2-27-2009

Winsor, George

Winsor, George. Interview: Bronx African American History Project
Fordham University

Follow this and additional works at: https://fordham.bepress.com/baahp_oralhist
Part of the African American Studies Commons

Recommended Citation
Winsor, George. 27 February 2009. Interview with the Bronx African American History Project. BAAHP Digital Archive at Fordham.

This Interview is brought to you for free and open access by the Bronx African American History Project at DigitalResearch@Fordham. It has been accepted for inclusion in Oral Histories by an authorized administrator of DigitalResearch@Fordham. For more information, please contact considine@fordham.edu.
Winsor, George Transcript
Date:
Interviewer: Unknown (I)
Interviewee: George Winsor
Transcribed by Daniel Matthews

I: Today is February 27th, 2009, we're in the home of Mr. George Winsor, Leroy Archible is here as well. This is an interview for the Bronx African-American History Project. Mr. Winsor if we could just start by you saying and spelling your first and last name.

GW: First name is George, G-E-O-R-G-E.

I: I'm just going to rest this right here so we can record your voice. And your last name?

GW: Winsor, W-I-N-S-O-R. There's a C in the middle. George C.

I: Oh what's the middle name?

GW: Cecil. GCW.

I: And what is your date of birth?

GW: 2/19/1914.

I: So you just celebrated, you did just celebrate a birthday. Happy belated birthday.

GW: Thank you.

I: And this makes you ninety –

GW: Ninety-five.

I: Wow. Seems like you're in real good health for ninety-five.

GW: I'm trying [inaudible]

I: Where were you born Mr. Winsor?

GW: I was born in Nassau, Bahamas.

I: And how long did you live there?

GW: There's certain things that I don't remember, the way how things happened, but I spent most of my life here in America, and I live with my godmother at 219 W 131st Street.

I: So when you were a child you came to Harlem?

GW: Oh yes, in Harlem, 219 W 131st Street.
I: How long did you live in Harlem?

GW: I lived in Harlem all of my life.

I: When did you move to the Bronx?

GW: The Bronx after I got married.

I: What year was that?

GW: Oh, 1940. In the 40s. Listen, before, at that time you know, when you get to 149th Street there was no black people, and so then you can see all the way up, and we get to Gun Hill Road, the trains were empty when you leave there on 149th Street. But now ask me that question, how long I lived up here?

I: I meant in the Bronx in general.

GW: I lived 219 W 131st Street, and after that I went to, when I got grown, and back from the armed forces, I got married and went to 1829 7th Avenue. You see my life was so complicated. I don't remember some of the whole escapade as far as my life is concerned. Because at that time, you know, we, I could say my family, if you had money and your color you could get to go places, because at that time I could remember when I started first practicing with a black young lady who played tennis. You know who she was?

I: No. Oh, Gibson?

GW: Althea Gibson. Well I didn't play with her professionally, so we won't put that there, I just practiced with her. That's when I was younger.

I: Wow. So you lived a lot of your life in Harlem and in Manhattan as a young man. And you said you lived with your godmother?

GW: My godmother, yeah.

I: Who was she, what was her name, and –?

GW: Liz Fanandes.

I: Did you live with her because your parents were still in the Bahamas?

GW: Yes.

I: What kind of work did she do?

GW: Well you know that time, they did like what the others did, took care of the white people. She was, you know, a –

I: Domestic?

GW: Domestic, yes.
I: Were you her only dependent, were you her only child, or did she take care of, you had other brothers and sisters?

GW: She had two brothers that she took care of. And you know at that time we used to call them by their first names. They were just like mother to me, and I respected them, and she was my godmother, and that's something you never forget, because you don't want any of these [indicates spanking or similar act].

I: Did you have any brothers and sisters?

GW: I have five sisters.

I: Five sisters.

GW: Yeah I have five sisters. I have, the majority of them, one in Florida, Barbara's in Florida, and my other sister she's in Westbury, and my other sister is in Nassau, Mildred.

I: Did they live in Harlem with you?

GW: No, no, no, I'm the only one.

I: Did you know why you came to live in Harlem with your godmother when you were a boy?

GW: Because it was the best thing for us to do. Because Nassau is not a place where you would actually, not unless you, at that given time, is just a color system there. That color system was there. If you couldn't get into the system you'd have a problem.

I: So if you were too dark-skinned –

GW: That's exactly what it was all about.

I: You couldn't make a life for yourself.

GW: My father was your complexion.

I: Your mother was darker.

GW: Yeah. And you know when you do something like that they didn't appreciate these things at that time.

I: So coming to America was seen as a better chance. So if we could talk a bit about your life as a boy in Harlem, where did you go to school?

GW: Well I went to this school, today, let's see, I should have all these things at my fingertips for you.

