

Adults' Childhood Narratives of World War II on the Homefront

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Kyle Weaver: Alrighty, so you can go first, right?

Connie Burns: Okay. Right.

KW: Okay. All right, so what is your name (laughs)?

CB: CB.

KW: Okay.

Um, what's your middle name?

CB: Dorothy.

KW: Dorothy.

And what year were you born?

CB: 1939.

KW: 1939.

What's your birthdate?

CB: Uh, 10/21/39.

KW: 10/21/39. That's right, I'm 10/20 (laughs).

CB: Yeah (laughs).

KW: Um, okay, so where, uh, where are your parents from?

CB: Um, my mother was from Cincinnati, Ohio, and my dad was from Kentucky, but then he moved over to Cincinnati, for a while, and then they came back to Kentucky and stayed, after they were married.

KW: Okay. They got married in, in Cincinnati?

CB: No. Got married in Kentucky.

KW: Oh, okay.

CB: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

KW: Um, so were you b-, is that where you were born, Kentucky?

CB: Yes, mm-hmm (affirmative).

KW: In what city?

CB: No, w-, wait a minute-

KW: (Laughs.)

CB: No, no, I was born in Cincinnati.

Dan Burns: You were born in Ohio.

CB: I was born in Cincinnati, yeah.

KW: (Laughs.)

CB: I'm thinking of their church, but I was born in Cincinnati.

KW: Okay, Cincinnati. Um, how many siblings do you have?

CB: I had three.

KW: Three?

CB: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

KW: And what's the order, what are their names?

CB: Uh, my brother, Bernie, was the oldest and he was born in '35. And my sister Diane was born in '37, and then I was '39, and my youngest brother was '47.

KW: Okay. Um. So, um, what, where did, uh, so, we'll start with Bernie, where did he end up (laughs)?

CB: Well, let's see, he started out as, in school in Cincinnati and then when they moved to Kentucky we all went to Kentucky schools, grade school, high school. He went to college, graduated and, um, basically stayed in the Northern Kentucky area.

KW: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

CB: Got married, late, and he lived there all his life.

KW: Who is he married to?

CB: Joan, she was, had been divorced and had five kids, and so he took on ... They were all still at home, young, and he took on raising 'em.

KW: Yeah.

CB: So.

KW: And is he still alive right now?

CB: No, he died about a year and a half ago.

KW: Okay.

CB: Okay.

KW: Um, so your sister?

CB: She's, um, let's see, she started out in Cincinnati, born there too. And, um, when we all came over to Kentucky, um, she's all the, the whole time she's been in the same county, Dayton County, Kentucky. And you, she's 82.

KW: Okay. Is she still there?

CB: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

KW: Does she have a family?

CB: Yup. She had five kids and now-

KW: Wow.

CB: Lots of grandkids and you know-

KW: And how many kids did Ber-Bernie have?

CB: Just-He didn't have any of his own but he raised those five-

KW: Oh wow.

CB: Of his wife.

KW: Okay.

CB: Yeah.

KW: Okay. And then your younger brother?

CB: Um, he never married. He was very physically, um, handicapped.

KW: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

CB: A lot- A lot of things wrong with him. A lot of operations over the years-

KW: Born that way.

CB: Yeah, born that way. He died when he was 29.

KW: Okay. What was his name?

CB: Chris. Christian.

KW: Oh. (laughs)

CB: Yup. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

KW: Um, okay. Um, so, um, let's see what... So, your parents, did they go to school?

CB: Yeah, Um, actually, let me think about this. My mother, um, she had a full scholarship to, it was called East, uh, it was a night school, but it was a high school. And she couldn't use the scholarship 'cause they couldn't afford it. They couldn't afford to-

KW: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

CB: You know, transportation and all- to get her there, although it was in Cincinnati, but she basically got a job and helped out with the family. My dad, he did go to that East night school is what they call it and he graduated and then my mother's younger sister was able to go. But- well my mother would- when they couldn't afford to send her.

KW: What is a night school? (Laughs)

CB: It's what they had back then because it was-

KW: Was it like grade school or-

CB: No, it was a high school

KW: High school?

CB: Yeah, it wasn't grade school. She went to grade school [inaudible 00:04:19]. But yeah, it was. You know, a catholic school. Um, it was a high school but I think most- back then- they came- it wasn't really the depression at first but it was later, everybody you know, everybody had to help out to support the family

KW: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

CB: And you know, if they fell in that time period, so.

