

FORMER GOVERNORS' MANSION ORAL HISTORY TRANSCRIPTION

GOVERNOR JOHN E. DAVIS 1957 – 1960

THIS IS ROBERT CARLSON. THE FOLLOWING IS AN INTERVIEW I RECORDED WITH FORMER GOVERNOR JOHN E. DAVIS. THE INTERVIEW WAS HELD AT GOVERNOR DAVIS'S HOME IN BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA, ON FEBRUARY 21, 1978, BEGINNING ABOUT 10:00 A. M. THE INTERVIEW OCCUPIES THIS SIDE OF THIS CASSETTE. ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS CASSETTE IS THE INTERVIEW I RECORDED WITH MR. AND MRS. JAY BRYANT, WHO WERE MARRIED IN THE MANSION.

THE INTERVIEW WITH GOVERNOR DAVIS IS CONCERNED MAINLY WITH LIFE IN THE MANSION RATHER MORE THAN THE FURNISHINGS OF THE MANSION. HE WAS THE LAST GOVERNOR TO LIVE IN THE OLD GOVERNOR'S MANSION. HE MOVED TO THE NEW MANSION TOWARD THE END OF HIS TERM, SO THERE IS SOME INFORMATION ON THAT MOVE, AND THERE ARE SOME GOOD ANECDOTES ABOUT WHAT HE RECALLS OF LIVING IN THE OLD GOVERNOR'S MANSION TOO.

JOHN DAVIS: WHO ARE YOU WITH NOW?

R. CARLSON: WELL, I'M IN BUSINESS FOR MYSELF. I WORK ON HISTORICAL SURVEYS, INC. WE'RE WRITING THE HISTORY OF THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT RIGHT NOW, AND WE'RE DOING A FEW OTHER THINGS, GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS, FOR THE HISTORICAL SERVICE.

JOHN DAVIS: THAT'S INTERESTING, ISN'T IT?

R. CARLSON: YES, IT IS. IT'S WORKING OUT PRETTY WELL. I USED TO WORK FOR THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

JOHN DAVIS: THAT'S WHAT I KIND OF THOUGHT AT ONE TIME.

R. CARLSON: I WAS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF THE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT AND WENT AROUND THE STATE AND TALKED TO WELL, THAT WAS STRICTLY OLDER PEOPLE IN THEIR EIGHTIES AND SO ON.

JOHN DAVIS: OH, THAT WAS ABOUT WHEN WE STARTED THIS CENTENNIAL TYPE THING AND THEN NORTH DAKOTA HAD THIS OTHER BECAUSE IT'S YOUNGER, IT HAD OTHER THINGS GOING ON, AND KIND OF IN THE SAME ERA. BI-CENTENNIAL, NOT CENTENNIAL.

R. CARLSON: YES, WE STARTED WITH A GRANT FROM THE BECENTENNIAL COMMISSION. WELL, GOVERNOR, WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST IMPRESSION WHEN YOU MOVED IN THERE WITH YOUR FAMILY? THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN IN '57, I IMAGINE, WHEN YOU MOVED IN THERE?

JOHN DAVIS: 1957. I REMEMBER WE HAD WORKED WITH THE BRUNSDALES AS I SUCCEEDED HIM, AND AS I REMEMBER WE KIND OF COORDINATED THE MOVEMENT AND IT WASN'T BUT A FEW DAYS THAT THEY HAD LEFT THE HOME AND THAT WE MOVED IN, AND I GUESS IN THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE INAUGURAL, WHICH FOLLOWED RATHER RAPIDLY AFTER THE FIRST OF THE YEAR AND OUR GOVERNMENT AND AS THE PREPARATIONS WERE MADE, AND, OF COURSE, THE EXCITEMENT OF IT ALL I THINK I HAD GREATER CONCERN FOR WHAT I WAS GOING TO BE GIVING TO THE LEGISLATURE; AND AFTER I GOT IN; AND MY THOUGHTS WERE MORE ON THE FUNCTION OF THE OFFICE, RATHER THAN IN LIVING IN THE HOME; BUT I DO REMEMBER WE HAD YOUNGER CHILDREN AT THAT TIME AND MRS. DAVIS WANTED TO GET SETTLED AND THERE WERE THINGS THAT HAD TO BE DONE IN THE ADJUSTMENT FROM WHERE WE HAD LIVED IN MCCLUSKY; BUT I THINK THE MOST STRIKING REMEMBRANCE WAS THE FACT THAT THE EVENING OF THE INAUGURAL, A PIPE BURST AND WE HAD WATER COMING INTO THE DOWN FROM THE SECOND FLOOR INTO THE KITCHEN, FORTUNATELY. BUT ONE OF THE ROOMS WHERE ONE OF THE CHILDREN WAS STAYING WAS FLOODED WITH WATER, AND SO THERE WAS THAT DISRUPTION AND, OF COURSE, AN IMPRESSION ABOUT THE OLD PLACE THAT MAYBE IT HAD IT; AND I GUESS MAYBE THAT ATTITUDE ABOUT IT PREVAILED THROUGHOUT THE TIME THAT WE LIVED THERE; AND, OF COURSE, THERE WAS PLANNING GOING ON CONTINUALLY ABOUT A NEW PLACE AND THAT WAS THE EXPECTATION PART OF THE LIFE WE HOPED WOULD COME ABOUT WITHIN A REASONABLY SHORT TIME.

R. CARLSON: SO THE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION WAS NOT REALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE OLD MANSION?

JOHN DAVIS: I THINK THAT IN THAT PERIOD OF TIME THAT THERE WAS LITTLE DONE, WITH KNOWLEDGE THAT A NEW HOME WAS TO BE CONSTRUCTED; AND, THEREFORE, THERE WAS ONLY JUST LIGHT MAINTENANCE, AND, AS I SAY, TO KEEP IT LIVABLE AND HABITABLE DURING THE TIME THAT WE WERE THERE.

R. CARLSON: THERE WEREN'T ANY BIG CHANGES YOU REMEMBER UNDERTAKING THEN WHEN YOU WERE THERE IN TERMS OF

JOHN DAVIS: I DON'T THINK THAT THERE WAS ANYTHING DONE OF ANY IMPORTANCE, AND THAT INCLUDES BUYING THINGS THERE MAY HAVE BEEN A FEW THINGS THAT WERE BOUGHT A READJUSTMENT OF PICTURES AS I REMEMBER BUT AS FAR AS THE FURNITURE AND THE THINGS THAT WERE THERE, THEY WERE A PART OF THE HOME AND LEFT THERE AND THAT'S WHAT WE LIVED WITH ALTHOUGH I'D SAY THIS, THIS IS JUST MY RECOLLECTION, NOT PAYING MUCH ATTENTION TO IT, BUT THAT MRS. BRUNSDALE HAD DONE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF REDECORATING. I THINK THE FURNITURE WAS FROM THE VARIOUS PERIODS, AND WHEN WE FIRST MOVED WE WERE IMPRESSED WITH THE

KIND OF HOMEY LIVEABILITY OF IT. IT DIDNØT HAVE THE SIZE FOR ANY KIND OF EVENTS, BUT IT WAS SURELY A HOMELIKE ATMOSPHERE, RATHER THAN WHAT WOULD BE REPRESENTATIVE OF ANY KIND OF HOME RESIDENCE FOR GOVERNORØ I THINK THAT WAS THE IMPRESSION THAT I HAD.

R. CARLSON: WAS THE FURNITURE THAT THE STATE HAD THERE ADEQUATE FOR YOUR FAMILY OR DID YOU MOVE IN SOME COUCHES OR BEDS OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT OF YOUR PERSON FURNITURE?

JOHN DAVIS: WELL, BECAUSE WE HAD YOUNGER CHILDREN, I BELIEVE THERE WERE SOME ADJUSTMENTS OF FURNITURE, PARTICULARLY IN THE BEDROOM AREAS, BUT AS TO SPECIFICS I HAVE NO RECOLLECTION.

R. CARLSON: THERE WERENØT ANY BIG WALLPAPERING PROJECTS OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT, THAT YOU CAN RECALL?

JOHN DAVIS: NO, I HAVE NO RECOLLECTION OF ANYTHING OF A SIGNIFICANTØ ANYTHING SIGNIFICANTØ BEING DONE.

R. CARLSON: WHAT WAS THE FURNITURE THAT THE STATE HAD PROVIDED YOU WITH? WAS IT IN PRETTY GOOD CONDITION?

JOHN DAVIS: YES, IT WASØ AND I AM NOT A FURNITURE EXPERT, BUT THERE WERE SOME PERIOD THINGSØ CERTAINLY IT AGE ON IT, SO IT WAS, PROBABLY COULD BE A LITTLE BIT ANTIQUE IN SOME RESPECTS. I DO KNOW THAT IN MOVING TO THE NEW RESIDENCE THAT VERY LITTLE OF IT WAS TAKEN ALONG, BUT IT WAS MORE PUT IN THE CONTEMPORARY OF LIVING, RATHER THAN TRYING TO PICK UP AND ADJUST. I THINK THE ONLY THINGS THAT IMPRESSED ME ON COMING IN WERE THE OLD FIREPLACES AND HOW THEY WERE CONSTRUCTED AT THAT TIME. WE DIDNØT USE THEMØ RATHER ORNATE YOU KNOWØ AND IN THAT PERIOD OF TIME WHEN IT WAS CONSTRUCTED, IØM SURE IT WAS ONE OF THE BESTØ AND IT HADNØT LOST WHAT A FIREPLACE CAN DO FOR OLD HOMESØ YOU BEEN IN ONEØ THE VICTORIAN TYPEØ IT GIVES YOU AN IMPRESSION OF ELEGANCEØ AT ONE TIMEØ BUT LETØS SAY IT HAD HAD IT AS FAR AS REPRESENTATIVE OF MODERN LIVING.

