

MARTHA SCARLE (GEOFFREY'S
SISTER)

4/26/94

B. THIS IS THE WAY WE FILL IN JONATHAN'S STORY.

S. Have you pretty much gotten an outline now of his life?

WORKING ON A FILM IS SO DIFFERENT FROM WORKING ON WRITTEN MATERIAL. IT'S REALLY, AFTER MEETING CHARLES EAGLE I CAN SEE WHAT AN EASY TIME HE HAD BECAUSE HE DOESN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT GETTING THE RELEASE PERMISSION FOR PHOTOGRAPHS AND TRAVELING AROUND WITH A LOT OF EQUIPMENT AND TRYING TO GET THAT TO WORK. HE'S GOT IT A LOT EASIER. BUT THERE SO MUCH VISUAL MATERIAL WITH JONATHAN. THAT OTHER PHOTOGRAPH IS WONDERFUL. YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH THAT MEANS. ONE MORE PICTURE OF JONATHAN ENABLES US TO PAINT A BROADER AND MORE DETAILED PICTURE OF HIM BECAUSE THAT CAPTURES ANOTHER MOOD. FOR EXAMPLE, WE HAVE A PHOTOGRAPH OF HIM SMOKING A PIPE TAKEN WHEN HE WAS REALLY TIRED, SOMETIME BEFORE HE DIED AND HE LOOKS LIKE A 35 YEAR OLD FELLOW. HE'S AGED TEN YEARS IN TWO MONTHS. IT'S AN AMAZING PICTURE. JUST SITTING THERE WITH A PIPE IN HIS HAND PERMANENTLY EXHAUSTED. AND THERE WAS A SIMILAR PICTURE OF HIS FATHER TAKEN JUST ABOUT SIX MONTHS BEFORE HE DIED. SO WE CAN DO THINGS WITH THE PICTURES.

That's interesting. This picture was taken at my brother's wedding in State College, Pennsylvania and it was September of 1964. So now he was killed in

ELEVEN MONTHS LATER. IN AUGUST OF 1965. WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE? I RECOGNIZE YOU AND SALLY AND GENE.

This was Tom, this was my husband at the time. And that was Tom Sparr and Jonathan and Vince Howser, who is now an attorney in Connecticut, I believe. Gene and Sally and this was a cousin of Sally's. She was a relative of Sally's. And these two girls were both friends of Sally's from school and one of them lives in Keene. I think it's this one here. And I can't remember their names. And this was a friend of Gene's from Chemical Bank of New York. Isn't that funny. I don't know who this is at all.

I'VE LOOKED AT MY OWN WEDDING PICTURES.

Now this is a fellow that was a good friend of Gene's and he went through a very difficult time and he actually was caught for embezzling and went to jail. You don't embezzle from Chemical Bank and get away with it. So I'm sure that there are other pictures of Jonathan at that wedding.

ANY PICTURES WOULD BE

I remember him at the wedding because he was always so he had an elegance about him. And he spoke so eloquently and I think he did a toast to Gene and Sally at the wedding and always a great peace maker. Making sure that everything went well. Of course, this was in a Catholic Church but it wasn't a full wedding, I mean it wasn't a full Catholic mass and all that sort of thing.

WAS SALLY CATHOLIC?

No. She wasn't. So my parents were a little disappointed in that and it was a long enough time ago so that people were very strong in there in their beliefs, and if they believed that the children should only marry Catholics then they weren't afraid to say so. Whereas today it isn't politically correct.

I WAS MARRIED A YEAR AFTER AND I WAS BROUGHT UP CATHOLIC AND MY WIFE WAS EPISCOPALIAN. THAT WAS THE SAME THING. THERE WAS TENSION THERE. HERE FAMILY WERE VERY SUSPICIOUS OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

Well they can't help it. They were brought that way.

WELL LET'S START THERE. WERE YOU BROUGHT UP IN KEENE YOURSELF OR DID YOU MOVE TO KEENE FROM SOME OTHER PLACE.

I was born there.

OR YOU WERE? DID DR. DANIELS DELIVER YOU?

No. Not that I'm aware of. I don't know who delivered me. But I was brought up in Keene and the house that you interviewed my mother in was the house that I grew up in.

THAT WAS BILL SCHNYDER. I HAVE NEVER MET YOUR PARENTS.

You haven't?

ARE THEY STILL ALIVE?

No they are not. Mother died in '86 and Dad had died in '81. He was very young. He was only 69 years old. My mother was ten years older than my father which was a little unusual back then.

SO WHERE DID YOU LIVE? YOU LIVED NEAR WHEELOCK SCHOOL?

Yes. We lived on 10 Adams Court until I went to college.

NOW JONATHAN LIVED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN.

Yes. School Street.

SO, I GET THE IMPRESSION THAT HIS FRIENDS WERE ALL AROUND KEENE SO IT WASN'T A BIG DEAL ABOUT WALKING FROM PLACE TO PLACE TO VISIT YOU BUDDIES.

It never was any problem with that growing up. I mean Gene and I had friends all over and we biked and walked. People didn't have cars like they do today. Everybody was used to that.

DID YOU KNOW JONATHAN AT FIRST SEPARATELY FROM GENE OR DID HE KIND OF COME AROUND BECAUSE HE WAS GENE'S BUDDY AND THAT'S HOW HE MET YOU. THAT'S HOW MY SISTER GOT TO MEET MY FRIENDS.

Yes. He was Gene's. I think Gene and Jonathan, I maybe wrong about this, but I think they first met at Children's Theater. Now

MRS. FAULKNER'S, SUSAN OTT FAULKNER

Right.

SHE'S AGREED TO BE INTERVIEWED.

Did you.

NO WE HAVEN'T INTERVIEWED HER YET. SHE SAYS SHE HAS MANY PHOTOGRAPHS SO I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING WITH HER.

Oh isn't that neat. That's neat. Now I have a picture of Jonathan when he was in "Aladdin" and he played the magician, the evil magician.

NOW THE ONLY COPY I'VE FOUND OF THAT WAS IN THE NEWSPAPER AND IS OF SUCH A TERRIBLE QUALITY. I WOULD LOVE TO SEE THE PICTURE. IF I CAN LOOK AT IT.

I will find it for you. I know it's in a white photo album and I think it's in my barn, in things that I have from my mother's house. But it had the whole cast, I believe, Gene was the sultan. So he was. It was a wonderful children's theater. It was even to today's standards, I think, it was really an extraordinary children's theater. We did all kinds of productions, that if you went to Boston to see them today you'd really think they were pretty good.

YES, I'VE HEARD FROM A LOT OF PEOPLE THAT SUSAN OTT REALLY KNEW WHAT SHE WAS REALLY DOING. AND JONATHAN WAS IN BLACKFACE IN THAT PRODUCTION.

I believe.

HE PLAYED AN AFRICAN MAGICIAN. THAT DOESN'T STRIKE ME AS A HIGH IRONY BUT IT IS KIND OF INTERESTING HE PLAYED BLACKFACE.

He played a wonderful magician. He could be very evil if he decided to play the part.

DID YOU GO AND WATCH THE PLAY?

Yes. I did. And then I started in children's theater myself and did two, three or four productions. I was either Peter Pan or Alice in Wonderland most of my life.

SO HE WOULD COME BY AND AT WHAT AGE WAS YOUR BROTHER AND JONATHAN AT THAT POINT? AT ABOUT WHAT AGE DID THEY START BECOMING FRIENDS?

