

Ernest “Ernie” Hintz Oral History Interview, 10/24/2014
Administrative Information

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Interviewer: Jan Kennedy

Date of Interview: October 24, 2014

Place of Interview: 1271 Sullivan Avenue, South Windsor, CT

Accession number: 2014.35

Length: 35 pages, 1:19:38.5 minutes

Biographical Note and Abstract

Ernie Hintz was born in New Haven, CT and raised in Hamden, CT. He attended the University of Connecticut School of Pharmacy, from which he graduated in 1959. In 1965 he and a partner, Don Schneider, opened South Windsor Pharmacy on Sullivan Avenue which they operated for 34 years before selling the business in 1999. Hintz had three children, Edward, Steven, and Betsy, with his first wife, whom he divorced in 1980. He married his second wife, Marion Hintz, in 1982. Hintz has been a member of several fraternal organizations and community organizations, including the Lions Club, Freemasons, Chamber of Commerce, and South Windsor Historical Society, as well as serving on the committee for the Wapping Fair and attending Wapping Community Church.

In this interview, Hintz discusses the local business community in South Windsor and surrounding towns, as well as changes in the pharmaceutical industry during his years in the business and the changes since his retirement. In particular, he discusses the increase in computer-assisted automation and the buyout of independent pharmacies by large companies. He also discusses his work for the Lions Club and involvement with other fraternal and community organizations, and awards that he won over the years. Other topics include the Wapping Fair, Super Sixties Club, and Hintz’s immediate family and grandchildren, and Hintz family genealogy.

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Suggested Citation

Ernest Hintz, recorded interview by Jan Kennedy, October 24, 2014, (page number), Wood Memorial Library Oral History Program

Ernest Hintz
Oral History Transcript
Interviewed by Jan Kennedy
October 24, 2014

KENNEDY: 0:00:17.0 This is October 24, 2014. We're in the South Windsor Library in the Reading Room. I am the interviewer, Jan Kennedy, and I'll be interviewing Ernie H. Hintz, a long-time friend who's lived in South Windsor. Okay, so why don't you take over, Ernie. Maybe state us where you live, how long you've lived here.

HINTZ: 0:00:55.8 Well, I was born down in New Haven, Connecticut. Lived in Hamden. I worked in a pharmacy when I was 16 years old. I had been accepted at Northeastern University to be an accountant, like my father. Then, one day, one of the owners of the drugstore mentioned to me, "Why don't you try pharmacy school?" So we talked about it, and I said, "Well, maybe that's the way to go," and I changed my major and ended up going to UConn School of Pharmacy. I graduated in 1959. We settled in Manchester, Connecticut, at that time. I married a Manchester girl. We came to South Windsor. In 1965, we opened our drugstore. When I got the job at Lenox, it was Lenox Pharmacy on East Center Street, Manchester. This is where I met my future partner. His name was Don Schneider, and Don and I eventually got together and opened up the new pharmacy.

I'll never forget. Probably in 1963, Don had married a girl. She was Alice Klinger. Mr. Klinger had a farm on the west side of Graham Road, right over the South Windsor line in East Windsor. So Don was quite familiar with the South Windsor area. At the time, I had never been to South Windsor because I came from New Haven and went right to UConn and to Manchester. So Don one day said, "Let's take a ride out to South Windsor," and I said, "Well, why do you want to do that?" Then, he talked about opening a drugstore, and we drove up Buckland Road,

and there were no stoplights at that time, and there was hardly anything on Buckland Road. We drove down Sullivan Avenue, and again, there was nothing there. I can remember saying at the time, "Why would you ever consider a drugstore out here in South Windsor?" Then, he took me up through Farnham Estates which were established at the time, and then, we went over Griffin Road to Graham Road. There was another huge development that was in the making at that time. We decided that maybe it would be the right time to open a drugstore.

KENNEDY: A growing community.

HINTZ: **0:03:48.7** A growing community. So at the time John Slater had a food store back where Lots & More is now. John Slater—he had a heart attack. He wanted to stay in the retail business, so he built the building in front of Lots & More, where Battiston's cleaners is now, and John opened a package store on the left-hand side of that building, and he had the rest of the building for rent. When Don and I were investigating opening a drugstore, we knew at that time that there was a new shopping center coming in down where the Geissler's store is now, and we decided that we would be best off if we were the first ones in on Sullivan Avenue, which was like a year earlier than the complex where Geissler's is there now. We looked at the spot that Slater had for rent, determined it was probably just a little bit too big for us. So we got Charlie Elinskis, and Charlie was an East Windsor person that had a cleaning business. So we and Charlie rented the big space. We put up a partition in the middle of it, and we each had our own business there. Charlie's was South Windsor Cleaners, and ours was South Windsor Pharmacy. So we shared a back room with the same bathroom. We both were able to meet each other in the back of the building when times were slow, and we had great conversations, and it was a very pleasant time. We opened in 1965.

KENNEDY: **0:05:53.3** Financially, that must have been quite a challenge for two young pharmacists.

HINTZ: Well, we were quite lucky. Financially, we each borrowed \$5000 from our fathers, and we were able to get the rest of the money from our suppliers. Our suppliers loaned us the merchandise, and we paid them back. So it was a challenge, but we did it. We both had to work part-time in other jobs outside the drugstore for probably a good 10 years after that.

KENNEDY: Oh really? What did you do?

HINTZ: I worked at Lenox Pharmacy again. I went back to Lenox, and Don went over to a store in East Hartford. So we were quite busy.

KENNEDY: Ten years. Wow

KENNEDY: How many hours a week do you think you put in?

HINTZ: Oh, we were putting in probably close to 70 hours between the two jobs. We were open Sunday morning, and we were open Sunday night for a while. We were closed Sunday afternoon. We figured we could catch the people coming back from the beach. I don't know whether we did that all year long or just in the summertime. I don't remember.

KENNEDY: So you were married in what year?

HINTZ: We were married in 1959.

KENNEDY: You did this '65?

HINTZ: Yes, '65. We had our first child in 1960. That was Edward. We had our second child in 1963, and that was Steven. Then, my daughter came along in 1965, and that was Elizabeth. She never liked the name Elizabeth, which was named after her grandmother. So we called her Betsy, and that's what she goes by today.

KENNEDY: Where do they live?

HINTZ: **0:07:52.7** Betsy used to live in South Windsor until last year when they decided to move to New Hampshire. She does work with Steven in the tax office. So she does come back. She does own a house in Manchester too, so she comes back to work during the tax season with Steven.

KENNEDY: She's married or not?

HINTZ: Yes, her husband is also a pharmacist, but he went to work working for the drug companies, and he has a very, very nice job with them.

KENNEDY: **0:08:30.8** Where in New Hampshire?

HINTZ: Right outside of Concord, on Bow Lake in the town of Strafford, and it's about 20 minutes east of Concord.

KENNEDY: Grandkids?

HINTZ: Grandkids—she has two, Steven has two, and Edward has one. So I have five.

KENNEDY: Congratulations!