I: The exact school isn't important –

GW: Yes it is important for something like this. I wouldn't want to give you something misleading and
then when you put that out, people get to know who you are, and they say, “I know that man,” and then this that and the other. So I like to be very concise when it comes on to things like that. It was a touchy thing because as I said, color was a thing. And if, that's why I don't like to discuss it. Because my father actually, being the person he was, my mother was a very dark person. The funny thing, when he was invited out to certain places, she couldn't go with him. And it's a sad thing when you go into things like that.

I: In the Bahamas?

GW: Yeah, oh yes.

I: Did you ever hear, perhaps from your sisters, how did they come to meet each other?

GW: Well the thing, they, my mother and my godmother were very good friends. So they all corresponding was done to my godmother. But between my godmother and my mother, anything they wanted to find out they'll call each other or write a letter to each other.

I: Okay. So what were some of your memories of being a boy in Harlem, what were some of the games that you played, did you enjoy school as a boy?

GW: Well I enjoyed school as a boy, but at that time you know, it's nothing like it is today, and I'll tell you what happened. I made much more of myself when I went into the armed forces. When I went into the armed forces then I could begin to see what was going on, and from then on I tried to move. I tried to move, I went to the 92nd Division, and I'll never forget the guy, Dr. Goodon (?), he was the Captain there, he took me under his wings, and then I actually worked with the medics, 92nd medics, and we went to school in Texas, Beaumont General, that's the hospital organization where I went to, where I took my training. I went there.

I: It was called Beaumont? B-E-A-U-M-O-N-T?

GW: Beaumont. That's right.

I: Alright. How old were you when you joined the army?

GW: I was probably, approximately, probably was in my twenties.

I: Twenties?

GW: Twenties. If my wife was here, she'd give you a better interview than I can.

I: You're doing fine. Did you graduate from, did you attend high school?

GW: High school, yes. I did.

I: Do you remember where?

GW: They had, it was like a church thing, St. Cyprian's.

I: St. Cyprian's High School, that's where you went to high school?
GW: It was private.

I: You went to a private, was it a Catholic school?

GW: Mhm.

I: And where you lived, on 131st Street, and where you went to school, was it mostly black people or was it, was Harlem at that time kind of –

GW: It was about to begin to get mixed at that time.

I: So in the beginning there were whites who were still living there?

GW: Oh yes, mhm.

I: And what was it like, black people and white people in Harlem at that time, did they get along with each other?

GW: They got along, honestly I'll tell you this, I never had, never got mixed up with anything like that. Never had nothing thrown in my face as far as color's concerned.

I: Hm. When you were a boy?

GW: Yeah I never had any problem. I mean, it's a funny thing, wherever I went, it was beautiful. I never had anybody throw anything at me, nothing like that. The worst thing I've had in my life is when after I got married, my brother in law was the first black man to open a supermarket in Harlem. We were at 8th Avenue and 114th Street, 115th, 114th Street yeah.

I: Your brother-in-law. Your wife's brother.

GW: Mhm.

I: What was your wife's name?

GW: Latice.

I: And here maiden name?


I: And that was Latice Winsor. Did she, was she African-American from the U.S.? Or did her family come from the Caribbean as well?

GW: No, they came from the Caribbean. Antigua.

I: From Antigua.

GW: Mhm.
I: Do you remember, can you talk a bit about how you met her?

GW: You won't believe it. I met her at Republican Club. She was a Republican and I was a Democrat.

I: This was in Harlem?

GW: In Harlem. The place was on 110th Street and 7th Avenue. Right on the corner we used to go to have the meetings.

I: That was where the Democrat club was?

GW: The Republican Club.

I: That was where the Republican Club was.

GW: Somehow a friend of mine took me there and I met her, and that's, she told her mother what a beautiful man I was, and when I met her mother she said, “What beauty do you see there?”

I: Did you meet your wife before or after you were in the army?

GW: No I met my wife before I was in the army, I got married to her, and then after that I went overseas. I got two daughters, five granddaughters, five great-granddaughters. They were here just to visit me for my birthday.

I: Oh that's nice. So you got married before you joined the army.

GW: Oh yes.

I: Do you remember what year you got married?

GW: 1942.

I: Were you drafted –

GW: No. I volunteered.

I: Well I'm just curious, why did you volunteer? You were married while the war was going on?

GW: I got married and after I got married I volunteered for the armed forces. And then, we were living at 1829 7th Avenue.

I: Did you volunteer because of the war?

GW: I volunteered because of the war, not only that, it came around the goodies that you can get when you get in the war. After the service. So I volunteered for it.

LA: Goodies, [inaudible]
GW: Goodies. Education. Education, yes, education.

I: What were you, what type of work were you doing before you entered the armed forces?

GW: I'll tell you what kind of work was I doing. At that time I was working for a private, an indoor chauffeur. Running an elevator.

I: Oh you were running an elevator? They call it indoor chauffeur?

GW: Indoor chauffeur. Yeah I did.

I: Elevator operator.

GW: Yeah, elevator operator, indoor chauffeur.

I: Were you doing that in Manhattan?