KW: So that was common to have school- like school was just switched to being at night? Basically?

CB: Yeah. I'm not really- I mean I'm sure there were some daytime schools I guess, I don't really know.

KW: Yeah.

CB: But uh, my mom's, like I said, her younger sister went to East Night and my dad went there but my mother, she had a scholarship and couldn't go. So..

KW: This, so did she go for like for a year [00:05:00] or two and then have to drop out?

CB: I believe she did. Maybe just a year because I saw some pictures, but-

KW: Oh, okay.

CB: She never finished or anything.

KW: So what did she start doing to- for work?

CB: To work?

KW: Yeah.

CB: Um, I don't know what initially she did, but I know, uh, she worked at- they had dime stores back then, five and dime stores and so she worked at Wooler's-

KW: Oh okay.

CB: which was the precursor to K-Mart's.

KW: Yeah. (Laughs)

CB: Yeah. And she did that and then later on in life she was a cafeteria worker, I mean she couldn't get a- a real good job because she didn't have schooling, you know?

KW: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

CB: But she did that and then when she- they got married and had the kids, she didn't work but then she went back and worked in the cafeteria and..

KW: Oh, okay.

CB: And that was a paid job, it was for a insurance company.

KW: Right.

CB: Yeah.

KW: Does she- when you were growing up, did she talk about that a lot? Just that she had to- you know- drop out of school and work? (Laughs)

CB: Well I was aware of it but I can't say she talked about it. She was a real private person.

KW: Oh.

CB: Yeah, I don't think she talked about it a lot. But I saw lots of pictures.

KW: Yeah. Were you and your mother close?

CB: Um, I don't know about that.

KW: (laughs)

CB: I mean- more or less, I guess, but not- not a real lovey-dovey, I mean both my mom and my dad, it-it was- they didn't-

DB: They weren't huggers.

CB: You be quiet.

DB: They weren't huggers.

CB: Yeah, they weren't huggers but you don't need to say anything. They weren't huggers.

DB: (Laughs)

CB: So that type of family. So, but, you know, everybody cared for everybody else but-

KW: Yeah.

CB: Yeah.

DB: (Clears throat)

KW: They weren't huggers. (Laughs)

CB: Yeah. (Laughs).

DB: They weren't touchy-feely people.

CB: Yeah.

KW: Yeah. Um, David, your father, kind of the same?

CB: Yeah, even more so I think.

KW: Yeah.

CB: Yeah.

KW: Yeah. Um, what did he do?

CB: Well, when I- the day I was born, it was during the depression and he got his job- he had been unemployed for a long time- he got a job at the Cincinnati Enquirer- for the newspaper- and uh, that's what he worked at all his life.

KW: Oh wow.

CB: And he made 12 dollars a week when he got that job.

KW: Wow.

CB: Yeah. (Laughs)

KW: (Laughs)

CB: And they were glad [inaudible 00:06:57] to get a job.

KW: Yeah.

CB: You know.

KW: Yeah. Uh, so, I guess growing up in that time, would you say your family was well-off? Were you on the lower class, middle class?

CB: Uh, we were definitely not well-off and um, when my brother was born, he had like ten operations, at least, while he was still very young. He had lots of things wrong with him and um, Spina bifida and he had no-

DB: No knee caps.

CB: Yeah, no knee caps, no roof in his mouth. They said he would never walk or talk, they should put him in an institution and they wouldn't do that so they did- they mortgaged their home three times and tried to pay for all the medical and- so they weren't really well to do because of all of that.

KW: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Yeah.

CB: But I never felt like we were- we were better than a lot of my friends- we weren't poor.

KW: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

CB: You know. So.

KW: (coughs) Um, so did you have a lot of uh, like extended family close to you growing up?

CB: Um.

KW: Like aunts- aunts and uncles, cousins..

CB: We had one set of aunts and uncles that- that lived over, outside of Cincinnati and um, my dad and-and my cousin lives right behind us here, her dad- her dad uh, we went to their house - or they came to ours, we mostly went to their house and um, every Sunday, and they would- the-the men were drinking buddies.

KW: Yeah (laughs)

CB: (laughs). So.

DB: And argue about their jobs.

CB: Yeah, they both were-

DB: Every Sunday.

CB: In the printing business. My dad was what they called a mailer at the newspaper and her dad was a printer and so they always- one was better than the other, they always said

KW: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

CB: You know, but we saw them a lot.

