

Tulane Talking to New Orleans Project
Adrian Kimberly Pogue interviewed by Adam Jones
November 17, 2009
_____, New Orleans
Transcribed by Adam Jones

AJ Okay, so this is Adam Jones. I'm with Adrian. We're — the time is 6 o'clock. It's the 17th of November 2009, for Tulane University and Professor Spitzer. And we're at _____ in New Orleans. So Adrian, first of all, I need to get your full name.

AP My name is Adrian Kimberly Pogue.

AJ Adrian Kimberly...?

AP Pogue.

AJ Okay, so how do you spell Pogue?

AP P-o-g-u-e.

AJ P-o-g-u-e. Okay, now Adrian, is it A-d-r-i-a-n?

AP Yes.

AJ Okay. Alright, so tell me, have you got a nicknames?

AP No, they call me "A". They just call me "A".

AJ That's pretty easy.

AP Yeah, just "A".

AJ Yeah, they call me- my last name's Jones, so they call me, back home they call me Jonesy.

AP Oh, nice.

AJ Like a pretty Australian nickname to have.

AJ So now, tell me – where were you born?

AP I was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. I was born at Charity Hospital.

AJ Where's that?

AP That's on Tulane Avenue. It was the main hospital of the state of Louisiana. Matter of fact it's one of the biggest hospitals in the world, but it's closed down since Hurricane Katrina.

AJ Oh sure, I think I've seen it. And when were you born?

AP I was born September 17, 1979.

AJ 17, 1979. So that makes you thirty this year.

AP Yes, I just made thirty.

AJ Congratulations!

AP Thank you.

AJ Now tell me, your parents, what were their names?

AP My mother name is Mellie Pogue. My father name is Weldon Pogue.

AJ Okay now, Mellie, was it Mellie? M-e-l-l-ie?

AP Mmhmm.

AJ And Weldon?

AP W-e-l-d-o-n.

AJ Mellie and Weldon. Are they both still alive?

AP My father's deceased. My mother is still alive.

AJ Okay, sure, all right. Let's start with your father. Where was he from originally?

AP My father is originally from Opelousas, Louisiana.

AJ Do you know when he moved to New Orleans?

AP He moved to New Orleans when he was like thirteen. My grandfather had a concrete business and it escalated into a roofing business with him and my uncle. So him and my mom was from the same country, Opelousas. You know the same town, the small town of Opelousas. That's how they met.

AJ So they met quite young then?

AP Mm hm. They was like sixteen when they got together, eighteen when they marry. And I'm the baby of five.

AJ You've got four siblings?

AP Yes, I have three sisters and one brother. Four girls and one boy.

AJ What are their names?

AP Stacey, Sheila, Tiffany and Joseph.

AJ Gorgeous names. I love the names Stacey and Tiffany.

AP Yes, popular.

AJ Alright, so your dad has a concrete, or had a business.

AP Yeah, and it escalated into a roofing business. Arthur Butler Roofing Business. That was my grandfather name.

AJ Oh, ok.

AP And they continued it on until my father passed away, and my brother didn't want it so they discontinued it.

AJ So, your grandfather, was he, he was in the business as well.

AP He was in the concrete business. But my uncle was in the roofing business. So they combined it together and they went from concrete to roofing.

AJ Right, I see. What about your mother?

AP My mum is a retired certified nurse. She sit with elderly people, she's like a nurse aide. That's what it is, a nurse aide. And she retired from juvenile center, the juvenile detention hall on Tulane Avenue, for the Orleans Parish prison. So right now she just stay at home. She retired.

AJ And your mom's family, where were they from?

AP My grandmother was from Opelousas. My grandmother was from Opelousas. Her name was Blanche Kane (sp), she's deceased. And my grandfather was Joseph, Joseph Kane. And he also, everyone was from Opelousas and then they came to the city of New Orleans.

AJ They all moved here?

AP Yes, they all moved here from my father's side and my mother's side to establish their businesses, cause Opelousas was a very small town.

AJ Have you been to Opelousas?

AP No.

AJ Do you want to go to Opelousas?

AP No. I am a city girl.

AJ No? Too small for you?

AP Yes.

AJ What's the population?

AP I don't even know, but it's small. Anytime my mom used to get mudbugs, which is crawfish, out the backyard like a pond, and they took me to Napoleonville, Louisiana. I hated it. I am all city girl, I don't know nothing but the city.

AJ Yeah, back in Australia, my dad- I'm from a big city as well. But my dad is actually from a country town called Cardwell, and growing up the population was I think around 3,000 people, and whenever we went back there I used to ask him, 'How could you grow up in a place like this?'

AP 3000. I think Opelousas is smaller than that.

AJ Really? We used to go- 'cause when my grandmother was alive, she lived there all her life, so we used to go quite a bit to see her, and I used to say to him, "How could you grow up in a place like this?"

AP I was too small. By the time my mom had me I was in the city, they were already established in the city by me being a baby. So they never had my older sisters, but they can tell me things from the city. But from the country? No, they don't know. It's something that my mom just tell us stories about. Like how her and my aunt used to go in the pond and get crawfish. I'm like, I'm only thirty now, so you calculate it back had to be over forty years ago when she was talking about. So I never knew the country, I only knew the city. I'm a whole 'nother generation. Generations.

(5:32)

AJ So, your mom can cook?

AP Yes, she can. Matter of fact I just went by my mom's Sunday for dinner. Me and my friend went by my mom's Sunday for dinner, and had so much food. It's just not like

your own cooking. It's not like your own cooking at all. Traditional cooking, different recipes, you don't know things they do, and when you try to cook like that you wonder why it don't taste the same. Different ingredients, things that I'll never know. Like a roast. I never knew you had to stuff it with garlic. I just thought you sprinkled garlic on it. Maybe that's why it never taste the same. But yes, cooking is a tradition. Cooking, singing, dancing, music. Music, I love music. I love it. My father love music. I would not turn on the TV but I'll turn on a radio. There's something about music I love.

AJ Does anyone in your family play instruments

AP No.

AJ Or sing?

AP No. I march. No. My nieces, I have two nieces that love – they have beautiful voices – that sing. They just will sing. Just pop on and sing, just, just sing. They never made it – I always told my little niece she should've went on American Idol. I always tried to tell her but she never had the courage to go stand in line. But you have to have courage to do things. If I knew how to sing I would've gone and stood up there. Even if I didn't. I see it on the TV. But yeah, music is a focal part, is definitely a main tradition in our whole family, is music. Aunts, sisters, brothers, everything.

AJ Are any of your grandparents still alive?

AP No, none of my grandparents is alive. The last one to live was my grandmother, my mother's mother. And she's passed away like around twelve years now. Around twelve years she been away. That was the last of my grandparents. My grandmother and my grandfather from my father's side passed away I'd say around when I was ten and nine. I was very young. My grandfather on my mother's side, I was just a tiny baby when he passed away from a heart attack. So the only one that I really knew was my grandmother from my mother.

AJ Yeah, I've actually the same- almost the exact- well not the exact- same kind of experience. I mean, my dad is estranged from his grandfather.

AP Ok.

AJ And they haven't spoken in something like 30 years or something like that, so I've never met him.

AP Ohh.

AJ Or anything like that. And my mom's grand- my mom's actually Italian.

AP Italian?

AJ And so my grandfather on her side, he never spoke English, so he passed away when I was about 10. So I never had a conversation with him.

AP Yeah, he couldn't speak English.

AJ Yeah, so it was very strange.

AP I know, yeah. Communication.

AJ Yeah, yeah, definitely. Now what about your, so your grandparents, how far back do you know were they in Opelousas? Do you know where their families came before Opelousas?

AP No, I don't. No. Probably my older sister know, and right now I'm doing a family tree cause I just bought a book about a family tree. And with my grandmother, it was strange because my grandmother's side of the family -- her mother did not approve of her husband, which was my grandfather. They was more high class. My grandmother was more of a high class level. Her mom was very smart, very intelligent. But my grandfather's side, they just was terrible people. Drink alcohol, do all the silly ...(?) And my grandmother mother never did want her with him. It was like my grandmother mother, like, cut her off. When she married my grandfather. And when they came to New Orleans we really never did know. My grandmother I knew of had one sister, and she passed away cause me and my mom was talking about it. But as far as my grandmother mother and father, they did not approve of my grandfather.

AJ Wow.

AP Yeah. They didn't. And it took me, I was twenty seven when I found that out. My mom talked to me about it. So I notice the older that I'm getting, it's a little bit more that my mom telling her baby child, and I am the baby so that's why I don't know as much but I am doing my history. Because I think truly I have an uncle – Grambling State University president.