GW: No, on Riverside Drive, 450 Riverside Drive.

I: Okay, so I want to talk about your experience in the armed services in a minute, but before that, you had mentioned your brother-in-law, he had opened up a grocery store, in Harlem it sounds like, kind of in East Harlem. 114th or 115th Street you said?

GW: Uh huh, 114th, on 8th Avenue.

I: So West. So he was one of the first black men to own a grocery store. What was that experience like for him and his family?

GW: Well that is something that was very crucial because we had to work, we had all giants around us. We had A&P, Daniels, and Butler, James Butler. They're the big moguls at that particular time. And he had to go up against them. But he made it. We used to work twelve hours.

I: You worked in the store?

GW: Oh yes I worked in the store. I worked in the store. In fact I used to leave the post office and come and from the post office, and the guard, the cop would be at 116th Street, and we would go to open the store, and let the dog out, he'd come out, bring the dog back in, and I'd wait for the 4 o'clock. I slept in the store. Wait for the milk man to get there at 4 o'clock.

I: So was it all, the family ran the store?

GW: Mhm.

I: And mostly the customers at the store, were they African-American, black from the neighborhood?

GW: Yeah, mhm.

I: Okay. And was the store successful?
GW: Yeah, well yes, we were successful, but you would put a lot of blood in there. When I say work, there was no play about that. And I tell you see that finger right there'll tell a story, what happened to me when we were out. Because we were open early in the morning about the time, there's a school right down there, and the cop was doing, the kids, you know, were crossing the street, and this man was robbing me and I'm on to the cop right out there, and this finger here is crooked, I had a problem with that ever since.

I: From a robbery.

GW: Mhm.

I: Of the store.

GW: Oh yeah we were held up. In fact my brother-in-law died with a bullet in his spine, they couldn't move it.

I: Your brother-in-law was killed in a –

GW: Yeah shot.

I: In a robbery at –

GW: A robbery at the store, mhm.

I: What was his name?

GW: His name was Statchel Robinson.

I: Statchel Robinson. So was he someone that married into your sister's family as well?

GW: No, no, no, he wasn't married in my family. He was married before I actually new anything about him. I get to know him, he's the one who didn't want me to marry his sister, because he didn't think I could support her in the style she was accustomed to.

I: Oh. But his name was Robinson and your wife's name was Edwards?

GW: Yeah well there was two, there was a marriage, she was Edwards and he was Robinson.

I: And he didn't think that you could support her in the –

GW: Actually in a way, because he's a workaholic. You understand? And at that time you know, they were just as bad as the white people in certain instances.

I: Could you describe what you mean by that a bit?

GW: Well the thing about it, here he has color, he's a man working to see that his sister get's the best in life. I mean she didn't have to work for anything because she was supported by him, he worked 24 hours. Because if he, he was the lace of the shoe, worked for the white man. He would sell curtains and all that stuff, he did all of that. He was a tough man.
I: And was he born in Antigua as well?

GW: Yes, yeah.

I: And they came to Harlem.

GW: Yes, yeah.

I: And you said Statchel Robinson.

GW: Statchel Robinson.

I: So how did you eventually win him over? Or win the family over?

GW: Well, the thing about it, you just get the mother. The mother, you could be nice to her. And not only that, you see, you have to go to church on Sunday mornings, because her other son was a minister. He was, he used to be, you know [inaudible], that's where he and Father Dodd, you better go to church on Sunday morning. They see you there. And that time, as hot as it was, you couldn't take your coat off when you get in there, and you'd be perspiring, and you'd look at each other, and everybody's looking over you, saying I don't think he's the right fellow for her. I've had that. I've had that many times. I'll tell you, I went through the Devil to get married to that young lady there. The same thing happened when the fellas came for my daughters. She graduated, from the high school over there, and this fella, if I call he knows it's time to go. If he don't go, I'll let him go. You know? [clears throat] They did it to me, my mother-in-law, when they start coughing it's time for you to go. You don't stay there after ten o'clock. And you better have their daughter back in there. The cloisters, you know? We used to go there after Sunday school on Sunday, we'd get on that bus the 7th Avenue line, we'd go to the Cloisters. And you stop at an ice cream parlor right there, 135th Street, you got the ice cream after that, and after that you look, it's getting dark, you don't let it get dark. You better get her back home. And then you walk her back home. And sometimes if it's too late you walk her to the door, see that she gets in, bye!

LA: No kiss! Hahaha!

GW: My nose almost got caught in there once. I was bad though. My mother-in-law. I wanted to say bye and she just slammed that door. I had, I say God was with me because they didn't take any foolishness, no, no, no, you have to be right with them.

LA: For the family.

GW: For the family.

I: How did you get involved in the Democratic Club in Harlem?

GW: Well after, let me tell you, I went to, I don't remember where it was, there was a club there on 131st Street, it was in the basement there, between 7th and Lenox, there. And that's where I got involved there at the club there.