See I think between the ages of ten and twelve. I remember them once when they came home from I think they came home from skating, and one of them went through the ice, and they were both soaking wet. They were running around the house, our house, my mother's house, because she put everything in the dryer. And they were running around in long underwear. Just being silly. But I think that's when I first remember him. He was just at our house. It was a clearly comfortable place to be and Gene was unusual because he had interests that were very unique and different and certainly not at all like the interests of the other kids in our neighborhood. Gene was he was overweight and chubby and he had asthma. He couldn't play sports and he was a gifted person and so he began to find other gifted people in his life to be friends with. That's really where Jonathan fit in. It was a very healthy relationship because Jonathan was always so funny and Gene needed that lightness because Gene was always serious about the position of the stars and moon or what oscilloscope model he was building at the time, but he needed that lightness.

SO JON PROBABLY SERVED THE SAME FUNCTION TO HIM THAT I DID TO SOME MY FRIENDS. BROUGHT THEM OUT OF THEIR OVERSERIOUSNESS. SO THEY WERE IN THEIR HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES TOGETHER AS WELL? GENE GRADUATED A YEAR AHEAD?

Yes.

GENE GRADUATED IN '56 AND JONATHAN IN '57. SO THEY PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN IN THE SAME CLASSES IN HIGH SCHOOL.

I don't believe so. High school was very tough for Gene and he went away. There is really, I think, a couple of years age difference. What year was Jonathan born?

1939

So there was two years age difference. See I'm five years younger than my brother. So Jonathan agewise fit between the two of us.

DID, DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN JONATHAN WOULD COME OVER, WOULD HE JUST SIT AND CHAT? DID HE GET ALONG WITH YOUR FOLKS?

Oh. Very well. I think that in a way my oldest son, Tom, reminds me sometimes of Jonathan because Tom has always related very well to people a lot older than he is. And I think Jonathan crossed all generational lines. He could sit down and have just a pleasant and interesting a conversation with my father as or my mother for that matter, as he could with Gene and I. I think that he was very comfortable with older people, middle aged people, little people. I think that from the time I can remember Jonathan, he had a charisma. Today we'd call it charisma. I'm not sure we had a name for it back then. But it was certainly a gift of not only communicating with people but of projecting his energy towards anybody who he was with. If he chose not to, I think he could control that but he really loved people so it always came through. And he was just really intriguing, I don't think that back when I was a kid, I had a name for a lot of the things that I can look at and say he was highly focused, he was intellectual, he was a humanitarian, had great social consciousness and all those things. But Jonathan's command of the English language and understanding of human emotions, I think was a gift he had as a very, very young man. I remember him once explaining to me that my father was very stoic, and I guess I had never put that adjective next to my father in my mind. So it clarified a lot of things for me because he was stoic, he was very conservative, liked to have fun but you know when you saw him having fun, it was like an event. He sparkled. But Jonathan understood that from the time when he got to really know my father very much.

INSIGHT.

Yes. So he had great insight. Had to have. And I think to write the way he did and I'm sure you've read his early work, I think even in high school.

WHERE DO YOU SUPPOSE THIS COMES FROM?

I think that some people are just gifted naturally. You know I remember, I've taught various grades for many years, I haven't taught now seriously for fifteen years. But when I look at a class of first graders, there are characteristics in each of those children that are going to remain constant for the rest of their life. And a lot of it, a lot of the talent that those children possess, they can really be enhanced and you can almost see them even more clearly when they are seven or six then you can when they are seventeen or eighteen, because they are fresh and there to be developed. I think that Jonathan just had, I think, it was a gift. He just had this ability to be very sensitive and to somehow quantify emotions probably at a much younger age. You know other than the primary emotions of love and anger and so forth. I'm not sure that when you are young, especially when you were young in the fifties, that you have much of an idea about the names of different emotions and I think that he just understood that and it was, he understood all the subtleties in the way people communicate and the way that they feel. They pick that up.

YOU KNOW MARTHA WITH SOME PEOPLE THIS ABILITY CAN BE A DISTANCING TECHNIQUE TOO. IT CAN BE A WAY OF KEEPING THE WORLD AT BAY IN A SENSE BY LABELING. I'M NOT SAYING JONATHAN WAS LIKE THAT, BUT I'VE ALWAYS FOUND IT INTERESTING THAT FROM BOTH BILL

AND I HAVE THAT SO MANY WHEREVER HE WENT, HE MADE CLOSE FRIENDS BUT THEN AS ONE PERSON WE INTERVIEWED, NO THIS ISN'T FAIR, JUST THIS ONE PERSON, JONATHAN DID STAY IN TOUCH WITH PEOPLE. I HAVE TO SAY THAT THAT WOULD BE AN ERROR. HE WE HAVE LETTERS THAT HE WROTE YEARS AFTER HE HIS ACTUAL PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH THEM STOPPED. I WAS GOING TO SAY THAT OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND, BUT I DON'T THINK THAT'S TRUE.

Well Jonathan first we were kids together and we had a lot of fun together and we did a lot of silly things and when I got to be about sixteen, I maybe younger than that, because I went to college when I was sixteen so I must have been about fourteen.

YOU WERE YOUNG.

Yes and I really had a terrible crush on Jonathan, and I think he did on me too. But even back then, there was that I'm Catholic and you're Protestant. And it was a very real boundary that we both respected because I think he sensed that I, he sensed and respected what I was, and I sensed and respected what he was. And we knew that that was never going to cross. But it was really a wonderful time for me. We went to football games together and we went to the movies together and all that sort of thing, but we never did lose touch and when he went to VMI, he never, the minute that he came home, he came to our house probably half an hour after he went to his house, and he never left without coming in full uniform and giving me a big hug and kiss goodbye. He was very affectionate. I'm sure that you've heard this from other people. He was just a very affectionate, loving person.

YES....

He and Jon used to play this game about they used to tie each other up to see if they could get untied. Like a Houdini thing.

IT SOUNDS RISKY. WERE THEY EVER HURT?

No, but the phone rang once and Gene was all tied up to this post in the basement and Jonathan answered the phone and it was Father Quinn wanting Gene to serve a mass and Jonathan would in his cool way say, "I'm sorry, but he's quite tied up at the moment." He didn't realize it that he meant it literally.

YOU MUST HAVE HAD A LOT OF FUN WHEN YOU WERE KIDS.

Yes, we did. Did I ever tell you about our phone. I think I did, our switchboard? Gene built us a switchboard in the basement of our house and it operated about twenty-five phones that were either in our house or in our garage or on the yard, or in the garage of our friends and we had our little switchboard so we could call our friends, bug rooms in my parents' house.

HOW DID HE SET THAT UP?

It was just a well my cousin Marguerite had worked for the telephone company for years and her job was to schedule and organize all the men who were out on the lines and so they used to if they went into an old farmhouse to put in a new telephone they took out the old telephone, and they'd just throw it away. So Marguerite got all the old phones and then those big gray and blue batteries that went into the transformers. The batteries had to be changed every few months whether they were exhausted or not. We built it from all these old scraps from the telephone company and it looked like Mayberry USA with the jacks. It was all kinds of fun until we accidentally tapped somebody's line, and they traced it to our house and when they ever saw, I mean my mother showed them the switchboard in the basement, they couldn't believe it.

THEY PROBABLY INSISTED THAT IT BE TAKEN OUT.

They did. We had disconnect everything.

SO TELL ME A LITTLE MORE WHAT IS WAS LIKE GROWING UP IN A CATHOLIC FAMILY LIKE THAT. THE REASON I ASK IS THERE ARE A LOT OF CATHOLICS IN KEENE BUT MOST OF THEM ARE MORE FRENCH-CANADIANS AND THERE PROBABLY WEREN'T TOO MANY FROM THE ECONOMIC BRACKET THAT YOU FIND YOURSELVES.