HINTZ: I got divorced in 1980, I guess, and remarried in 1982, and Marion has—let's see—three, four, five—seven grandchildren as well.

KENNEDY: Oh! How do you keep them straight?

HINTZ: We've got twelve altogether!

KENNEDY: Oh! I can't keep four straight.

HINTZ: Yes, right.

KENNEDY: Congratulations.

HINTZ: Yes, so it worked out good.

KENNEDY: What's your new address?

HINTZ: **0:09:32.9** My new address is 7 Hunter Drive, and we just moved there about a month ago. It's a condo, so we have no more lawn mowing or grass cutting or things like that.

KENNEDY: What's the condo's name?

HINTZ: Collins Crossing Association.

KENNEDY: Oh. I went out and took a picture of your other house. It's very pretty.

HINTZ: It is.

KENNEDY: Yes, very nice.

HINTZ: Yes, I was fortunate that my grandson wanted to buy that house. We raised him from when he was 9 years old until he was 18. His mother was having problems.

KENNEDY: Which grandson is it?

HINTZ: This was Jesse.

KENNEDY: This is—

HINTZ: This is one of Marion's grandsons.

KENNEDY: Oh, Marion's.

HINTZ: Yes. So we raised him for almost 10 years. He liked the house. He married a South Windsor girl who became a schoolteacher in Manchester, and they have a daughter that's now 4 years old, but they didn't want the daughter going to the Manchester

schools. They wanted to move back to South Windsor. I had in my mind that I always wanted to go into a condo, so the timing on everything was just about right.

KENNEDY: **0:11:04.7** What's their last name?

HINTZ: Puniello.

KENNEDY: Wonderful.

HINTZ: He couldn't sell his house, so he rented his house. So he's renting my house for a year, and hopefully, within the year, he'll be able to sell his house.

KENNEDY: Sometimes things fall into place more beautifully than you could expect. Good.

HINTZ: I think all my life I've been lucky that things have fallen into the right spot.

KENNEDY: To change majors—that was a huge change—

HINTZ: That was. Yes.

KENNEDY: —because pharmacy is, in my opinion, one of the toughest majors. I could never do it because of the memorization or the chemical formulas or analytic chemistry or whatever.

HINTZ: Well, it is now. It's a 7-year course now when they get almost like their master's degree. They're a doctor. It's called the Doctor of Pharmacy, and there's no other route. When we went to school, it was 4 years, and organic chemistry was probably the hardest part of the course, but it wasn't all that bad at that time.

KENNEDY: **0:12:17.0** I know a local South Windsor girl who started there and didn't make it.

HINTZ: Oh really?

KENNEDY: Switched out. She couldn't handle it. Congratulations.

HINTZ: Yes, well these times, it's a long haul. I have a granddaughter that's going to the Saint Joseph College of Pharmacy.

KENNEDY: Really?

HINTZ: Yeah. She had to go 3 years in a general course before she went into the pharmacy part of it, so it's a 7-year total altogether. That's a long—

KENNEDY: You have a pharmacy family here!

HINTZ: —long time, yeah.

KENNEDY: Tell me about the pharmacy. We miss it.

HINTZ: **0:12:52.8.** I think a lot of people do, and I do, of course. Going back to being lucky in the timing of things, back in 1975 the Popular Market was down in the plaza on Sullivan Avenue.

KENNEDY: What was that?

HINTZ: Pardon me?

KENNEDY: What was it? A food store?

HINTZ: **0:13:18.5** A food store. Yeah. They had the big food store where Geissler's is now. They went out of business. Terry Drug, at the time, was there. They also had a store in Hartford, so they declared bankruptcy after Popular market went out of business. So within a period of 2 weeks after Terry declared bankruptcy, Armata's which had bought Slater's old food store down on Sullivan Avenue where Lots & More is, decided to announce that they were moving up to where the Popular store was. So there was a 2-week time frame that we were able to decide to move up to the new store in the Sullivan Avenue plaza. So again, that was strictly luck that we were able to do that.

KENNEDY: The Armata's. So that's different from our Geissler's right?

HINTZ: Yes, Armata's used to run the food store after Popular closed back in 1975. There were three brothers. The brothers had a falling out, and that's when they sold it to Geissler's. Ted Armata was probably the Armata that we knew best. He opened a store in Hebron and called it Armata's Market, and it's been very successful. His son runs that store now. He passed away. The other two brothers opened some other stores up in Massachusetts, and they're still in business too. I don't know whether they're still alive or not, but they had a big falling out.

KENNEDY: But you were a private pharmacy.

HINTZ: We were.

KENNEDY: Kind of the last of the private pharmacies.

HINTZ: Yes. Back in 1965, there were eleven independent pharmacies in Manchester at

the time. No chains but eleven—we used to have a Manchester Pharmaceutical Society that we belonged to. Yes, that was interesting. So 1999, I had a buyer for the store. I guess, I wasn't quite ready, but I saw the writing on the wall, and I decided to sell it. I sold it to a guy that said he was going to keep it open like I had for forever, and of course, 2 years later he sold it to CVS. CVS came in and closed the store, which was unfortunate, but I didn't see that happening.

KENNEDY: **0:16:22.4** Well, maybe you did. Again, fortunate that you got out about the right time.

HINTZ: Yes, I think I did. Yeah, because—

KENNEDY: That's when the big—now before that, did Don Schneider die and his son—

HINTZ: Yes, Don Schneider died in 1989, and we convinced his son to go back into pharmacy school, and he did get his degree as a pharmacist. So at the time I was selling I offered the store to the Schneider family, but they didn't really want it at that time, so I continued with the sale, but—

KENNEDY: Have you followed the son?

HINTZ: Yes. He was working for the Big Y up in Ellington for a long time, and now he's working down in Yale-New Haven Hospital. He'd gotten in on the ground floor of a new project down in Yale, and he's doing quite well. So he's doing well.

KENNEDY: Good, good. So do you miss it?

HINTZ: Yes and no. I had several part-time jobs after I retired.

KENNEDY: What were they?

HINTZ: **0:17:35.9** When I went back to Lenox where I had started, I worked there part-time. I worked in Bolton Pharmacy until they closed. I worked in Village Pharmacy up in Coventry, and he had cancer and passed away. I had a nice job in Glastonbury for about 4 years. That was strictly a part-time job. Nice people, nice people to work for.

KENNEDY: So how old were you when you sold the business?

HINTZ: **0:18:05.2** I was 64, I think I was.

KENNEDY: How long did you continue the part-time?

HINTZ: Up until 2 years ago, until I was 75 years old.

KENNEDY: Wow.

HINTZ: Yeah.

KENNEDY: You did well.

HINTZ: Yeah, I did well, and I enjoyed it. The part-time work was totally different than owning your own business.

KENNEDY: What did you enjoy about it?

HINTZ: The part-time? Or the whole pharmacy?

KENNEDY: Both. The whole—

HINTZ: **0:18:32.2** I enjoyed talking to the customers and listening to their problems and their complaints.

KENNEDY: Did you realize how important you were?

HINTZ: No, I don't think so.