I: Why? Why did you –
GW: Well I always wanted to become involved with something like that you know. Like I'll tell you, we had the black, the Jamaicans used to parade on 7th Avenue, they couldn't go any farther than 110th Street. They'd go from 110th Street up to 143rd Street, this man with a big, tall, he rode a horse.

I: Was this Marcus Garvey?

GW: Yes, yes, Marcus Garvey, I'm talking a little ahead of myself. I'm speaking about the holiday, West Indian Day Parade, that's what I'm talking about. When they first started that out, you couldn't go any farther than 110th Street. You went from 110th Street to 143rd Street, and you'd just walk with people. When it first started you didn't have that many, and as time marches on, they made great, great progress. In fact I'll tell you the thing. Remember when they thought that the five and ten, someone killed somebody there, and then you actually were able, they started a riot. They start a riot there, this was between the block there, the theater, 125th Street, the theater is on this side, the five and ten is on the other side. It's still there. Woolworth's used to be there in Harlem. Oh yeah Woolworth's you worked there, at Woolworth's you got a good job.

I: Yeah I was going to ask you if you remembered that the, riot in 1935.

GW: Oh yes, yes, I remember the riots. In fact, believe it or not, my wife to be, I was about to take her home, because she lived at 238 W 110, no 114th Street.

I: So you were taking her home?

GW: Oh yes I was taking her when it happened. I took her home, yeah. We got caught in it.

I: What happened?

GW: Oh nothing happened, we just had to be careful walking down 7th Avenue and see that she got home. Her mother was happy that I was the one who brought her home.

I: What was happening around you, do you remember?

GW: Oh they were fighting, they were throwing rocks and all that stuff, because a [inaudible] person came up on the side, not through the front, from the side, and that's exactly when they started throwing rocks and then everything started happening. But I didn't stop to see what happened because I didn't want anything to happen to Mrs. Winsor. She wasn't Mrs. Winsor then.

I: Wow, that's something. When, so why the Democratic Club, not the Republican Club? Because there were still a lot of black people, African-Americans were –

GW: The whole thing at that given time, you know, my family, my godmother, she was affiliated with the Democratic Club, you see. And this would stand me to be around that, to become affiliated with the Democratic Club.

I: With the Democratic Party.

GW: But my wife didn't like the idea, she remained a Republican and I still remain as a Democrat because I worked for [inaudible] a long time, after I came out the Post Office.
I: So when you joined the army in 1942, did you have children then? Was your wife, did she support you joining the army?

GW: Oh yes, oh yes. Well I mean, the thing about it, at that time, you see, it was given to you as your education was most important. Most important thing was the education and after that, when I came out the armed forces there was so many things I wanted to do.

I: Did you serve overseas in Germany?

GW: Yes, oh yes, I was in Germany. I was in France, I was in Germany, in fact, believe it or not, I tell you this, I was driving a jeep and I had two Russian girls in my jeep, and the Jeep turn over right on the Autobahn, and we flipped over. You heard about the Autobahn highway?

I: Yes.

GW: That's something. I'm lucky that I'm here alive. And they took that Jeep and push it up and we went on. They said, “George, are you alright?” I said “I'm fine.”

I: What was your experience like in the army? You said it was an all black, the 92⁰ Division? Was it, it was an all black?

GW: All black yeah. The exception, the officers was white. But the soldiers, the guys they were black. Some may have had light skin, but I mean no white.

I: Was Dr. Goodwin, he was white –

GW: No, he was a doctor, he was black. You had a sprinkling of black people there, like the chaplain, he was a black fella.

I: So the chaplain –

GW: The chaplain and the doctor, Dr. Goodwin.

I: They were, they were black officers.

GW: They were black officers, yeah.

I: So where did you do your basic training in the United States? Did you go down South?

GW: Yes, I say Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

I: Fort –

GW: Fort Huachuca, Arizona, yeah. That's where I did my training, yeah. In fact after I got my uniform on and left, I went to Mississippi, and from Mississippi we went to Fort Huachuca, Arizona and then after that we went on bivacs and stuff like that.

LA: You got ready to go.
I: You went overseas.

GW: I went overseas.

I: So your experience in the army, what was it like, who were some of the other black soldiers in the 92\textsuperscript{nd} Division. Did they come from all over the country?

GW: All over the country. After awhile, most of us, in the beginning were from New York. But after we got into Fort Huachuca, then we got a little of everything from the other places.

I: So I assume that a lot of them were from the North and a lot of them were from the South –

GW: Yeah.

I: So what was it like when Northern black men and Southern black men kinda got together for the first time?

GW: It was no problem. The only one thing, well, you know, some of them wanted to make a racket out of, after you get paid, they have playing cards, shooting dice –

LA: Playing cards.

GW: Playing cards like that and in fact, after I became, I got a strike there and the guy wanted to pay me off so he could go in my room there to have the hustle.

I: To run a game?