DB: [crosstalk 00:08:46]

CB: But my mom's family, you know, there were some and um, we used to see them a lot when we were younger, they lived in- outside of Cincinnati and they were a lot more wealthy than we were. And as we all grew then there was a falling out.

KW: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

CB: And so we didn't see them. But in later years, we- we invited them all over- they had six kids and, you know, now we have a really nice relationship and the women, we get together for lunch, and yeah, so.

KW: Oh. That's nice. Um, what about your grandparents on either side?

CB: Okay. I remember my grandparents on my mother's side, used to go there all the time. Um, my dad died when I was in high- I mean my granddad died when I was in high school. And uh, he was a real gentle, really nice person. My grandmother, I used to go over there all the time, I'd take a bus over and then spend a weekend or something and then we'd go to Finley Market in Cincinnati, which was a great big outdoor ave-

DB: It's still there.

CB: Yeah, it's still there.

DB: (Laughs)

CB: I mean, it's very famous. And uh, went to Chicago with her on a train and did a lot with her, you know. But then she died [00:10:00] later on I guess, I'm not exactly sure when but she was in her 80s.

KW: How old were you when she passed?

CB: Um, I was out of high school cause my grandfather-

KW: Oh.

CB: Died first. So, I was maybe at college. I'm not real sure.

KW: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

CB: You know?

KW: Okay.

CB: Are you sure that I'm picking up on that?

KW: Yeah.

CB: Okay.

KW: Yeah, it picks up a lot. (Laughs)

CB: Okay. (Laughs). Oh, my dad. You wanna hear about my dad's family?

KW: Yeah.

CB: Um, his mother, uh she died when my dad- when, I think when they, maybe before they got married. And um, so I didn't know her and when my dad got married she died and he had two younger sisters so they came to live with them. Until they got married.

KW: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

CB: And then his dad, the story was he joined the Merchant Marines and nobody ever heard from him again. Assume he's dead now, but nobody ever knew if he died or where and never saw him again.

KW: Wow. Really?

CB: And so I didn't know either one of them.

KW: Mm. Did you hear a lot of crazy stories about them or- (Laughs)

CB: Um, not so much.

KW: No?

CB: Yeah. Yeah.

DB: First time I ever heard that.

CB: Really? (Laughs).

KW: So, um, growing up did you have, uh, a lot of friends in your neighborhood that you'd hang out with or friends from school?

CB: Yeah. Well, both. Um, the girls in the neighborhood, there's was like four of us within one block and so we were together a lot and then two streets over there was a couple more and so we played a lot and all went to school together, to Catholic grade school. We walked to school, uh, it was about eight blocks, I guess. We came home for lunch, walked home for lunch, went back, walked again-

KW: (Laughs)

CB: And then came back when- when it was over. But that was nothing back then. You know? (laughs)

KW: Yeah. What did you guys do for fun?

CB: Uh, I can remember we played a lot of- we were girls, you know, so we played a lot of doll furniture and dolls and all that. And then we'd play school and somebody would be the teacher and I remember all that- we had a lot of fun, you know?

KW: Yeah.

CB: Yeah.

KW: And what about in high school?

CB: In high school, um,

KW: Everybody partying? (laughs)

CB: Well, we went to different high schools. Two on the same street, they went to what they called a commercial school. It was an offshoot of the grade school we went to and they just had typing and shorthand and all that. And it was a two year program and so they went there. And then the other ones of us, we went to an academy for girls only and uh, I had a four year scholarship and um, that was one of the instances where I remember my dad, he was always working, you know, and he worked, he didn't make my graduation- it was like a Friday night or something and um, so when he- he must've come home at 2:00 in the morning or whatever and they left him a note that I had won the scholarship.

KW: (Laughs)

CB: And so he left me a note and- and- this was one of the rare times that he was really close or whatever. He said in the note- he said, um, "It just goes to show where the brains are in this outfit" (laughs).

KW: (Laughs)

CB: And I really treasured that for a long time.

KW: Wow.

CB: (Laughs)

KW: Laughs. Um, so- so you did study a lot and-

CB: Yeah, I guess I- I-

KW: And you did well in school?

CB: I didn't have much trouble having to study, I did, I liked school. I really liked school. And some of the girls in high school, they complained and carried on and I loved it. You know?

KW: Yeah.

CB: And so I didn't have any trouble.

KW: What was your favorite subject?

CB: Math.

KW: Really?

CB: So when I got out of high school, I- I actually got four scholarships to college. And then you had to take your pick and take one, you know? But I didn't use any of them, I went- that's a whole nother story, I went to another college. So you want to hear that now?

