpose and that we were justified. And that we didn’t—and we each, instead of having one lawyer who would summarize for the jury, we each got to say our thing, whatever we wanted, which was, you know, probably good for our egos or something.

PS: So before you took this approach of representing yourselves, and again, this is in state district court, not federal, not much had been going your way as far as getting witnesses to explain what you did and historical significance in the country and things like that. It was only when you were representing yourselves that you could explain and bring out your rationale or justification that hadn’t happened beforehand until you used this other tactical approach, right?

DM: Yeah, and even then I don’t think we got to say very much except for, you know, our closing argument or something like that. Still, we couldn’t put any other witnesses or stuff like that. As far as I remember, as far as—there may be stuff—I’m sure there’s a lot about the trial that I forget about the actual events during the day. It’s not too clear to me.

PS: Well, let’s sort of skip to the end of that trial. You were all convicted of the same thing in the end?

DM: Yes.

PS: But you got somewhat different sentences, isn’t that also true?

DM: No, we all got the same sentence. We spent different times in prison, I think. Everybody, as far as I remember, got two years with six years’ probation. There were the three charges and it was two years’ incarceration and six years’ probation and I think it was consecutive, not—so that was the same for all twelve of us. But then everybody went to different prisons. They split us up around the state and some people got out; some people—and after twelve months, there was, I think that was a state law mandatory hearing. Some people went to the parole hearing or whatever they call it and were released after twelve months. Some people spent longer.

PS: Didn’t you, or maybe some others, too, also have some additional contempt citations from the trial itself?

DM: Oh, yeah, yeah. I got thirty—I got a month for not standing up for the judge, but we also went to federal court.

00:05:00 PS: Yeah, talk about that a little bit, too.

DM: Once we were all incarcerated the federal trial started and—

PS: So you were already in state custody at whatever institutions you were at when they began the federal proceedings, right?

DM: Yes.

PS: Okay.

DM: So I forget—I was hauled in a car with armed guards or something from Waupun Penitentiary [Waupun Correctional Institution, 200 South Madison Street, Waupun, WI]. I was brought into Wisconsin, I mean, brought back into Milwaukee for a federal trial and locked up in a—I forget the lock-up, but we weren’t locked up together. We were locked up, all of us individually, so we couldn’t talk about our trial because we were in separate lock-up. And we got—I remember we all started complaining and tried to bring motions when we got to the federal court about how we needed to be, since it was a joint trial, we needed to be together to plan our trial, that it was, you know, that we couldn’t be locked up separately but they didn’t care.

So all we really did when we got into the federal trial was go through lengthy, lengthy jury selection. That’s all we did. The—Judge Larson [Charles L. Larson (1908-2009)]—no Larson was the state judge—I forget the federal guy’s name [[Myron L. Gordon (1918-2009]. He questioned somewhere in the neighborhood of a hundred and twenty jurors. And when we had been convicted in the state court, the newspapers in Milwaukee and in the whole state had large, large headline, “Milwaukee 14 Guilty,” or “Milwaukee 14 Convicted,” or whatever it said. And when the federal judge was questioning the jurors, everybody said we were guilty.

PS: Because they’d seen these headlines everywhere, wherever they were, right?

DM: Yes. And, I mean, we had been big in the press, that was for sure and I remember sitting in, going back a little bit, I remember sitting in the county—in the state or in this, sorry, in the Milwaukee city jail, while on bail, watching TV of these talk shows. People come into the talk shows talking about—they wanted to line us up against the wall and shoot us. That was a very common comment. But we weren’t taken kindly by a lot of people and after about a hundred and twenty jurors were questioned, the federal judge said, [unclear] said that he could continue; he had found one person who didn’t know we were guilty. He had found one person. He said he could continue to find, to do that, and end up finding twelve people, but those would not be jurors; those would be people who were totally isolated from the community and that was not what was supposed to be and he dismissed the trial. He dismissed the charges. He said he couldn’t find a jury. So that was it. That was the end of the federal trial. And I spent another couple months—I spent a month in a county jail for not standing up for him, too.

PS: So that was the one federal charge that you had was contempt, right?

DM: Yes.

PS: For you in particular, but the whole proceedings was brought to a halt because they could not find a jury or the judge believed it would be impossible to find a jury so there was never actually a federal trial, right?