GW: Oh yeah. Nothing like that. No, no, you can't do that. And I tell you on Saturdays, when they had inspection come around, you know what inspection is, you have to keep your uniform and be in line with everything.

LA: That's right.

GW: Everything. And your place better be clean. And that uniform, and when the colonel walks in there, and he has all these other officers behind him, and you hear that “hit, hut” you standing up right by where your bed is and they examine and look to see, the bed has to be in line with everything else, square, and it has to be made properly, if not made properly, you're in trouble. Any time you get that way, you better listen, put the bugle out at six o'clock, you don't know how many times they gonna blow that bugle, and if you weren't in –

I: What were the white officers like? Were they fair, were they –

GW: Well with me, I never have a problem with anybody. I mean I can get along with the Devil. I can, and I mean that literally. I had no problem with anybody. But I will say, some people they create problems. I never had any problem there. The thing about it, I did not go out on the weekends, and everybody, they'd say see, Sgt. Winsor, he'll do your Charge of Quarters for you. You know what Charge of Quarters is?

I: Take care of barracks?
GW: Take care of the barracks. And if anything happens, you are in charge. If anybody got ill, sick, or anything like that, they come to you, and you make out just what happened to them, how it happened, why it happened.

I: So you would do CQ duty?

GW: CQ Duty, Charge of Quarters.

I: You would do that often?

GW: Yes, yeah, while they'd go out, I didn't like that. I could take that, but what they did, some of the things when they came back what they told me, I didn't like it. And the best thing for me was to stay away from that so I wouldn't get in trouble.

I: Did you and your wife correspond when you were in –

GW: Oh yes, oh yes.

I: – the service, did you write letters to each other?

GW: Oh yes, I was on a soccer team. That's what happened to me with this ankle here and my shoulder. And the nurse there, I was so nice, when she took her vacation she came here and saw my wife. I was living at 1829 7th Avenue then. And she came and she saw her.

I: Um what was your experience like in the war, in Europe?

GW: In Europe, well –

I: Did the 92nd Division see –

GW: Action, action? We were, I tell you what happened. We did see a little of it. Because, you know, the Germans used to use the same Autobahn as a takeoff point to actually bomb England, you see. And when we went over there we were warned not to touch anything and we had casualties among us there. And the submarines, and the overhead, and everything falling on us, and great, one of these things. The ship I rode on was named Mary Posner.

I: Posner?

GW: Posner. P-O-S-N-E-R. I heard it the other day when a young man was up there, and [inaudible] and a person spoke there, and he was one of the men that remembered me. But it was, it's interesting. I had, God has been good to me. I haven't got anything to complain about. Right now, things are wonderful with me, and we just wait and see. I don't want to be – I have everything ready for me. In case anything happened to me, my cemetery, I'm not supposed to talk about this, but that's why grandy
is with me, he's all taken care of, when you leave me you can talk about it. You can tell all this stuff about me I may not want to hear.

LA: It's okay.

GW: We discussed it, we have all of that taken care of. Even to my pastor, at St. Lle's, Kellan Reed. You know him?

I: Not personally, but St. Lle's is not far form here right?

GW: Not far from here, right.

I: Oh yes, on the other side of White Plains Road. So, did you, how long were you in Germany? Until '45?

GW: Yes, in '45, and after that we came over, and I was in Paris, France, Camp Chesterfield, in Paris, when we were getting ready to come back. But we were under combat, we had accidents, some accidents could have been avoided, because people touched things they weren't supposed to touch. And we were bombed in France. We were there during a bombing area at the time.

I: But what did the 92nd Division, what did you do in the war, did you engage in infantry combat, or did you do —

GW: No we didn't engage in that, in fact, as a medic, you were behind everything, I was back with— we were up on the front line, no doubt about that.

LA: The medic kinda situated his attention on all the guys that got hurt.

GW: Anybody get hurt, they coming back to us.

I: Right so you were a medic with the 92nd, the rest of the division was —

GW: That was a medical division. All medical division.

I: Were you attached to an infantry —

GW: We were attached to an infantry, as I said, we were mixed up there with the 369th.

I: Oh you were tied to the 369th. Oh okay. That's all black —

GW: All black, oh yeah, have you heard about that?

I: Yes, well they were very big in World War I. Okay so the 92nd Division was connected to the 369th during World War II, you were the medical unit for that infantry unit.

GW: Infantry yeah.

I: Uh huh. So that's how the army would do it. Only black medics could serve black soldiers. What were some of the, that must have been a tough job working as a medic in the war.
GW: Well you know, the thing about it, as I say, nothing phased me, because if I have something to do I'm gonna do it. I mean there was a lot of grumbling going on, you didn't know what was going to happen to you in the next minute, anything could happen. But because during that time the bombing was in France, Germany, and that's where we were. As I told you the Autobahn is where the Germans used to be there to bomb England. And when we got there, that's where we were all centered around that area, where the Autobahn is, the Autobahn Highway.

I: Did you know, you learned how to be a medic in the army, you didn't have any medical training beforehand?