KENNEDY: You were.

HINTZ: **0:18:49.7** Is that right?

KENNEDY: We had a particular instance. My wife was pregnant with our first son, and the GP, I guess, prescribed some medication. We came in to you to get the medication, and you said, "Are you pregnant?" and she said, "Yes," and you said, "You can't take this."

HINTZ: Is that right? Oh wow.

KENNEDY: It turned the teeth blue or something or other. I don't remember what medication, but again, you were the checkmate that doctors weren't as thorough as they should be. I don't think you appreciated how important you are, and even today. What's the difference between your day and today?

HINTZ: Today, a pharmacist doesn't really meet with the customer anymore. They're behind a counter. The techs and the people that work in the pharmacy have the contact with the customers. The computer runs the whole process of filling a prescription.

KENNEDY: You never had a computer in your business?

HINTZ: **0:20:03.3** Well, yeah, we did. It was interesting. We got a computer system back in 1979. In fact, we started a computer business. We called it International Computer Marketing, ICM. We had a third partner—Don, myself, and a third partner. He had hopes of selling a system up in Canada, so he called it International Computer Marketing. We sold nine systems throughout the area. We had a very nice system. When we originally got it, it was an old PDA8 machine that was probably 5 feet high tall by about 4 feet wide, and it took a disk maybe about 2 feet in diameter to hold the operating system and the memory and everything. But we sold nine systems, and we had a nice business going.

KENNEDY: What caused the debacle?

HINTZ: **0:21:06.6** Well, the guy in Oklahoma that sold us the system decided to get out of it for Connecticut because a lot of changes were being made. So there were three of us in Connecticut that bought the same system at the same time. So we had to fly this guy out from Oklahoma to Bradley. He brought the software out there on a disk. He got off the plane, gave us the disk, and went back on the plane to get back to Oklahoma. That was it, and we were lucky to get the software. So at that time, we hired our third partner who knew a programmer that went to one of those Massachusetts schools. So we hired him. He was a sharp kid. He had a friend that we eventually hired, and they were both sharp kids. Ken was the first one we hired. He got a job on Microsoft out in Seattle, so he left us.

KENNEDY: Do you know his last name?

HINTZ: Ken Reneris. Then, a couple years later he convinced Jeff, the other programmer to—

KENNEDY: Jeff's last name? Do you remember?

HINTZ: Uhm—

KENNEDY: It's okay.

HINTZ: No, I'm drawing a blank on that, but anyway, they both are retired now as multi-millionaires, and they were in the ground floor of Microsoft. They were good kids. We hired another programmer, who wasn't quite as sharp, but he did carry us through the remaining years of the business.

KENNEDY: Was this just a financial program? Or you indicated something about the medication did this?

HINTZ: **0:22:54.4** Yeah, this was a program that when we got a prescription in, we

entered it in the computer. So instead of when somebody wanted a refill we would have to go through these books of journals of where the prescription was, this way we could look it right up on the computer. We saw things happening that—

KENNEDY: You were a pioneer. You were really a pioneer!

HINTZ: Yes, we were. We really were in that, yeah.

KENNEDY: You can be proud of that.

HINTZ: Yeah, so we had the business for like 10 years.

KENNEDY: Wow. Did the other person take it over when you were finished, when you sold the business?

HINTZ: No, he had moved out of the business. So we made arrangements with one of the big software vendors in the pharmacy systems, and they gave everybody a good price on their systems.

KENNEDY: So your big point is that the pharmacist today has little or no contact unless you request it.

HINTZ: Yes. Very true. Yeah.

KENNEDY: Why is this important?

HINTZ: Why is?

KENNEDY: The contact between the pharmacist and the patient important?

HINTZ: **0:24:18.8** Well, probably it isn't too much anymore. I don't know. It's just things have changed. You know, people can get their questions answered on the computer quite easily. They can always ask the tech to ask the pharmacist a question like that, but the pharmacist nowadays is filling 200 to 250 prescriptions a day—

KENNEDY: Compared to your?

HINTZ: —compared to our—oh, I don't know—maybe 100 at the time was probably a top number.

KENNEDY: How do you read the doctor's prescription?

HINTZ: You get used to their handwriting. You do. Each doctor was unique in how we

wrote things, and there were times that we had to call the doctor and say—what do you mean? But you get used to it. Of course, we were familiar with the names of the drugs, so when you looked at a prescription it would look like a lot of scribbles, but the name of the drug was common to us. Then, the directions were always in a Latin abbreviation, so we had to learn these Latin abbreviations. So again, somebody looking at the prescription, it wouldn't make much sense to them.

KENNEDY: You received some honors as a pharmacist. Do you want to talk about those?

HINTZ: **0:25:55.5** Yeah. Back in 1975 when we moved into the Geissler plaza, down the end of the building, the South Windsor Public Library was down there for a while. Then, after that, the senior center moved in there, the South Windsor Senior Center. Well, I became quite friendly with the people that ran the center, and of course, some of the people used to walk up to the drugstore and stop in the drugstore.

KENNEDY: Everybody walked there. You were the only drugstore in town.

HINTZ: Right. I always remember Romeo Richard. Romeo was a good friend of ours, and he used to go to the senior center every day. He would walk up and stop at Imperial Oil and then come into the drugstore and talk to the girls up front, and then, go on to the food store. He was quite a guy. But we became quite friendly with the people in the center, and we helped them out a lot in their needs. I think that was the basis of some of the awards I got. I had joined the Chamber, and I got Businessman of the Year Award in 1997.

KENNEDY: So, you had sold the pharmacy in 19—

HINTZ: In 1999. That was a new award that the Chamber had come up with in the previous year. I was the second person to get it. Sherwood Waldron was the first person to get that award, and I was the second one to get that. I think a lot of that had to do with the close connection to the senior center in those days. I got—

KENNEDY: But you also got a pharmacy award, right?

HINTZ: Yes, I got the Bowl of Hygeia Award which was a statewide award from the Connecticut Pharmaceutical Association, again for community service, and that was quite an honor. That was put on by Wyeth drug company, an annual thing, and they took us down to Philadelphia for an all-expenses-paid weekend where we were presented the award. We had a tour of Philadelphia, and we had a couple nice dinners.

KENNEDY: Do you remember what year that was?

HINTZ: I think it was 1998

KENNEDY: Before you retired?

HINTZ: Yes, in the '90s sometime.

KENNEDY: The 1990s.

HINTZ: **0:29:11.0** Yes. That was a nice award, and I guess even today our names are going to be displayed down in Washington, D.C., as recipients of this Bowl of Hygeia Award. There is one recipient from each state each year.

KENNEDY: Each year? And you were second from—or no. That was the Chamber thing.

HINTZ: Yes, that was the Chamber.

KENNEDY: What does the Hygeia—what does that stand for?

HINTZ: **0:29:41.5** Hygeia was named after a Greek Goddess and it became an international symbol for pharmacy

KENNEDY: But this wasn't just for community service, right? This was more for your pharmacy work?

HINTZ: Yes, the pharmacy. Right.