R. CARLSON: THEY WERE USABLE THOUGH, THE FIREPLACES?

JOHN DAVIS: I THINK THEY WERE, BUT I DONØT BELIEVE, IN MY RECOLLECTION AT LEAST, THAT WE EVER LIT A FIRE AND USED THEM.

R. CARLSON: THE FURNACE, I IMAGINE, WAS NATURAL GAS BY THE TIME YOU MOVED IN? IT HAD BEEN COAL EARLIER, U UNTIL THE FORTIES AT LEAST.

JOHN DAVIS: I'M SURE IT HAD BEEN; I'M SURE IT WAS. THEY WOULDN'T HAVE CHANGED TO GAS UNTIL THE LAW WAS CHANGED THAT MADE IT STATE OFFICES AND STATE BUILDINGS ELIGIBLE TO USE GAS WHICH WAS AFTER THE DISCOVERY OF OIL AND GAS IN NORTH DAKOTA. THERE WAS A PROHIBITIVE LAW AGAINST USING ANYTHING BUT THIS LIGNITE COAL THAT WAS PRODUCED IN NORTH DAKOTA.

R. CARLSON: OH, I DIDN'T KNOW THAT!

JOHN DAVIS: THAT'S RIGHT.

R. CARLSON: MAYBE WE'LL PUT THAT BACK INTO EFFECT NOW.

JOHN DAVIS: WELL, IN FACT, THEY ARE NOT THERE BUT IN SOME OF OUR INSTITUTIONS THEY'RE CONVERTING THE BOILERS BACK TO COAL AGAIN.

R. CARLSON: YES. HOW DID YOU USE THE VARIOUS ROOMS IN THE HOUSE? YOU KNOW THERE ARE KIND OF TWO SITTING ROOMS, I GUESS.

JOHN DAVIS: THERE WAS ONE THAT I THINK WAS MORE OR LESS KEPT AS A FORMAL LIVING ROOM, AND THEN THE SMALLER WAS USED MORE OR LESS AS THE LIVING AREA, AND WE USED THE DINING ROOM, AS I REMEMBER, FOR EVENING MEALS AND DINNERS, BUT A PICKUP IN THE THE KITCHEN FOR BREAKFAST. I HAVE A RECOLLECTION THAT THERE WAS A SMALL ROOM UPSTAIRS, IT WAS KIND OF A SITTING ROOM AREA OFF OF THE LARGER BEDROOM, AND IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WHEN I WAS THERE I USED THAT AS A PLACE TO READ AND GO THROUGH WORK THAT I HAD BROUGHT HOME FROM THE OFFICE.

R. CARLSON: OH, THAT LITTLE ROOM THAT GOES OUT ONTO THE SECOND STORY PORCH?

JOHN DAVIS: YES.

R. CARLSON: HOW MANY CHILDREN DID YOU HAVE LIVING THERE?

JOHN DAVIS: THREE.

R. CARLSON: DID YOU HAVE ANY SERVANTS?

JOHN DAVIS: THE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION THEY PROVIDED A HOUSEKEEPER WHO DIDN'T LIVE IN, BUT CAME IN IN THE MORNING, AND THEN THERE WERE ARRANGEMENTS AT THAT TIME FOR ASSISTANCE FROM THE PENITENTIARY; AND A MAN WAS AVAILABLE AND CAME IN EVERY DAY AND DID THE BASIC CLEANING, AND WE GOT VERY WELL ACQUAINTED WITH SOME OF THE MEN THAT THEY BROUGHT IN THERE. THEY WERE THE TRUSTIES, AND THEY WERE JUST BECAME WHILE THEY WERE THERE KIND OF A PART OF THE FAMILY.

I REMEMBER SOME OF THEM WE EXCHANGED CHRISTMAS CARDS WITH AND KEPT IN CONTACT WITH FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS AFTERWARDS. AND THEN, OF COURSE, THERE WAS ONE THAT WOULD TAKE CARE OF THE GROUNDS AND THE OUTSIDE, THAT WOULD COME. NOW THEY WERE TRUSTIES, THEY WERE PICKED UP IN THE MORNING AND BROUGHT IN, AND SOMETIMES SUPERVISED BY THE CHAUFFEUR OF THE CAR; AND THERE WAS A KIND OF A RELATIONSHIP THERE. IT WAS ALL UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF THE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION, AND AS LONG AS THE JOB WAS GETTING DONE I DIDN'T PAY A GREAT DEAL OF ATTENTION TO IT, EXACTLY ALL THE DETAILS, BECAUSE IT WAS ONE OF THOSE THINGS THAT YOU COULD TELL SOMEBODY ELSE WHAT TO DO BUT I REALLY DIDN'T GET INVOLVED MUCH IN THAT KIND OF MANAGEMENT.

R. CARLSON: YES, YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN AT THE OFFICE.

JOHN DAVIS: YES.

R. CARLSON: BUT THE TRUSTIES WOULD ACTUALLY COME IN THE HOUSE?

JOHN DAVIS: THE TRUSTIES WERE GOOD MEN; THEY WOULD VACUUM THE RUGS AND DO THE MAJOR CHORES THAT HOUSEKEEPERS HAVE TO DO; AND THE LADY WOULD GENERALLY CARRY ON IN THE KITCHEN AND BAKE THINGS, AND LOOK AFTER THAT END OF IT, PLUS SUPERVISING AND SEEING THAT SHE WAS A VERY GOOD WOMAN AND SHE SUPERVISED MORE OR LESS WHAT THE TRUSTY WAS DOING TO CLEANUP TO SEE IF THE CORNERS WERE CLEAN BUT IT WAS VERY ADEQUATE. I DON'T KNOW I DON'T THINK THEY USE THAT ANY MORE I'M NOT SURE. WE DID, WHEN WE MOVED IN THE NEW GOVERNORS MANSION I THINK. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THEY CARRY ON THAT PROCEDURE NOW.

R. CARLSON: ABOUT HOW OFTEN WOULD A TRUSTY COME THEN?

JOHN DAVIS: THEY USED TO COME IN EVERY DAY.

R. CARLSON: EVERY DAY?

JOHN DAVIS: EVERY DAY. OF COURSE, IN THE SUMMER TIME THEY DID AN EXCELLENT JOB OF CARETAKING THE LAWNS AND THE FLOWERS AND PLANTINGS AND TREES AND THINGS LIKE THAT.

R. CARLSON: I HAVE SOME PICTURES I'LL SHOW YOU HERE.

JOHN DAVIS: AS I RECOLLECT, WE ALSO GOT A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF FLOWERS AND THINGS LIKE THAT THAT WERE GROWN UP AT THE PENITENTIARY THEY HAVE A GREENHOUSE AND THEY'D MAKE THOSE AVAILABLE TO US AS A PART OF YOUR ATMOSPHERE OF LIVING.

R. CARLSON: DID YOU HAVE A VEGETABLE GARDEN OR A FLOWER GARDEN?

JOHN DAVIS: NO, WE DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

R. CARLSON: WELL, SOME OF THESE GO BACK THIS IS WAY BACK TO THE GOVERNOR BRIGGS PERIOD. I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D RECOGNIZE MUCH OF THIS.

JOHN DAVIS: NO, I HARDLY RECOGNIZE THE NAME.

R. CARLSON: THAT'S THE WAY IT LOOKED BEFORE THE PORCHES WERE PUT ON THE FRONT.

JOHN DAVIS: THIS IS, THIS IS ABOUT THE WAY IT WAS WHEN WE LIVED THERE.

R. CARLSON: YES, ALL WHITE EXTERIOR.

JOHN DAVIS: ALL WHITE AND A PORCH. I REMEMBER THIS PORCH. IT WAS, AS I RECOLLECT, ONLY SCREENS; YOU KNOW ABOUT A SCREENED PORCH IN THIS COUNTRY, IT'S QUITE A COLLECTOR OF DIRT AND THINGS AND IT'S HARD TO KEEP IT CLEAN.

R. CARLSON: YES, I HAVE ONE AT MY HOUSE, AND I KNOW THE PROBLEMS. IT'S HALF FULL OF SNOW NOW.

JOHN DAVIS: WHERE ARE THESE AT? WHERE WERE YOU WHEN YOU PICKED THESE UP?

R. CARLSON: I THINK THESE WERE FROM THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY. NOW THESE WERE FROM MARION BURKE. THEY'RE SOME COPIES OF PICTURES THAT SHE HAD. DO YOU RECOGNIZE ANY OF THE FURNITURE IN THOSE PICTURES?

JOHN DAVIS: YES, I KIND OF REMEMBER THAT ONE, THE PIANO, I THINK WAS GONE. I DON'T THE DINING ROOM THAT TABLE MAY HAVE BEEN THERE THOUGH.

R. CARLSON: WAS THERE A SQUARE TABLE OR ROUND TABLE?

JOHN DAVIS: IT WAS A RECTANGLE THAT ROOM IS NOT WELL IT'S MORE SQUARE PROBABLY BUT I THINK WE HAD A RECTANGLE. NO, I DON'T IDENTIFY THIS.

R. CARLSON: ONE OF THE THINGS WE WERE WONDERING ABOUT THIS IS LOOKING FROM THE FRONT SITTING ROOM WITH THE BAY WINDOW INTO THE DINING ROOM AND THEY'VE GOT THOSE HEAVY DRAPES HANGING IN THERE. NOW, THERE'S A BIG WOODEN DOOR THAT SLIDES OUT OF THE WALL THERE TOO. DID YOU HAVE THOSE DRAPES WHEN YOU WERE THERE?