GW: I didn't have any, no, I got my training here, in the United States. Remember I told you I went, in Texas, I was trained as a medic in Texas.

I: So what were some of the things that a medic did during the war?

GW: Well there are so many things you do. You learn how to take the temperature. You learn how to even give intravenously, intravenously if it's necessary, or whatever happened at the breaking of any part, you got to know how to put it, put a sling on the shoulder, and stuff like that.

I: Did you have to deal with, ever, any fatal casualties? Was it temporary first aid until soldiers got to a hospital?

GW: It was that, it was that. Because everything was pushed back. You know things were moving so fast, you didn't have time to think about that. Not until you get back can you relax.

LA: That's where PTSD comes from, what these guys done, enables us to work with these guys when they come back, without legs, arms, it's just a difficult thing sometimes for some guys, and some of the questions you ask, in terms of veterans, I think Mr. Winsor's doing real good. Sometimes it can trigger, so –

I: So when you came, you spoke a lot about education, that education was the best thing, that you got out of the army. So what happened when you came back to the U.S.?

GW: Oh gosh when I came back to the U.S., my family, the first thing they did, I didn't receive any of the money that, you know, they give you, x amount of money you get, I didn't wait for that. I went directly into the Post Office.

I: You went directly into the Post Office?

GW: Oh yes.

I: Before the army you were working as an indoor chauffeur –

GW: Yes, working at an elevator, but after I came back from the armed forces, I was looking for everything. In fact I went to school, I made a mistake. Instead of me going back to go to college, I didn't do that.

I: You didn't go to college?
GW: I didn't go to college. I did that after I come out of the armed forces. My daughter, she took me –

[FIRST RECORDING CUTS OFF HERE]

GW: I did that after I come out of the armed forces. My daughter, my daughter, she took me to, what's the name of the college in the Bronx?

I: Lehman?

GW: Lehman's College. That's where she took me. At that time I was working for Seabrook too. I worked at Seabrook, and he wanted me to do something instead of me going to register, I –

LA: When you went back to college how old were you?

GW: Oh God. Honestly me coming out of the armed forces, I don't remember how old, I don't want to mislead you. But I really and truly, I wanted to go back to college. I took a watch repair, that's what I went into, instead of going in to get, I have all my gadgets there.

LA: Can I let you teach me? Because I got a whole bunch of watches and stuff.

GW: No but you were doing good. You did wonderful.

I: So you got a job at the Post Office.

GW: I got a job at the Post Office. Getting forty-nine, eighty-nine cents an hour. And you wasn't guaranteed eight hours. What happened is this. After I got in the Post Office, if they, say you only going to work two hours today, word got around that if you want a person to deliver special, or registered mail, you look for that man George Winsor, because he's a workaholic. And at that time, they get to know me down at GPO, I worked down at GPO, and then I got lost in that Empire State Building many times. Because they lock certain parts off, so you gotta go back the other way, gotta look back the other way, gotta walk down that way. And I run special, they would pay you extra pay every special you delivered at that time. I don't know what's happening now. We used to get paid, then you see, I had kids, so I had to take care of that baby, and I run the special. And sometimes they send you out of your district, and then when you get back the first thing they say is “What happened with you, hey Winsor, what happened to you?” I'd say you send me out of my district. He'd say alright that's alright I'll make it up to you.

I: Why did you take a job with the Post Office? Why the Post Office?

GW: Well at the Post Office because most men came back out the armed forces were working at the Post Office. And, Mr. Strong, he was the Postmaster, you remember him?

LA: No.

GW: Well he was the first black Postmaster there. And we got a good job. And that's why you stay. And if you behave yourself, some of these people they didn't want to work, you know.
I: What do you mean?

GW: They didn't, take for instance, they could send you anyway, you had a green button, and then they'd give you a number when they'd look like one of the cops badges, so they had to take those badges away from us, and they give you the green badge, until you take the exam. You took the exam, then if you pass, alright, if you didn't you try again until you succeed.

I: And did you pass the –

GW: Oh yes, yes indeedy. Not only taking the [inaudible], and you know the bottles, the boxes the baby food came in, you use that as a, you set it up, to sort mail, and the same thing they have in the Post Office, you would have that at home. And if you fail three times, you're out.

I: For good.

GW: Good. You could probably become a mail hand if you want to. But I, at that time I wanted to be a clerk.

LA: It was better money. The clerk money.

I: You wanted to be a clerk?

GW: A clerk, yeah.

I: Where did you work as a clerk?

GW: GPO. The main Post Office.

I: 34th Street?

GW: 34th Street that's right.

I: Were the clerks both black and white?

GW: Oh yes, oh yes, yeah. I had no problems. Just as many black as white. The Jews were there at that time.

I: There were a lot of Jewish people.

GW: Definitely, definitely. The Jews were in charge at the time. We learned to actually, used to send mail in a chute, from there to 125th Street.

I: There was an air chute?