DM: That’s right.

PS: Well, that must have been—well, that was a pretty rare thing then or any other place. Everyone else got tried federally. This was sort of unique that you had state charges first and that prevented the federal trial from happening later.

DM: Yeah, I don’t know about everybody else, Pete, but that’s what happened to us.

00:10:00 PS: Okay. So you had this attempt by the feds to try you after you had already been

convicted and were in custody. After that you went back to your respective prisons—you went back to Waupun, right?

DM: Um-hm.

PS: And you were there for a total of how long?

DM: Fourteen months.

PS: Okay, and talk a little bit about that experience, what that was like and well, just what your experience inside was like and, because except for being in jail and then in custody, you had not had a jail experience before or a prison experience, right?

DM: Well, gosh, what to say?

PS: Did you have a work assignment there?

DM: Yeah, two of them. I worked in the kitchen and I also worked in the laundry. I was in a solitary, not a solitary, I was in a single cell so I spent an awful lot of time in a tiny little cell. I think we got out—I think it was just two nights a week to exercise in the yard. And the only other times out were eating and showering. I did get to know—I got to know a few people who, when I was out in the yard, I would always seek them out and we spent time together. The—I didn’t want to go to—there were other minimum and medium security prisons or jails, prisons, or farms or so on. I didn’t want to go to them. I wanted to stay at Waupun.

PS: Waupun was—that was a maximum security place in Wisconsin, right?

DM: Yes. I thought that—the reason I wanted to stay is because I thought the people there would be more interesting, more militant or whatever. I was—I don’t think so. It turned out not to be true. I think a lot of the people in there would like to have gotten out themselves but they didn’t know, some of them didn’t know how to cooperate.

In any case, I got to know a few people and I spent a lot of time right—I was able to enroll in distance education thing with the University of Wisconsin and I did a lot of—and I could get—I could have one book in my cell at a time so I got a series of history books, later history stuff that I got deeply into.

And got my body into shape. When I went in, I was in I was in very bad shape. I’d been up all night many nights, traveling around. I was drinking that was very heavy. I’d gotten. I’m only—I’m five foot, seven, and I’d gotten pretty close to two hundred pounds by the time I went in and I lived on the third tier. The prison at Waupun is sort of like if you were to watch a really old timey James Cagney [James Francis Cagney Jr. (1899-1986)] prison film where, you know, you have these tiers and jail cells on top of each other and gangways that connect different cells. That’s what it was like and I had to walk up to the third tier. When I first got in, I could—I was breathing heavily by the time I got to my cell. By the time I got out in fourteen months, I had lost forty, forty-five pounds and I was—gotten muscular a bit or at

00:15:00 least gotten in shape. So I did that.

And, like I said, I met some people, some very, very interesting people that I really enjoyed, as much as you could enjoy things. There was a massive prison strike while I was there, complete with oh, National Guard being called to the prison and I think there were—I’m not sure about deaths, but it was pretty nasty. And I got a—I ended up in solitary for a while.

PS: Because of that strike?

DM: Yeah. It turned out, I learned later that one of the other guys, Larry [Larry Rosebaugh], was in Waupun also but I didn’t know it and I never saw him. There were different—it was easy for people to never see each other in there because the different groups or however they were—cellblocks—different cellblocks had different nights on the yard so it would have been very easy for me to never see him—to never see him in the mess hall; never see him out in the yard and never end up working in the same place with him so I didn’t even know he was there.

PS: That was Larry who?

DM: Larry Rosebaugh.

PS: Oh, okay. Was he the only other one of your group that was there, whether you knew it or not?

DM: I think so; I’m not positive. I think so.

PS: I wanted to ask about something else about being at Waupun. I was told by George Mische some weeks ago that he remembered that you were really good with locks.

DM: Yes.

PS: And you had a sort of an event where you were able to get past a lock at least one time? Is that right?

DM: Yeah, but that wasn’t in Waupun; that was in the city jail.

PS: Oh, when you were originally arrested?

DM: Yes, there were—I think I mentioned there were two cells. There was the group of twelve were all together and then Forest and I were next door in a cell. I got out of our cell and walked down the gangway to the other one and—

PS: I bet that was a surprise to everybody.