KENNEDY: And what are their qualifications?

HINTZ: **0:30:12.4** Well, it was a community service award.

KENNEDY: Oh, I see. With an outstanding record of community service.

HINTZ: Yes, for the Connecticut Pharmaceutical Association. Then, I got the Eugene Policelli Award. Eugene Policelli was a very prominent educator in the town of South Windsor who passed away at an early age, and each year in his honor there are three awards that are given to adults and two awards given to high school children, and the names are displayed in the lobby in the high school. This award is given in his memory. His wife remarried, but she still comes back to this event every year.

KENNEDY: Right. Ann Policelli?

HINTZ: Ann Policelli. That was quite an honor.

KENNEDY: What's that recognition of?

HINTZ: That was community service again, yeah.

KENNEDY: Community service. Do you remember the year of that? Now I see why you wrote your notes!

HINTZ: Well, I'm not good with dates – possibly 2006

KENNEDY: That's okay. That's all right. We can look that one up.

HINTZ: In order to get that award, you had to be a member of three organizations in town, and I was a member of the Lions Club. I was a member of the Chamber. I was a member of the Historical Society. I was even president at the Wapping Fair one year when the fair was up on Rye Street. KofC used to run that, and I had some neighbors that were quite active in the KofC, and they convinced me to get involved with the fair. One year I was president. That was enough.

KENNEDY: That was enough? So that's a big do.

HINTZ: **0:32:18.2** That was a big deal.

KENNEDY: Big operation.

HINTZ: Yes it was.

KENNEDY: Can you tell me about your fishing derby?

HINTZ: Yes. Well, that's the other organization. The Super Sixties Fishing Derby. We ran that for many years down at the old Veterans Memorial Park down on Pleasant Valley Road. Then, when they redid the pool there—originally, they used to drain the pool so we could put fish in the pond and then pull them out when they drained the pool. But now they have the new modern pool, so we were forced to go somewhere else. We went up to the Dzen Pond on Barber Hill Road, and we have this annually for seniors and for children under fifteen, and it's a nice event.

KENNEDY: Do you need a fishing license?

HINTZ: No.

KENNEDY: No. Are you still involved with that?

HINTZ: Yes. We buy the fish and then dump them in there anywhere from 2 days or a

week ahead of time, and the guys don't really know which is best. I guess they say it takes the fish awhile to get it used to the new environment, so they—I don't know. I'm not a fisherman, but—

KENNEDY: How big are your fish, and how many do you dump? Do you know?

HINTZ: **0:33:51.6** The prices vary in the size of the fish, and I think we settled around a 12-inch trout, and I think maybe 600 or so that we dump in there.

KENNEDY: And you leave them in there if they're not caught?

HINTZ: Yeah, and the guys are allowed to go fishing there after the event. Yeah.

KENNEDY: How big was the biggest fish? I assume some fish don't get caught, so they can grow quite large.

HINTZ: Yeah. Well, the carps, I guess, are the type of fish that grow big, and some of the kids caught some pretty good-size carps.

KENNEDY: It must be a thrill. How many people are involved in the fishing here? A hundred?

HINTZ: That come to the event? We get maybe 500 or so. We get a good crowd.

KENNEDY: How big a pond is it? I'm not sure I've seen it.

HINTZ: It's fairly large. There are a lot of new houses in that area that Mannarino has built, but he kept the pond.

KENNEDY: Which Dzen is this? Ginny?

HINTZ: This is Ginny Dzen.

KENNEDY: Ginny Dzen's.

HINTZ: **0:35:05.4** Yes, John passed away a couple years ago.

KENNEDY: Right. Not his brother.

HINTZ: Not his brother. But the pond eventually will belong to the town, I think, in a couple years is the way it's going to be. So the fishing derby will be probably a town event after next year.

KENNEDY: Good, and how many years were you involved in that?

HINTZ: I joined the Super Sixties probably in the '80s. Romeo was the one that got me involved. The Super Sixties, I think, started—he started the club in '81. That date, I remember. I probably joined in late '80s, '90s. I've been secretary of that club for the last 7 years.

KENNEDY: You have been?

HINTZ: Yes, and I can't get out of the job.

KENNEDY: What is its purpose, or how big is it? How often do you meet?

HINTZ: We meet twice a month on second or fourth Thursday. We do some events. We do a lot of cooking for the town events that the senior center has or the community center has.

KENNEDY: Do you meet in the evening or daytime?

HINTZ: **0:36:29.3** The daytime, 1:00 in the afternoon.

KENNEDY: For lunch or just a meeting?

HINTZ: No, just after lunch. Just a meeting. It lasts about an hour, and we have refreshments afterwards and social gathering.

KENNEDY: Where do you meet?

HINTZ: At the community center. We have a room in the community center that we use. We do a road cleanup on Nevers Road twice a year.

KENNEDY: How big a group is it?

HINTZ: We have probably forty members. We have maybe twenty-five that attend the regular meetings.

KENNEDY: You need to be invited to join or what's the—?

HINTZ: No, no. Anybody can join. You don't have to be a South Windsor resident either to join. We have a few people that are outside of South Windsor.

KENNEDY: Men and women?

HINTZ: No, men only.

KENNEDY: Men only?

HINTZ: **0:37:18.6** Men only. That's probably—

KENNEDY: Discretionary?

HINTZ: Yes, yes it is. Probably that's one of our downfalls is that we need women. I can remember our Lions Club was kind of going downhill until the women came in—

KENNEDY: Now it's a woman president, right?

HINTZ: Now it's a woman president, yeah.

KENNEDY: So tell us a little bit about the Lions Club.

HINTZ: **0:37:40.0** The Lions Club? Okay. Back in the late '60s when we were in the drugstore, the Lions Club and the Rotary Club and the Chamber were all being started in South Windsor. Don joined the Rotary Club, I joined the Chamber, and I knew that someday I would join the Lions Club because my dad was a Lion, and my mother was in New Haven Women's Auxiliary. It's interesting that we went to a convention together up in the Catskills in the '80s, and it was announced that they had spent 100 years together in Lionism—each of them 50 years in the New Haven club.

KENNEDY: Wow.

HINTZ: Yes, so that was quite interesting. But anyway, my father was secretary of the Lions Club, and every month he would send out a yellow postcard to all the members, and my mother kept this postcard right on the counter in the kitchen. So every day when we went to school, we'd see this yellow postcard with the Lions Club events on it. So eventually, I knew I was going to join the Lions Club, and I think it was 1974 when I finally joined. I became president in mid '80s. It's a good organization.

KENNEDY: What's the purpose?

HINTZ: The main purpose is probably eye conservation. The Lions Club was formed in 1917, and it was formed by businessmen. I guess the wording they used was to give their time, their skills, and their resources to do things to give back to the community. Then, this lady named Helen Keller—is that name familiar with you?

KENNEDY: Oh yeah, very much.

HINTZ: **0:39:53.7** She was blind at 2 years old. She was an author and a political activist,

among other things, and she spoke at the last convention—I think it was 1925—and challenged the Lions Club to be “knights of the blind.” So at that point, the Lions Club took over the eyeglass as their main focus.