JOHN DAVIS: NO, I HAVE NO RECOLLECTION OF ANY DRAPES BEING THERE. I THINK THEY'D BEEN TAKEN OUT AND REPLACED BY THERE WERE SLIDING DOORS, WEREN'T THERE? DOORS THAT WOULD CLOSE UP.
R. CARLSON: YES, NICE BIG HEAVY DOORS. THESE PICTURES ARE FROM THE LARGER PERIOD, THERE MIGHT BE A CHANCE MAYBE THAT SOME OF THIS FURNITURE WAS AROUND THERE.

JOHN DAVIS: I REMEMBER THE BEDS AND THINGS UPSTAIRS THEY WERE SOME OF THEM WERE RATHER UNIQUE BUT AS I SAID MRS. BRUNSDALE HAD ACQUIRED SOME NEW THINGS, AND SO I WONDER, HAS ANY OF THIS FURNITURE BEEN MAINTAINED ANYWHERE?

R. CARLSON: NO, WELL SOME OF THE PIECES WENT TO THE NEW MANSION, AS I UNDERSTAND IT.

JOHN DAVIS: NOT MUCH.

R. CARLSON: NOT MUCH, AND A LOT OF IT WAS FARMED OUT TO VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS, DEPARTMENT OF INSTITUTIONS AND THINGS LIKE THAT.

JOHN DAVIS: THAT'S TOO BAD.

R. CARLSON: WAS THEE A PIANO?

JOHN DAVIS: THERE WAS A GRAND PIANO.

R. CARLSON: A GRAND PIANO.

JOHN DAVIS: YES, I SEE THERE'S A BIG ONE IN THE CORNER RIGHT THERE NOW. BUT IT WAS, LIKE I SAY, GOOD FLOORS; AND I'M TRYING TO THINK OF WHETHER THE RUGS WERE KIND OF ORIENTAL, OR WAS IT CARPET? YOU KNOW, I CAN'T, WITH ANY ACCURACY, GIVE YOU

R. CARLSON: IT'S CARPETED NOW, WHEN THAT WAS PUT IN I DON'T KNOW.

JOHN DAVIS: I'M INCLINED TO THINK, PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THE QUALITY OF THE FLOORS, THAT IT WAS CARPETED.

R. CARLSON: I REMEMBER FROM TALKING TO MRS. SHAFER, THAT SHE HAD BOUGHT SOME NEW RUGS. THEY WERE ORIENTAL TYPE.

JOHN DAVIS: YOU KNOW YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT

R. CARLSON: OF COURSE, THAT'S THIRTY YEARS.

JOHN DAVIS: YES, THAT'S JUST ABOUT THIRTY YEARS BACK. TWENTY-FOUR. I THINK SOMETIMES WHEN THEY BUY THINGS FOR THIS KIND OF PLACES, THERE IS A THOUGHT THAT THEY OUGHT TO LAST FOREVER OR SOMETHING BUT CHANGES DID TAKE PLACE WITH EACH GOVERNOR'S WIFE, WHO HAD IDEAS OF HER OWN; AND WHILE FUNDS WERE ALWAYS LIMITED, THERE WAS A LITTLE ADD-ON OR "LET'S KEEP HER HAPPY WITH DOING SOMETHING." THAT'S ABOUT THE WAY I SEE IT WAS WORKED OUT.

R. CARLSON: HOW AS THE HEAT IN THE PLACE? COULD YOU KEEP THE BEDROOMS AND THE DOWNSTAIRS WARM ENOUGH?

JOHN DAVIS: AS I RECALL, THAT WAS ADEQUATE, PARTICULARLY DOWNSTAIRS. UPSTAIRS MRS. DAVIS MAY HAVE MORE RECOLLECTIONS OF THAT THAN I BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER OF IT BEING OF SUFFERING AT ALL FROM THE CHILL THAT IS SOMETIMES THOUGHT TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH LIVING IN AN OLD HOUSE, BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T USUALLY DO MUCH INSULATION WHEN THEY BUILT THOSE OLD HOMES.

R. CARLSON: NO, IT WAS PRETTY WELL BARE. THEY JUST INSULATED IT ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO.

JOHN DAVIS: THEY DID?

R. CARLSON: AFTER THEY PUT IN ELECTRIC HEAT! THE REASON I ASKED THAT WAS BECAUSE I REMEMBER MRS. BRUNSDALE SAYING THERE WERE TIMES IN THE WINTER WHEN SHE WORE HER OVERSHOES.

JOHN DAVIS: OVERSHOES? I CAN'T RECOLLECT MAYBE WE LIVED THERE DURING A PERIOD WHEN NORTH DAKOTA WAS WARM; I DON'T KNOW.

R. CARLSON: YES. HOW ABOUT THE SOCIAL LIFE IN THE MANSION? DID YOU OR YOUR WIFE DO QUITE A BIT OF ENTERTAINING IN THERE?

JOHN DAVIS: WELL, WE DIDN'T. WE WEREN'T MUCH, TOO MUCH OF A FAMILY WE DID HAVE, I THINK, ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT THINGS THAT I ENJOYED DOING WAS WHEN WE HAD THE RUSSIAN PROVINCIAL, NOT THE PROVINCIAL BUT THE REPUBLIC GOVERNORS THERE WERE NINE OF THEM CAME HERE AND IT WAS ABOUT IT MUST HAVE BEEN 1959 AND WE ENTERTAINED JUST FOR THEM BECAUSE OF THE SIZE WE HAD DINNER UP TO THE COUNTRY CLUB BUT AFTERWARDS WE HAD A RECEPTION, AND I THINK WE ENJOYED LETTING THEM SEE HOW WE LIVED HERE, BECAUSE THEY WEREN'T GETTING INTO MANY HOMES WHILE THEY WERE HERE.

JOHN DAVIS: WE HAD AN ENJOYABLE TIME WITH THEM. AND I REMEMBER, IT WASN'T A LARGE PLACE FOR DINNER. SO YOU MORE OR LESS HAD THE RECEPTION TYPES. THEY WERE ALSO SMALL. BUT I REMEMBER WHEN GOVERNOR WILLIAMS OF MICHIGAN CAME IN, I THINK, TO DO SOME SPEAKING TO THE DEMOCRATS. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT WAS THE CONVENTION OR SOME OTHER MEETING THEY HAD, BUT WE HAD GOVERNOR WILLIAMS AND HIS WIFE UP, WITH SOME OTHER PEOPLE, AND JOE FOSS OF SOUTH DAKOTA STAYED WITH US; AND, OF COURSE, THE NORMAL KINDS OF THINGS THAT A GOVERNOR'S WIFE DOES, PLAYING HOSTESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE WIVES AND SOME THINGS. AND CHURCH CAME IN. THE GIRL SCOUTS AND SOME WORK FOR VARIOUS CHARITABLE THINGS, TO RAISE MONEY OR CREATE INTEREST. AT THAT TIME WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY PUBLIC SHOWING, AS I RECALL, WHEN THE PUBLIC COULD GO THROUGH. THE THING WASN'T BUILT FOR THAT; IT WAS TOO SMALL AND IT WOULD BE A REALLY DISRUPTIVE THING TO LIVE BECAUSE THERE WAS NO PLACE TO ISOLATE YOURSELF, TO LIVE AWAY FROM WHERE THE PUBLIC WAS HOUR TO HOUR, SO TO SPEAK; BUT I THINK IT WAS MAINLY THOSE KINDS OF THINGS. I REMEMBER OCCASIONALLY BRINGING SOME OF THE LEGISLATORS DOWN, AND SITTING AROUND WITH A CUP OF COFFEE ON A WEEKEND TYPE OF THING, AND VISITING ABOUT SOME OF THE PROBLEMS. THERE WERE SOME RECEPTIONS FOR REPUBLICAN LADIES MOSTLY. BUT THEY ALWAYS LIKED TO GET IN THERE, AND I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING THAT WAS REALLY OF A LARGE TYPE OF RECEPTION. FOR ONE THING, THE STATE HAD NEVER PROVIDED. AS THEY DO NOW. A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF MONEY FOR ANY KIND OF THIS TYPE OF ACTIVITY, SO ANYTHING YOU DID MORE OR LESS WAS A FAMILY OPERATION, MORE THAN IT WAS AN OFFICIAL FUNCTION. I THINK NORTH DAKOTA AND ITS PEOPLE ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR HOSPITALITY, BUT THESE KINDS OF THINGS YOU WOULD DO, THAT ARE CUSTOMARY TODAY IN PUBLIC LIFE, JUST HADN'T ARRIVED YET IN NORTH DAKOTA.

R. CARLSON: YOU MENTIONED THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS. THESE WERE FROM THE SOVIET UNION?

JOHN DAVIS: I HAD GONE OVER THERE AS A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE IN '69, AND SO IT WAS. IT HAD TO BE '68 I GUESS. AND THEN THEY CAME IN '69, SO NINE OF THEM AND THEIR DELEGATIONS. THAT HAD REPRESENTATIVE GROUPS WITH THEM OF THEIR PEOPLE, AND THEN THE PEOPLE FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT; AND SO IT WAS KIND OF A RETURN VISIT. THEY HAD ASKED US, WOULD I AS A HOST GOVERNOR, PLAY HOST TO THEM WHEN THEY CAME HERE, AS THEY HAD DONE FOR THE NINE OF US WHO WENT OVER THERE. I GUESS THAT WAS JUST FAIR TO DO.