That's an interesting subject because

DO YOU MIND?

I don't mind because I think it was rather a challenge growing up with that. Frankly, I went to St. Joseph's school most of the kids there their parents worked in the factories, in the mills. Very few professional fathers and so I kind of stood out like a sore thumb and sometimes I'd even have friends that wouldn't speak to me and I couldn't understand why and after I came home and said "Cynthia is not talking to me anymore. I don't know what's happening." And my father would say well her father came in for a loan and I had to turn him down and so of course the father would go home and be angry and it would get back to me in school. But it was difficult for both Gene and I to find other kids that had the same interests we had. Sportswise, artswise or just intellectual companionship and so when we did activities that didn't have anything to do with our school and we met other kids, we naturally navigated towards them. In my case it usually kids that were interested in either skiing or horseback riding; in Gene's case people that people that were interested in music and religion and science.

SO THAT MIGHT EXPLAIN WHY, ONLY PARTLY, I DON'T MEAN TO MAKE MUCH OF THIS, THAT YOU GUYS AND JONATHAN MIGHT HAVE HIT IT OFF BECAUSE THE RELIGION WOULD BE A LESSER FACTOR THAN THE SOCIAL NEEDS.

Yes.

BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T GOING TO FIND THE KIND OF PEOPLE WITH AVOCATIONAL THINGS YOU WANTED TO DO PROBABLY WITH THE KIDS FROM SCHOOL BECAUSE OF THE SOCIAL DIFFERENCES.

They were big social differences, I think. In my case most of the girls that I went to school with, their idea of a Saturday afternoon was trying to find somebody to neck with in the movies, and I was still beating boys up at that age. It wasn't my thing. But growing up in Keene, in the forties and fifties, and being a part of a strong religious family was a very different experience than kids growing up today. There's just no comparison. We had a very rigid and clear view of what was right and what was wrong and what was expected of us. And I think that the idea of what was expected of us was almost unspoken thing. I can't remember my parents sitting us down and saying don't do this and don't do that. But there was sort of an unspoken strength that you knew that you were expected to live up to certain norms of behavior and certain norms of performance. And frankly it was a very, I think our family was very performance oriented which isn't a very positive thing to say but you know we were praised when we accomplished something and just to be praised and just to be have attention because you were a son or daughter or an okay person wasn't didn't exist. Not that our parents did love us, but there wasn't that warmth. They were very, very conservative.

DO YOU THINK THAT? BUT YOUR PARENTS DIDN'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS WITH JONATHAN NOT BEING CATHOLIC?

No. They weren't at all not tolerant of people of other religions or other colors. We were brought up in a household that honestly I could have come home from school in the afternoon and the janitor from the bank could have been there or the governor. And it wouldn't have mattered. They were both treated exactly the same. So I was always, I've always noticed right away when I go to an environment where people are not treated the same, that it just irritates me to no end.

WAS JONATHAN LIKE THAT AS WELL? THAT KIND OF EGALITARIAN APPROACH?

Yes, definitely. He was very comfortable and I think we were very comfortable with him. He was totally entertaining and electric and fun and you know I think they probably, Gene and Jonathan, probably got into a lot of the little boy mischief kind of stuff that kids do and that was normal and to be expected.

NOW THEY SHARED AN INTEREST IN MUSIC?

Yes.

COULD YOU TALK ABOUT THAT A LITTLE BIT?

Well actually I trying to think of exactly the instrument that Jonathan played. I can't remember.

IT WAS A TUBA?

Tuba? Okay. See Gene played the French horn and the organ and the piano and I don't know whether he was doing slide trombone, he probably was then. But he plays almost any instrument except a stringed instrument and he can play it all by ear. So he and actually Carleton Russell had more of an interest in music together because Carleton could transpose by ear. He was just very, very gifted. But they were a very interesting group of gifted young men. And so, I guess, everybody was always welcomed in our house. But to answer your question about how it was for Jonathan to come into the family like ours, when he had a question about religion he always got an answer and it was usually a pretty, we all agreed on the answer, because that's the way Catholicism was then. Now it's a little looser structured but

WHAT KIND OF QUESTIONS WOULD JONATHAN ASK?

Well he asked a lot about he used to talk about the Blessed Virgin a great deal. That he had a hard time accepting, he could accept everything in Catholicism except the Virgin Mary and the idea of the virgin birth. And that was something he struggled with for a very long time and, of course, how do you explain that? We learned to accept it as children, so we accepted it. It didn't occur to us that from a theological or anthropological point of view there were a lot of other answers. But, of course, there are a lot of other answers. And Jonathan was bright enough and well-read enough to know that.

NOW WE ARE TALKING ABOUT A TWELVE OR THIRTEEN YEAR OLD BOY HERE. WHAT'S YOUR ASSESSMENT LOOKING BACK ON IT? IS THAT NATURAL FOR A YOUNG TEENAGER TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT RELIGION? IT DOESN'T HAPPEN ALL THAT OFTEN.

No. Much less emphasis on spirituality today. I think that spirituality is becoming something almost that people can afford to do or else they have to take their time to do it. In visiting a family that we are going to visit tonight, there are two daughters and they both have become Buddhists through their college years. Now it's not unheard of, but that doesn't happen a lot. But these are young girls that have had every advantage as far as education and environment are

concerned. They've been able to take the time and to do the research and to make decisions about their own religious life. Jonathan came from a background that was fairly intellectual. His mother was a Latin teacher and an English teacher. His father being a doctor, I think that the level of conversations that went on in home were probably pretty stimulating. And I think that's kind of the way my home was. It would be really unusual for one of my children today to bring a friend home that would start talking to me about religion.

ME TOO. I AGREE. THAT'S UNUSUAL. DID JONATHAN EVER TALK ABOUT HIS FOLKS MUCH?

He used to talk about his mother. Of course, he talked about his father more I think as his father became ill. He was very, very fond of his father, but I don't think had the time with his father that perhaps most fathers and sons have together even back then when male togetherness wasn't as much a focus in our society as it is today. I remember Jonathan talking a lot about his father's illness, when his father first became sick. And becoming increasingly disturbed when it didn't appear that he was going to get really well again. Jonathan's mother was a very large focal point in Jonathan's life. I think that they that there was great affection between the two. I think that Connie was very proud of Jonathan and his demeanor and his accomplishments and how well he conducted himself in general. And I think that they spent more time together. I believe didn't Connie teach at Keene High School?

I THINK AFTER THE DEATH OF HER HUSBAND. FRENCH, I BELIEVE. I THINK IT WAS FRENCH. AND YOU MAY BE RIGHT ABOUT THE LATIN.

Somehow or other I remember Latin and doesn't she and I guess I thought she also taught English at some point. But she was a very well read woman and very well spoken and very educated and very genteel. She had a clearly much stronger relationship with Jonathan than she did with Emily. It always struck my brother and I that Emily was kind of like the hired help more than a daughter.

COULD YOU ELABORATE JUST A LITTLE ON THAT?

Well lots of times Jonathan would come over to our house and I'd ask him where Emily was, cause lots of times they would come together and Emily would be home washing the floor, or Emily would be home doing some other chore in the house that clearly she was expected to do but Jonathan wasn't. You know it was that old men don't scrub dishes.

BUT YOU KNOW ALSO, AND I CAN SEE THIS FROM MY OWN DAUGHTER, THERE'S A MOTHER/DAUGHTER THING THAT GET REALLY FOUL AND STRANGE.