KENNEDY: Right. We were at a doctor’s office yesterday, and we saw the Lions Club box for old glasses.

HINTZ: Is that in Manchester?

KENNEDY: In Manchester.

HINTZ: Yeah. We have seven of them around South Windsor in different spots, and we collect the eyeglasses. The eyeglasses are catalogued and sent out. Unfortunately, the United States does not allow used eyeglasses to be given to poor people or anything like that, so the eyeglasses have to be shipped outside the United States to the islands.

KENNEDY: Really?

HINTZ: Yes. It’s kind of interesting.

KENNEDY: Why is that?

HINTZ: **0:41:05.3** I don't know. I don't know why it is, but it’s the law in the United States.

KENNEDY: So those glasses that were put in a box are shipped outside the United States?

HINTZ: Yeah, They’re catalogued and recorded and everything else. Eye doctors volunteer, at times, to go down to the islands, along with the Lions Club members. They fit the eyeglasses—

KENNEDY: So just to the islands? Not Europe or Russia?

HINTZ: **0:41:32.4** I don't know. I really don’t know. I think their main thing is down at the islands—

KENNEDY: So Lions Club is a fraternal organization?

HINTZ: No, it’s just probably a lot of business people join the Lions Club to make their business known, but there are individuals that join the Lions Club.

KENNEDY: And you meet?

HINTZ: We meet twice a month, again on the second and fourth Wednesday

KENNEDY: What time?

HINTZ: —with just an evening meal.

KENNEDY: So you go to two?

HINTZ: Yes.

KENNEDY: You used to meet over on Route 5 at a restaurant there.

HINTZ: Yes. I have a list of the different places that we met. It's quite interesting.

KENNEDY: Good, good. Can you read them?

HINTZ: **0:42:17.3** Yes, I will. Yeah. Right now, we're renting a room at the Wapping Church for one meeting downstairs on the basement floor, and the second meeting we have a dinner meeting at The Nutmeg.

KENNEDY: Oh, at The Nutmeg? Oh, okay.

HINTZ: Yeah. We have a lot of husband and wife combinations, so it was getting a little expensive. We'd have two dinner meetings a month. So we have like a pizza meeting at the Wapping Church. Yeah. The Lions Club—well, they started out. Frank Ahearn was the one that started the Lions Club. Frank Ahearn was an attorney, and he used to have an office in the Five Corners, right opposite the Wapping Church and the Sadd Memorial Library. So you saw his nameplate every time you drove by that area. He was the one that was the original founder of the Lions Club. That was 1961, I believe, and at that time, the first meeting place was Armando's, which was a place in East Windsor. I guess it's a car dealership now called Nation Auto that's in that spot. We met at Civies and then, again at Sepino's when they changed the name back then. We used to have our charter nights and our installations in Fiano's up in Bolton at the top of the hill where Georgina's is now. We met at the Podunk Mill, which is now called the Mill in the River. When I joined, we met at the Imperial Caterers. I don't know if you remember that or not. That was right over the line in East Windsor. It was on the left-hand side of the road going north, and it burned down. There was a big fire there, and it burnt down.

KENNEDY: Oh yes!

HINTZ: That was a nice place.

KENNEDY: That was nice. Yeah.

HINTZ: **0:44:11.6** They had nice catering business there. We met at the Marco Polo. We met at Lucien's, which was across the street from the bowling alley. We met at the B&G Lounge up over Sullivan Avenue there for a while. We met at Shirley's when that was in business. We met at Roselle's. Roselle's was a restaurant in the Geissler's plaza in the building where the Hot Leathers is now after the movie theater that was there. One night we had some type of meat that was mostly frozen, and that time we discovered—they had a very active business in Storrs, but we found out they were shipping the frozen meat down to the South Windsor location and recooking it there. So the guys didn't like that, and we left there. They went out of business shortly after that. We went to what they called the Casa Nova at that time. It's now Elmo's in Vernon. We met at Dante's. This was in the Geissler's plaza. We went to the China Rose which was in the Rockville Bank plaza. We met at Lena's. We met at the Starlite Restaurant which was where the old Lucien's was. They didn't last too, too long in town. We met at La Casa Bella down in the Four Corners there. The Red Onion and now The Nutmeg. So we covered a lot of area!

KENNEDY: It's interesting. My father-in-law was a Lions Club member, and he always said that if you drive into a town and you want a restaurant, look at where the Lions Club sits and eats. It's supposed to be quite good.

HINTZ: Right

KENNEDY: Of course, looking at your list of restaurants, most of them have gotten out of business. So I'm not sure what that says!

HINTZ: Well—

KENNEDY: It's interesting. Let's see. What's a fraternal organization? Don't you do a lot also for the town itself?

HINTZ: **0:46:26.6** The Lions Club? Yeah, we do a lot of fundraising to give money back to the town. We have two scholarships that we give out every year. We give to the Food & Fuel Bank and many of the different things in town. We've given to the American Legion. Fidelco Guide Dog—we give a lot of money to them.

KENNEDY: Still?

HINTZ: Still, yes.

KENNEDY: Oh, good.

HINTZ: The Haiti fund and a lot of different organizations we give money to.

KENNEDY: Tell us about the Wapping Community Church.

HINTZ: **0:47:05.6** The Wapping Community Church. Yeah, we joined there. Well, I was a Methodist. We went to the Methodist Church in Manchester for a while, and when we moved to South Windsor I joined the Wapping Church. When I remarried, Marion was a member of the Lutheran Church, which my partner Don was a member, and we were undecided as to which church we would join, you know, being married. I was still a member of the Wapping Church. At the time, I went to the Lutheran Church, and they had twelve classes that you had to go to to become a Lutheran member. I went through nine of them, and on the tenth class he asked us to list the different organizations we were in. So I listed my organizations, and the Masons was one of the organizations I had belonged to, and next day I got a note from the pastor that said I couldn't be a Lutheran because the Missouri Lutherans do not allow Masons to be members of their church. So we both joined Wapping Community Church

KENNEDY: **0:49:18.2** Now you mentioned the Masons. I guess the Masons are the Masons. You didn't mention that as one of your groups.

HINTZ: Oh no. I guess I didn't. No.

KENNEDY: My father and great grandfather-in-law, I guess, was a high Mason and so had the full garb. Did you go through all the steps of the Masons?

HINTZ: No, I did not. I joined the Masons. My father was a Mason. I had two uncles that were Masons. When I had my final initiation there, they came up and I went to a few meetings, and I was just involved in so many other things I didn't pursue the Masons. I'm still a member, but I'm not active now.

KENNEDY: **0:50:20.2** What do you think of these organizations? Membership has dwindled, I assume, and the wives have been invited in in order to strengthen the numbers. Is that something that will continue, or is that a dying—?

HINTZ: No, I think it's something that will continue. The Lions Club now is in a resurgence of growth. We have a nice membership chairmen that had talked to people. Not necessarily all business people but some individuals that have joined the club and become very enthusiastic.