DM: Yeah, they were surprised—I remember anger that I should get back as soon as possible and lock myself back in and get out of there because the guards—somebody might see me and think we were all trying to escape and all this junk.

PS: So it wouldn’t get you into trouble, huh?

DM: Yeah, that’s a little bit of—who is that likes to tell that story? Oh, her name is skipping me right now, the nun that married Phil. All of a sudden I can’t remember her name.

PS: Oh, I know who you mean, but the name escapes me, too, who married Phil Berrigan you mean?

DM: Yeah, Frida’s mom; Frida Berrigan’s mother.

PS: Liz?

DM: That’s it, that’s it, yeah. She likes to tell the story about me getting out, breaking out.

PS: But when you walked down the hall that time in the Milwaukee Jail, you were never apprehended so to speak. You slipped back to where you belonged and you all knew about it but the guards never knew about it, right?

DM: That’s right.

PS: Liz McAlister [Elizabeth "Liz" McAlister (1939-)] That’s the name we’re looking for.

DM: Right.

PS: So did you ever do any other experiments with locks like that in the jail or elsewhere?

00:20:00 DM: Yeah, I was called in to do a number of things during the six months or so while we

were out on bail between getting released from the Milwaukee City Jail and going to trial in May, I was called out to assist people on how to break into a variety of things. Philadelphia, New York City, Washington, DC—I became a bit of a—that was my thing you might say was the mechanics of breaking and entering.

And then—interesting—in jail one of the guys I ended up working with in a custodial setting, one of the prisoners, was a low level mafia type from Chicago who was a safecracker and he taught me a lot. He showed me—I remember him showing me things. There was—we had to sit in a tiny little room with our mops at one point and there was a locked—there was a thermostat and it had a cage and a lock on it and he found—he picked out some sort of like little paper clips and bent them, two paper clips, and bent them in funny ways and showed me how you open the lock. He gave me some interesting little—that was kind of fun. I sort of enjoyed that whole process.

PS: So during that time before you were convicted and in custody and before when—well, during that several months between getting bailed out and getting convicted, you were sort of a special consultant to draft board raiders elsewhere around the country about locks and entry?

DM: Yes.

PS: Ah ha—I never knew about that special role that you took that way.

DM: Yeah, I remember a call from Phil Berrigan saying, “You need to get to DC and help these people.” Yeah.

PS: Well, first of all, you weren’t at Waupun—you weren’t inside for a real long time compared to some others.

DM: Well, not a real long time—I don’t think anybody got out before twelve months.

PS: But I mean, as far as around the country goes and people who’d been, you know, fourteen months is not very long.

DM: Right.

PS: And so before we go on to what happened to you next and what it was like after you got out was there anything else, any sort of high points or I don’t know—events that made an impression on you from when you were inside when you were at Waupun?

DM: Yeah, there was an older guy, name of Frank James, by the way, not the brother of Jesse, but Frank, who had been in prison for long, long time and who was a—what you might call a courtroom/courthouse/jailhouse lawyer, who had spent years in the county jail because—for reasons we don’t need to go into—and lots of the younger kids from Milwaukee that were feeders into the penitentiary, had met Frank and Frank had helped everybody with their trials and everything so he was an elder statesman and highly—just had a very good relationship with all the guys, all the prisoners—they knew.

Anyhow, so I got to work with him when I worked in the laundry and I went up for a parole

00:25:00 hearing after my twelve months and had a chance to get out if, I think, if I would have just

shut up. But they asked me some questions and I mouthed off to them and told them to stick it and I was, you know, I was not interested in cooperating in any way. And when I got back from that hearing, Frank asked—I remember Frank said, “Well, what happened?” and I told him and he looked at me and he said, “Okay, now you’ve done that. You don’t need to do that anymore. Next time just go in, sit down and shut up and you’ll go home.” And I met him—I went later to Milwaukee after he got out and had some nice—anyhow, that impressed me. That just is who he was and what he knew and how the other prisoners related to him. I never expected to find a man like that.