R. CARLSON: HOW LONG DID THEY STAY HERE?

JOHN DAVIS: OH, THEY MUST HAVE BEEN IN NORTH DAKOTA. THEY HAD A RATHER TIGHT ITINERARY. BUT I THINK THEY WERE HERE ABOUT THREE DAYS. WE WENT AROUND, AND UP TO THE CAPITOL, AND HAD A MEETING THERE WITH THE KIND OF GOVERNMENT WHICH IS NORMAL, AND THEN WE HAD SOME LUNCHEONS AND THEN WE HAD A LARGE DINNER, AND WE WENT OUT TO THE ERVIN BOURGOIS FARM, I THINK, OUT HERE, TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE OPERATION THERE. IT MIGHT ONLY HAVE BEEN TWO DAYS. IN VISITING WASHINGTON, D. C., AND NEW YORK, YOU KNOW TIME GETS AWAY RATHER RAPIDLY, AND THEY NORMALLY FIGURE ABOUT. I REMEMBER WE HAD TWENTY-ONE DAYS. SO THEY PROBABLY HAD ABOUT A SIMILAR NUMBER OF DAYS FOR VISITING THE UNITED STATES.

R. CARLSON: WELL, THAT WAS BREAKING SOME FAIRLY NEW GROUND HERE, IN THAT ERA OF '69 TO HAVE PEOPLE FROM THE SOVIET UNION. COME TO NORTH DAKOTA.

JOHN DAVIS: IT WAS. IN FACT, I REMEMBER PARTICULARLY MY VISIT OVER THERE. AT THAT TIME THERE WERE ONLY ABOUT TEN THOUSAND UNITED STATES CITIZENS VISITING THERE ANNUALLY. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE NUMBER IS TODAY, BUT IT WAS REALLY VERY SMALL, AND THEY REALLY LAID OUT THE CARPET MORE OR LESS, TO SHOW US WHAT THEY HAD AND WHAT THEY HAD DEVELOPED, BECAUSE WE WERE ON THE VERGE OF THE CULTURAL EXCHANGES IN ATHLETES AND MUSIC AND ART, AND BEGAN SPORTS; SO OUR PEOPLE WHO WENT THERE WERE UNDER VERY TIGHT WRAPS MORE OR LESS ON THEIR SCHEDULES. THEY OPENED IT UP TO US AND WE TRAVELED I THOUGHT QUITE EXTENSIVELY IN THE SOVIET UNION, IN ADDITION TO HAVING QUITE AN AUDIENCE WITH NIKITA KRUSCHEV THERE. HE WAS PREMIER.

R. CARLSON: DID YOU GET ANY PUBLIC CRITICISM FOR HAVING PEOPLE FROM THE SOVIET UNION IN NORTH DAKOTA, FOR ACTING AS A HOST AND SO ON?

JOHN DAVIS: I DON'T RECOLLECT THERE WERE ANY FEELINGS; THERE MIGHT. SOME UKRANIANS, AS I RECOLLECT, HAD A LITTLE FEELING, YET SOME OF THEM CAME, MORE OR LESS TO MAKE INQUIRIES, AS I RECAL, WANTED TO TALK TO THEM TO SEE ABOUT SOME PEOPLE OR RELATIVES OR SOMETHING THAT THEY HAD KNOWN THAT WERE STILL THERE. I THINK THERE WAS MORE OF THAT THAN THERE WAS AN ACTUAL FEELING OF CRITICISM ABOUT HAVING THEM COME TO VISIT. IN FACT, I THOUGHT THAT FROM THE PEOPLE IT WAS CURIOSITY, AS I FOUND THE PEOPLE OVER THERE CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT WE WERE LIKE WHEN YOU VISIT THEM, PARTICULARLY OUT IN THE COUNTRY, BUT I DON'T THINK THAT THERE WAS A PARTICULAR HIGH LEVEL FEELING BOUT THEM COMING. I BELIEVE THAT THERE IS AN OPEN-MINDNESS ABOUT. IF THEY COULD ONLY KNOW MORE ABOUT US, YOU KNOW, IN THAT REGARD,

THAT THEY WOULD PROBABLY HAVE A DIFFERENT VIEWPOINT ABOUT WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE TALKING ABOUT US BEING IMPERIALISTS AND ALL THIS WHICH IS A PROPAGANDA TYPE OF THING. THEIR PEOPLE BY THE SAME TOKEN, AND THE OFFICIALS PARTICULARLY, WANTED TO TELL US WHAT THEY HAD DONE, AND THERE WAS A BELIEF IN THEIR SYSTEM, AND WE NEVER COULD GET OVER IT. THERE WERE VERY FEW QUESTIONS ADDRESSED TO US WHILE WE VISITED THEM ABOUT, HOW ARE YOU GETTING ALONG OR HOW DO YOU HANDLE THE PROBLEM? THEY ALWAYS TOLD US, THIS IS WHAT WE'RE DOING.

R. CARLSON: DID YOU HAVE ANY KIND OF RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES IN THE MANSION? ANY PRAYER BREAKFASTS OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT?

JOHN DAVIS: I DON'T BELIEVE THEY HAD STARTED AT THAT TIME.

R. CARLSON: NO.

JOHN DAVIS: NO, WE HADN'T STARTED AT THAT TIME. THERE WERE, AS I SAID, MRS. DAVIS HAD IN SOME GROUPS OF WOMEN MORE OR LESS, BUT THEY WERE RELATED TO CHURCH WORK, BUT NOTHING THAT WAS RELATED TO WHAT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT, ON A REGULAR BASIS.

R. CARLSON: THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION NOW THE NEW ONE IS KIND OF REMOVED FROM THE PUBLIC IN SOME WAYS, AREN'T ANY HOUSES CLOSE BY. IT IS QUITE A WAYS BACK FROM THE STREET SURROUNDED BY TREES, AND THE OLD ONE IS I SUPPOSE IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS THE GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE, YOU'D THINK IT WAS JUST ANOTHER PLACE.

JOHN DAVIS: I WOULD THINK SO. IT IS NOT OSTENTATIOUS IN ANY WAY. I GUESS AT ONE TIME IT WAS ONE OF THE FINEST HOMES IN BISMARCK, BUT YOU'RE GOING BACK A LONG TIME. IT WAS QUITE A RESIDENCE AT THE TIME THE STATE ACQUIRED IT; IT WAS ONE OF THE FINEST AT THAT TIME, BUT TIME HAD PASSED IT BY, AND I THINK THAT BISMARCK WAS EXPANDING; THERE WERE MANY BEAUTIFUL HOMES; AND IT WAS NEVER DESIGNED IN THE LIGHT OF HAVING A GROUP OF PEOPLE IN SO THEY COULD CIRCULATE. I DON'T THINK IN THE EARLY DAYS THEY DID MUCH OF THAT. I REMEMBER WE HAD FAMILY DINNERS, AT THE HOLIDAYS AND SO FORTH, BUT NEVER ANY WHAT YOU WOULD CALL OFFICIAL STATE, BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHOM TO SELECT YOU'D HAVE TO LEAVE SO MANY OUT IN OR TO GET THE THING DONE, OR HAVE SO MANY OF THEM AS I SAID THERE JUST WEREN'T ANY PROVISIONS FOR THAT TO ACCOMPLISH THAT AT ALL. I THINK FROM MY EXPERIENCES AS I TRAVELED, AND HAVE SEEN WHAT SOME OF THE OTHER STATES HAVE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE GOVERNORS IN ORDER TO MAKE HIM KIND OF THE REPRESENTATIVE PERSON OF THE STATE, AND, LET'S SAY, PUT YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD IN TAKING CARE OF THEM PROPERLY, BUT WE JUST HADN'T ARRIVED AT THAT POINT IN TIME YET.

R. CARLSON: IT WAS JUST A PLACE WHERE A GOVERNOR LIVED?

JOHN DAVIS: YES, IT WAS A PLACE TO LIVE, AND THAT WAS IT.

R. CARLSON: DID IT GIVE YOU ENOUGH PRIVACY, LIVING RIGHT THERE, RIGHT ON THE STREETS?

JOHN DAVIS: OH, I THINK SO. I THINK THAT NORTH DAKOTA BEING THE KIND OF A STATE IT IS, WITH THE PEOPLE WE HAVE, THERE WAS NEVER ANY CONCERN ABOUT YOUR SECURITY OR PRIVACY. I DON'T RECOLLECT AT ANY TIME OF BEING. WE HAD FRIENDS DROP IN, JUST PEOPLE THAT I REMEMBER THAT TOM KLEPPE USED TO TAKE THE CHILDREN TO SUNDAY SCHOOL, AND THEN HE'D DROP IN FOR AN HOUR OF WAITING BEFORE CHURCH TO PICK THEM UP, AND WE'D HAVE A VISIT. I SOMETIMES THOUGHT IT MIGHT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO HIS INTEREST IN POLITICS BECAUSE OF OUR TALKS AND ASSOCIATION. A WILD THOUGHT SOMETIMES GOES THROUGH YOUR HEAD. THERE WAS A TIME WEEK AFTER WEEK WHEN HE WOULD STOP IN AND VISIT. BUT I DON'T THINK, AS WE THINK OF IT. AND I SUPPOSE IT DEPENDS UPON THE OCCUPANTS TOO. WE NEVER WERE GREAT ON, IF YOU WANT TO CALL IT SOCIETY, OR WHATEVER YOU WANT TO HAVE; BUT I NEVER THOUGHT THE PLACE WAS VERY CONDUCIVE TO THAT. THEN WE LIVED BUT A SHORT TIME IN THE NEW ONE, AND SO THAT WAS KIND OF GETTING A SHAKEDOWN CRUISE WHILE WE WERE THERE. WE STARTED THEN MAKING THAT AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC, SO THEY COULD COME IN AND TAKE A LOOK, BUT I GUESS AS A NORTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE, IT NEVER WAS EXACTLY A POINT OF CONTENTION AS IT HAS BEEN IN SOME STATES. I THINK THEY THOUGHT IT WAS TO PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE PLACE TO LIVE, BUT LET'S NOT MAKE IT TOO EXORBITANT, OR MAKE IT TOO LAVISH, BECAUSE THEN IT WOULD BE KIND OF NOT IN KEEPING WITH THE, LET'S SAY, TRADITIONS OF NORTH DAKOTA.