AJ Yeah?

AP Mm hm. Just joined in, his last name is Pogue. Frank Pogue. That's French. Not too many African Americans have the last name of Pogue. I did my history with that part.

AJ So Pogue is French? Is that Creole or something?

AP I don't know. I doubt if it's Creole though, cause we didn't look nothing like Creole. I don't think it's Creole.

AJ Or Cajun.

AP No. But it's definitely French. I gotta do a little bit more history of it. But I'm very focal part in there.

(10:27)

AJ That's interesting...

AP Yeah, but when I looked at it and I googled his name it's Frank G. Pogue. Kinda resemble my father. So you never know, you know, cause my grandfather never knew his father. My grandfather never knew his father. And this something— he used to bake me cakes and I used to ask him questions. But he never knew his father. His mother passed away when he was very young. So you never know who is his uncle, and how far along they been going now. Now he in Virginia, but he, how he get back to Louisiana to be Grambling State University president? Interim president he is. And I just looked that up today. Frank G. Pogue.

AJ There you go. That's pretty interesting. I'm actually going to see Grambling at the—

AP The Southern. Yeah, the Bayou Classic.

AJ Yeah, have you been before?

AP Yeah, I been before.

AJ Is it good?

AP Yeah, it's a lotta action. A lotta action. Music. First thing music, dancing. I always did wanna go- I never did wanna go to Grambling. Southern was where I wanted to go to, but it didn't work out that way. I had to stay in Louisiana; I had to stay in the city. Financial. My father passed away, and it was hard for my mom. I had to get a job. So I had to help her work, go to community college. I think I did aight.

AJ What age were you when your father passed away?

AP My father passed away when I was seventeen. Matter of fact it was one month before my graduation.

AJ Oh, ok.

AP He had prostate cancer and he passed away in our home. And it was very hard on me. It was very hard on my family. Definitely on my mother.

AJ I guess she took care of him.

AP Yes we took care of him during his illness. Until the time he passed we refused to let him go without us being there. Sisters, brothers, everything. He was there, and we watched

him pass and it was hard on me cause I was the baby. It was very hard on me. I thought it took away from me, I thought it took away from my college. Cause he was the breadwinner. He was the majority of the money, but we survived. And we got through it. He been gone now thirteen year. Cause been out of high school thirteen year. So it been thirteen years, and we manage. My momma remarried.

AJ Oh, Really?

AP Yeah, for eleven years, she was quick. She was quick. And my stepfather stepped in, and he has been a father to me since that day. And anything I ask for he's there.

AJ What's his name?

AP His name is Wilson Dabney.

AJ Wilson Dabney

AP Wilson.

AJ Wilson Dabney?

AP Dabney. D-a-b-n-e-y.

AJ Ok, what does he do?

AP Wilson is a truck driver. He works for Reliable Disposal, he's the foreman of the dump truck company. He been there almost thirty years now.

AJ Oh, ok.

AP Yeah, and he's originated from Napoleonville, Louisiana.

AJ Ok, sure. That's where you –

AP Yeah, that's where we went at, and we always go there. And they have a family home, they have a lot of property. Across the street they have the family church, the family cemetery, everything. Right across the road. The *road* that is. Eighteen wheelers, one road, two ways. And I'm like, by me being in the city I'm like, 'no way am I gonna stay here.' If you go in the backyard, I'm like, backyard by the pine – it look like river back there. But I never saw the country, so mosquitoes killing me, I had to get to the nearest city - which was Baton Rouge. But they're very sweet people, very gullible people, very nice people. Cook, eat, lotta hearty food. Yeah. Greens, red beans, big pots – I never saw pots that big. It was time for me to do the dishes, Adam – they had a pot this tall
[motions].

AJ Oh my goodness.

AP I never saw a pot that I – I'm like, 'how you clean this?'

AJ How do you fit that in the sink?

AP It didn't fit in the sink! It didn't fit in the sink. But that was the part of me that I had to learn. That was my culture; I had to learn how to do these things. And by me still being a little young, and I seen it -- they laugh, they thought it was all a joke. But in the end I still go down there sometimes and I just sit. Still. I don't go out the door. I try to stay within the house. And it's not a house, it's like trailers hooked on. Converted, renovated. But it look like a big ol' house. You would never know, but I wouldn't live in it. No. I need to see some kind of framework. But they older, but yeah – they're very, very lovable people. And they love me, for some reason. I think it's my attitude. I have a little spunk about myself. And the same with the group. I get in the room and like the whole room just – and I'm the youngest one, I'm the youngest one of the Prince of Wales. That's another thing. So that's a lot of fever, a lot of power coming, walking through the door. A lot of smiles – I put a lot of smiles on people's faces.

(15:48)

AJ Yeah. Now, what about your siblings – how old are they? I know they're older than you.

AP Alright. We gonna start from the one older than me cause I can count backwards, cause she's seven years. Tiffany's thirty-six. Stacey's forty. Joseph is forty-one. And Sheila is forty-two.

AJ You *are* the baby.

AP Yeah, I'm the baby. I only can remember – if I count from the top down I get mixed up, but if I go from me up I can tell you how old they are. But my oldest sister's forty-two years old. And we have a very big family. My oldest sister have nine kids. Yeah, she wanted ten. She live on the West Bank, her and her husband, and she, the girls are like older. I think they like twenty-two, twenty-three, so my little nieces – I have a lot of nieces. My nephew, her first son my mom raised, so he was raised in the household with us. And his name is Laron (sp), and he usually come back and forth. And that's my little nephew, and I also christen him. So he's also like my little brother. My brother have eight. My brother, he's the only boy, he have eight. Then the sister Stacey, she live – you know where Rock Bottom Lounge is on Tchoupitoulas? She live right next door. She have six. She have six and her baby girl is three years old. And the one that's next to me, Tiffany, she will be joining the group next year, she only have one son and he's nineteen years old. And I don't have any kids.

AJ No?

AP No. I have enough nieces and nephews.

AJ I can imagine you act like a mom to them as well .

AP Oh, they say I'm mean. Yeah, I don't take, cause I don't too much – you know you have to – in these days and times with kids you have to say what you mean and mean what you say. And I don't take nothing from it, if I say one time it have to be done one time. So that's how it is. They say I'm the mean auntie. They'll get over it.

AJ So that's amazing, that's- you said nine and eight and six and ten, so that's nineteen. Nineteen nieces and nephews [Twenty-four].

AP And not talking about great nieces and nephews, cause I have nieces of those nineteen. The oldest one – I have two with my little niece. So that's two. Janae (sp) just had one. That's my little niece, that's my oldest sister. Neesha (sp) just had one – that's my oldest sister – and she's pregnant again. Then my little niece Danielle have one. Then Janice have one. So I have seven. I have seven great nieces and nephews.

AJ That's amazing.

AP That is to say I'm the aunt and don't have any. So this a big family.

AJ That's amazing, you're still so young to have all of that around you.

AP It's there. My little nieces that have kids, they're younger than me. They're twenty-two, twenty-one. I think nobody over twenty-five. But they have beautiful kids. Smart kids. Very smart, I can see 'em being a doctor, lawyer. And they have a lot of little kids around them, which is they cousins. I don't know how it happen, but it's in our genes, it's in our genes to have big families. Big, large families. Some people have small families; I'm one of 'em that have a big family. And when it comes to a holiday – Christmas, Thanksgiving – lot of people. We have a big – my mom home is the family home. Huge home.

AJ Yeah? Where is that?

AP It's on Clara Street, right across the street from the fire station. Mom have like four bedrooms, and there's nobody there but her and my stepfather. But she have to have them cause sometimes her grandchildren come over there and there's a lot of em. Nineteen plus. And great grandchildren. So we have a very lovely time around the holidays. Lot of people. Lot of noise.

AJ A lot of mouths to feed too. A lot of dishes to do. A lot of washing up.

AP You never stop doing dishes. Someone always taking turn washing the dishes. And my mom she got to get my sister – we bring food. She cooks and then we bring food. They don't like my food, they said. But I still try.

AJ Let's go back to your education. Where did you go to school?

(20:11)

AP I went to school- I graduated from Walter Cohen.

AJ You were in what school, sorry?

AP Catholic school. Catholic.

AJ Sure, sure.