Another guy who I just recently read a book about and not—who had a book—who is a major character in this book, and spent a lot of time in Waupun who I got to know. Who was a—well, I don’t know if he was a psychopath, but he was definitely a sociopath, who I got to know, who was in for a double murder when he was very—when he was a young guy, a guy named Willie. Who also –

Most of what I remember is that—are the kind of relationships a couple of the indigenous guys from tribes in Wisconsin. One guy I remember who had been incarcerated since they were like basically three or four years old, who ended up running away from homes they’d been put in when they were twelve and then getting out of—they ended up never doing—never committing any real crimes but ending up in a penitentiary because like running away from home at a certain age kind of became a felony for them. Anyhow, I learned a lot from these people.

A guy who I got close to really was a member of the Honor Guard in Washington, DC, you know, the people that march back and forth at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. They rotate between Navy, Marine, Army, etcetera and they live in a special barracks and he had been one of the Honor Guard. And his route to prison was just completely different than everybody else. Now these were the people I spent time with and who taught me about a world that I didn’t know. That’s mostly what I remember.

PS: My impression of—personally, of prison and jail beforehand, was that—while I was in a different sort of institution than you; I was in a youth institution, federally, but still I thought at the time and afterward, that there are a lot of really interesting and really smart people in prison, at least where I was. And it was sort of life, hard luck or bad choices that led some of these people to be in the spots they were in. It’s not like they were animals or sub-human or anything like that. It was very interesting and I got to be around people I never would have been around otherwise.

DM: Um-hm, yeah.

PS: So now, Doug, you got out in 1970, you said, is that right?

DM: Yes.

00:30:00 PS: So talk a little bit about what that was like. Was it—well, you hadn’t been inside for

very long, but did you feel like it was—you had a hard time adjusting to the free world and how that went for you and what you did and where you went.

DM: Well, it was harder adjusting to getting out than it was going in really. I mean, I having been in the military and been in school and stuff, I was used to sort of regimented institutions so I had no trouble with being in a cell all by myself and somebody else deciding when I would eat and what time and what day and what, you know, what I would eat or where I would go when or, where I would—you know. Deciding all those things for me was—that kind of regimentation—I didn’t have any trouble adjusting to.

Getting out, I’ll tell you. In the news that I knew of during the fourteen months that I was in, was from the Milwaukee newspaper and we had a radio that they—we couldn’t control—that you plugged in. It was in the wall and a prisoner had certain channels you could listen to. Anyhow, so I had public news, what there was of it, for fourteen months so I didn’t really know much of what was—I didn’t know a lot. And at that—during ’69,’70, while I was in, there was major changes in the antiwar movement. There were splits in groups that had been together when I went in, particularly there was the—a new wave of feminism was coming or had come. I had hoped for—I had basically expected to be—to get out of prison and somebody would hand me a rifle and tell me what regiment to join in for the revolution, you know. But instead what I found was kind of disarray and nobody—lots of things happening that I did not expect and were hard for me to adjust to.

There was, for example, a large co-op movement which you probably brushed up against—I don’t know how much—in Minneapolis and St. Paul. And it was spreading and then there was a big split in it. And not just a split, but it got violent over who should run their—who should run the warehouse. People who were friendly and working together when I went into prison were no longer working together when I got out. Not only that, but they were antagonistic. So I expected to be part of a movement that no longer existed when I got out. And that was very disorienting for me.

I, of course, and while I was in prison, my son was born, so I came out into a family that I hadn’t had before. That was a bit—I don’t know if I’d call it disrupting, but it was an adjustment, quite an adjustment. Finding something to do that made sense was very difficult,

00:35:00 that made sense to me. I remember going to the National Meeting on the RESIST [RESIST,

founded 1967 by Paul Lauter and Avram Noam Chomsky], this group that was founded by Chomsky and those guys out in Massachusetts. I went out to a meeting and talked to them about unification, how do you get these people back together again and things like that.

I ended up organizing a Hiroshima Day celebration in a park where we all floated little sailboats on a pond. I remember organizing that because I figured nobody could argue with that. Everybody would ask to come.

PS: That was in Minneapolis?

DM: I was pretty much swimming around not knowing what to do.

PS: Doug, all this was, well in the first year or two after you were out, while you were in Minneapolis or St. Paul?

DM: Yeah, I lived in Minneapolis.

PS: I’ve got a question about something I think I remember from back then. Didn’t you write or take part in writing some materials about starting a credit union?