R. CARLSON: I DON'T KNOW IF THIS BEARS DIRECTLY ON THE MANSION, BUT IT SOMETIMES SEEMS TO ME. AND TELL ME IF YOU AGREE. THAT THE GOVERNOR OF NORTH DAKOTA HAS QUITE A BIT MORE FREEDOM THAN THE GOVERNORS IN THE MORE POPULOUS STATES; FOR EXAMPLE, I SEE GOVERNOR LINK ONCE IN A WHILE DOWNTOWN SHOPPING AND IN THE DRUGSTORE OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. NOBODY IN PARTICULAR BOTHERS HIM.

JOHN DAVIS: YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT. I THINK THERE IS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED NORTH DAKOTA. 1. THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE; AND 2. THE GOVERNOR HAS ALWAYS BEEN KIND OF AN AVAILABLE PERSON. HE'S A FELLOW WHO'S COME OFF OF THE STREET SOMEWHERE IN NORTH DAKOTA.

JOHN DAVIS: I DO KNOW THAT IN SOME STATES THE GOVERNORS HAVE HAD AN ENTOURAGE OF SECURITY PEOPLE WITH THEM AND SOME OTHERS WITH THEM, OR THE NEWS⁶ SOMEBODY IS AROUND TO SEE WHAT WORDS YOU MIGHT UTTER THAT WOULD BE SIGNIFICANT, BUT HERE IT⁸ OPERATED IN MORE OF A RELAXED MODE, AND I WOULD GO DOWN TO LUNCHES ONCE IN A WHILE, GO DOWNTOWN, YOU KNOW, AND BE WITH THE PEOPLE OR AN ORGANIZATION, AND I LIKE THAT; I THINK THAT⁸ AN INFORMAL WAY THAT CHARACTERIZES LIVING IN NORTH DAKOTA.

R. CARLSON: DID YOU EVER HAVE SOMEONE JUST COME AND WALK UP AND KNOCK ON YOUR DOOR AT THE GOVERNORS⁶ MANSION AND WANT TO COME IN, AND TELL YOU HOW THE STATE OUGHT TO BE RUN, OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT?

JOHN DAVIS: I HAVE A FAINT RECOLLECTION ABOUT SOMEBODY DOING THIS, BUT NOTHING THAT COULDN⁶T BE DISPOSED OF VERY EASILY. THERE AGAIN I THINK IT WAS BECAUSE⁶ AND I CAN⁶T REMEMBER ANY TELEPHONE CALLS THAT WERE OF A THREATENING NATURE, OR WHY DON⁶T YOU DO THIS OR WHY DON⁶T YOU DO THAT? IT SEEMED TO ME THAT THERE⁸ A⁶ I DON⁶T KNOW WHAT USE YOU WOULD MAKE OF IT⁶ I IMAGINE IN SOME PERIODS OF TIME, I THINK PARTICULARLY MAYBE IN SENATOR LANGER⁸'S TIME, THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN SOME OF THAT KIND OF AN ACTIVITY, BECAUSE WHEN I SERVED, I DON⁶T THINK WE HAD ANY PARTICULARLY PRESSING PROBLEMS THAT WERE GOING ON OR ANY NATURE THAT WOULD CAUSE REAL TENSIONS. WE WERE IN MORE OR LESS OF A PEACEFUL MODE IN TERMS OF OUR HISTORY HERE; THERE WAS DEVELOPMENT AFTER THE WAR; WE WERE ARRIVING MORE OR LESS AT SOME DEVELOPMENT IN THE OIL; AND BISMARCK WAS GROWING; THERE WAS KIND OF A GROWTH OF THE FARMS IN THE RESPECT THAT THEY WERE DIMINISHING IN NUMBER AND GROWING IN SIZE. PRICES WERE RELATIVELY STABLE, BOTH AS TO WHAT WAS RECEIVED AND WHAT YOU PAID. THE INFLATIONARY TYPE THING HADN⁶T TAKEN OVER IN TERMS OF THE GOVERNMENT, SO THIS NATURAL GROWTH THAT WAS TAKING PLACE GRADUALLY IN THE SMALL COMMUNITIES AS WELL AS IN THE LARGER KIND OF TOOK CARE OF THE INCREASED PRESSURES, YOU KNOW, ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, BUT THIS INFLATION THING DIDN⁶T COME UNTIL THE LATE SIXTIES GENERALLY; AND I THINK TO ME IT WAS VIET NAM THAT KIND OF BROKE THAT OPEN. IT SEEMS LIKE THERE WAS NO END TO IT EITHER, TO STOP IT, OR HOW FAR IT WILL GO.

R. CARLSON: THERE⁸ A THIRD STORY IN THE PLACE, AN ATTIC, AND ONE FAIRLY GOOD SIZED ROOM UP THERE, THAT FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND SOME OF THE GOVERNORS⁶ CHILDREN USED PRETTY MUCH AS A PLAY ROOM. DID YOURS USE IT THAT WAY TOO?

JOHN DAVIS: I CAN'T REMEMBER EVER GOING UP THERE. I'M SURE THAT IF THERE WAS A PLACE, THE CHILDREN WERE THERE. I CAN'T REMEMBER OF EVEN LOOKING AT IT. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT WAS USED JUST AS A STORAGE PLACE OR NOT. I REMEMBER THE BASEMENT DIDN'T HAVE MUCH SPACE IN IT; IT WAS KIND OF A SMALL AREA WITH THE PLUMBING, ETC., BUT THERE AGAIN I CAN'T REMEMBER MUCH. I'M NOT MUCH ON MECHANICAL THINGS, SO I DIDN'T PAY MUCH ATTENTION TO WHAT WAS THERE.

R. CARLSON: WHICH THIS SOUNDS KIND OF SILLY MAYBE BUT IF WE EVER HAVE TOUR GUIDES GOING THROUGH THE PLACE TELLING PEOPLE ABOUT IT, IT MIGHT BE IMPORTANT WHICH BEDROOMS DID YOUR CHILDREN HAVE FOR SLEEPING UPSTAIRS THERE? YOU HAD THE BIG MASTER BEDROOM?

JOHN DAVIS: WE HAD THE BIG MASTER BEDROOM; I BELIEVE THAT WAS ON THE SOUTH SIDE OFF OF THE PORCH. AND THE CHILDREN, I CAN'T TELL YOU WHICH ONE HAD WHICH BUT THEY HAD THE SMALLER ONES, THE TWO BOYS; AND I CAN'T REMEMBER WHETHER THEY WERE TOGETHER IN ONE BEDROOM I IMAGINE THAT'S ABOUT THE WAY IT WAS AND THE GIRL, OUR DAUGHTER, HAD HERS; BUT I'M SURE THERE WAS A SPARE ONE, AS I RECALL; THE SPARE OR WHAT YOU WOULD CALL THE GUEST BEDROOM. I CAN'T REMEMBER HOW MANY BEDROOMS THERE ARE RIGHT NOW.

R. CARLSON: WELL, THERE ARE TWO LITTLE BEDROOMS KIND OF IN THE NORTHWEST CORNER, THEY WERE DOWN KIND OF A STEP FROM THE REST OF THE SECOND FLOOR.

JOHN DAVIS: THERE IS ALSO A STAIRWAY GOING DOWN THE BACK WAY INTO THE KITCHEN, AS I REMEMBER. THAT WAS USED OCCASIONALLY, IF YOU WANTED TO GET AWAY FROM ANYTHING HAPPENING IN THE FRONT AREA, YOU COULD ALWAYS GO DOWN THE BACK; OR FOR THE CHILDREN TO USE WHEN THEY CAME IN.

R. CARLSON: YOUR CHILDREN WOULD HAVE BEEN GOING TO SCHOOL IN BISMARCK, I SUPPOSE, THEN?

JOHN DAVIS: THEY WERE GOING TO SCHOOL, I CAN'T REMEMBER WHICH SCHOOL. THEY ALL GRADUATED FROM BISMARCK HIGH SCHOOL; IN FACT, I GRADUATED FROM BISMARCK HIGH SCHOOL. THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.

R. CARLSON: WAS IT PRETTY COMMON FOR THEM TO BRING HOME FRIENDS?

JOHN DAVIS: YES, WHEN WE^Ô THEIR MOTHER KNOWS MORE ABOUT THOSE ACTIVITIES, BECAUSE WHEN YOU LEAVE IN THE MORNING^Ô I CAN^ÔT REMEMBER COMING HOME FOR LUNCH. WE^ÔD EAT UP AT THE CAPITOL, GO DOWNTOWN, OR TO A LUNCHEON, AND WOULD GENERALLY GET HOME AROUND 6:00 O^ÔCLOCK SO YOU WERE IN THE DINNER AREA AGAIN, AND I CAN^ÔT RECOLLECT^Ô THEY EACH HAD THEIR FRIENDS^Ô AND I REMEMBER OUR DAUGHTER PARTICULARLY, I THINK^Ô THE GIRLS HAVE A TENDENCY TO HAVE FRIENDS AND BE INSIDE; BOYS ARE NORMALLY OUTSIDE. THE BOYS WERE ALL IN SPORTS AND THINGS LIKE THAT, AND ALL OF THEM HAD SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, AND I REMEMBE SEEING YOUNG PEOPLE AROUND, BUT NOT IN ANY SIGNIFICANT WAY THAT I CAN REMEMBER, BECAUSE I WASN^ÔT THERE.