KW: Yeah.

CB: Okay. (Laughs). Well we met-

DB: You want me to leave? (laughs)

CB: No. We met, uh, grandpa and I, when we were seniors in high school.

KW: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

CB: And we went together all through the- that year. And then at the end of the school year, we kinda broke away- broke up. And so I had them four scholarships and I had to decide where I was going and he-he was going to the University of Dayton to play football. So, I had an aunt that lived in Dayton, Ohio, my mother's sister. So I talked my mom and dad into me going there and not take a scholarship. (laughs)

KW: (Laughs)

CB: So then we got back together when we went there.

KW: Okay.

CB: So yeah. (laughs)

DB: The rest is history.

CB: Yeah.

KW: (Laughs). Did-

DB: Sixty years ago. (laughs)

CB: Yeah.

KW: (Laughs). Was there something that happened during that break that-?

CB: No, he- I mean-

KW: (Laughs) that grandpa-

CB: I went out with other guys and he went out with- I mean I don't really know- I mean it wasn't like we were angry at each other, I don't know, we kinda just went [00:15:00] separate that summer.

KW: Yeah.

CB: And I dated and he dated and you know? So..

DB: Well we both wanted to pursue our education years and we couldn't do it together because you had scholarships and-

CB: Yeah I know.

KW: Okay, so, um, transitioning a little bit to the World War II topic.

CB: Okay.

KW: So between um, 1939 when you were born and- and '45, uh, were you and your siblings, were you guys aware that like- there was a war happening?

CB: Um, Uh a lot of what I remember, it was- I mean I was very young, and I can't say that I remembered a war and- and people were fighting over in Germany, I had no conception of that. But I do remember little things like they'd talk about, you know, for sugar and things like that- they could only allowed to get so much and I remember those little coins, they were red and blue and you used them for different things and I remember my mom talking about- and they'd kept them in the China closet, and boy you couldn't touch them-you know, (laughs)

KW: (Laughs)

CB: Because they were valuable for whatever they used them for.

KW: (laughs)

CB: But I heard them talk about um, gasoline, and we didn't have a car so that really didn't affect us.

KW: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

CB: And I really don't know how my mom and dad got around. My mother didn't work then but my dad, he went to work, I don't know if he got rides with people because the-the work was in Cincinnati and we were in Kentucky. But um, we didn't have a car until 1947.

KW: Yeah.

CB: And so that was past all that great rationing. But I remember, though, the talk, you know, at the dining room table and them talking about, well we gotta wait til Friday so we could get sugar or whatever it was they were getting, you know?

KW: Uh-huh. And where- where in Kentucky were you?

CB: We were in Dayton, Kentucky, which was a town of about eight thousand people.

KW: Okay. And how far was that from-from-

CB: Cincinnati?

KW: Cincinnati?

CB: About ten, twelve miles or something.

DB: Right across, not that far-

CB: Not that far- right across the river.

KW: Oh, okay. Okay.

CB: Yeah. Yeah.

KW: Okay, just wanted to clarify that.

CB: Yeah.

KW: Um, so in terms of like everything life- like were your parents always- was that the discussion of the grownups, was-what was going on with-

CB: With the war?

KW: With the war or just-

CB: I don't remember it-

KW: Yeah.

CB: You know? You know, I'm aware of what went on now, of what went on back then but, I just remember the-the little things about, you know, in your house-like we need this what we gotta wait and things like that. That's all I remember.

KW: Yeah. So looking back, do you think from your childhood anything was different from the war?

CB: Um,

KW: Or was it just all pretty normal?

CB: Well, if I'm looking back and I wasn't aware at the time but they were things like um, if you'd hear a siren you had to- all the lights had to go out- and I, you know, I don't know if that's in my memory or I was just told.

KW: Right.

CB: And um, definitely, you know, they couldn't buy what they wanted and um, you know, you look back on it, I don't know if they were involved in like, you know women helped in the war effort, I don't know if my mother did that or you know, I don't really know, I was just too young to be concerned about all that, you know?

KW: Um, did it affect anyone in your family, like if anybody had served? Or um-

CB: Um, not that I'm aware of. Uh, my dad already had the three kids, so he didn't go. And um, but my uncle- the one that's the printer that we talked about- he did go. But he only had the one child and I guess they kept going down and they didn't get down to somebody with three kids, you know, to go, so.