DM: Well, yeah, it—yes. It started in a group; I started a bookstore and got together—there were five of us as—as a research group, got funds from the Minneapolis Model City to research a local community financial institution that would help the south side of Minneapolis. And ended up writing a report called, “We Can Do It Better Ourselves,” and it had to do with starting a bank. But that morphed into something that I did not participate in and that morphed into some people starting a credit union.

PS: I see.

DM: Some people that I know kind of took off from that but our thing was a bit more, a bit different. When I tried to get funding to continue the research and move on into organizing an actual bank, but we didn’t get there. I think the credit union still exists actually.

PS: I’m not sure about that but I know it existed for a good long while. Say a little bit more about the bookstore. I don’t remember anything about that myself.

DM: Had a bookstore on the corner of Bloomington and Lake [Bloomington Avenue and East Lake Street, Minneapolis, MN]. There was actually a big gun store that owned that corner and we rented—I rented a place and the upstairs of it where it ended up being the Twin Cities Women’s Union. The bookstore, let’s see, what was it called? City Counsel—and took in oh, and the back of the bookstore was a large table and a big coffee thing, free coffee, and the intent was for it to be a gathering place; that never happened much.

00:40:00 I went also to work—I had to work—I got a job teaching economics at the University

Extension [University of Minnesota Extension, 1420 Eckles Avenue, St Paul, MN] so I was very busy with that. The bookstore just, I think, probably two years, Pete, was all and then closed it. I got a lot of help from other people in terms of getting books, whether from other bookstore people who owned other bookstores, donated a lot of stuff to me, and then other people donated money and that’s how it got going. It didn’t take off—well, I never could do it to make money so other things got in the way.

PS: Doug, so just to anchor this in calendar time, we’re still talking about the first few years after you got out, like ’70,’71,’72, like that?

DM: Let’s see—would we go into —?

PS: Do you know approximately?

DM: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

PS: Okay, so it wasn’t very much longer after that, from what you told me before, that you left the Twin Cities again and well, went elsewhere. Well, no, back up. You said you lived here until about 1980 and so in those other years, from after the bookstore that you mentioned, until 1980, what were you doing roughly?

DM: Oh, gosh.

PS: Is that part of your returning to the university?

DM: No, let’s see. I left—short answer to that is no. I did not return to the university. What did I do? Well, I started drifting away. I started—I did go to the university and I studied Chinese and I had in my mind that I would go to Taiwan and end up in China. There were some groups—oh, the issue of the invasion of and bombing in Cambodia, I believe started a rather large strike at the University of Minnesota.

PS: Yes.

DM: And the campus was closed down pretty much for a long time. It was one of the major ones in the country. And out of that strike came a demand for a university—for an experimental college at the university. And both my wife, both Andy [Andrea Marvy (1937-2010)] and I, went to work there. Andy taught dance and I—see the students did the hiring. That was part of the demand for the college and that the college was run by a large student and faculty—just a minute—(DM talks to his wife as an aside.) Okay, I’m back. And went to work there and I had a few

00:45:00 people—interesting people that I met who joined my class. Out of that group, I organized the

—I was going to blow up the Honeywell [Honeywell Corporation, then in Minneapolis]—Group plant that was making these little tiny bombs, these, oh god—

PS: Those anti-personnel bombs?

DM: No, these explosive—oh, what—there was a Honeywell Project in Minneapolis.

PS: Yes.

DM: And a lot of their material had to do with those. Anyhow, we knew where they were made and so I had it in mind that I was going to eliminate that place. So I was doing stuff like that, you know, there were—

PS: Doug, hang on a second. So this was during the time or close to the time when you were teaching in the experimental college, you and Andy?

DM: Yes.

PS: What were you teaching there at the experimental college?

DM: Economics.

PS: Okay, all right.

DM: That’s what it was called, yeah.

PS: Okay, keep going then. So you wanted to take part in some Honeywell sabotage, right?

DM: Yeah, and I got a little bit active in the Honeywell Project. We picketed different factories and handed out literature asking for the people who worked in them to sabotage the parts and the products that they were making and we had to sort of had to run and hide from the police to do that sort of thing. And this business about blowing up stuff. You can choose not to say that or exclude it from your book.