R. CARLSON: WHAT USE DID YOU MAKE OF THE CARRIAGE HOUSE, GOVERNOR?

JOHN DAVIS: YOU MEAN THE GARAGE?

R. CARLSON: YES, THE GARAGE.

JOHN DAVIS: JUST AS STORAGE AND FOR THE AUTOMOBILE, AND A FAMILY, THE DRIVER, LIVED THERE, I BELIEVE^Ô A FELLOW BY THE NAME OF FETCH, F-E-T-C-H, AND THERE IS A DAUGHTER THAT LIVES HERE IN BISMARCK^Ô I BELIEVE LIVED THERE A LONG TIME, AND THAT HE DROVE STARTING WITH GOVERNOR LANGER. I^ÔM TRYING TO THINK OF HER NAME AND I CAN^ÔT. I SAW HER SOMETIME^Ô I THINK IT WAS BACK IN THE LATTER PART OF LAST YEAR, BUT I CAN^ÔT REMEMBER WHAT HER NAME IS.

R. CARLSON: YES, I HAVE HER ADDRESS WRITTEN DOWN AND HER LAST NAME. I CAN^ÔT REMEMBER IT RIGHT OFFHAND EITHER.

JOHN DAVIS: SHE COULD PROBABLY RECALL A FEW THINGS AND REMEMBER ABOUT THOSE KINDS OF THINGS^Ô AND IT MIGHT BE A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU WOULD HEAR FROM THOSE WHO HAD EVEN LIVED IN THE HOUSE.

R. CARLSON: WELL, THAT WAS PRETTY CONVENIENT FOR YOU, TO HAVE THESE PEOPLE LIVING RIGHT NEXT DOOR.

JOHN DAVIS: I DON^ÔT RECOLLECT THAT I EVER WAS UP THERE.

R. CARLSON: WHAT KIND OF A CAR DID YOU HAVE THEN?

JOHN DAVIS: WELL, LET^ÔS SEE, THEY WERE CADILLACS; THAT WAS A REGULAR COUPE DE VILLE^Ô WHAT DID THEY CALL THEM IN THOSE DAYS AND STILL DO^Ô AND I^ÔM TRYING^Ô PHIL FETCH WAS HIS NAME, AND HE STARTED DRIVING, AS I REMEMBER IT, FOR SENATOR LANGER.

R. CARLSON: WE HAVE SOME INDICATION THAT THERE WAS A LITTLE, KIND OF LATTICE WORK DEAL IN THE BACK YARD. YOU WOULDN'T REALLY CALL IT A SUMMER HOUSE, BUT JUST SORT OF A LITTLE VINE COVERED DEAL. WAS THAT THERE WHEN YOU WERE THERE?

JOHN DAVIS: WAS THAT AROUND ON THE NORTH SIDE SOMEWHERE?

R. CARLSON: YES, THAT'S WHAT WE THINK ANYWAY. THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT OF IT.

JOHN DAVIS: I HAVE TO BE HONEST AND SAY I JUST HAVE NO RECOLLECTION OF IT. SOME VINES, DIDN'T SOME VINES USED TO GROW UP ON THE BACK; THAT'S ALL I HAVE A RECOLLECTION OF.

R. CARLSON: HOW ABOUT THAT SHED ON THE NORTH SIDE ATTACHED TO THE HOUSE? I GUESS YOU COULD JUST CALL IT A SHED, JUST ONE BIG OPEN ROOM.

JOHN DAVIS: PROBABLY JUST USED AS A STORAGE PLACE AGAIN FOR MAYBE THE THINGS THAT WERE USED ON THE LAWN, CARETAKING OF THE LAWN. AT THAT TIME THEY USED HAND EQUIPMENT AND MOWERS AND THINGS LIKE THAT. I REMEMBER IT WAS STORAGE FOR HOSES AND ITEMS LIKE THAT IN THE WINTERTIME. BUT THEY DID AN EXCELLENT JOB ON THE CARETAKING OF THE OUTSIDE OF THE HOUSE. PLANTING FLOWERS. THE LAWN WAS ALWAYS WELL KEPT. AND THE TREES TRIMMED, SO THEY DID A GOOD JOB OF MANICURING AND KEEPING IT UP.

R. CARLSON: DID THEY RUN THE FLAG. DID SOMEBODY RUN THE FLAG UP?

JOHN DAVIS: YES, WHO WAS IT WHO DID THAT EVERY MORNING/ NOW YOU'VE GOT ME, I DON'T REMEMBER WHETHER PHIL FETCH DID IT, OR WHETHER IT WAS ONE OF THE THINGS THE TRUSTY DID WHEN HE CAME. THAT JUST ISN'T CLEAR IN MY MIND, AS I REMEMBER. I'M INCLINED TO THINK IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE TRUSTY, ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS HE DID IN THE MORNING, PUT UP THE FLAG.

R. CARLSON: NO GUARDS THERE?

JOHN DAVIS: NO, THERE WERE A NUMBER OF THEM, I THINK, THAT WORKED ON THE CAPITOL GROUNDS ALSO, AND SO THEY HAD TRANSPORTATION BRING THEM IN, AND HE WAS LET OFF. HE HAD A. I BELIEVE THE BOARD HAD A MORE OR LESS OF A SUPERVISOR WHO CAME WITH THE TRUSTIES. THEY TURNED IT OVER TO THEM, BUT THEY. THEY WERE JUST IN THERE FOR VERY SMALL OFFENSES, AND ACTUALLY IT WAS A PRIVILEGE, RECOGNIZED AS A PRIVILEGE, TO GET THAT KIND OF ASSIGNMENT, SO THEY WERE SELECTED BY THE WARDEN, AND NORMALLY I THINK THEY CAME OFF OF THE STATE FARM DOWN THERE,

AND THEN WERE KEPT, YOU KNOW, FOR CONVENIENCE OF LIVING SO THEY COULD BE PICKED UP EACH MORNING; AND THEY HAD MORE OR LESS A SPECIAL PLACE FOR THEM IN THE PENITENTIARY, BUT THEY WERE DELIVERED IN THE MORNING AND PICKED UP IN THE EVENING, AND RETURNED TO THE PENITENTIARY. I THINK THAT I CAN'T REMEMBER ABOUT THAT WHETHER THEY WERE FED IN THE KITCHEN. I'M INCLINED TO THINK THEY WERE. IT WAS YOU GET TO KNOW THESE FELLOWS I GUESS, HAVING LIVED IN NORTH DAKOTA, AND THEY WERE NORTH DAKOTA BOYS PROBABLY THAT SOMETHING HAPPENED, THEY DID A LITTLE SOMETHING WRONG. YOU HAD NO CONCERN ABOUT THINGS BEING TAKEN; THEY WERE TRUSTIES AND THEY WERE TRUSTED, BUT I CAN'T RECOLLECT OF ANY PROBLEMS THAT EVER OCCURRED.

R. CARLSON: WHAT DID YOUR WIFE THINK OF THEM?

JOHN DAVIS: I THINK I CAN'T REMEMBER THAT SHE EVER HAD ANY APPREHENSIONS ABOUT IT. THE LADY WAS THERE TOO, SO THERE WERE TWO OF THEM AROUND THERE PRACTICALLY ALL THE TIME, BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER AND THEY SHOWED SUCH RESPECT ALWAYS, AS I REMEMBER, A WILLINGNESS TO DO THINGS, AND THEY WERE ALWAYS DRESSED VERY NEATLY WHETHER IT WAS THE OUTSIDE MAN OR THE INSIDE MAN. FOR ME IT TOOK A LITTLE WHILE TO GET USED TO SEEING THE TRUSTY USING THE VACUUM CLEANER, AND CLEANING UP AND DUSTING, YOU KNOW; BUT IT WAS KEPT UP IMMACULATELY. THEY DID A GOOD JOB.

R. CARLSON: HOW DID YOUR WIFE LIKE THE MANSION? WAS IT QUITE AN ADJUSTMENT FOR HER TO MAKE FROM YOUR HOME IN MCCLUSKY?

JOHN DAVIS: I DON'T THINK, AS I RECALL, THAT SHE HAD ANY PROBLEMS. I THINK SHE ENJOYED IT I THINK SHE ENJOYED IT. SHE'S QUITE AN OUTGOING PERSON AND I THINK THAT SHE ENJOYED THE LIVING YOU KNOW, IT WASN'T A HOME THAT, AGAIN, AS I SAID, IT WAS NOT SPACIOUS YOU DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE IN LUXURY OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT. THERE WERE SO MANY HOES THAT WERE MUCH SUPERIOR IN APPEARANCES AND CONSTRUCTION, I THINK. LITTLE THINGS CONTINUALLY WENT WRONG WITH THE PLUMBING OR HOT WATER HEATER, OR SOMETHING AS I RECALL; SO THAT THERE WAS THAT KIND OF MAINTENANCE THAT HAD TO GO ON CONTINUOUSLY; AND SO YOU WOULD THEN SAY, IT CAN'T HAPPEN SOON ENOUGH TO GET OUT OF HERE; YOU HAD THE FEELING OF WANTING TO GET INTO A NEW PLACE; AND THAT COULD HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO A KIND OF LACK OF MAINTENANCE, WHEN THEY KNEW IT WAS GOING TO BE GIVEN UP; AND AT THAT TIME I DON'T THINK ANYBODY YOU KNOW HOW YOU'D THINK I'M GOING TO GET SOMETHING NEW SO YOU DO JUST WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO WITH THE OLD PLACE, SO LET'S SAY IT WAS MAINTAINED AT A MINIMUM LEVEL.