AP I was in Catholic school from first grade all the way up to ninth grade. Then I didn't wanna be around all girls anymore. I wanted to be around the neighborhood kids, so my momma sent me to Walter L. Cohen. Senior High School. Which is right down the street, at 3524 Dryades Street. And it's still there, and I graduated in 1997. And I was a participant, I was marching, I was a hornet, I was a dancer. Yeah I loved the music, I had to be around the band. Let's see, I was in the yearbook committee. I loved it – school. I loved high school. Rain, sleet or snow. I used to be going in the rain, hurricane. They said we had school, I'm at the school. I wanted to go to school, yes. And after that I went to nursing school, Bryman College (sp). Graduated from that but I didn't like blood, so I tried another way. I went to Delgado, went for business administration. Went there for a year and a half and just for some reason wanted to work; wanted to have my own household. Working full time and going to school full time- too much work. But I'm going back next year. I'm going back next year cause I don't have that much to go to finish off my associates' degree. So, I have some kind of degree underneath me. And I'm happy with that. By only being me. And I work for Earthsavers. So that's good, I work at a feel good store. So I feel good when I go to work, feel good when I come home.

AJ Where's Earthsavers?

AP On Magazine and Octavia. It's a day spa. Smell good, feel good. Massage, facial, manicure, pedicure; can't go wrong with a woman. I'm a spa coordinator, I keep the store stocked up, inventory, but I also help the girls which is the service providers that does all this. Very good friends. I've been working there for three and a half years now. Three and a half years and the job is very nice to me, and I love going to work and sometimes I don't wanna leave. It's the atmosphere. It's definitely the atmosphere. Feel good store. That's what it is, the feel good store.

AJ Must be very peaceful.

AP Yes it is. Harmonizing, music, relaxation. Yes.

AJ What about like, interests and hobbies outside of work – you mentioned you liked to dance?

AP Yeah, I like to dance. Clubs. I like to drink.

AJ Yeah?

AP Yeah. Not too much hard liquor, but I love to be around a group of people. And I love to be around people, I love to talk. I love to meet new people, no matter what race it is – I get along. Other than that I don't know how to do anything, like skating, bowling. I don't know how to swim.

AJ No?

AP No, I never learn how to do those type of things. I was always trying to be in the crowd. But I love to walk. I love to walk, I will go in Audubon Park and I will walk around Audubon Park two, three times by myself. I love the walk. I love the take trips. I love the see different places. It's just I haven't been that many, but I went to Florida, Texas, Miami, California. LA!

AJ Good place?

AP I wouldn't want to live there. New York. I can live in New York, but LA – too fast. Too fast for a country girl like – oop! I'm sorry, *city girl*. But they call us the country. They call New Orleans the country. But I love the travelling; I think we're going on a cruise. We going to the Bahamas in May. So that's going to be my first cruise. But I love to travel, that's my number one thing. We going to Atlanta next month, for the Atlanta Falcons/Saints game.

AJ Ah, that'd be great.

AP Go Saints!

AJ Yup.

AP Slash Falcons. I got to say that. Yeah, and I went to Atlanta – I lived in Atlanta for a year and a half. I lived in Cumming, Georgia. Cumming, Georgia was not what I thought it was. But I made the best of it.

AJ What do you mean by that?

AP Still confederate flag.

AJ Yeah?

AP Yes. Cumming, Georgia - not too many African Americans. And I didn't know it until I got there and looks. But I was working out there, I was working for someone that owned a barn. And I was working with horses. And I lived out there for a year and half, and i went to Turner Field and I got to know Georgia on my own. Atlanta, and how to drive around there. Too many lanes. Too many lanes and I got paranoid. They have like – like we have like around four lanes on the interstate compared to their eight. I couldn't

understand that, but I managed. I mean I drove there by myself and I drove back to New Orleans by myself. I liked Atlanta. Hills, a lot of hills. But yeah, I like to travel – that's my thing.

AJ Where would you like to go if anywhere in the world you could go?

AP Anywhere in the world, where would I go?

AJ Yeah.

AP Paris. I would go to Paris. I wanna see the Eiffel Tower.

AJ Yeah?

AP Mm hm. Paris. I wanna see all the different things they say on the TV. Talk sweet to me. Like they do on TV.

(25:35)

AJ Yeah? Meet a nice French guy?

AP Well I don't know about the French guy thing. Well it wouldn't hurt. It wouldn't hurt. Talk to me, you know. They say you'll fall in love at night in Paris, on a bridge, looking at the stars. Make a wish. I try. But Paris, I would love to go to Paris, yeah. I don't know too much about it but it look pretty.

AJ That's a good enough reason. Now, I know you said, no one in your family plays any music, right?

AP No.

AJ No?

AP Oh well- my brother. Cause my brother, he a DJ.

AJ Ok.

AP Yeah that classifies as music. And yeah, my momma spent a lot of money on DJ equipment at Worldlines. Worldlines used to be on Canal Street. My brother had to be like around eighteen, I think my momma spent like \$3000 on turntables. And he love music, and he still to this day DJs. Easy Ice he calls himself. But he love music, oh yeah. And he know how to deal with a lot of different things with music also. Microphones, anything. He can put together a radio. So yeah, a musician, that's him. And he's tried the rapping, it didn't work. But he tried it. But he still do his computer with the beat box and all of this. So yeah, he invest a lot of money into music pieces. And he live on the West

Bank with his big family. One room it's just like studio slash computer room, guy can do anything. Yeah, jack of all trades.

AJ So you went to a Catholic school. Are you Catholic?

AP No, I'm Baptist. My mom – I was the last one, and my mom wanted to see a difference. So she sent me – I was the only one that had the advantage to go to St. Alfonsus. It's on Constance Street, up from the town but closer to the river. And I learned a lot of different things by being in Catholic school also. I learn the different parts of the Bible. And I learned it a different way than I knew of being Baptist. I learned the books of the Bible. You have to know the books of the Bible. I also knew how to read a rosary. I never knew that in Baptist. And there was a lot of different things that I learned, and also I was a little advanced. I was more advanced when I got to public school. So that was a good thing, I had an advantage over a lot of other kids. So that was a good thing. Strict. Yeah.

AJ Yeah, I went to a Catholic school.

AP Strict. So it was things like I had to wear – girls at public schools wearing skirts above the knee. When I was at Catholic school we had to wear the skirts all the way down past the knee, with black and white shoes. And you had to have your shirt tucked in–

[Recorder stops functioning]

AP No, would you like a glass of water?

AJ No, I'm alright. I was worried on the way over...

AP Oh, I'm alright.

AJ I've noticed that, you're feeling pretty good. To go back to what you were saying before, so you took your mom –

AP To Catholic Church. And she liked it. She liked it. My mom is very much into God. Jesus. And she always tells stories on the beginning of life. And she always saying we're living in the end of days. End of days. And always'll tell you to read the Bible, read the Bible. Just read it and you'll see what's going on. So she was very comfortable with it. She was very comfortable. She didn't have a preference neither way because the lady that she worked for was catholic. So she had to bring her to church a lot. She love to go to church. And this lady gave everything that she had when she died to the Catholic Church. Yes, so she very much understand it and she don't have no preference. But she go to a Baptist – she's dedicated to my grandmother's church, which is a Baptist church. And she dedicated to it.

AJ Do you go to the same church?

AP Yes, Mount Rock Baptist Church, it's still here on Edinburgh. It didn't survive the hurricane, but my stepfather and the deacons of the church put money into the church and rebuilt it and it's back there. There's not as many members as there used to be because a lot of older members died, and it's hard to get young people into church. It's very hard to get em, and the people that's in there was really raised in there with their mothers and they're older. And they went down-- some of em dropped away. I go every blue moon. Cause I be at the second line.

AJ Yeah?

(30:14)

AP Mm hm. Yeah, but I go. Sometimes I go. I have been since I was a little baby. In this church, and they see me now and they be like, 'you have grown!' Yeah, you have grown. Over twenty something years. Thirty. You know I'm still saying twenty-nine.

AJ That's alright.

AP But yeah, we still – all my mom kids, and sisters, aunts, part of one church – Mount Rock Baptist Church. Now some of em probably went but their original church is my grandmother's church. And we still go sometimes and last time me and my sister went I was like, 'Tif, you remember this, or you remember that,' and it's still there. Still there. So we go time to time when we not at the second line.

AJ How many second lines are there?