GW: Air chute under there.

I: It traveled all the way from 34th Street up to 125th?

GW: That's right, that's right. Some folks didn't want it, but I took it, because they won't knock you off,
you can stay and make eight hours if you work in back –

I: If you work the chute?

GW: As I say if they get to know you, if you had some lazy fellas came back from the armed forces that said that the world owed them a living, and the world didn't owe you you had to make that living, and especially if you got a family, and the family I had, I want the best for them.

I: So there were some people, when they came out, they didn't want, they thought they were too good –

GW: You see the thing is this, when you came on there, they used to take us out there on the different trucks they have there, and the parcel post, you'd go there if you had work eight hours, a guy would say, “You want to work overtime?” Oh yeah, yes. And parcel post delivery, there were guys there on the truck, they'd lay the step out for you and you'd take that step upstairs or whatever place or apartment where the name and number that you had for the parcel post. And if you actually, Downtown, and if they feel that you need to go to 125th Street, and volunteered there you would do that. I mean that's the kind of person I was.

I: And you worked in the Post Office for how long?

GW: Oh gosh I worked in the Post Office for sixty years. When I came up, Post Office, I mean when I came out of the armed forces I went right to work, 1945.

I: And you stayed until –

GW: And I stayed until I retired.

I: In two thousand –

GW: I have to look at that to see, it was sixty some odd years. Approximately.

LA: Did the Post Office ever honor you for that kind of time?

GW: No, well you see what really happened, I got to a place there, Madison, yeah. The guy came there from 43rd, or 34th Street, he and I had an argument. And at that time, [inaudible], he was like an inspector. And he and the others come around and see what's going on, and he was with the club too. He was a part of the organization, that's where I met him, in the Post Office. I mean the Post Office was good for many people, in fact, I'll say this to you. That's why I regret it. Because when we came out of the armed forces, we had an opportunity to do a lot.

LA: That's what I'm fighting.

GW: It bugs me to look back, to see the mistake, you can't pull those days back. You can't pull those days back. That's why the kids, the education, for these kids today. The money was good back then, the dollar was worth something. Today the dollar's worth nothing. I remember, every year after, you never find my wife and I in New York on the, Christmastime. We always take a cruise. In fact, a little before she died, we were getting ready to take a trip around the world. Yeah, trip around the world.

I: When did you and your wife move to the Bronx? Around this time, in the 1940s?
GW: Around the 40s, yeah, yeah, because the thing is we live at 1829 7th Avenue, and after that the kids came around and not only that, the seven rooms, 1829's a big place, seven rooms.

I: So it was a bigger apartment on 7th Avenue?

GW: Yes.

I: Why did you move to the Bronx?

GW: Well because mother and other family come in there.

I: You were living with your mother-in-law. So it was a big apartment but it wasn't big enough for your family.

GW: Well no, it wasn't big enough for our family and I had two daughters, and you know after that it was alright. Mother wanted us to stay because it was a large place there, seven rooms. Even had a [inaudible] in that apartment.

LA: Was that in Harlem?

GW: They used to take the food and bring it up in the afternoon. That was a beautiful place. Still is, I don't know, haven't been down that way in a long time.

LA: You wouldn't recognize it, they tore down a lot of those buildings.

I: Where did you first move to in the Bronx?

GW: Here? Right over there, at 1839, the building right over there, I think it’s 1839, in the project, it wasn’t built for us, it was built for the white people.

LA: I know! [laughs]

GW: World War II vets.

I: So you moved to the Gun Hill Houses?

GW: Yeah, Gun Hill Houses, yeah.

I: And were you one of the first black families?

GW: Oh no, no, no. Let me tell you something. I moved, on Lenox, not on Lenox Avenue, downtown, I moved so many places because at that time, if you made so much money in the project, they put you out. And I tell you something, I made over fifty thousand dollars. That home was not a home to me because I wanted the best for my kids. Yeah, well that’s what it be. You could only make so much money. That’s when I moved from downtown over there.

I: That’s when you moved from Harlem to Gun Hill Houses?

GW: The Gun Hill Houses right over there. I can’t remember the address, but Mr. Holland is in charge
of that place.

LA: Yeah I haven’t seen him in awhile.

I: So it wasn’t city housing, or was it?

GW: That’s a city housing.

I: Yeah, and that’s where you lived?

GW: Yeah I lived there. And then after that I was making too much money there, then I came here.

I: But when you lived in Gun Hill Houses, there were other black families living there.

GW: Oh yeah it was always mixed. Oh yes because I live on the thirteenth floor and my eldest daughter got married out of that house and she saw me crying and she said what are you crying for you took another father’s daughter from him, so someone has to come and take your daughter away from you.

I: Right. But so when, you said it was built for white folks. How did black people come to live there, how did you get the apartment there?

GW: By knowing somebody.

LA: Politics.

GW: By knowing somebody. Otherwise you could not get in there.

I: Really.

GW: No.

I: Who did you know?