Yes, but I don't know whether I can't really speak to that because I never saw Emily and her mother interact that I can remember. Only a few times that I remember being in their home on School Street with Jonathan's mother present. And Emily was a lovely girl. I just really enjoyed her. She again had a very soft way about her and very graceful. You just couldn't help enjoy being with her.

WERE YOU IN HIGH SCHOOL WITH HER?

No. I went to Our Lady of Monadnock Academy in Jaffrey. It was a Catholic school but it was all girls. And I gosh I used to leave at 7 in the morning and wouldn't get home until 4 in the afternoon and I'd study to 11 at night and do the same thing the next day. So, I didn't get to see too many kids from the high school. Now I believe Emily graduated from Keene High, didn't she?

SHE DID IN 1961.

She's about two years younger than I am. And again we could walk to each other's houses, but we lived at totally separate ends of the city.

NEXT TIME I KNOW SHE'S COMING TO KEENE, I'LL PHONE YOU.

I'd like to see her again.

SO HOW WOULD JONATHAN DO IT? WOULD HE CALL UP IN ADVANCE AND SAY "GENE I WANT TO COME OVER" OR WOULD HE JUST DROP BY. HOW WOULD THAT WORK? HOW WOULD HE END UP AT THE FELCH HOME? WOULD HE COME OVER FOR DINNER AND SLEEP OVER AND SLEEP ON THE COUCH LIKE KIDS USED TO DO BACK THEN? WOULD HE JUST COME OVER AND LISTEN TO THE RADIO OR? HOW WOULD ANYTHING GO? I WAS WONDERING WHAT WOULD HAPPEN?

There was such a time span we're talking about the time that Jonathan was probably ten to the time, as I remember, him about 1964 and so there's a whole realm of behavior difference here. Yes, I think that there were times when my parents went and picked Jonathan up and brought him to our house. There were times when his mother dropped him by. There were times when he bicycled down and dropped in on his own. He certainly had dinner with us many evenings. We had a very formal home and it didn't look formal on the outside but the lifestyle on the inside was formal. And when you had dinner at my house, there was cocktail hour before, my father always ate dinner in a dinner jacket with a tie, and there was also a salad and a main course and a dessert. There was a production. So when he came to dinner he really did come to dinner, and it was usually a two hour experience. It was almost European in that way. There was always great music in my home although we weren't allowed, Glenn Miller was about as modern as they got and I. Not Elvis Presley. Elvis Presley I was never allowed to have an Elvis Presley record. Mostly I played classical music on the piano so it was different and you could imagine going to Catholic school from grade one to eight and going to other kids houses. It was a lot more fun than coming to my house so I didn't necessarily think of my house as being a social Mecca of my seventh and eighth grade life.

WHEN YOU'D SIT DOWN AND PLAY THE PIANO, WOULD JONATHAN BE AROUND?

Oh yes.

DID HE ASK FOR REQUESTS? WOULD HE SAY MARTHA WOULD YOU PLAY THIS OR THAT?

No. He usually just say don't stop. But don't let me stop you and keep playing but I don't ever remember him asking me to play anything special.

WHAT KIND OF MUSIC DID HE LIKE? HE LIKED BEETHOVEN.

Yes, he liked classical music. He liked liturgical music and he also liked swing, jazz, a little modern jazz like Felonius Monk but I don't think he ever got into rock and roll.

MUSIC. YOU DID TELL ME A STORY ABOUT LLOYD YOUNG'S SON COMING OVER WITH A STEREO SET.

Yes.

COULD YOU JUST TALK ABOUT THAT ONE MORE TIME?

Actually, I think it was Max Young and Gary Howard. Gary had a lot invested in loud speakers and that sort of thing that kids do today, and they brought all their equipment over to our house when my mother wasn't there and they hooked it all together so that we were amplifying sound

from a hi-fi. They put on a lot of different classical music and turned it up high volume, which was fine until they put the 1812 overture on and the version that has the cannons. Someone in the neighborhood called the police because the police were wondering who was getting shot at our house, I guess. But they arrived at the door saying go do something about the noise. But it really was amazing and I remember the cannons going and the whole house shook.

YOUR PARENTS MUST HAVE BEEN PRETTY TOLERANT?

Actually,

OR THEY LIKED JONATHAN VERY MUCH AND DIDN'T MIND.

Oh they liked Jonathan very much and Gene and was kind of like an epic disaster. He was always having some problem. He blew up his hand once and, I don't know what he was doing, but he had gun powder and just a piece of white paper and he was playing with the gun powder. Now how he got gun powder I'm not sure if any of us know that but he take a fuse and watch the fuse burn on the gun powder and explode. And took this gun powder wrapped up in paper out to the back yard one day and lit the fuse and it was windy so the fuse blew over into the gun powder which was still in his hand and his hand looked like a piece of burnt toast. He was in the hospital for nine days and my parents didn't know whether he was going to have a hand or not. But luckily he did and Jonathan and Max and all of his friends used to troop into the hospital. Jonathan would be able to get into the hospital because his father being a doctor and Gene would end up having fifteen people in his room and they'd all get kicked out.

DID YOU EVER SIT AROUND AND TALK TO JONATHAN ABOUT WHAT HE WAS GOING TO DO IN THE FUTURE, AS KIDS WILL DO. I WANT TO BE A FIREMAN, I WANT TO BE A LAWYER.

You see that was something that was very paramount in Jon's mind. He talked about what he was going to do from the time he was pretty young. I would say from the time he was fourteen or fifteen this was a subject that was dominating his thinking. What he was going to do, how he was going to do it. The idea of becoming a minister was or some sort of person in a religious context was certainly there, the seed was there growing from the time he was very young. He just talked a great deal about it.

WOULD HE BE ASKING YOUR ADVICE ABOUT IT? WOULD HE JUST BE BOUNCING IDEAS OFF HIS FRIENDS?

I think that he bounced ideas off a lot of people, as many people as he could and he liked talking out issues. But I think that maybe the supposition on other people's part of him becoming involved in a ministry of some kind, was maybe a supposition that we made instead of something that he actually verbalized. As he got older he certainly verbalized it and I certainly remember conversations about, you know, "I'm going to be leaving medical school." How long was he in medical school? About a year?

IT WASN'T MEDICAL SCHOOL. HE WAS WORKING IT WAS LITERATURE AT HARVARD.

I thought that he was I know he was thinking about medical school very seriously for some period of time particularly after the time that his father passed away.

WE FOUND, THANKS TO WAYNE MISKELLY, THE CLASS PROPHECY AND THERE IT PREDICTS THAT JONATHAN IS GOING TO BE A MINISTER OR A PRIEST IN AN URBAN CENTER. THEN AFTER THAT HE MOVED TO VMI. THERE, AFTER HIS FATHER DIED, HE ABANDONED POSITION FOR A WHILE AND WENT TO EXISTENTIALISM AND JUST LEFT IT BEHIND AND DECIDED NOT TO BE A MINISTER. HE WENT TO HARVARD AND SPENT A TORTURED TIME THAT FINALLY ENDED IN

APRIL OF '62 WITH HIM BECOMING REINVOLVED WITH RELIGIOUS MATTERS. SO THE IDEA, HE MIGHT HAVE TALKED ABOUT THE IDEA OF BECOMING A DOCTOR, I WOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT, BUT IT NEVER SURFACED IN ANY DOCUMENTATION THAT WE'VE SEEN BUT WE UNDERSTAND THAT HE DID ENOUGH SOCIAL WORK, DOCTOR, PSYCHIATRIST, SOMEWHERE IN THE HELPING FIELDS. BUT FOR A LONG TIME BEING A MINISTER SEEMED TO BE VERY STRONG. THAT'S WHY HE WOULD TALK WITH GENE AND YOUR DAD AND YOU GUYS ABOUT RELIGION.