AP Well you know me and my girlfriend was just on the phone and she was giving me the names of the ones. And if I'm not mistaken, fifteen. Fifteen in one season. It might be more than that. It might be more than that because some of them pulled out this year. One of the groups I know for sure pulled out but the second line season has already started. And it stops for a little while for Mardi Gras, and then they continue on – like this Sunday it's in the Ninth Ward. It's Nine Times Social and Pleasure Club. Then the week following that is Lady Buckjumpers, the New Orleans Original Lady Buckjumpers, which is a lot of women; but they have men Buckjumpers as well. So every week – it's the season. You get to see different styles, different things, different cultures. Different groups. Some small, some big. Some traditional, some just getting in. Different bands. It just be fun – you see a lot of people, you see a lot of people, people you haven't seen in a long time. Some people that you have seen from when you was small watching these things. And as you can see I live on Louisiana Avenue, Central City's like the heart of it. They pass up Louisiana Avenue, so sometimes I just have to peek my head out the door. Or go stand on the porch and they passing me up. Either way, you got two ways to go. Go right, you go left. Pick a side. I'ma see ya. Then I have a good view. I'm up at the top, I see everything. Everything, everything. But it's a very entertaining thing. And Sundays' is like family day also. When you and your friends get together. Guys might watch a game. As far as me, my girlfriend who's in the group and my sister, every Sunday everybody know we're going to the second line. We might not be there when it start but

we're gonna be there. And for years it always have been us three. For years, if you gon' see one you gon' see the other, you know the other one not too far away. Or we on they, our way. So that's like our Sunday tradition. For me, my sister and my friend. The second line. It's in our heart, it's in our soul. They have kids, her husband know when the Sunday comes don't bother her. She's gonna be at the second line. Now you need to watch those kids, but that's our thing and it's – we live for a Sunday.

AJ Yeah.

AP We live for a Sunday.

AJ How long have you guys been going?

AP If I'm 30, it was my father that started me and my sister off with them. I was – I had to be like seven, six or seven years old cause Tiffany was like thirteen. And on a Sunday my mom used to cook and my daddy used to go to his social and pleasure club. And he used to take us with him to see the second line, and it was every Sunday. We was going to the second line with our father. And we used to hold hands and we used to see him pass. And I remember me and my sister telling my dad, 'we gonna do that, we wanna walk in a second line when we get older.' He said, 'you can do whatever you wanna do.' So we was raised with this culture. From my father, we was raised with this. My father was King Zulu. My father was old. He was seventy-two when he passed. I think it was 19 – I'm not gonna say the fif- no, I think it was in the thirties, baby. Cause it was old. It was old. And matter of fact, a young lady at my job went to the Presbytere – the museum – and told me that she saw my father name, and my mother been telling us that but we didn't believe it. You know, we like 'she must be drinking.' But it was really the truth. And when you get that music, them parades, we get it from him. It goes in the genes. All that trails down to your kids. And me and my sister love it. We love it, we hear a second line we just like, anywhere, we go; and that's how my father was. Every Sunday, that was our routine. Get dressed and wait for him to get dressed, and we go walk up – cause we was raised right down here on Lasalle – and we'll come walk down the street and ready for the second line. He'll go in the bar and drink and we'll be outside, and back then you ain't have to worry about somebody taking your little girl or keeping your eye on 'em. Everybody was a neighborhood, everybody was a community. Everybody was everybody's friend and family. So that's how we started out after all those years, and right now I'm thirty, my sister thirty-six, and this is my first year – was my thirty year birthday. And I decided to join a group. And by God I did it, I did it with the second oldest one. I did it and I had a beautiful time doing it for this year. It was different from just saying it; from once you really put on that costume, and for once everybody come to see you. You don't come see them. And that was the big part of it. So yeah.

(36:22)

AJ And your sister's a member as well?

AP Oh, she's joining next year. Both of my sisters, Stacey and Tiffany is joining next year cause they saw how much fun I had this year. And they said, 'Adrian we get in there and walk the whole thing' right by my side. I couldn't believe it, I thought they wasn't gonna make it. They walked the whole parade right by my side. And my sister Stacey had way more fun than Tiffany. I couldn't believe her, she really excited me, her. Both of them will join December 4th to be a new member. And that was because of me, and wherever I go they gonna follow. They my sisters, they can't go to no other group. Gotta be the group I'm in. And I told them you have to do your history. It's the second oldest group; not only that it, it do a whole lot for the community. It's not in it just for the clothes. A lot of groups just wanna wear the clothes; it's all about what they have on. It's not about that; it's about the history, the culture. What you can do for the community, what you can do for the kids, and what you can do to keep it alive. That's what it really is, and that's what I really love about it. And the people that are in the Prince of Wales, very friendly people. Very friendly, and it's like brothers and sisters. Brother keeper, sister keeper. One watch out for the other. They stick together, and that's what I loved about it and you can't find that in different groups cause I went to different groups. I did my history before I joined. And that was the group that I was comfortable with, and not only that, it was in my area. Where I grew up at. Front of town, all my life. And you just tell em, you go with a group where you grow up at, people that you know. And that's how I got up in it and I showed up about it, me and Trina and we joined and I was nervous. Cause I really thought it was something like a concert. You know you hear how you go to your first concert and you scared. Looking at all those different people, and even though I knew em from my neighborhood I didn't really know em but I knew em from seeing em. But once that one year I felt like they was – the men was my brothers and the women was my sisters. It was nothing that they couldn't ask me for, that I couldn't give em. So yeah, they joining the group and we gonna have a big time. And we passed in front of the door, so my mom and my stepdad was there, everybody sit down and have a first seat, front row seat and boy they loved it. Yeah they loved it so I know they gonna really love it if the law stay the same. And they gonna really love it next year. If you got three daughters in there – three sisters- that's gonna be a big thing. Three sisters in one group.

AJ So you're the first of your siblings to join a club, then?

AP Yes, I am. I'm the first one and they was so excited. Everything that we gave for the group they supported, they supported -- they was like the first ones supporting. If we were selling tickets they buying tickets. If we gave a dance they coming to the dance and they bringing other people. If we have to cook something, they cooking something here and if we giving functions they there. They supported me 100 per cent. 110 per cent they supported me. My family was behind me. Cause they knew in my heart it was something that I wanted to do to keep my father's tradition alive. Not only that, it was something that I loved to do. Third of all, I was turning thirty! I wasn't gonna see no days like that no more. So yeah, I gotta go pick up my pictures. I could've showed you some pictures. Yeah the picture man ain't never got 'em yet. Yeah I guess he bring em to the next meeting or whatever, but it was so beautiful. We made the front page of the newspaper! I got that, we gonna have to look at that before you leave, Adam. We made the front page

of the Metro; that was a big one. That was a big one, that was exciting. We still talking about it. Yeah, it's making me smile.

AJ Yeah, do you know, what was the social aid and pleasure club your dad was a member of?

AP Well the one he was in was the Money Wasters, that was an older club.

AJ The Money Wasters.

AP The Money Wasters; that was they name. And I don't even much know if the Money Wasters still second lining now, but it was like older guys. A lot of them dead the ones he was with, a lot of em passed away. The ones he was with. But they was, it was like men and they'll come together once a week, talk about the situations within the community, within the club. Have they little toast after, chill. Go home. But that was their weekly meeting, and it was for their community. And he had been up in that, I'd say up around fifteen, twenty years or more. Cause my father was older, he was older but he had been in that social aid and pleasure club for a long time. A long time. I remember because they meeting used to be on a Friday. Like ours is on a Friday. He used to go his way, after he used to eat his supper, whatever, he used to go on his little way for his meeting. And it just fell down to the line, and I remembered all those – but it was the excitement, it was the excitement and the feel that I loved to see, and all those different colors. And it takes a lot to do that – to come together as a group to do that. And not to say that, it takes a lot for African Americans to come into a group and do that. And not only that, now you have more than African Americans. You have all cultures, and any culture that you wouldn't like, I get along with them all, all of you green and purple to me. There's no color to me. And that's the thing that I love about it, but everybody don't think like I do. Everybody not like Adrian.

(42:08)

AJ Have you noticed second lines changing over the years since you've been to them?

AP Yes. Yes I do. I see that they are pulling away from the culture and from what it really means and it's more about money. Money, money, money, money, money, money. This-it wasn't that much from what I can remember. Think you used to pay the band \$500, to now the band want \$3000. Used to pay the police, I think – and I don't think it didn't used to be \$1000, now they want \$2500. It used to be to where the group used to put on black and white, now the group wanna look better than everybody else, they wanna spend thousands of dollars on what they're gonna wear, how they gonna look. And it's pulling away from the culture. It's definitely pulling away from the culture, and it's more of a money thing now. It's not about a culture thing. And that's when you losing, that's when you lose the history of second line. You lose the history of New Orleans, because it's definitely New Orleans. There's not no other place in this world like it, I don't care what they say. There's no other place like it. You would never find it, like it. There's certain places that hear this music, and they been wondering where this music had been at all

their lives. So yes, it's definitely pulling away from the culture. And I hope and I pray that they get it back to the culture and the neighborhood and the community and the people. The people. Definitely, and learn new generations about it. Get more kids in there so they can carry on the name of it. Because one day you ain't gonna be able to do it. You might be in your wheelchair rolling alongside of it, but you're not gonna be able to walk it, and jump and dance. And they flips now.