But um, my dad did a lot of different things because men were gone. You know, like, we- when I was little I do remember flashes of this, we lived um, we lived in Cincinnati until I was four years old but I remember flashes of we lived next door to a fire department and my dad helped them a lot. Like, you know, I heard about this in my lifetime in 1937 there was a huge flood, I mean really disastrous and he- he did a lot and he went out with the firemen and the fire boats and you know, put out fires and all of that. But he wasn't a fireman. But- I just remember that firehouse being there and you know, he'd be over there, you know?

KW: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

CB: So that- the war caused that. A lot of the firemen were gone I guess, you know?

KW: Yeah. Um, so, uh, I guess when you kind of got a little older, high school, college age, um, what kind of stories would you hear from you know, your-your parents, just other adults, would they talk about it? About the war?

CB: Um, I don't think so mainly because my dad wasn't there. I mean but, [00:20:00] you know, there were lots of pictures that showed all, like when he was out on fire boats and that thing, and uh, I- I just don't think I was affected much at all because I was too young- I was what, five years old?

KW: Mm-hmm (affirmative). But-But even when you were older, people just-just wasn't a big topic of discussion? (Laughs)

CB: No, I think mainly because in our near family, there was nobody that was really over there. Now his family was different-

KW: Right.

CB: His dad- you know, he was there. So no, I don't think it- you know, I will tell you one thing if you want to hear it though-

KW: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

CB: When we moved, there was a story that I- that was my first real memory of my life. I mean I heard lots of things when I was younger but we moved when I was four years old. And I vividly remember this happening. My- we didn't have a car so my dad and my brother, my older brother, they were-they went in the moving truck with the guys and my mom and my sister and I, we went on a bus. And I could remember, I guess it was my sister- was holding a birdcage with a bird in it and uh, I think I had a turtle. (Laughs)

KW: (laughs)

CB: But we get on this-

KW: (Laughs) A pet turtle?

CB: Yeah. Pet turtle, yeah. And so we get on this bus and um, it wasn't very crowded. There weren't very many people at all and I remember um, I- I somehow, I knew that there-there was a door in the front, a door in the back and I knew that people got on and off but I - I just had to have known that. So my mom and my sister, we rang the buzzer to get off and they go up to the front door where the bus driver is and I thought I'd be real smart and I went to the back door. Well, the driver, the bus driver, thought he'd be funny and he- he wouldn't open the back door.

KW: (Laughs)

CB: And my mom and my sister are off standing there and I'm in there and I'm in there- and I was- I'm like "I'm being kidnapped or something" I just remember this and so I ran up to the front and got off. (Laughs) So that-

KW: So that's the first memory.

CB: That was my first real memory.

KW: That's a frightening first memory.

CB: Yeah.

KW: (Laughs)

DB: She started out hearing a different drummer.

KW: (Laughs)

CB: Yeah. And I remember then we walked up the hill to where we bought the house, and it was like three-three, four blocks up and the last block was a real big steep hill. And I remember going in there and apparently, I don't remember where the moving men were, but we beat them there. And so the house was empty and I remember the echoes in the house.

KW: Mm-hmm (affirmative)

CB: And that's about it for that day. But-I- that- that was a true memory, not a they told me about it. You know, (laughs)

KW: How old were you for that?

CB: Four, four years old.

KW: Okay.

CB: Yeah. (Laughs)

KW: So, as an adult, um, were there any stories that you told about the war or that time?

CB: Mm I don't think so. I mean I just- you know, I learned about it in school and all that but as far as personally experiencing, I don't remember. Probably my sister and brother do.

KW: Yeah.

CB: They were older.

KW: Uh, how do you think those, just- how- do-do you think the war shaped how you were brought up?

CB: Um, I don't know, I mean, possibly. I mean, you know, I really don't know.

KW: Yeah, it's kind of a question for your parents, maybe?

CB: Yeah.

KW: Yeah. So do you have any photos from your childhood?

CB: Yeah, I have a lot of them. It showed, our backyard was all cement and uh, it was shared, we were in this building that was- was like a tenement house they called 'em. It was all apartments and um, we lived, let's see, we lived downstairs I guess and then my grandmother lived upstairs and she stayed in there my whole life, she was in that same apartment.