I think that actually he probably in his religion in his Congregational religion or his exposure to Episcopalianism, he probably didn't meet too many women that were very well versed and since I'd had this very strict Catholic education from the time I was in first grade I was pretty well informed, actually. I don't think I realized it then, but I was. At least I thought I had some pretty strong reasons why I believed what I believed at the time.

HE WOULD SIT DOWN AND TALK WITH YOU THOUGH?

Yes.

ITS BEEN 35-40 YEARS IS A LONG TO SKIP OVER BUT CAN YOU THINK BACK THEN. YOU MENTIONED THE VIRGIN MARY. HE WAS TEMPTED TOWARDS CATHOLICISM, YOU THINK?

Yes.

HE WAS CONGREGATIONAL. AT THE AGE OF 18 WAS CONFIRMED INTO THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND THEN SEEMED TO CONTINUE TO HAVE AN INTEREST IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

Well I think prior to that being confirmed into the Episcopal Church, he did a lot of thinking about the Catholic Church. He really took this confirmation very, very seriously. And there was a lot of discussion and then a lot of the subjects were very much the kinds of subjects that people talk about the Catholic Church anyway. The development of the family, the infallibility of the Pope, you know all of the sort of church oriented things. The things that the church being an organization of men create as opposed to being a spiritual entity. I think I struggle with that myself a lot anyway. I don't care what church you belong to whether you're a Lutheran, or you're Shinto, or you're Congregational, there's an organizational structure in that church community that's human and it's always going to be imperfect and I think that's what we all struggle with that and we have to overlook that part of it and try to ferret out exactly what we believe in as people.

YOUR BROTHER LENT ME A BOOK. IT WAS A STUDY OF ST. AUGUSTINE'S THEORIES, ONE OF JONATHAN'S TEXTS. AND JONATHAN HAD UNDERLINED IN ONE PART, THE AUTHOR OF THE BOOK SAYS THAT ST. AUGUSTINE BELIEVED THAT FAITH WITHOUT GOOD WORKS WAS INADEQUATE POSITION TO TAKE. YOU HAD TO BE INVOLVED IN THE WORLD TO CHANGE IT. JONATHAN UNDERLINED THIS IN RED AND REWROTE IT IN THE MARGIN. IT IS CLEAR THAT HE HAD HIT UPON A PASSAGE THAT HE AGREED WITH. IS THAT THE TOUCHING YOU'RE REFERRING TO BETWEEN A MORE AN ACTIVIST INVOLVED WITHIN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH THERE'S LIBERATION THEOLOGY AS OPPOSED TO A MORE REMOVED.

Well I think that back in the 50s and 60s that liberation theology was just beginning to form. And I think that you know the 60s brought along the natural development and outgrowth of that whole line of thinking. But yes I think that was part of it. The things that attracted Jonathan to the Catholic Church; I know part of it was definitely the history and the pageantry of the church. Because he remembers the Catholic Church when in fact the Latin tradition was intact totally, and so that Latin tradition to somebody like Jonathan I think was fascinating, intriguing, full of symbolism and as a literist and a curious mind, those things really attracted him. They really piqued his curiosity if nothing else. Yes. He had all kinds of questions about it.

WITH THE AUTHORITARIAN NATURE OF THE CHURCH AS IT DOES WITH MANY PEOPLE, WAS A STUMBLING BLOCK FOR HIM. A PROBLEMATIC AREA.

I remember my mother giving him the book *The Cardinal*. He read that book when he was maybe twelve or thirteen and he brought it back and we all talked about it. We had a discussion about the cardinal which I remember my father saying, "Isn't this unusual for a young man this age to be so involved in his thinking and clearly mature in his thinking."

THAT BOOK BY COSTAIN WAS VERY IMPORTANT BOOK. THAT'S THE BOOK THAT WAS TURNED INTO A MOVIE IN THE EARLY 60S AND TOM TRYON WAS THE CARDINAL. AND HIS SISTER WAS PLAYED BY CAROL LYNLEY GETS PREGNANT AND THE CHOICE IS DO YOU SAVE THE MOTHER, DO YOU SAVE THE CHILD. A BIG DECISION. I BET JONATHAN ASKED ABOUT THAT?

Yes. Because remember that that was an issue. However, you can imagine historically, we're practically on the precipice of the birth control pill which became the next big issue as far as sexuality was concerned in the Catholic Church. So the sort of, you know, do we abort the child, do we save the mother

TAPE ENDS

SIDE TWO

A WOMAN DOWN IN SELMA WHO GOT TO KNOW JONATHAN PRETTY WELL SHE WAS PART OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH DOWN THERE AND SHE, JONATHAN WOULD TALK ABOUT BIRTH CONTROL TO THESE PEOPLE TO THE YOUNG AFRICAN-AMERICAN MOTHERS WOULD ASK THEM IF THEY WERE USING BIRTH CONTROL AND IT WAS ON HIS MIND. HE WANTED TO, HE SAW ONE MEANS OF CONTROLLING THEIR POVERTY WAS TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN.

I can't imagine with someone like Jonathan and human services industry like he was, if you can call it an industry, for him not to be able to see that would be he it just wouldn't happen with Jonathan because he really cared about people enormously and he cared about people enough to see all sides of the story. And I honestly think he really enjoyed women and cared about them as much as he did the social rights of men. I think that he was a real champion of women. I mean when he used his charm and, you know, sort of did his full uniformed visit to me after his vacations from VMI and dressed to be ready to go back to school, he clearly enjoyed coming and saying good-bye and being very dashing. He like that but he also had women on a pedestal. He would never think anything derogatory about another woman or become flippant in his remarks. He was always very caring. So he could have had sixty girlfriends and been just as nice to all sixty of them I'm sure.

BECAUSE OF HIS COMING TO YOUR HOUSE IN HIS UNIFORM, HE OBVIOUSLY DIDN'T NEED THE UNIFORM UNTIL HE GOT TO THE GATES OF VMI. HE WAS DOING IT BECAUSE HE ENJOYED IT.

Sure. He was striking. He really was.

DID YOU GET INVITED TO HIS ALTAR THAT HE HAD IN HIS CRAWLSPACE UNDERNEATH HIS HOUSE OVER ON SCHOOL STREET?

No. I didn't.

BOB PERRY TOLD US ABOUT IT.

Really.

IT WAS JUST A MALE THING. THEY HAD SET UP AN ALTAR AND I FILMED IT.

So you were allowed into the house on School Street?

OH YES. AND I WANT TO GO BACK AND FILM JONATHAN'S ROOM. JONATHAN HAD SET UP AN ALTAR DOWN THERE AND THEY BURNED INCENSE AND WOULD PERFORM QUASI-RELIGIOUS RIGHTS ALONG WITH CIGARETTES AND A BEER OR TWO. SO TAMMY AND I CRAWLED UNDER THERE TO FILM AND I FOUND, BOB PERRY HAD TOLD US THAT THEY SMUGGLED CIGARETTES IN IN BANDAID CANS. SO I FOUND BEHIND A MIRROR DOWN THERE, COURSE YOU KNOW IT HAD BEEN DOWN THERE FOR THIRTY YEARS, A BANDAID CAN WITH AN EMPTY PACK OF CAMELS.

Oh really.