AP Yup.

AJ So yeah, I see a whole different lot of stuff now, to where it just used to be two-step. Now they flipping, going backwards, jumping on they knees, but they still have that culture. When you look at them dancing there's something – you look different. You remember what it used to be. So yeah, they definitely pulling away from it. I just hope they get it together.

AJ What kinds of things have you been doing with the community, with Prince of Wales?

AP Oh, well we doing walks. We do walk for peace. We do picnics. We give schools supplies, for the kids when they go back to school. We give dances, for the community to come to support. We core a lot of different groups. We definitely do a lot – a core lot with different groups. We have picnics for all the second line groups, we have picnics for em. We try to pick up funds for different things, and for – one of our members had a fundraiser, like a marathon, a telethon, and we go bowling. I try to participate in everything. I don't miss a meeting unless I was sick, and that was last week when I was sick. I missed it. But other than that I'm always there, and not only for former members. Older members that no longer with em, we give em a little get together for em just to say that how much we appreciate em. We give plaques out, that say our appreciation – if it wasn't for you, we would not be able to do this. So yes, we do a lot. It's a lot, it's more than just second lining. And I didn't know that, I thought it was just that. I didn't know that before I joined, until they go to meetings it was like 'we need this to do, we need this', I'm like [*motions*]. But I did everything and I felt good about doing it and I had a smile on my face. I felt like I really helped someone.

AJ Sure. Do you- how do you feel about tourists and people like that, outsiders coming to the second lines?

(46:09)

AP Well you know somehow I feel good about it because they never heard of it. They heard about it, but they never saw it with their eyes. And you never know if they a tourist, some tourists come here and see it, move away and come back to New Orleans to live. Just because they have seen this, they love the things that go down, they love the buildings, they love the history about it. And I feel or believe if you're from anywhere – Australia, Europe – you come somewhere and you like it, come on back! Move on back, cause we definitely need more people in the city to make it better. Now, don't change it – you can change it a little cause the generation thing is gonna change, but we need more people

here and I don't have any problem with the tourists coming back. Let 'em come. And they smile, and that makes me smile when they smile. It's like I'm really doing something that makes them happy. You never know they might've had a bad day, now they smiling. That's something I did good. One less cookie I have to count. Yeah. So I feel good about it and not only that, they tell a story to other people that do not know about it. They go to another part of the world, and they tell these people what they have experienced, what they have seen, and how people live and how they – generations and generations and generations have lived this life. And that's a good thing cause it's telling a story about your life. Not only your life, your parents' life, your parents' parents' life. They getting down to the bottom to see where did this form, and how many, so many years ago when there was the things that it was, how'd this come out of it, after all them years. So it's like a story they telling. So that's very good, I love that.

AJ Is it kind of competitive with other clubs when you second line?

AP; Yeah, it is. It is. And I don't know how to second – Adam, I've been to all of them. All my life, and I never knew how to second line. I had the beat, but I just didn't have the footwork. It took me one year and they showed me a little something, but I got it now. I got it now and it's not – I will bust out in a minute, I will bust out in a second line in a minute. I don't care who can second line better than me, but I think I'm the best. I say that, but I say I'm the best but it's definitely – yes, they compare themselves a lot, they'll have to dancing. But it don't get violent or anything like that, I think it's like a dance competition, dance competition – they be having some slick moves now. They put some slick moves up in there now. Cause I aims to see that. They got slick moves. I saw one run up the wall and do a flip. I'm like, 'how you did that?' – and on beat. They keep beat. I don't know how they do it. I saw one do pushups, and kept the beat. Yes, different things -- but they do compare theyselves. Yeah, they do.

AJ Do you compare yourself when you go to other ones now as well?

AP Oh no! No, I get along with all of them.

AJ You don't see what they're doing and think, 'I could do that!'?

AP I know I can't do it though. It's nothing that you say you can't do, but they frame is different – they much smaller, and you know they light on they feet. So there's certain some things you just can't do. Some of these people been doing this for years. They been seeing it for years. I know a guy of a friend and from the time he was in middle school he was doing it. He can do things that I can't do, but he been doing it longer than me. And there's moves that I don't know about, I can look and see – I can try when I get in my own space, but it never works out. It never works out. But yeah, they compare each other. They really do. And that's the part that's losing – they compare theyselves a lot. And they wanna look better than another group. And it's not all about that. It's not about that at all, but who don't like to look pretty? So you got to keep that in a little bit – fashion, fashion, fashion. But yeah, they compare each other, I hate to say it. But they do.

AJ Tell me about your costume this year.

AP Oh, our costume. Our costume was peach and green, olive green. Peach and olive green. And at first we had like a difference, cause we thought the men suits' was lighter, and they was leaving the women out. But it came out beautiful, it came out beautiful. It was like the men had lighter colors than the women and the women had a darker color, but it all came together with the fans, the feather, the plumes and the shoes. Everyone was matching. And when I saw it– we went took pictures _____, and I cried because it was wind blowing and that looked so beautiful with all those colors in em. It looked like a parade – I was truly in a parade that I had been looking to be in all my life. And the hats. I was thirty; I'm not used to wearing hats. But it was beautiful, it was beautiful, and I look at it and you get to wear it one more time – for Jazz Fest. Now I'm not going to go to church in it. I might put it in a frame or something, me. But yes, it was beautiful and it was peach and green. Peach and olive green. Olive green – oh, ostrich shoes. Ostrich – never wore ostrich before. But that was beautiful, and it was a beautiful thing even just putting it on. And we get to wear for Jazz Fest, the march for Jazz Fest with it. And after that you do as you please with it. You might wanna wear it to church – some might people wear it to church, some people might wear it to another second line. And they have a second line with all the second line groups so you get to wear your outfit for that one, with all the second line groups. So yeah, it was a good costume.

(52:05)

AJ So why do some people wear it to church?

AP Well, it's fashion. You can wear – it's vice versa. You know, you dress up being Baptist – you dress up to go to church.

AJ Yeah?

AP Yeah. You be clean. You go with your hats, and with your suits – and it is a suit. Men had three-piece suits, we – as the lady wearers, had three-piece suits on. So it was very sophisticated. Very sophisticated. So yeah, you would put it on, I'm thinking about wearing my hat probably over Easter. Yeah, I might put that on for Easter. All that go to waste? No.

AJ Do you have to order all that stuff in?

AP Yeah, you have to do that. You prepare nine months, nine to ten months. You say a year. Cause you go by the years but it's really nine months. You prepare ahead of time. And by you having so many people, we had – in the Prince of Wales we had seventeen people all together. You had your women and your men, all the women go together in this side on what they want, but you have to vote on it. It's not like one person say I want this, and one person say – you have to vote on it as a group. And if that's what the group say then you have to order it. You have to have your plumes specially dyed. Your shoes have to be

specially made. And your hats have to be specially made. Then when you get your suit, you have to order different peoples' sizes for the suit. Then you have to go get it altered to your size. So it's a lot of work. Lot of work and not only that you have to pay for it. You have to pay for that, the group pay for so much but you do different functions. You do the Jazz Fest, you do interviews, you do things like that. And not only that, the Task Force, and the Norman Dixon Foundation, they help you. Now some groups choose not to spend all they money on their parade. Prince of Wales spend all their money on their parade. Because we likes to look pretty. And it comes out beautiful. And when you look at all that, Adam, you look at all that hard work that you and the others have did. And that make you smile, that you can really come as one and do one thing. And everybody can be happy. That's a good thing. So yeah, it takes time. It takes time. And not only that, you have to have someone to make your fans, like the, the fans. They have someone that makes those, and corsages. It's like a real ceremony. It's a real ceremony. I say it's like a wedding day. It's just that everybody look alike. Everybody the bridesmaid.

AJ How did you think the, how did you feel the parade went this year? Were you happy with the way it went?