PS: Well, nothing came of that in the end, right?

DM: Right, right. Let’s see. Yeah, that was all in the early seventies, all of that. I left the Ph.D. program in economics at the university probably in early ’72, yeah.

PS: Anyway, so you continued to live in the Twin Cities until about 1980, you said, right?

DM: Yes.

PS: And where did you go after that? You didn’t wind up in Taiwan, for instance?

DM: No, I wound up in India, actually.

PS: Oh, yes, I remember now. Tell a little bit about that.

DM: There was some point in the late seventies, ’78 probably, when I did some—actually in 1979, I got sober. That was a big event. And changed my life a bit. I—some reflection on what I’d been up to and what I’d been doing and I think basically, Pete, I decided that my politics had to do with looking for an enemy and that wasn’t the right way to go about stuff, because I ended up deciding that really I was the only enemy. I don’t know. It’s kind of hard to describe.

In any case, I got into some all kind of spiritual reading, you know, all the world’s different

00:50:00 religions, reading all their bibles and looking—just kind of looking for something. And I

found something that attracted me and I went to India to investigate further about it.

PS: Were you there for long?

DM: Pardon?

PS: Were you there for long?

DM : Yeah, maybe about the same time I was in prison; maybe fourteen, fifteen months something like that. I, you know, when I came back and lived in let’s see, I lived in Minneapolis then for a short while and then moved out to—went out to Berkeley [Berkeley, CA]. That was even shorter. From Berkeley I went to a—what was called an ashram in Oregon and lived out there in the low, sort of high desert mountain area in Oregon for close to five years.

PS: This was the place that got pretty well-known.

DM: Indeed, indeed.

PS: Anything you want to say about that, either what it was like then or in retrospect and what your time there was like personally?

DM: Well, let’s see. [unclear]

PS: Did this place have a name?

DM: Yeah, it was called Rajneeshpuram [Rajneeshpuram, Wasco County, Oregon] and it turned out, not long after I was there, after that it was quite a different operation than I thought and that the head, the guru [Rajneesh (born Chandra Mohan Jain, ( 1931-1990)], was a sociopath and—but it was where I lived and it was where my friends were. And I guess I got to learn—I got to learn a lot about myself.

I worked—it didn’t have anything to do with meditation or anything like that. I was a building inspector and I, you know, I passed, I went to all the courses and I passed exams with Oregon State [the State of Oregon] certification programs, so I traveled to the state headquarters in Salem [Salem, OR] and I went to, quite regularly, to apply for and get permits since the ashram itself was growing. And there was always stuff going on and so I was the only building inspector.

PS: So—

DM: It was also—it was more than just an ashram. It also had become an incorporated city in the state so there was city, you know, tiny little bureaucracy—I was one of five city—people on the city council; I was one of the only people in the place that was on a—had a salary. I was the building inspector and the city attorney, I think. No, not the attorney, there was a city planner. We got all salaries but it was all for totally and 100 percent bogus and

00:55:00 corrupt. Our salaries were then turned back over and used for other things and our city council

meetings were all scripted and prepared beforehand. It’s a long, long story that almost requires—it requires a book on it and there have been.

PS: So, Doug, during that time, you talked about being a building inspector so you were a public employee of sorts but just within and for that city that had been created out of the ashram. Is that right?

DM: Yes.

PS: Okay, not for the surrounding county or something like that. It was just for the fabrication of this city that you were living at.

DM: Yes.

PS: I see. Well, and that lasted until roughly when that you departed from there?

DM: Around Christmas ’85, the end of ’85.

PS: Okay, and you didn’t live back here after that for a couple years.

DM: Yes, I ended up back to St. Paul and with a friend that—she and I had gotten together in Oregon. We moved back to St. Paul together and I went to school again, became a certified drug and alcohol counselor. That was a two-year program at the University of Minnesota, did a few internships and went out to, after that, moved out to Boston and moved in with her and gosh, I don’t remember.

PS: Well, that two-year program, that was those years, ’86 and ’87, that you mentioned to me off-mic a while back?

DM: Yes.

PS: And then Boston after that.

DM: Yes.

PS: You’ve moved around a lot.

DM: Yes.