JONATHAN OR SOMEBODY HAD PAINTED DATE ON THE ROCKS. WE FILMED THE WHOLE THING. WE HAVE

That's the first time I've ever heard of that. That's even something that my brother has never. Isn't that interesting though because there seems to be something about Jonathan that's timeless. You study anthropology think of the number of male groups. Groups of males inside sects of little civilizations that do exactly that. They closet themselves away in some sort of a space and they have a ritual of some sort that's not necessarily a bad ritual or anything but it's like a male bonding kind of experience that excludes women. How old a human behavior is that? It must go back way before written history.

IT'S LIKE A BOY'S NIGHT OUT PLAYING POKER.

I think so.

BUT DON'T WOMEN LIKE TO BOND AS WELL? DON'T THEY LIKE TO GET OUT TOGETHER AND STUFF TOO?

I suppose. I just don't think we burn incense. Smoke forbidden cigarettes although the only time I've ever smoked in my whole life was when I was at high school and we weren't allowed to smoke in uniform. We could get expelled if we smoked in uniform and I thoroughly enjoyed smoking in uniform. So it was the rebel in us.

JONATHAN SMOKED. HE SMOKED CIGARETTES.

They all did back then. And it wasn't mentally and we weren't educated to the fact that this was a health hazard. In fact, it was exactly the opposite. You were cool and sexy and with it if you smoked. And you generated a different kind of image depending on what kind of thing you smoked. If you smoked a pipe then you were definitely projecting the laid back professor kind of image and if you were smoking a cigarette, you projected the more modern you know aggressive man.

DID JONATHAN SMOKE BOTH? HE NEVER SMOKED CIGARS AS FAR AS WE KNOW. YOU MENTIONED ABOUT WOMEN, HE LIKED THE COMPANY OF WOMEN. HE ENJOYED TREATING THEM ELEGANTLY AND IN A SENSE EDUCATING THEM. WE'VE MET SIX WOMEN WITH WHOM HE WOULD CORRESPOND OR WAS INVOLVED ON THAT LEVEL AND ALL OF THEM TOLD US THAT JONATHAN WAS THIS GENTLEMANLY, ELEGANT PERSON WHO THEY JUST REALLY LIKED FOR THAT REASON. THERE WAS A SIDE TO HIM THAT MADE THEM FEEL APPRECIATED. HE WAS REALLY SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND THEM.

He enjoyed, he clearly enjoyed women. He was very comfortable with them. And perhaps that evolved from his relationship with his mother and perhaps his sister. But he did feel comfortable and I think that women understood him better than a lot of males of his age might have understood him. I mean clearly he's not going to be somebody that's going to be understood by the captain of the football team.

WHY IS THAT?

Well not their interests. I think personality wise, he wasn't what I would ever call a nerd or odd or anything like that. But his level of interest in life simply wasn't with sports. I can't remember him even skiing, although I'm sure he did. Cause we all did.

HE WAS ON THE TRACK TEAM FOR A WHILE.

Yes.

BUT WE INTERVIEWED ABBY MACDONALD WHOM HE TOOK TO HIS RING DANCE CEREMONY AT VMI AND CAROLYN STURGIS, WE INTERVIEWED THEM TOGETHER, BILL AND I DID, THEY GOT INTO A DISCUSSION ON JONATHAN'S BEING A ROUND PEG IN A SQUARE HOLE AND THAT HIS SENSITIVITY LABELED HIM AS ODD BY OTHER BOYS IN HIGH SCHOOL. I CAN IDENTIFY WITH THAT. I WAS THAT WAY TOO. IF YOU DIDN'T ACT A CERTAIN WAY, IF YOU WEREN'T OF A CERTAIN STATURE OR YOU DIDN'T PLAY IN SPORTS OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT, YOU WERE AN OUTSIDER. YOU FOUND A GROUP YOU COULD HANG AROUND WITH AND WHO HONORED YOU THE WAY YOU WANTED TO BE WHETHER IT WAS THROUGH THE WRITING CLUB, THE DRAMA CLUB, OR THIS OR THAT. YOU WERE AN OUTSIDER AND THAT'S THE WAY IT WAS. AND BOTH ABBY AND CAROLYN TALKED ABOUT JONATHAN AS WANTING DESPERATELY TO BE ACCEPTED BY THE GROUP BUT FEELING AN OUTSIDER AND IT WASN'T UNTIL HE MADE FRIENDS IN HIGH SCHOOL WITH PEOPLE LIKE HIMSELF THAT HE FELT COMFORTABLE IN HIGH SCHOOL.

Oh I think that that was probably very true of Gene and that was one of the reasons why they became so close. My brother growing up definitely had incredible challenges health wise and because they had no medication at that time when he was under 13, there was no benedryl, there were no shots for allergies. He just had to stay in the house so he used this time in the house to build switchboards and build oscilloscopes and create new inventions. And in the neighborhood we lived in, which was a little rougher than the neighborhood Jonathan lived in. It was tough to be different and people used to make fun of him all the time. And they'd he was very much if you've read *The Lord of the Flies* like that character of Piggy.

YES THE GLASSES AND THE KIND OF NERDY GUY VERY BRAINY BUT JUST COULDN'T PHYSICALLY COORDINATE IT TO GET IT TOGETHER.

But could explain anything verbally. And Gene was like that and so he used to get beaten up a lot. That's really why I started being such a fighter because on the way home from school the kids would pick on him and hit him. There is one actually in the movie *The Lord of the Flies* is that one scene where they are going to drop the rock on Piggy's head; well I came around the corner once from a garage and shortcut we used to take on the way home and these boys had Gene down on the ground and they were about ready to crash him over the head with a rock and I flew at this kid and hit like the back of his knee so that it caught him off balance. And I just turned into being this sort of scrappy defender even though I was five years younger than Gene but my mother used to get these phone calls complaining that Gene had given their son a black eye and had done this terrible broke his glasses and wasn't Gene it was me. So because Gene was very gentle. It wouldn't hit or hurt anybody for any reason.

HE WAS A GOOD BROTHER TO YOU THEN THOUGH. YOU ENJOYED HIS COMPANY A LOT.

I did enjoy his company a lot. We got to be good friends because once he got on medication for his asthma, then he could start going out and be more active and he wanted to be. He played a great game of baseball, but we couldn't run the bases. He could hit the ball further than anybody in the neighborhood, but he learned to ski, he learned to skate, and basically I taught him how to do those things, because it was like taking you a child that I supposed just never was exposed to a basketball and putting them on the court. You know where did they start. And so it was that that brought us closer together, because he allowed me to do this for him.

AND PROBABLY THEN HE DIDN'T YOU WERE NO WAY EXCLUDED FROM THESE EVENINGS WHEN JONATHAN AND THE GUYS WOULD COME OVER AND WOULDN'T SAY YOU'RE JUST A GIRL, GET OUT OF HERE.

Sometimes they did and sometimes they gave me a hard time.

BUT YOU STUCK TO YOUR GUNS. IF YOU WANTED TO STAY YOU COULD.

Well after I locked them in the darkroom one time for about four hours, I don't think they gave me a hard time after that for a while. I was tough kid.

WE WOULD FIND SOME OF THESE PICTURES. YOU HAVE TO PROMISE TO HELP ME LOOK.

I will. I will.

DID YOU STAY IN TOUCH WHEN JONATHAN WENT OFF TO VMI?

You know I think we sent cards back and forth to each other but I don't think I have in my possession any letters. But he stayed in touch by every time he came home he'd run home to visit his family and then he came to visit us. He spent many, many hours, very enjoyable hours.

DID HE TALK ABOUT VMI?

He did, yes. He used to talk about his brother rats and he used to feel strongly that some of the procedures that they practiced and had to endure were unfair. They all worked like dogs and he used to complain a lot about that.