AP Oh, beautiful. Beautiful, and don't you know I kept on two and a half inch heel shoes the whole parade. And that was like five miles, two and a half inch heels. I kept on em, and I think I was the only female – no, me and another one, Donna, we was the only two females that kept our shoes on until the end. And that two and half inch heel – it was a pump. And they had the dance too, plus with a three-piece suit on, and a hat, Adam – and holdin a fan- I think I lost like 10 pounds that day. But it wasn't hot. It wasn't hot, it was a beautiful day. And we thought it was gonna rain, it looked like it wanted to threat to rain, but it held off for us. And the music, we had The Stooges, nice band. Good band. Good band. And we had fun. We had fun and we was kinda like, did a little change. We put our fan up and we got umbrellas, like you made your own umbrella. I made mine, I helped my girlfriend make hers. You had to step out with your umbrellas, so it was like a sunny day. So it was like you did a little change thing. Everybody did that, and we also – for the first year, we stopped at Commander's Palace. And that was like, history really. Because they never had a social and pleasure club to ever stop there. And that was like the first group, we was the first group to have a stop there. And I never been in Commander's Palace before, so it was very something. I don't think none of us had been, probably Joseph, but none of us had been. They have that many African Americans that go up in there one time, plus with all those people. So yes, that was like history. It was history made there. Beautiful place. Beautiful place.

AJ How did the people inside Commander's Palace react?

AP Oh, they was excited. They was excited, they was more excited than we were. They was more excited than – Joe and the queen and the maids spoke with Brennan's. They spoke with them and thanked them for letting us stop there. And we did a lot of communication, but they did – not me. They did. The guys really, they had a lot of communication and also our president of the ladies. So that was like history, and that was something I never seen before. I saw when I was thirty; I didn't even know they had stairs. See there, it's

beautiful. It's a beautiful place. You can see it from the outside, but you would never think it look like it do from the outside until you really go up in there. So yeah, that was the most exciting part right there of the parade. Yeah. And pictures. Everywhere you turn it's like, the smile was stuck on my face. It was stuck on my face.

(57:38)

AJ I was actually there.

AP You was there?

AJ Yeah, I was there from Rock Bottom Lounge, I left after Commander's Palace.

AP After Commander's Palace. Yeah, it was, it was nice.

AJ That was my first one.

AP That was your first one?

AJ Yeah it was.

AP Oh.

AJ It was amazing, I loved it.

AP Yeah, it was beautiful.

AJ Very infectious. The whole environment, you know. You know, like our brief was to go there as students, to observe, and I kinda took a few photos and ended up just dancing.

AP Yeah, you know, you can't do anything but do it. But Adam, it's different. Looking at people from you being in that group, and they telling you come on, it's your time to walk out. You walking out in front of thousands of people, not no longer hundreds. You're not the outsider looking in, you the insider that have to come out. That's what it is, and I was like, 'huh? What?' I didn't know what to do, it was my first show, I'm like – 'what if I fall?' And I'm thinking about everything, I was like take a deep breath. And I did it, I did it and I had fun and I didn't wanna move, I didn't wanna move but it was – everybody ask me how did I enjoy it, I was like, 'I'm coming back next year.' And I'm bringing some people along with me. And it was just too much fun; I never had that much fun in my life. Not in my thirty years, I haven't. Yeah, a lot of pictures.

AJ It's interesting to think of it actually, in that way, as a performance, as a part of the club you're actually performing in the streets.

AP Yes, you are. Yes you are. You are performing; you're performing for your club. And you're holding a name. you're holding the name up. And that was the most important,

and that – it was all about the Prince of Wales, and not only that, for the parade. A lot of people think we just come out and we parade. We be up from like, seven o'clock that morning. We have to all get together before that parade and we have to go to service together and things like that. You have to pray together, and then after that you have to go take pictures together. That's not short, these are hours and the parade don't start to one o'clock, twelve o'clock. One o'clock I think, it was the time. But yeah, have to be to church at eight. So you have to see these people all morning. And all day.

AJ Are you in costume at that point?

AP Yeah, you in costume from the time you hit church! From the time you hit the service you have to be in costume. And it was – the ladies had to change, cause we had on skirts. As we went to the service. But we had to change into the pants to go take the pictures. I wind up leaving my gloves at home, so I had to make a trip back here but that wasn't far. But yeah, you have to change. You have to change. So you be with em for a long time. Not just one o'clock parade, for one, I see you at twelve – I see you for seven thirty, eight o'clock in the morning. So that's how it is And I didn't know that, I was like, 'all this?' And I was like, 'wait I'm coming, I'm coming, I'm coming.' I was like, 'this early I have to go do all this?' I didn't know that. They told me like the week before. I didn't expect it, but that was a long day. That was a long day, very long.

AJ So what do you- what would you say- what do you think the purpose of Prince of Wales is?

AP The purpose is a community, a neighborhood. And it's a club that try to help the neighborhood, and also to give the community something fun to do. And not only – to help one another, and to be social and to be pleasure. You know to fulfill the pleasure, and also to be social with different communities. It was something to bring the community, the people in the community together. Now that's what I think. They got difference of beliefs, but that's what I say. I say it's social and pleasure. You know, they please people and they be social with other people. And it work, it work, for many years it work that way. Many years and still it works for certain people. Not – cause people have other beliefs now. But that's what I think. I think it was for the social part of it, and to be please people. You know, different people it was like it. That's what I have to say about it, it wasn't about a money thing. It was something fun to do, something to come together to do. That's what I think.

(1:02:09)

AJ Do you worry about the future of it? Do you think it's changing, like it's getting to a point of-

AP Yeah, I do. Because the economy now, you know you have to think about -- everything is skyrocketing. And you have to really think if you gonna be able to afford to be social, and to please people. You know, the way that things going now, you know that mean if they go up with the police, with the security, and if the entertainment of the band goes up,

that means people gonna have to start paying more money. Some people losing their job right now. Some people don't have a job right now. So that means a lot of people might have to drop. You know, a lot of females and males, being fathers and mothers, they gonna have to take care of their kids before they can be a part of a social and pleasure club. So yeah, I think about it. Think about it a lot. And it's a recession, they say the recession over but we live in the South so it's just like everything they go through we get hit with it at the end. They saying the recession over, but it's like it's almost started for the people in the South. So yeah, I think about it. I think about it, yeah. I think about if it's 'alright, we have seventeen, eighteen this year, how many people gonna have their job, how many we gonna have next year?' And that's gonna be – the less people you have, the more money to put up. The less people you have, the more money you have to put up for dues and things like that. And we also put a part of the dues in for bereavement; in case anybody pass we can at least give something to them. You know, show em our sympathy. That's the good part, see that? That's the pleasing part. The social part of it. So it makes sense. But yeah, I definitely have a worry about it.

AJ Do you think your sisters are keen to kind get their kids involved in second lining as well? Have they taken their kids to second lines yet?

AP No, they don't like it.

AJ Really?

AP No, that's something. They don't like it. My sister, Tiffany, her one son that's eighteen, nineteen now, he know how to do it. But he don't like to be around all the people, he know how to second line but he don't like to be around all the people. I don't know what it does. Now my sister, Stacey, live right next door. They're here every Thursday. And my little nephew, one of her sons, he can dance. He can dance. Now, my little nieces, they'll go to a second line, and they'll bring their children out there. But getting in it? No. They can't afford that right now. They can't afford that, and they still kinda young. It's just that we're able. We're able to afford it. No, I don't think – not right now. Probably if they like it, in their thirties or whatever, but they see their aunts love it – their aunts love it so they might pick it up. They might pick it up. I'm not gonna say for sure, but they might. I don't see it though. I don't see, cause it wasn't like me and my sister was with our father. We used to go to em. I see that and I don't see that. I might see my little nieces or my little nephews out there, but they ain't gonna walk the whole thing like us. We'll walk from beginning to end, but not them, no. I don't see it with them. Now maybe if I had a child? Yeah.

AJ Yeah?

AP Yeah, they ain't gonna have no other choice. It's not gonna have no other choice, so yes. I know it's the decision is up to the child, but long as you're a child you have to listen to me. And wherever I go, you're gonna go. So yeah, I see it in the future with my child. Yeah, I definitely do. Boy or girl. Boy or girl, I definitely see it, cause whoever my mate is will have a – will be in this house, so they gonna have a feel cause you got to like

somebody and got to have some 'liking-ness' to be together. So yeah, I definitely see that in the future for my child. Or my children.

AJ That's what's important really, is passing it down.

AP Yeah, that's definitely. And I will pass it on, cause they wouldn't have other thing. Cause that's all I listen to.

AJ It must be interesting being the baby of the club, because you've potentially got the most years ahead of you in the club. You could be doing this for years and years.

AP Yes, and the Vice-President and the President of the Lady Wales, they were like, 'I've been doing this fifteen years, I've been doing this sixteen years.' And I'm like, how? But they started before I did. I just started when I'm thirty, so they been doing this since they twenties. So they can say fifteen, and sixteen year. I wish and I hope and I pray that God give me that many years to be able to walk like that, cause the Vice-President been doing it sixteen years and she's a pro. She's a pro; I just wish and pray that I can have that many years to do it. Cause I would love to do it. Now, I'm gonna try to work hard, not trying – I am gonna work hard to do it. No matter what it will be a lifelong thing with me; it will go through my life. If I live to see it. Yes.