KENNEDY: Majority are local business people, I guess. Is that correct?

HINTZ: No, not the majority, I would say. I would say they're more individuals. Sometimes the banks will want one of their members to become a Lion or a Rotary person. Some of the bigger companies will.

KENNEDY: So what is the difference between a Rotary, a Lion, Chamber? Chamber is almost all the local business.

HINTZ: **0:51:35.2** Chamber is all business. They're made up entirely of businesses. The Lions Club and Rotary are kind of similar. The Rotary is a more demanding organization than the Lions Club and they meet once a week. The business people donate more money to the Rotary, than the individuals in the Lions Club. So that's one of the differences.

KENNEDY: Are they both men and women? Rotary and Lions?

HINTZ: Yes. The Rotary were very hesitant about getting women in there for a long time, but now they do. The Lions accepted the women's Lioness Club into their membership, in the early 80's

KENNEDY: I don't hear much about the Elks.

HINTZ: **0:52:49.8** The Elks is not in South Windsor. There was an Elks in Windsor which we had joined for a while. We had friends that were all joining. They have a nice place over in Windsor, but we were always outsiders. We were South Windsor people that were over in Windsor, and we kind of broke up after a year.

KENNEDY: Talking about outsiders, do you feel yourself an outsider of South Windsor, or what are your feelings about South Windsor?

HINTZ: No. My feeling—I'm not an outsider of South Windsor. I came later. I'm not one of the original people, but I'm right at home in South Windsor

KENNEDY: A lot of people know you from the pharmacy. That's for sure.

HINTZ: Yeah.

KENNEDY: You really made a wonderful impression on a lot of people at that point. So going back to Wapping Community Church, have you been involved in it in any way?

HINTZ: No, I was one time on the outreach committee, but that was the only involvement I really had in the church.

KENNEDY: You've seen a lot of changes. When did you join Wapping?

HINTZ: I probably joined back in the '70s.

KENNEDY: The '70s.

HINTZ: Yes.

KENNEDY: **0:54:10.0** You've seen a lot of changes and developments in the church. Just from a physical planned perspective as well.

HINTZ: Yes, we have.

KENNEDY: What do you think about South Windsor and a town center? You were over at Geissler's, so that kind of was a town center. Now we've got Stop & Shop, and Five Corners became Four Corners. What is your feeling?

HINTZ: My feeling is it would be nice to establish a town center, but I really don't know how they can do that.

KENNEDY: Why is that?

HINTZ: Well, because the plaza is there, but the town hall is on the other side of the roads, and I can't envision people walking from town hall over to the Stop & Shop. That seems to be a long walk. That seems to be the route that the town is taking from the plans I've seen.

KENNEDY: Sidewalks and so forth.

HINTZ: Yeah, sidewalks and stuff.

KENNEDY: Do you see Main Street area as Wapping? Is there a conflict there, or is there—?

HINTZ: Main Street?

KENNEDY: Uh-hunh[affirmative]. Route 5 kind of divides the town, and then—

KENNEDY: —like 84 divides Hartford in some way.

HINTZ: Yeah. Main Street people are Main Street people, and they like their—individually—

KENNEDY: Tell me a little bit about Wapping Fair.

HINTZ: Wapping Fair. Yes, it used to be down at the church. Do you remember that part?

KENNEDY: I don't.

HINTZ: On Sullivan Avenue. They used to close the lower part of Sullivan Avenue. Then, it moved it up to Ayers Road, and we used to live on Sunset Terrace, so we used to be able to walk across the ball fields right into the Wapping Fair, and it stayed there for a few

years. Then, it moved up to Rye Street. When it moved up to Rye Street, the fair could never make any money because it cost probably like \$6000 a year to hire an electrician to wire that whole area. It cost another \$5000 or \$6000 to rent the tents, and then, the insurance and everything else. So you had a big nut to crack there right off the bat, so there were very few years that the Wapping Fair made any extra money. Currently, the Wapping Fair has a member of the committee who is an electrician. I think he donates his time, so that's a big savings for them.

KENNEDY: Huge savings. Yeah. So it's over at Evergreen Walk.

HINTZ: Now it's over at Evergreen Walk, and it has kind of turned into more of just an amusement type of thing.

KENNEDY: Can you contrast the beginning to what it is now with respect to?

HINTZ: Yeah, in the beginning we used to have a tent where people used to bring their crafts, and they used to have contests, and we used to award prizes as to the best—

KENNEDY: My wife won a prize for her picture. Yeah, I remember that.

HINTZ: **0:57:42.9** Yeah, and that was important to people. People today—I do Meals on Wheels, and there's a girl that won a prize way back. She always shows that to me. But that was important, but I don't think that goes on anymore.

KENNEDY: No. How about 4-H? Was it big in 4-H in the beginning? Has that changed?

HINTZ: I don't know—4-H really wasn't involved in the fair I don't think.

KENNEDY: Oh really?

HINTZ: No. We had three partners in the fair one time. We had the KofC. We had the Eastern Star out of Rockville. They were quite involved in the fair. They were a partner of the fair. The Lions Club was a partner for a short time, but that didn't work out. So mainly, it was the KofC and the Eastern Star. Eastern Star used to run the prizes and stuff. I don't think the 4-H was really too involved in the Wapping Fair.

KENNEDY: Did you have the truck pulls or whatever they're called?

HINTZ: Yeah, that was a big thing, when we had the tractor pulls.

KENNEDY: That's always been there? Even when it was by Wapping Church?

HINTZ: I don't think so. No

KENNEDY: No. It came in after that?

HINTZ: **0:59:06.7** That came in when we were up at Rye Street, I think.

KENNEDY: But you've seen a big development in the amusement area and so forth.

HINTZ: Oh yeah. That's really the main attraction

KENNEDY: That seems to be the prime thing at this point in time.

HINTZ: Yeah.

KENNEDY: So you did that for one year, and that was enough, huh?

HINTZ: The president? Yes, that was enough. Yeah, that was enough

KENNEDY: Is that true? Most presidents only last a year?

HINTZ: No, no! Dick Blanchard, a friend of mine, wanted to be president for many, many years. At the time I took over, he was tired of it, but after a year's rest, he went back to be president again. He kind of ran the fair for a long time.

KENNEDY: Tell me about South Windsor Historical Society.

HINTZ: Oh yes. South Windsor Historical Society. I joined that about 15 years ago. Right now, their focus is on restoring Union District School on Main Street. See, it's a big, big project, and it's going to require a lot of work and getting grants and getting some money to do the restoration like they want to do it.

KENNEDY: What was your part?

HINTZ: **1:00:24.4** My part? I was on the Union District School Committee to—we spent a lot of time. There were three girls on it that went to Union District School, each one at a different time, so we were trying to draw plans on the way we wanted to restore Union District School, and we'd have a staircase over here. The girls said, "No, no. The staircase is over here," and this room was—you know, we spent a lot of time going back and forth on what room was in the right area.

KENNEDY: You all came from different times, and the school had changed over that time.

HINTZ: Different times and the school had changed. Yes

KENNEDY: What's your vision for that?