GENE WHICH WE HAVE A COPY OF TALKING ABOUT HOW AWFUL THE FRESHMEN WERE TREATED. DID HE TALK ABOUT ANYTHING MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT IT? ABOUT VMI?

Well he chose the military academy and we never could understand it. I remember these conversations about Jonathan why when you could go to a college that you wanted to go to, why are you choosing a military academy. And he said that he needed more discipline. And that was the way he thought he could become a more disciplined person was through military school.

WHAT MADE A YOUNG MAN THINK HE NEEDED MORE DISCIPLINE? THAT'S NOT A CONCLUSION MOST SEVENTEEN YEAR OLDS COME TO. WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?

I'm not sure that I really know. I think that he knew something about himself that he expected of himself. And he evidently sensed that he needed a certain discipline in order to accomplish it. That's as simply as I can put it. But he was very big about that. He considered himself a real cutup. He considered himself you know that somebody who got into trouble.

DID HE EVER GET INTO TROUBLE?

Well, he got into trouble once in a while but nothing that's outside the realm of just a young guy fifteen, sixteen, seventeen who does something stupid. Like the night that he tried to sneak out of his house to go and drive a new car that one of his friends bought. Something like that.

DO DON'T HAVE ANY OF THE DETAILS OF WHY HE TRIED IT?

But he went out the window, climbed down the trellis next to the house by his window and fell and broke several ribs as I remember.

I HEARD IT WAS LEG, ARM, RIBS. NO ONE SEEMS TO KNOW WHAT HE BROKE. WE HEARD THE STORY. HE WAS IN THE HOSPITAL FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

Yes. Because he came I mean Gene and he were together that night and whatever devilry they were up to and then of course he went home at like four in the morning and back up the trellis and that's when it broke.

DID HE EVER TALK WITH THE CATHOLIC PRIEST AT ST. BERNARDS?

Yes. He did as a matter of fact there were some times when Gene and Jonathan went to the rectory and I'm not sure if I can really remember exactly who they talked to but you know that in any parish from time to time there will be a particularly well spoken, charismatic kind of priest, and I think they were first of all enjoyed the mental gymnastics of talking through some of these issues and for Gene to be able to say to Jonathan "I'll just call Fr. So and So and we'll go and talk about it. That was a wonderful access for Jonathan to be exposed to a religion that he was interested in and to actually get information from an informed source.

I DON'T THINK THOUGH WHILE HIS PARENTS WERE STILL ALIVE, HE COULD HAVE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. AT LEAST NOT UNTIL HE WAS IN HIS THIRTIES. THE REASON I SAY THAT IS HE WAITED UNTIL HE WAS EIGHTEEN BEFORE HE BECAME AN EPISCOPALIAN. BECAUSE I TALKED TO THE RECTOR OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WHEN JONATHAN TOOK EDUCATION TO BE CONFIRMED, AND THIS MAN, HIS NAME WILL COME BACK TO ME,

Gemmel?

NOT FAY. THIS MAN INSISTED THAT JONATHAN WAIT UNTIL HE TURNED EIGHTEEN. I THINK HE WAS AFRAID ABOUT MILD REPERCUSSIONS FROM DR. DANIELS. ALTHOUGH BY THAT TIME

I think Dr. Daniels would have been very tolerant, but I think Mrs. Daniels would have been very staunch in her point of view of that my son shall be such and such a religion or such and such a kind of person. She was a powerful woman. And I think she was a real strong influence in Jonathan's life.

IN WHAT WAY? BECAUSE EAGLES TRACKS A LOT OF JONATHAN'S INFLUENCE AND SAYS THAT THE MOTHER WAS THE MOST POWERFUL INFLUENCE IN HIS LIFE BUT FROM ALL WE CAN LEARN, IT'S THE OTHER WAY AROUND, THE FATHER.

Well I would have to say that probably he was strongly influenced by both of them. His father, by the father's example of being a giving, selfless person who dedicated himself to his patients, and his mother by being a well read, strong person. Connie is, if you had 25 people in a room and Connie walked in, you'd know it. She would command a presence. And she had a strong self image and I don't think as a son you could ignore that. I think some people found that really annoying because she seemed to portray herself in an economic, social level that she worked

very hard at generating this image. And that's not a whole lot different than a lot of women were at that particular time. And that somewhat speaks to the Keene community because some from where I stood in Keene and even now when I look back on it, it was honestly a city of little ghettos because in our church, we were very clear that there was a very French group influence, there was an Italian influence and all the Italian people lived practically on two or three streets near Keene State College.

ISLAND STREET, PEARL STREET

Island Street and Pearl Street was an Irish section. All the old Irish families came from Island and Pearl. And a little bit further east was the Italian section.

BLAKE, WILSON

Mostly, in that area. So then you go up to the northern part of Keene and I think the north if you go really north that was a bad section. The northend. But if you were sort of in the Court Street, Washington Street area that was considered very nice and West Keene was considered very nice. But there were these definite sections of the city and they mirrored whatever ethnic group lived in those sections and I think that that is pretty extraordinary for the 1950s and 1960s. In a little city, it's not very large and the differences, the boundaries existed then, which I don't think exist now. But I think if you were an Italian Catholic, you just didn't have anything to do with the people who lived on Court Street. It just didn't happen and again nobody verbalized that but that's the way it was.

NOW JONATHAN CROSSED ALL THOSE BOUNDARIES.

Yes he did. And I think that Jonathan and Gene's relationship was so neat for both of them, I think that Connie kind of accepted the fact that this was something that was good for Jonathan.

NOT ONLY THAT, EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE A CATHOLIC WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN A PROBLEM FOR HER, YOU WERE FROM AN ECONOMIC CLASS, BANKERS, THAT SHE WOULD HAVE SEEN AS CLOSE ENOUGH TO A PHYSICIAN.

Yes, I suppose.

SHE WAS A DOCTOR'S WIFE. HOW MUCH OF THIS IMAGE CREATING WOULD HAVE BEEN TIED TO HER OBLIGATIONS TO BE IN THE KEENE'S WOMAN CLUB, LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, AND PROBABLY A LOT HER FACADE, AND EMILY TALKS ABOUT THAT, HAD TO DO WITH HER BEING A DOCTOR'S WIFE.

What she thought she was supposed to do. Playing the role, so to speak.

A COUPLE OF PEOPLE WE INTERVIEWED, CAROLYN AMONG THEM, SAID SHE DIDN'T FEEL QUITE WELCOMED BY CONNIE. SHE FELT THAT CONNIE LOOKED DOWN ON HER BECAUSE OF HER ECONOMIC CLASS AND HENRY PARKHURST SAID THE SAME THING.

I think that my brother sensed that in the beginning but I think that he overcame that somehow with her. Whether just the kinds of things that he and Jonathan did together and the kinds of conversations she probably heard them carrying on were of a quality that she would have had to respect, I think.

COULD YOU TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT IF YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT, THEIR POLITICAL BACKGROUND. BILL AND I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO FIND OUT A LITTLE BIT MORE. WE KNOW THAT CONNIE WAS A STAUNCH REPUBLICAN THAT WORKED FOR SENATOR COTTON AND

EISENHOWER. DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING MORE ABOUT THE POLITICS OF THE FAMILY AT ALL OTHER THAN THAT, AT ANY LEVEL? WE KNOW THE FATHER WAS IN FAVOR OF FDR, BUT THAT WOULDN'T REALLY MEAN A WHOLE LOT.