(1:07:43)

AJ Are there differences between the men's and the women's like in terms of what they do or their activities and stuff?

AP No, it's just – well really it was they was one. The women was on they own, but they joined back as to one Prince of Wales. The only reason why they call them Lady Wales is cause they females. And what lady you know wanna be called the Prince of Wales?

AJ Sure.

AP So they have the Lady Wales, but the Lady Wales was they own club, it was they own, like they had their own banner, and the men had they own banner. Once you have a banner, it's separation. You're on your own, women. You make your fundraisers, you make your fundraisers. It's no longer the men can help you. But now we do it as a whole group, even though we are a Lady Wales and Prince of Wales, we still do everything with the one group. All the functions and everything be women and men. But once we get that banner, that's it. And I don't think we get no banner. We gonna keep it the way it is, cause we still one group. But we are females and they males, that's the only reason why we call ourselves the Lady Wales. But in other groups, yes, they do it separate. Like, other groups – men Buckjumpers, Lady Buckjumpers. Men Buckjumpers have they own functions, women Buckjumpers have they own functions. They're the same group, but its men and women. They do it different. But not us. We all come with the same color, everything. We try to keep it as one, one group.

AJ Do you know where the name Prince of Wales comes from? That's my history question.

AP Now, you know something, I been trying to figure that out. Now, they tell me, and it's my first year, but they say they get it off a – I wanna make sure this is correct – like a Heineken, Heineken bottle? And I think it say 'Prince of Wales' on the Heineken bottle. Somewhere on the Heineken bottle. And it was one of the older members, way back, and they got this name from it. Now that's what I heard. Now I don't know, but that been the mystery question for myself also and I'm in a club. But that's what I have heard from the former club members, that there was – they showed it to me on a Heineken bottle, and I think it's a Heineken – is it a Heineken bottle? I'm not sure. But it's one form of alcohol that they got Prince of Wales on. I can't get it right now, but I asked that question. But I'm telling you, it's coming from that. It's definitely coming from that. I'm in that area. But I'll find out for you by next interview. I'll be on my Ps and Qs by then, cause I'll be in my second year.

AJ I see. Do you know much about the original years of the club? How it started, or who the members were?

AP No, I don't know who the original members was, but the oldest member, who have been up in there is Joseph. Joseph Stern.

AJ Oh, he's the oldest member now?

AP Yeah, Joseph is the oldest member. No, is it Joe? Yeah, Joe and L'il Bruh. Cause L'il Bruh is like an older guy, and him and Joseph is like around the same age. So yeah. But like, the guy, he's a former member, but he was one of the older members also. And we made a stop by his house right before we came to– the house we stopped at before.

AJ Oh sure.

AP Now, he's an original one. He's -- I forgot his name. I forgot his name. But he's an original member. He's old, he have kids older than me now. But he's an original member of the Prince of Wales, and that was back -- and I even know some former people from the neighborhood, like Gibson's and things like that. And they was former members, and they like to be in their seventies now. So they been eighty-one years, so that was like the original members right there. Charles, I don't know the guy's last name. But they've been there eighty-one years, they like in they seventies, almost hitting eighty. Yeah they still iving, some of em still living. I know for sure one, two of them living. Have I ever talked to them? Face to face, by it being my first year, I said hello. I really don't know them. But I have seen em and they are original, and I have seen pictures from former members. They showed me pictures when they just used to wear black and white. That's all, you didn't have to pick no colors out. It was the tuxedo black and white. Top hats, that's it. Tuxedo, you put on them tuxedo and you go second line. There wasn't no color scheme and getting this together and getting that together. Everybody wore tuxedo. And that's how that was in the beginning of the days, from my understanding. I got to remember the

name of that alcohol. But that's how they get the name, and it's on the bottle. Prince of Wales.

(1:12:36)

AJ What about security at second lines, do you think it's needed, do you think there's trouble at second lines?

AP From my years, I have seen trouble. But it was always on the outside. I never saw trouble in the inside of the club, or them trying to harm the members of the club. So it's definitely the outside of it. The security now, is good. It's good. It's definitely good, cause they have the horses and they can see a lot of stuff. And a few of the times, it has slacked down a lot. And when you hear about things going on at a second line, it's usually like when the second line pass, and it's on the outskirts. It's never at the second line. I know, I be to em every week. And lately, for the past couple of years, I haven't been hearing anything; you might have a little something on the outskirts but not at the second line. Not at the second line, because I think you can't really have that, if you start something and it's within it, you know it's going to end it. It's going to end the culture, and they was threatening that if anything would happen at these second lines, that they would take it away from us. So I think that really made them focusing just have fun on that day. Just have fun; you leave all your troubles at home. And they have been doing that, they have been.

AJ What about in your dad's days? Did he ever tell you any stories about second lines in his days? Getting out of hand or anything?

AP No. No. No, never. Whenever me and my sister went, that's what I was telling you about – you never had to worry about nobody touching. It was fun; it was like a big carnival, every Sunday. Every Sunday, and everybody used to cook, it was fun. It wasn't no violence back then. You might saw somebody get drunk or, you know, stumble whatever. But it wasn't no violence back in those days. No violence, it was all fun. No violence, so time has changed, definitely.

AJ Is that true of the city as well in general? Do you think New Orleans has become less safe?

AP Yes it has.

AJ Since you were younger?

AP Yes, it has. It would be a time, around this time in the evening, that I would literally – or even much later – twelve midnight, that I will – you know we was kids, and we would walk, we would ride our bikes down the street and things like that in the roughest neighborhoods. Now, I wouldn't trust it in certain neighborhoods. I wouldn't walk, I have a vehicle now. I wouldn't walk in certain neighborhoods as though I used to. I wouldn't. I feel to believe my safety, it's not what it used to be. Even though you have police officers

that are trying. I don't know what's wrong with anybody, not getting paid enough, they feel to believe they ain't doing their work, but I don't feel safe. I don't feel safe like I used to. I don't feel safe for the kids like I used to. Not even much for the elderly. Not even for different races. I don't, I don't feel as safe as I used to.

AJ Is there anything you think the city could be doing to better support the second line culture?

AP Yes! Yes, they can help em – go down on them prices, that's what they can do. You really wanna know, they can go down on them prices, what they're charging for the security, for the second line group. They can help with funds for the second line groups, but they say they don't have it because they have other things to think about. Well, if you didn't have second lines then you wouldn't have a culture. It wouldn't be New Orleans without that. Without these people making history of it. So yeah, they can do more. Definitely. They can give more funds, they can support more, they can do other things more, you know, have activities for the kids or whatever. For the community. Everything, yeah. They can definitely do more. I won't get all the way into it like I really want to, but they can do more. They can do more than what they're doing, instead of raising prices. Stop trying to get em out of there.

AJ Let's change tack a bit. I want to talk, just quickly, about what you think are the most important events in your life, things that- I mean, are you married, single?

AP Oh, I'm single. I'm single. I'm single.

AJ What do you think are the defining moments of your life so far?

(1:17:11)

AP The defining moments of my life. Well first of all, it was when I graduated, cause I was like the first one out of my family to graduate out of high school. Other than my mom. The rest of my sisters, and my brother, they didn't graduate. They made it to the top, but they didn't graduate. One of em got her GD, she dropped out, but they did like dropped out at like senior year. But I was the first one to literally walk across the stage, so that was like, right now, that was the most important thing in my life, was to graduate. I haven't met the significant other, and the second thing was not to fall to poverty. I might live in it, but, I think I do good. So yeah, surviving. Not falling a victim, that was my second thing. I haven't reached my third yet, cause I haven't found that special someone. The next one would be jumping the broom. And having kids.

AJ Speaking of significant events, what about Katrina? Where were you?