Uh, at the beginning, there were no inside bathrooms, there was just a pot for at night. And then there were outhouses and- and when you'd go from like my grandmother's, you'd go down the steps, there was a big court-courtyard down there that all these apartments, what seemed like, I know-I know they were on three sides and they all shared these outhouses. As I remember that. And then when I was um, maybe just beginning in high school, she got the indoor plumbing and a bathroom. (Laughs)

KW: (Laughs)

CB: But then we moved when, um, let's see, we moved next to that firehouse, so I'm not exactly sure when that was but uh, I remember the tenement because I went there all my life. But I probably don't remember the early years when I actually lived there, but then we moved to- by the- and it was downtown Cincinnati, it was seventh and Sycamore, which now is just nothing but businesses and everything but back then, you know, that's where we lived and it was an apartment house too.

And we got all kinds of pictures, and like I said our backyard [00:25:00] was cement and I got the- the same family that we used to- later on we went every Sunday when they moved out in the country and but they apparently lived close because we had all these pictures of those- my cousin and her fam- her siblings growing up and we're all in that little backyard and we had a little playhouse and we were in and out of that and I think it was fairly happy, I mean I'm sure it was I just don't remember anything bad happening so, but it was fun I guess. (Laughs)

KW: So when the war ended, um, obviously, um, the US dropped atomic bombs on Japan, was that like ever a topic of discussion during your adult life, like would people talk about that- like the fact that we bombed another country?

CB: You know, I - I mean I was aware of it later on when I - in school I learned about it but I don't remember it really being in my life and people talking.

KW: Mm-hmm (affirmative). Why do you think that is? That people- that it never got brought up or talked about?

CB: Yeah, I don't know, um, I really don't know. I mean, um, I don't remember people sitting around and like they do now and saying "well the President shouldn't have done that" and you know, "we should do something about that" that I never was involved in any of that or heard any of that so I think back then people were, at least in my life, they were happy with the- the DC- what was going on because Roosevelt, everybody loved him and then Truman, my dad really liked him. But I don't remember anybody griping like, you know, things are so open now and you know, everything's in the paper or on Radio or television. I can remember sitting around the dining room table and listening to the radio because we didn't have TV. I didn't have TV until I was in the fifth grade. My dad didn't have it until then. But uh, I remember, you know, not really listening to news programs though.

KW: Yeah.

CB: Every Saturday morning we listened to cartoons on the radio and when we came home from school, my sister and I, we would listen to the soap operas on- at lunch time, we-we'd almost be late every day. We'd wait till quarter till one and then we'd take off back to school.

KW: (Laughs)

CB: But as far as anything really serious, I don't remember, you know, I don't remember any-anybody like my dad or uncle that were always together, I don't remember them griping about how the country was being run or what happened or anything.

KW: Yeah.

CB: There was a lot of, uh, patriotism. You know, everybody was happy, I think, with what was going on. And it was probably a big thing mentally, you know, our country got into the war later and they more or less really helped a lot, and you know, so I imagine everyone was pretty proud of- of what was going on, you know.

KW: Yeah. That's interesting because that's the complete opposite of my upbringing and I'm 22. When do you think that shifted? You know cause right now, like you said, it's like everything's out there, everything's public. And things-things are controversial now and people disagree openly about a lot of stuff. When do you think that shift happened?

CB: Um, I can remember, let's see, I'm trying to think of how old I was, we graduated in '57. I remember going into the Kennedy years and when Kennedy was first, you know, President, there was a lot of um, you know the Bay of Pigs happened and uh, a lot of people when he was assassinated, um, he was- his popularity was really really low and- and even on my level, people were down on him. But of course, when he got killed then he was the greatest thing that ever happened, you know, and everybody felt bad.

But before that, I mean, I uh, you know, I remember a lot of resentment, uh, before him, I think it was Eisenhower, um, everybody loved him from you know, his war record and all that and there wasn't much bad said about him at all, I can remember that. But boy, Kennedy really got it. And you know, a lot of stuff has been revealed now about his Playboy stuff, we weren't aware of that- at least I wasn't, but they didn't like how he was running the country. So, and I remember that. And that's about when I became aware of things I guess.

KW: Hmm.

CB: The first time I voted was- in Kennedy.

KW: Oh really?

CB: Yeah. Uh-huh.

KW: Um, okay. Uh, is there anything else that I didn't ask that you want to talk about?

CB: (Laughs) let's see...up until the war, huh? I don't know, I guess we were in our own little world, or I- you know, as kids growing up you didn't concern yourself like [00:30:00] nowadays- I mean look at the kids in school, I mean they're very aware of what's going on but I don't know that we were.

KW: Okay, well thank you for doing the interview.

CB: Okay. (Laughs)

KW: (Laughs)

CB: Alrighty. Do you want me to move over here so you can...