See, I don't ever remember having what I would call a lengthy conversation with Dr. Daniels. I remember what he looked like and I remember him popping in and out of the house, but he was always on the move, and I don't think that he was available for his family. I mean even physically present a lot. So I would imagine, I always thought of him was that he was a very dedicated person and sounds more like a Democrat than a Republican to me just on the surface. I have no idea what he actually was registered as. And Mrs. Daniels would have been a Republican because what else are you going to be if your anybody in New Hampshire. That's

WHAT DID JONATHAN EVER TALK ABOUT POLITICS?

You know I'm sure he did, but I don't remember that he had strong views about political parties. He'd have strong views about issues like civil rights or educating women or the more subtle issues of theology. But he wouldn't tie those to any particular group.

DID HE EVER TALK ABOUT CIVIL RIGHTS WHAT WAS GOING ON IN, LET'S SEE WHEN YOU WERE KIDS IT WOULD HAVE BEEN LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 1957, THE MONTGOMERY BUS STRIKES 1954, HOW ABOUT *LOST BOUNDARIES*, DR. JOHNSTON.

I'm familiar with the book *Lost Boundaries*, and I know the Johnston family. And I don't remember him having an opinion about that one way or another. I don't remember a discussion about it. He may have had an opinion. I guess the one thing when it comes to talking about a black family in Keene, other than the Johnstons, I can only think of, and I can't remember his name, a fellow who used to run the Latchis Theater.

GEORGE MILLER

George, yes. And everybody loved George. We all knew George really well because the theatre was only a few doors down from the bank and from the time I was a little girl, I've known George and always had conversations with him. He was a delightful man. And I think that Jon knew George and had also interaction with him. The differences that existed were more between our parents view of black people and our view of black people. They were very different. My mother told me once that she was taught as a child to run away from the black people when the carnivals came because that was the only time they ever saw a black person in Keene was these traveling carnivals and she was taught to absolutely run in the opposite direction and so she was taught to fear from the time she was a little, tiny girl. And George once was chatting with me as I was walking by the Latchis Theater and he took out a chocolate bar and he broke it in half and he gave me half and he ate the other half and my mother turned around to me as we walked away from him, she was with me, and said "I don't believe you're really eating that chocolate bar from a black man." I mean, I looked at her thinking "Mom you've got six heads what's the matter with you." But you see her experience was so very different from mine, and we in the church we were taught to respect all races of people and it was just ingrained in us from first grade, so I just never thought much about it. And, of course, New Hampshire is such a white state, even today, you're percentage of blacks in New Hampshire is so small. It must be negligible.

YOU NEVER SEE ANY. GEORGE HAD A DAUGHTER, IS HER NAME RUTH? SHE OWNS PROPERTY STILL OVER OFF ELM STREET.

And she's a very talented lady.

I TRIED TO GET HER TO TALK ABOUT JONATHAN, BECAUSE I CALLED HER UP ONCE AND SHE REFUSED, SHE DIDN'T WANT TO

Has anybody else remember the relationship between Jonathan and George?

YES AND SHE TOLD ME THAT JONATHAN AND GEORGE WOULD TALK A LOT ON THE PHONE. SHE WOULDN'T DO IT ON A TAPEREORDER. AND SHE SAID WHEN JONATHAN WAS KILLED, GEORGE, SHE SAID HER FATHER SAID THAT HE WASN'T SURPRISED THAT THAT HAPPENED. THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN GREAT TO GET, BUT SHE WON'T TALK ON TAPE. SHE'S JUST VERY SHY. THERE'S ANOTHER BLACK FAMILY IN KEENE NAMED O'NEIL. AND SARAH O'NEIL'S THE ONLY AFRICAN-AMERICAN FACE YOU SEE IN THE 1957 YEARBOOK. AND SO I TRACKED HER DOWN AND SHE'S LIVING IN KENTUCKY. CALLED HER UP, WE TALKED BUT SHE'S A JEHOVAH'S WITNESS AND THEY DON'T LIKE TO TAKE POLITICAL POSITIONS ON ANYTHING. THE FILM THAT WE'RE MAKING MIGHT HAVE A POLITICAL EDGE TO IT AND SO SHE REFUSED TO GET INVOLVED. IT'S A SHAME BECAUSE SHE AND JONATHAN WERE GOOD FRIENDS. I DIDN'T KNOW THAT. THEY JOINED THE EPISCOPAL YOUTH GROUPS TOGETHER AND THEY WERE GOOD FRIENDS. SHE PRAISED HIM OVER THE PHONE AND I WROTE HER A LETTER AND ASKED HER IF SHE WOULD THINK ABOUT AN INTERVIEW AND SHE SAID SHE COULDN'T DO IT. IT BROKE MY HEART, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN GREAT.

But you know I'm not so sure that what Jonathan was about was necessarily responding to the needs of black people. I think that had they been any kind of people that were oppressed, that were being unfair against, that were being hurt, he would have gone to their rescue. So it doesn't have, I don't think, very much to do with the fact that he grew up in a white town and there were only a few black people in that he had a curiosity or a natural fondness of the black culture or an intrigue or just intrigued by the black culture. I don't think that was it at all. I think that it was totally an issue of human rights, and I think he felt so deeply about human rights that he would have become active had there been a different kind of human rights issue.

WELL HE CERTAINLY WAS A DEFENDER OF THE UNDERDOG. THAT HAPPENED AT VMI.

How did it happen at VMI?

HE WAS THE EDITOR OF THE NEWSPAPER, *THE CADET*, AND EDITORIAL AFTER EDITORIAL HE WOULD LAMBASTE THE SCHOOL STRUCTURE AND ADMINISTRATION FOR TRANSGRESSIONS AGAINST THE STUDENTS. HE WAS VERY OUTSPOKEN. AND ENDED UP BEING ELECTED VALEDICTORIAN AS WELL.

I know. That was an amazing accomplishment for a Yankee boy to be elected as President of his class of VMI.

YOU KNOW WHAT THEY USED TO HAVE BACK THEN, THE BALCONIES OF THEIR DORMITORY FACED THE OUTSIDE, THEY HAD WHAT WAS CALLED STUDENT "NIGGERS." THERE WAS ONE STUDENT "NIGGER" FOR EACH BALCONY AND THAT PERSON WOULD SWEEP THEIR ROOM AND SWEEP THE BALCONY. THEY WOULDN'T GET PAID MUCH MONEY BUT IF YOU WANTED CIGARETTES OR A SIX PACK OF BEER, YOU WOULD SEND YOUR STUDENT "NIGGER" OUT TO DOWNTOWN LEXINGTON TO GET IT. THEY WERE CALLED THAT AND I HAVE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THEM, AND THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN THERE WHEN JONATHAN WAS THERE BECAUSE IT WAS A SEGREGATED SCHOOL. IT DIDN'T BECOME INTEGRATED UNTIL THREE YEARS AFTER JONATHAN'S GRADUATION. SO I THINK JONATHAN HAD AN AWARENESS OF THESE THINGS. IT DOESN'T TAKE A ROCKET SCIENTIST TO SAY THIS GUY IS BEING CALLED A STUDENT "NIGGER" IS MAKING \$.50 A HOUR AND I'M THIS KID, HE WAS PRETTY SENSITIVE TO THAT.

Sure. Oh he would have been, he would have been sensitive. Have you ever talked to Danny Kinney, I think his name was. He was another friend of Jonathan's.

DOES A MAN NAMED TONY REDDINGTON

Oh Tony. You've talked to Tony.

WELL I THINK HE LIVES OVER IN VERMONT. WE HAVE A PHONE NUMBER HERE. SEE WE ARE PRETTY GOOD ON THE KEENE PART.