R. CARLSON: WERE YOU ALL LOOKING FORWARD PRETTY EAGERLY TO MOVING INTO THE NEW MANSION?

JOHN DAVIS: WELL, OUR TIME I REMEMBER WE HAD SUCH A TIME GETTING THINGS STRAIGHTENED OUT. MONEY HAD BEEN APPROPRIATED BY OUR LEGISLATURE THAT WAS PRIOR TO MY AND THEN IT TAKES A NUMBER OF MONTHS TO GET THE PLANS AND THEN WHEN THE PLANS WERE FINALLY DESIGNED AND ACCEPTED AND THE IDS LET, THEY WERE MUCH IN EXCESS OF THE MONEY WE HAD, SO THEN WE HAD TO DO SOME REAL CUTTING AND MODIFICATIONS. I THINK IT WAS ONLY, IN THAT DAY, I AM JUST HAVING IT IN MY MIND IT SAYS \$150,000.00; OR WAS IT \$250,000.00, AND YOU KNOW WHAT THAT WOULD DO TODAY; BUT EVEN THEN AND HAVING THE LOT AVAILABLE THE ORIGINAL SITE WAS TO BE UP IN BACK OF THE CAPITOL THE HOUSE WAS DESIGNED FOR A LOT UP TOWARDS THE NORTHEAST OF THE CAPITOL; AND THEN, I DON'T KNOW, WE CAME IN AND THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO GET IT DOWN THERE HAD BEEN, IN MAKING THAT DECISION BY THE BOARD, THERE WAS A FEELING THAT, WELL, IS THAT THE RIGHT PLACE, OR SHOULD IT BE DOWN WHERE IT IS NOW? SO WE KIND OF FAVORED MOVING IT DOWN A LITTLE CLOSER INSTEAD OF BEING UP ON THE HILL, PARTICULARLY IT WAS IN LATER YEARS THAT PEOPLE BEGAN TO LIKE TO GET UP ON TOP OF A HILL. I THOUGHT OF THE WINTERS AND THE BLOWING SNOW AND THE IN-ACCESSIBILITY OF THE PLACE, SO GETTING DOWN IN THE TREES WOULD BE A LITTLE MORE PEACEFUL, AND IT WOULD ALSO PROVIDE A LITTLE MORE PRIVACY; AND, OF COURSE, I THINK MOST PEOPLE AGREED THAT IT ENDED UP IN PROBABLY THE BEST PLACE, MORE CONVENIENT.

R. CARLSON: WELL, IN NORTH DAKOTA, THEY ALWAYS LIKE TO TRY TO GET A HOUSE IN THE TREES.

JOHN DAVIS: YES, ALTHOUGH IT'S AMAZING HOW SHORT A TIME IT IS BEFORE YOU CAN GET SHRUBBERY AND PLANTINGS AND MAKE IT LOOK ATTRACTIVE.

R. CARLSON: YES.

JOHN DAVIS: BUT THE HOME NOW IN THE WAY WE DESIGNED IT IS TO MORE OR LESS GIVE A PLACE FOR THE FAMILY TO LIVE AND THEN HAVE A LARGER AREA THAT YOU COULD DO SOMETHING FOR THE PUBLIC, OR OTHER PRIVATE KINDS OF FUNCTIONS.

R. CARLSON: DID YOU HAVE ANY SORT OF A BIG HOUSEWARMING OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT WHEN YOU MOVED INTO THE NEW ONE?

JOHN DAVIS: I THINK IT WAS MOSTLY DONE BY OPEN HOUSES, GIVING PEOPLE A CHANCE TO TOUR AND COME THROUGH.

R. CARLSON: THAT WAS NEVER DONE BEFORE, NEVER ANY PUBLIC TOURS?

JOHN DAVIS: NO. THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN THIS, THAT, SAY A CONVENTION WAS IN TOWN, AND SOMEBODY IN THE COMMUNITY WAS PLAYING HOSTESS AND WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE WOMEN COME UP; AND AS I RECOLLECT THERE WAS A LITTLE BIT OF THAT, BUT I THINK THE OLD PLACE HAD BEEN THERE SO LONG, AND IT WASN'T LOOKED AT AS THAT KIND OF A PLACE TO DISPLAY, I GUESS, OR HAD A REAL ATTRACTION; BUT THERE WERE PEOPLE AS I REMEMBER, LIKE I RECITED THAT DID COME THROUGH. AGAIN, THAT WAS KIND OF THE WOMEN, AND THAT WAS MRS. DAVIS'S CONCERN, AND SHE RESPONDED TO IT WHENEVER IT WAS NECESSARY.

R. CARLSON: THIS IS A HECK OF A QUESTION TO ASK THE MAN, I GUESS, BUT DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW IF YOUR WIFE HAD BROUGHT HER OWN SILVER AND DISHES AND TEA SETS AND THINGS LIKE THAT, OR DID THE STATE PROVIDE THEM?

JOHN DAVIS: I BELIEVE THE STATE HAD - YES, THE STATE HAD SILVERWARE - STERLING SILVER - AND THEY HAD SOME NICE DISHES, THAT HAD BEEN BOUGHT BY PREVIOUS GOVERNORS' WIVES. SERVING TRAYS OF VARIOUS KINDS, AS I REMEMBER. THERE WAS SOMETHING FROM THE BATTLESHIP NORTH DAKOTA, AT ONE TIME, SOME THINGS THERE, THAT WERE KIND OF USED AS A DISPLAY OR - NO, I GUESS THAT WAS SOMETHING THAT WAS BORROWED ONCE IN A WHILE FOR RECEPTIONS, IT WAS UP IN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY; BUT, NO, IT THERE WAS A FUNCTION TO HELP, THE TRUSTIES WOULD SOMETIMES COME IN AND HELP, FOR INSTANCE, IN DOING THE DISHES AND THINGS LIKE THAT. IT WAS JUST A LITTLE HARD FOR THE ONE LADY TO TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING, SO THEY PROVIDED SOME HELP THAT WAY, IN TERMS OF MANAGING THE PLACE. I WAS DOWN IN MISSISSIPPI ONE TIME AND THERE THEY USED, THEY HAD FIVE OR SIX OR SEVEN OF THESE TRUSTIES, AND MOST OF THEM WERE ALL LIFERS, THAT WERE ASSISTING IN THE HOUSEHOLD MANAGEMENT; AND THEY WERE EXCELLENT COOKS AND SERVERS - WE HAD LUNCH THERE AT THAT TIME WITH GOVERNOR WILLIAMS - AND THAT PLACE WAS GETTING RUNDOWN ABOUT LIKE OURS, OR WORSE, AND THEY SPENT OVER A MILLION DOLLARS, I GUESS IN REHABILITATING THE OLD PLACE, SO YOU CAN SEE THE DIFFERENCE - AN OLD ANTI-BELLUM TYPE HOME.

R. CARLSON: WAS THE LAUNDRY SENT OUT, OR WAS THAT DONE SOMEWHERE IN THE OLD MANSION?

JOHN DAVIS: I BELIEVE WE HAD AS I RECOLLECT THAT MUST HAVE BEEN DONE RIGHT THERE. I THINK THEY HAD LAUNDRY FACILITIES, PROBABLY IN THE BASEMENT. THE AMAZING THING THOUGH, THE KITCHEN WASN'T VERY LARGE. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY AND THERE WASN'T ANY OTHER LARGE AREA, WHAT YOU WOULD CALL, LIKE TODAY YOU WOULD HAVE A LAUNDRY ROOM, SO I THINK IT WAS DONE DOWN IN THE BASEMENT. I CAN'T RECOLLECT.

R. CARLSON: DID YOUR WIFE DO MOST OF THE SHOPPING? FOR FOOD AND THINGS LIKE THAT?

JOHN DAVIS: OH, YES. UP UNTIL NOW, YOU LIVED THERE AND THAT WAS IT. YOU BOUGHT ALL YOUR FOOD AND THINGS LIKE THAT, SO THAT WAS JUST LIKE ANOTHER HOUSEHOLD. THEY TOOK CARE OF THE MAINTENANCE AND THEN THE UTILITIES AND THINGS LIKE THAT, BUT THAT WAS IT, AND THERE IT ENDED. ONCE IN A WHILE, I GUESS, WE GOT THINGS THAT CAME OFF OF THE FARM, OUT THERE AT THE PENITENTIARY, A FEW LITTLE VEGETABLES AND THINGS LIKE THAT, NOT ENOUGH TO AMOUNT TO ANYTHING.

R. CARLSON: THIS IS KIND OF A SHOCKER QUESTION, I GUESS, BUT DID ANYTHING FUNNY OR UNUSUAL EVER HAPPEN WHILE YOU WERE LIVING IN THE OLD MANSION?

JOHN DAVIS: WELL, LIKE I SAID, I THINK, JUST GETTING THE FIRST DAY WHEN THE PIPES BROKE AND THE WAS WAS LEAKING I REMEMBER IN THE KITCHEN IT ENDED UP WITH OPTS AND PANS EVERYWHERE CATCHING THIS WATER SO THAT WAS I THINK TO ME ONE OF THE FUNNIEST INCIDENTS, AND ONE THAT YOU COULDN'T FORGET AS FAR AS ENTERING INTO RESIDENCY, IN WHAT WAS REFERRED TO AS "THE GOVERNORS MANSION". IT DIDN'T SEEM QUITE LIVING UP TO ITS REPUTATION OR UP TO THE STANDARDS THAT YOU HAD KIND OF SET THAT YOU WERE GOING TO BE IN.