HINTZ: I don't know. I don't know whether it will ever happen or not. The thing they have to do is get somebody that can get the grants from the state and the federal government, and they're talking millions and millions of dollars to do that. So it's a big, big project, and they really don't know what the outcome will be.

KENNEDY: In hindsight, was it the right thing to do?

HINTZ: I hate to say my opinion.

KENNEDY: Well, you've worked on it!

HINTZ: Brian Rivard is the one that is quite involved in it.

KENNEDY: I feel sorry for him. I think he's so involved. He's been involved, and he wasn't brought up in South Windsor, but his hard work has been amazing.

HINTZ: Yes. He bought the historic house on the corner of Foster Street Extension and Miller Road.

KENNEDY: Oh. I'll be darned.

HINTZ: **1:02:18.2** Yeah. It was an old, old house, and it had a lot of history in South Windsor. That got him interested in the history.

KENNEDY: I hope it can work, and I think now they're going to try to open the first floor.

HINTZ: Yeah, that's a possibility

KENNEDY: If they can get people into it and get something so they can show people and get people interested, I think would be effective.

HINTZ: Yes. There are possibilities.

KENNEDY: They've done a lot of work with asbestos—you know, knocking everything out.

HINTZ: Yes, they really have.

KENNEDY: Now it's building it back up again. But at \$3000 a window, I mean, it gets expensive. A lot of windows.

HINTZ: Yeah, that's a lot of money, and Brian insists that they be made to the original

way they looked at that time.

KENNEDY: You got the 1997 Businessman of the Year Award.

HINTZ: Yeah. That was the one with the Chamber.

KENNEDY: That was the Chamber. Okay. All right.

HINTZ: **1:03:21.3** Yeah, I was the second one to get that award.

KENNEDY: Okay, that's the second one. So it wasn't in 2006.

HINTZ: In 2006 would have been the Bowl of Hygeia. No, why did I think that? I don't know.

KENNEDY: Okay, 1997 you got the Businessman of the Year Award.

HINTZ: Oh, okay. All right.

KENNEDY: Okay, good. Any hobbies?

HINTZ: I love my computer!

KENNEDY: Oh, do you?

HINTZ: **1:03:51.6** Yeah, I do a lot of things on the computer. I got into the ancestry about the family.

KENNEDY: How far have you gotten?

HINTZ: It's interesting. My great grandfather came over from Germany. His father died in one of the Polish wars over there, and I got stuck right there. My great grandmother came over from Sweden, and then, I don't how they met. She was a Swedish girl that went to Germany for some reason. I forget now, but they met and came to the United States. The Swedish part, I traced all the way back to the 1600s. The German part—the records were all destroyed, I guess, in the war, so it's very, very hard to find any information on that. On my mother's side, the family came over from France in the 1600s, so I have that traced all the way back to France.

KENNEDY: Perfect.

HINTZ: **1:05:12.6** It's been interesting. Yeah.

KENNEDY: Do you have a tree or anything? Would you ever let the Wood Library have that, and you know, go along with your oral history?

HINTZ: Oh yeah. It's out on the ancestry.com, so anybody can access that and look at it.

KENNEDY: Is your wife into the computer?

HINTZ: No, She's not!

KENNEDY: No. Okay, it's just you. How many hours a day do you spend on it?

HINTZ: Oh, I don't know. Two, three, four—yeah. I've got all my photos on there.

KENNEDY: I have the same problem!

HINTZ: Yeah.

KENNEDY: You get hooked!

HINTZ: Yes, you do. There are a lot of interesting things on the computer to look at.

KENNEDY: Of course, you wife misses you at that point.

HINTZ: **1:06:00.8** Well no, because the computer is in the same room as the TV.

KENNEDY: So tell me about your wife and her talent.

HINTZ: Yeah. She was a painter. She had her paintings on display, hanging on the walls at the old South Windsor Bank and Trust building that was in the Geissler shopping plaza. She sold several paintings from that bank. She did a lot of oil paintings for people that wanted something special. Every once in a while, somebody will come up to me now and say my wife's painting is in their house or something.

KENNEDY: I don't know much about her paintings. I know about her wood painting.

HINTZ: Yeah, then she went into the little wooden paintings on these boards or individual little things, and she painted some historical buildings in South Windsor.

KENNEDY: The historical buildings are beautiful. Beautiful paintings.

HINTZ: **1:07:12.0** Yeah. They were quite nice, and she sold those at craft shows.

KENNEDY: Is she still painting?

HINTZ: No, no.

KENNEDY: She gave that up entirely?

HINTZ: She gave that up, yeah.

KENNEDY: I mean, if I asked her to paint, she wouldn't do it? I was thinking of asking her to paint a board with five buildings on it.

HINTZ: **1:07:28.0** Yes. She might if somebody asked her to do it. She might do it. She went into stained glass, and she had several successful craft shows selling the stained glass. She was in the craft show at Wood Library for many, many years.

KENNEDY: Are you into crafts?

HINTZ: No!

KENNEDY: No. All right. Health-wise, you're doing very well, it appears.

HINTZ: Pardon me?

KENNEDY: Health-wise, you're doing very—

HINTZ: Health-wise? Yes, I'm very lucky so far!

KENNEDY: Is it because you were a pharmacist?

HINTZ: No, I think just a little bit of luck.

KENNEDY: A little bit of good genes?

HINTZ: Yes.

KENNEDY: Your wife is suffering, I guess, at this point a little bit?

HINTZ: Yes. She just got a cancer bout, but hopefully, they'll get everything.

KENNEDY: Good.

HINTZ: **1:08:16.7** She's on radiation and chemo.

KENNEDY: She's from where?

HINTZ: She's from Bristol, Rhode Island, and she came up here when she was like 17-18 years old.

KENNEDY: To South Windsor?

HINTZ: No, to Manchester.

KENNEDY: Manchester.

HINTZ: They moved to South Windsor a few years after that.

KENNEDY: Your grandchildren's ages are quite large? Or are they all clustered?

HINTZ: Oh, I have one that's probably in the high 20s down to one that's probably 18, I guess, as the low.

KENNEDY: Okay. Not that much. Oh, they are clustered.

HINTZ: I have a great grandchild who is Marion's grandson.

KENNEDY: Congratulations.

HINTZ: Yeah, —that's going to school, living in our old house.

KENNEDY: Oh, okay.

HINTZ: Yeah.

KENNEDY: **1:09:17.3** Do you get to see them? Do you have any family things that are unique or interesting?

HINTZ: Yes, we have Christmas and Thanksgiving together. Sometimes birthdays.

KENNEDY: All of you?

HINTZ: Most of the time. The older boy seems to be a perpetual student. He graduated from the University of Miami.

KENNEDY: Now which one is this?

HINTZ: This is Andy, Betsy's oldest boy.

KENNEDY: Okay.

HINTZ: Then, he went to China to study for a year. Right now he is in Belgium taking another course. He plans to go back to China. So we don't see him too much. Betsy's daughter is going to the University of Arkansas. She's in her last year there, so she comes home for the holidays.