PS: And now you’re in Texas. Did you go from Boston to Texas or, you know, or many other places, or—?

DM: Yes, I went to work in a psych ward at a hospital in Boston, outside of Boston and worked there—I managed a little drug and alcohol program, designed and managed it and I was there about five years, pretty close to that before I came here and have been here since. That would be like, I don’t know, a long time. Twenty—it will be like twenty-five years.

PS: So that would have been the early nineties approximately, right?

DM: Yes, 1993 is when I came out here.

PS: Were you—were you doing that same sort of thing in Texas then?

DM: No, I moved into doing prevention instead of treatment and I went into a Ph.D. program in public health so I came here to go to the University of Texas School of Public Health [University of Texas School of Public Health, 1200 Pressler Street, Houston, TX]. It was—so I moved on toward—probably a couple years in that program, ended up needing some money and got a job as a computer programmer and I think that was my—that was it.

01:00:00 PS: I’m guessing that at your age, you’re retired now, more or less, right?

DM: Yeah, from that computer business I ended up doing—I retired from that and after a couple years, I decided it might be fun to do a little tutoring and I have been doing tutoring, mostly math, high school and pre-high school kids. I still do that some. I have I think—two, four—I have five students right now actually.

PS: Well, in your long chronology that sort of takes us up to today more or less. I’d like you to reflect back on—back in your younger years when the thing that you were well-known for then in Milwaukee was still fresh for you, and afterward, too, about that. What do you think about that now? We talked about what it was like then, but do you have thoughts now about your having been involved in all that and what you think about it now? Do you think you had an influence on other people? Regrets? Was it worth it? Things like that. Talk about those thoughts of yours today.

DM: Well, it’s hard to say

End of Recording 2

01:02:08

Beginning of Recording 3

00:00:00

that I regret not knowing more because don’t really, because I did, and for the most part I feel

like I did the best I could at the time. And looking back, I was definitely politically naïve. Like I said before, I was young and angry, young in terms of knowledge—not that everybody young is naïve—but the only regrets I have, looking back, I regret not having moved to Baltimore where things—where I made very good connections and there was some good organizing; there were some things that I could have—that I would have become a part of that I was a part of but only peripherally because I wasn’t there very often. Personally, that’s the only regret I have.

Because of my, you know, my personal life at the time was not all that stable, I didn’t pay enough attention to the fact that I was married or I didn’t pay enough—I never went to marriage school and, like so many of us, we learned what marriage means by what our parents did and probably. And that didn’t work out so well. And that was all happening at the same time. It’s a little hard to unravel, you know.

And I also mentioned drinking, which was—played a major role, I think, in my consciousness during the late sixties and early seventies as all that traveling, especially those six months between getting out of the city jail and going into the penitentiary. Oh, when I hear and read others’ reflections on those times, especially with regard to the draft and anti-draft, antiwar stuff, I think that the impact that that had on the trajectory of the war is—oh, it’s usually not evaluated well. It’s usually inflated. When I read back on the history, which I do, and still do, in fact, with listening to something last night, again, that touched on it, I think probably the major impact on the trajectory of the war had to do with the antiwar movement within the troops and not the college age white, middle class group of let me say us, the group of us. There were thousands upon thousands of people that simply didn’t register and dropped out. There were, well, you know.

So evaluating it, looking back on it, whether it, you know, I thought at the time I felt that it was important—I don’t—in terms of everything that was happening and now I think less so, much less so. It was my entry into caring about—no, that’s not true. It was more earlier with

00:05:00 the human rights, civil rights and indigenous stuff than it was with the antiwar movement, but

it was my intensive involvement in caring about a better world, or trying to help create one. I’m glad for that. I’m [unclear]. I think I’m worn out on that. You can prod me with questions but I don’t know where else to go with it, Pete.

PS: Well, maybe that’s good for now. You’re going to be—you’re planning to be in town next month in the middle of May, right still?

DM: Yeah, the twelfth or so I think.

PS: Okay, well, maybe if there’s something that comes to mind we can visit again then. I know it won’t be for long that you’re here but maybe this is a good place to stop.

DM: All right.

PS: And I’m going to turn off the recorder and talk briefly about some other stuff with you so hang on here.

DM: Sure.

End of Recording 3

00:06:19