R. CARLSON: IT WAS YOUR BAPTISM!

JOHN DAVIS: YES, IT WAS THE BAPTISM, THAT WAS RIGHT, BUT I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING WE WEREN'T TOO I SUPPOSE MAYBE THAT WAS FROM AMALL TOWN LIVING MAYBE, BUT WE NEVER DID AND THE PLACE JUST WASN'T GIVEN OVER, WE DIDN'T THINK, TO ENTERTAINING. THERE WERE FREQUENTLY PEOPLE COMING IN FOR A CUP OF COFFEE, A LITTLE SOMETHING LIKE THAT, BUT THERE WEREN'T ANY BIG DINNERS, TO SPEAK OF, EXCEPT THE FAMILY KIND OF HOLIDAY DINNERS, AND I REMEMBER SOME VERY NICE ONES IN THAT RESPECT. IT WAS A GOOD PLACE FOR A FAMILY TO COME TOGETHER, IT WAS THAT BIG; IT HAD THOSE CHARACTERISTICS, BUT IF YOU WENT BEYOND THAT, YOU HAD NOTHING BUT PROBLEMS, BECAUSE IT WASN'T DESIGNED TO HAVE ANY KIND OF A FLOW OF PEOPLE AT ALL.

R. CARLSON: WHATô WHEN YOU WENT INTO THE NEW MANSION, YOU HAD ALMOST ALL NEW FURNITURE IN THE NEW MANSION?

JOHN DAVIS: PRETTY MUCH. THAT WAS ALL NEW FURNITURE. IT WAS DONE, THE DESIGN, SELECTIONô IT WAS WITH THE FURNITURE AND HOME DECORATORô THE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION AND MRS. DAVIS WORKED TOGETHER. I STAYED OUT. I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.

R. CARLSON: WAS THE OLD MANSION IMMEDIATELY USED THAN AS AN OFFICE, A STATE OFFICE?

JOHN DAVIS: NO, I THINK THERE WERE PLANSô AND, OF COURSE, THERE WAS A SHORTAGE OF OFFICE SPACEô AND HOW LONG IT TOOK FOR IT TO BE OCCUPIEDô THERE HAD TO BE SOME CORRECTIONS, YOU KNOW, I MEAN A LITTLE RESHUFFLING TO MAKE OFFICESô BUT A PERIOD OF TIMEô IT WAS LEFT VACANT FOR A WHILEô THATôS MY RECOLLECTION, BUT PROBABLY ONLY UNTIL THEY COULD DO A LITTLE REMODELING THAT WAS NECESSARY BEFORE THEY COULDô I NEVER WAS IN THE PLACE AFTER I GOT OUT. IôVE NEVER BEEN IN IT SINCE WE GOT OUT.

R. CARLSON: OH YES, ANOTHER THING I WAS SUPPOSED TO ASK ABOUT WAS INAUGURAL GOWNS. DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOWô THEREôS SOME GROUP THAT IS TRYING TO LOCATE THE GOVERNORSô WIVES INAUGURAL GOWNSô DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW IF YOUR WIFE STILL HAS HERS?

JOHN DAVIS: I WOULDNôT BE SURPRISED. SHE HAS SOME TRUNKS SOMEWHERE.

R. CARLSON: MAYBE WE CAN AHOLD OF HERE SOMETIME.

JOHN DAVIS: YOU KNOW, I CANôT REMEMBE WHAT SHE WORE. YOU KNOW, SOMEWHERE WE HAVE A LOT OF PICTURES OF THAT, BUT WE WOULD BRING IN, YOU REMEMBER GENERAL EDWARDS WAS NORMALLY THE HEAD OF THE INAUGURAL, AND HEôD HANDLED IT BEFORE, AND I THINK IT STILL ISô HE WAS THE ADJUTANT GENERALô AND HIS STAFF, YOU KNOWô AND SO WE DID THE FIRST ONE WITH A BIG BALL, IN THE MEMORIAL BUILDING; AND THE SECOND WAS A MORE MODEST ONE, JUST A RECEPTION UP AT THE ROTUNDA OF THE CAPITOL. BUTô IôM SUREô I CANôT REMEMBER WHAT SHE WOREô HE BROUGHT IN A PHOTOGRAPHERô AND I REMEMBER HIM TAKING A LOT OF PICTURES, SO WHERE THEY ARE, IN A BOX SOMEWHERE, WITH A THOUSAND OTHER PICTURESô BUT THINKING ABOUT THAT AND KNOWING THAT THERE IS AN INTERESTô SOMEDAY IôLL GO THROUGH THAT STUFF, AND TAKE A LOOK AT IT, AND SEE IF THEREôS SOMETHING THAT WE MIGHT GIVE TO YOU, IF IT LOOKS LIKE IT IS RIGHT, YOU KNOWô RECEIVING LINE OR THAT TYPE OF THING, THAT SHOWS, ITôS KIND OF INTERESTING, THE PERIOD OF TIME.

JOHN DAVIS: IT'S AMAZING; YOU LIVE TODAY BUT YOU FORGET THAT AT ONE TIME THAT BECOMES A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY; AND NORTH DAKOTA IS REALLY JUST BEGINNING TO CATCH UP, WITH TRYING TO PRESERVE SOME OF THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED IN ITS PAST. I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I GUESS THAT'S JUST THE NATURE OF A YOUNG STATE AND A YOUNG COMMUNITY OR PEOPLE; THEY JUST DON'T WE'RE JUST CATCHING UP TO, WELL WHAT HAPPENED HERE? AND PRESERVING, AND I THINK IT'S GREAT.

R. CARLSON: YES, I AGREE WITH YOU.

JOHN DAVIS: I DON'T KNOW WHY WE DIDN'T CATCH IT A LITTLE FASTER. IN MY TIME IF YOU HAD SOMETHING OLD, IT'S OLD; LET'S GET SOMETHING NEW AND WE NEVER DID UNTIL JUST RECENTLY, PRESERVE A LITTLE BIT.

R. CARLSON: YES, THAT'S RIGHT. LET'S SEE, RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORS? CLOSE BY?

JOHN DAVIS: WE HAD A CORNER LOT AND NO PROBLEMS AT ALL. I CAN'T REMEMBER THE ONES TO THE NORTH THE WOOMANSEES THE PEOPLE THAT LIVED ON THE WEST SIDE AT THIS MOMENT I CAN'T EVEN THINK OF THEIR NAMES LARSONS, THE PENNEY MAN, WE WERE VERY FRIENDLY WITH, JUST ACROSS THE STREET TO THE SOUTH; AND THEN ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STREET WHICH WAS I CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS WHAT IS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STREET? A CHURCH, WAS IT? I CAN'T RECALL. IT WAS A BIG ENOUGH LOT; IT WAS A BIG ENOUGH LOT AND THEN YOU HAD THE DRIVEWAY, YOU KNOW, AND I THINK THERE WERE SOME HEDGES AND THINGS LIKE THAT THAT THERE WERE NO PROBLEMS. THERE WAS NO REAL PLAY AREA. I WENT OUT THERE WITH MY GOLF CLUB ONCE IN A WHILE SWINGING AROUND, BUT THE LAWN THAT'S ABOUT ALL THAT I EVER REMEMBER. ON THE NORTH SIDE DID WE PUT UP A BADMINTON COURT? I THINK THE BOYS IT SEEMS TO ME THERE WAS ENOUGH DISTANCE AND WE DID THAT ONE TIME, BUT OUTSIDE ACTIVITY, THERE WAS VERY LITTLE.

JOHN DAVIS: ANOTHER THING IT WASN'T AN AREA GIVEN TO THAT TYPE OF ACTIVITY. IN THE NEW ONE, I BELIEVE, IN THE BACK, THE BASEMENT WASN'T FURNISHED, BUT I BELIEVE NOW IT IS, AND IT IS A WALKOUT, AND IT HAS POSSIBILITIES, AND I THINK NOW IF THE HEAT ISN'T TOO BAD, YOU CAN HAVE SOME ACTIVITY MOVING AROUND OUTSIDE IN THE SUMMERTIME AND VERY PRIVATE.

R. CARLSON: WELL, I THINK THAT'S JUST ABOUT ALL I HAD IN MIND. CAN YOU THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE?

JOHN DAVIS: NO, I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING THAT WE HAVEN'T COVERED, AND I KNOW THAT THE LITTLE INCIDENTS LIVING THERE HAVE MORE OR LESS SKIPPED MY MIND. A LOT OF THE THINGS EVEN THAT YOU AND I HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT. WHEN YOU'RE ONLY IN THERE FROM WHEN YOU GET HOME IN THE EVENING AND GETTING OUT IN THE MORNING, I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE MADE YOURSELF A GREAT PART OF THAT HOME AND RESIDENCE, EXCEPT WHEN YOU WERE WITH THE FAMILY, AND YOU LOOK AT IT AS A FAMILY KIND OF A DEAL MORE THAN A LIVING, THAT WAY. I DON'T THINK I HAD AN OFFICE THERE EITHER EXCEPT THAT LITTLE PLACE UPSTAIRS, SO. BUT IN THE OTHER ONE I SPENT QUITE A LOT OF TIME IN THE STUDY. IN THE NEW MANSION. I HAD A LITTLE OFFICE AND IT WAS MINE AND YOU COULD USE IT THAT WAY, BUT WITH THE YOUNG CHILDREN AND EVERYTHING IT JUST WASN'T CONDUCTIVE TO DOING A LOT OF BUSINESS.

R CARLSON: YOU NEVER HAD MUCH IN THE WAY OF MEETINGS.

JOHN DAVIS: NO, JUST THINGS TO BRING TO, LIKE I SAY, COFFEE AND COOKIES TYPE THING, RATHER THAN ANYTHING ELSE. WELL, THANK YOU.

I WANT TO GET A PICTURE OF YOU HERE TOO.

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