KENNEDY: Good.

HINTZ: **1:10:08.0** Steven's two boys always come around. Eddie remarried, probably 10 years ago, and they have like a 5-year-old child. She's just starting school.

KENNEDY: Good. I don't know how you keep them straight—ages or names.

HINTZ: Yeah, well, that's it.

KENNEDY: That's why it would be interesting to look at your family tree and see it too. Let's see. I think I've covered a lot of the questions I had. Anything else you'd like to?

HINTZ: **1:10:51.3** Yeah. You know, one thing I'd like to mention is when the Senior Center moved into the Sullivan Avenue plaza there, I got to know a lot of the people and a lot of people in the center. When I retired, I got involved in the Community Center in South Windsor and in the Senior Center there, and that's been a big part of our lives. We've gone on many trips with them. We've gone on day trips, overnight trips. We went to Hawaii with them. We went to Panama Canal with them—Branson, Missouri—so we've done some nice trips with the seniors, and we have some nice friends in that group.

KENNEDY: When did you get involved in it?

HINTZ: Well, I was involved in the Super Sixties, so when I retired in 2000.

KENNEDY: In 2000?

HINTZ: In 2000.

KENNEDY: Okay.

HINTZ: I got more involved with them.

KENNEDY: So you were 63, I guess.

HINTZ: **1:11:46.3** Yeah, I was 63. Yeah.

KENNEDY: At that point, did you think you were old, so you could join the—?

HINTZ: No, no. I never thought I was old!

KENNEDY: That's our problem! We're not old! So we don't know.

HINTZ: No, no. Never thought I was old.

KENNEDY: We exercise over there, but—

HINTZ: Oh, do you? Yeah.

KENNEDY: We've gone on a couple trips.

HINTZ: Yeah. They run some nice trips out of there.

KENNEDY: They do.

HINTZ: **1:12:07.5** We had a group of friends that—kind of we all traveled together.

KENNEDY: Oh good. Did you meet while going to there, or did you know them beforehand?

HINTZ: We met going to there, yeah. We didn't really know any of them beforehand.

KENNEDY: Now Meals on Wheels—that's independent of the Community Center, is that?

HINTZ: **1:12:29.2** It's run out of the Community Center. Yeah, they get their meals from CRT—Connecticut Resource—somewhere out of Hartford. They're the meals they deliver every day, and South Windsor has maybe about thirty people that get meals from Meals on Wheels and these people—they pay \$2 for a meal. I guess it's open to anybody that has the need to have a home meal delivered. Income is not a factor in that. It's anybody that has fallen or disabled or lives by themselves that can't cook or something. So we deliver once a month.

KENNEDY: Once a month? How many meals are you delivering?

HINTZ: We do ten. They have three different routes and about ten people on each route.

KENNEDY: Have you gotten to know the people?

HINTZ: Of course, yeah.

KENNEDY: Do you?

HINTZ: Yeah, some of these people you deliver to, that's the only person they see all day long. So we stop and chat a little bit.

KENNEDY: That's a nice check and balance system there to make sure they're all right.

HINTZ: Yeah, it is.

KENNEDY: You and the mailman, and so forth.

HINTZ: Yes. They have many volunteers.

KENNEDY: Do some of them not befriend you?

HINTZ: **1:13:57.3** Yes, some of them just take the meal and say thank you, and then, that's it.

KENNEDY: Or leave their cooler out in front with the ice pack in it?

HINTZ: No. One of the rules is that they cannot leave a meal if somebody's not home.

KENNEDY: In New Jersey, my brother-in-law is doing it, but if he has to go to a doctor's appointment, he can leave a cooler out front with an ice pack in it. They'll put the meal in it.

HINTZ: No, in South Windsor they require the person to be home, and we cannot leave a meal, which occasionally somebody forgets that they have the meal coming. They have like a doctor's appointment at the time, and they just don't get a meal that day, but I suppose it's a way the town can check on a person, also. If they don't answer the door, there could be another problem.

KENNEDY: Getting into, maybe, the political issue—at church now we have that market that we give away food, and the Meals on Wheels is a pretty cheap dinner, a meal. Any feelings about that? Are we giving too much away? Are we being taken advantage of?

HINTZ: **1:15:23.4** No, I don't really know too much about that. I don't think people are taking an advantage of the meals.

KENNEDY: Well, I have a tree farm in Virginia, and we have a caretaker there. He's very upset. He happens to be black and a hard worker, and he thinks—you know, if you think about it, you can go almost every day of the week and get free food. So what these people do is they go to church this day, they go to this, and so forth, and is this right? Because they're not working—and he's working, and he's not that wealthy, but he did 40 years as a print

shop foreman. Is socialism becoming so great that it's more economical for them not to work than it is for them to work? You've lived and talked with a lot of people. Are we headed in the wrong direction?

HINTZ: **1:16:32.9** I really don't know about that. I don't know if there are people that abuse that system. I'm sure there are some, but I have friends that work at the food center in the Hockanum Valley thing, and also, in Manchester.

KENNEDY: Food banks?

HINTZ: The food banks and stuff. I don't know. I'll have to ask them whether they run into that too, too much.

KENNEDY: There are a lot of needy people. That's for sure.

HINTZ: There are, and I'm sure there are abusers in every area

KENNEDY: In the older people, that's very true. In the younger people, I don't know.

HINTZ: Hmm.

KENNEDY: Anything else that you'd like to? So from the Community Center, you've enjoyed the trips.

HINTZ: Yeah. We got to know a lot of nice people there. Good friends and a lot of different events that we went to. After retirement, it was a nice place to go to. I guess that kind of covers everything.

KENNEDY: Could you give me that list of the restaurants the club went to?

HINTZ: Oh yeah. Sure. Yeah. That was quite interesting.

KENNEDY: Yeah, that's kind of interesting history.

HINTZ: We left a lot of them because the price went up on a certain thing, and I think there was one place we were thrown out of because the guys were too loud! Yeah, an interesting history.

KENNEDY: **1:18:22.0** It is an interesting history. I have a ROMEO group. It's called "Retired Old Men Eating Out," and there are eight engineers that worked together for almost 30 years, and we go to one restaurant a month—never the same restaurant—and we've been to 180 restaurants in 14 years. It's quite a list! It's interesting.

HINTZ: Oh wow. Okay.

KENNEDY: Well, I appreciate it. It's been very interesting. I've learned a lot, and you made it very easy. Your memory is wonderful. I would like to take a picture of you, if possible.

HINTZ: Oh, sure.

KENNEDY: If you have pictures you'd like to contribute—the family tree or something that might be memorable that we could put in your file, that would be great. I don't know. A picture of your wife. I mean, maybe a family photo and identify the kids or something like that. That can be very helpful.

HINTZ: Okay. Yeah.

KENNEDY: You know it all now, but 20 years from now, somebody is not going to remember.

HINTZ: Yeah, that's right.

KENNEDY: I appreciate it! Thank you!

HINTZ: It's okay. Well, thank you!

[1:19:38.5 End of Interview]

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