AP I was living here, I been living here now going on eight years. I was in the same place; Louisiana Avenue had five feet of water. Downstairs apartment had water to like here [*motions to wall*], like here. The young lady that stayed downstairs, she was there when it happened. She was the only original, me and her. I was up front of town, cause my mom

owned the home on Chippewa, front of town. It didn't flood up there, further by the river. The Garden District. And all the family, my sisters, the grandkids, everyone was at my mom house. I left here, but I came back cause this was the only store they had open. They had the store on this corner called The Brown Derby, it was the last store to close in Central City. So we had to make our way back here the day before the water came. And you wouldn't believe it, you know where Freret Street is? Well there used to be The Brown Derby on Freret, it burned down. The line for the store was right here in front my house. So that's how long, cause it was the only store in Central City. We thought it was a hurricane. Everybody go through hurricanes, you know. You usually go in the bricks, the projects. You used to go to the projects, they say hurricane ain't gonna blow down no bricks. So a lot of people went there, and we knew. And we went, you know, my mom wanted us. It never flooded. We was raised back there in the front of this way. But it never flooded up here. We knew we was safe, we knew our vehicles was safe, so we made it up this way and we slept peacefully. It was calm, you didn't hear a bird, it was calm. But when they say the water, you didn't have television, and I never saw it. I went outside the day before, when all the lights was out. I never seen darkness like I saw darkness. You could not see the person in front you. I had a radio with a generator on it, they used to give em to you when you opened a bank account. It was yellow. And that's all I had, but you could – I never saw it that dark. You didn't hear a bird, you didn't a cat, you didn't hear of a dog, unless you had one cause they was trying to get away. When I saw, we was in here for the water. We didn't stay that long, we left when the water was coming, but we was able to get on 90, Crescent City Connection, and go to Napoleonville. One of my sisters, Tiffany, she lived downtown on Bienville. Stubborn. She refused to be with the rest of the family so her and her husband went back, but I took her son, her only son, with me. And they wouldn't let her cross the bridge, the Claiborne Bridge, and she had a vehicle, so she had to go to the Superdome. What she experienced, I couldn't tell you; cause my sister came back a different person. But we hadn't looked at television, we didn't have television, Adam, I say three days. We couldn't see what was on the television, but we was wondering why, when we got to Napoleonville they didn't want to turn the television on for us. We wanted to see what was going on, they didn't want – but when they did, I see why. Adam, when I saw my city under that much water, and the things, I couldn't explain it. Nobody couldn't, they was crying. You couldn't believe what you was seeing, you really couldn't. I didn't understand it, and that part I was like a little child that didn't understand things that adults do. I didn't understand why that had to happen. Which, my mom told me about other storms. Hurricane Betsy. She got sent away, my grandmother sent her away. And the things that happened then, why it happened I don't know. Everyone have they reason. Do I think it was cause for it? No. Do I think it could've been prevented? Yes, definitely it could've been prevented. Wasn't no way in the world we was supposed to have lost all those people. Or to see that much water. It was catastrophic, I understand that. They could've stopped it. It's the government, you know, what do we have to say about that? But, I never saw it; it's a time in my life that's a story I have to tell my children. Definitely, cause it definitely changed my sister. The things that she saw. I didn't see those things, we was in another place. But the things that she saw and she used to sound like when she was talking to me on the phone, it sound like she was terrorized.

(1:23:07)

AJ So you were still speaking to her while she was in the dome?

AP Well, I spoke to her until her cell phone – she was on a bridge, she was on the bridge right here on Jeff Davis. She had made it right there, her and her husband had to walk there, Adam. And they was on that bridge for two days before they got transported to the Superdome. Then we they got transported to the Superdome they got on a bus. And the bus brought them – they didn't know where they was going. I say, 'well where are you going?' She say, 'I don't know, Adrian. They just dropping us off, they not telling us.' They never told em where they was going. Then we she called again she said, 'Adrian, guess where I'm at?' I said, 'well, where y'at?' She said, 'I'm in Dallas, Texas.' They never knew where they was going, they was just bringing em places. They never told em where they was going, and I know that because she on her cell phone telling me until the battery ran out. Now once they got Dallas they was treated very well, very well. And I had her son, she was sending me packages for him, until I sent him back to Dallas to be with his mother.

AJ Ok sure.

AP And my sister came back, it was less than year. Less than a year that my sister came back, cause she was the only one and she came back. So she didn't stay that long, but it was long enough to be from your family, not to see them after that tragedy. But other than that Adam, I came home the second week and I told em. Yeah I came home right back here and –

AJ So you were gone for a month?

AP Yeah, like a month. Like a month, cause we couldn't get back in the city. But by my stepfather working for the dump truck I was able to come back and check everybody's houses and tell em who houses flooded and who houses didn't. Mine didn't. No it didn't, by being all the way up here it didn't flood. So I was very thankful, I was blessed. They didn't break in here. What you gonna break in here for? I tried to lock it up, but I had rainwater in the tub. I did all the things that was on the paper, rainwater in the tub and the sink. It was smelling like flowers, plug-ins do a whole lot. When you came up in here, Adam, you really didn't know what was on the outside. And I waited before I came back because we didn't have electricity, because the water had got the meter, so I wanted until the landlord got everything together and then I came back. And I got me a neighbor. And some padlocks on the gate.

AJ How do you think the city is recovering?

AP They had to recover quick, you know, for certain things. Money. But as far as schools and things like that, some of the schools that they really needed, that was historical schools, went down. They're recovering. They're recovering. But will it be the old New Orleans that it used to be before 2005? No. No, it wouldn't. It wouldn't. That changed a

lot. It wouldn't. And I don't think the city can get – they can have the tourists and the money and this, but the traditional things and the fun you used to have, in 2005, I don't think so. I don't think you can feel that way no more, after what you done been through. No human could. No human could.

AJ Is there still much for the city to do?

AP Yeah, there's still a lot to do. When you live here all your life you have did everything in the city. There's still a lot of things here you can do, a lot of it done come back, you know. You don't have your amusement park, Jazzland. And that was something that came upon. But you still got your zoo. But look at City Park. City Park was the biggest park of New Orleans. You can go there but it's nothing like it used to be. City Park had a lot of activities too, before the hurricanes. I remember you could go canoe boat riding and everything. It's gonna be a while before that come up. It's coming back but it ain't gonna be like it used to be. It's gonna be new, state of the art. They building for the future. So that's why I say it'll never be like it was in 2005. And in upcoming years, cause they making it for the future. So those memories, you didn't have pictures and you lost em and some memories you have to keep in your head. Definitely. But it's getting there. But I don't trust it too much. Safety? Mm mm. I don't trust it safety wise no more. Mm mm. Cause a lot of people, mentally, have lost it. And they not the same people they used to be. You know, they think differently. They think differently.

(1:27:51)

AJ Where do you stand on Mayor Nagin?

AP Well, I didn't vote for him. For his second term, I didn't vote for him. He's just like the rest of em, if you ask me. He's behind a dollar. But you can't blame him. He was displaced too. He had an attitude with the president, certain things I think he could've – and maybe he was mad, anger. But I wouldn't have sayed it like he sayed it. But I really don't too much care for Nagin. I don't care for him. I really don't. Then when I read the newspaper and I see the trips he done took off the tax dollar's money, and that's the politicians in New Orleans, you know. You can't just blame him for taking, cause they been doing that all of New Orleans history. All of em been taking from the city. That's New Orleans' politicians. So you can't blame him for that. He's just falling down the line. So I don't care for him, I didn't vote for him. I voted for Bobby Jindal.

AJ Do you think you'll live here the rest of your life?

AP No. Adam, I have been asked that question a lot of times. No, I don't think I would end my life in New Orleans. I really don't think so. I think once I find my mate, and once I have a kid, I would like to tell them and I would like to drill it in their head about the history. Let em see – not only visiting, but come down here for a while. My mom'll be down here. But me, I would never buy no land in Louisiana. No. I'm not gonna buy land in the South. I'm gonna try go to the North. I'ma try. I'ma try. That's why I'm waiting so long for Mr. Right. But no, I don't think I'll finish my life in Louisiana and New Orleans.

But I'll always come back. I'll always come back and probably by then I'll probably be retired or whatever. Second line will be over for me. Might be having to push. Might have to be the one being pushed. No, I want to. Maybe if it become a better place, but you have to look at it. There's a river. It's made like a bowl. It's sinking. You know? One day it will disappear off the map. You have to – that's a fact, you know. You can't stop that. It's land. And one day it's gonna fill up. They said it was gonna fill up like a bowl and it filled up like a bowl. So you can't say that, because it's man-made.

AJ Do you think there's a way to preserve the culture of New Orleans even if 'the' New Orleans disappears?

AP Yes. Yes, pictures. Pictures is a thousand memories. Interviews. Thousand memories. Actual people talking -- telling you how it is and how it was. So yeah, you can preserve it. You definitely can preserve it. You can preserve anything you want to. It's just the person who preserving it got to keep up with it. Yeah, you can preserve it. You can preserve it. If anything would happen, if New Orleans would fill up like a bowl and never come back, no matter what -- people can go. They can always take things with them if they think ahead. If they think ahead, yes they could.

(1:31:35)