GW: My wife is the one who actually know all the, she did all of that. I tell you something. After I came out of the armed forces and working, I left, because the type of person she was, I could trust her, and I did. She took care of most of it, I said you go ahead, you got it, take care of it. During the week, then on Sunday, we get to the table and we discuss what the things we gonna do and what we not gonna do. It’s just like, because my kids scuff their shoe, I don’t want to see my daughter with scuffed shoe, that’s why I work so hard. That’s the foolish part of pride I had. And I still got a part of it and which I don’t like.

I: Did your wife work? No?

GW: Yes she did. Oh yeah she work downtown, hmm, where she work. She work for the city. Oh yeah she had a good job. She, when she retired, they didn’t believe she retired because she just got a promotion as manager, and what she was doing.

I: When you lived, before you moved here, when you lived in Gun Hill Houses, what was it like living in that housing development, was it a nice place to live?
GW: Beautiful, beautiful. Because people took interest in the place. You see the people, they would do guard duty themselves, and they would take names of people. If you don’t live in here, what apartment were you going to, and they would write down to see when you come out the building.

I: And your neighbors, were they also working people like yourself?

GW: Yes, yes. Post Office, and some of them had other jobs. In fact, we had people there, you had doctors living, I live on the thirteenth floor, and they had doctor right there. Things were good, and they felt it was good enough then and as things start progressing, they’re making more money, then they start moving out.

I: Was it the higher the floor the more your income, no?

GW: No, no, no. Not to my knowledge, I don’t remember.

I: And I know before you said you get along with everyone.

GW: Everybody.

I: So there were no problems?

GW: No problem at all. I never had a problem. I tried my best to get along with people.

I: And your daughters the same, they had good.

GW: Yes. Well I’ll tell you something. My daughter, we, they both play the piano, and one of them played the, they had a concert down at Carnegie Hall, and I sold tickets to the people in the Post Office when they were having concerts down at Carnegie Hall. Especially the eldest one who’s out in California and she’s a Lutheran minister. And the other one, who’s here, she’s in real estate, she has a business in real estate.

I: Did your wife and your family, you went to church on Sunday?

GW: Oh yes, I’m still going to church.

I: The same church? St. Lle’s?

GW: St. Lle’s yeah.

I: That’s an Episcopal church right?

GW: Episcopal church. Callan Reed that’s my pastor.

I: So you been going to that church for --

GW: After leaving that church down in Harlem, All Souls, I left there and I’ve been going up here to him. And we are an organization, Men on a Mission. I’m affiliated with the NAACP, [inaudible] National Council Negro Women.
I: Is that with Shirley Fearon?

GW: Shirley Fearon, she’s in charge of that. And she’s a part of the other organization, National Council and NAACP. Both of them and then they got this. There’s very few organization that I actually, especially when I was working for Seabrook, that didn’t have a hand in. Or on Sunday when you go to church, you have to say something there. Now I forget a lot now, but I try to remember as much as I possibly can.

I: When did you first start to get involved with working with politicians? You keep mentioning Seabrook, but did you work with people before Seabrook?

GW: Yes, but not in the same category. We went to work during the eviction time, I even forget, you get a position, you work on the polls --

LA: Yeah you work on the polls, and as a supervisor or coordinator.

GW: Coordinator. I did all of that.

I: So you did that, when you first moved up here.

GW: Seabrook was instrumental in getting me into that, in becoming a coordinator.

I: But that’s later right? Seabrook is, much later.

GW: That’s for the old timers down there, for people, I can’t remember all of them right now. That’s where, Jim Strong was down there, because he was the postmaster then at that time. And so many others that you won’t believe it. And basically my wife, although she was a Republican, we met through her, as a Democrat was able to get into certain places on account of her because they knew her.

I: So when you first moved to this part of the Bronx there were whites and blacks living up here. When did that start to change or why did that start to change?

GW: Oh well let’s see. The changing of that after those riots we have down there, and after World War II, the movements of this, that, and the other, although the Italians owned this place up there in the Bronx. Because when I get to 180th Street you didn’t see no black people, you hardly see anybody, because the Italians they have their cars. And if they didn’t have their cars, the grocery stores and all that stuff, they owned it.

I: But up here --

GW: Up here, that’s what I’m talking about. Down in Harlem, most of the Jews were down in Harlem, because when the Yom Kippur and all those days came along, we actually would, they closed down everything. You had A&P, had Daniels, these are big grocery stores. A&P, Daniels, Weissbecker, and did I say Butler? These are the giants that we had to go up against when my brother opened up his family, and they were the giants when we came up there.

I: So up here you said there were a lot of Italians.
GW: Yes well they owned the place up here. They owned practically everything up here.

I: When you say own --

GW: When you say own, it’s all Italians along this place. Certain areas right now you can’t get in there. In the same area in the Bronx. Black people can’t get in there.

I: Get in, like buy a home?

GW: A home. If another Italian saw it, they going to make sure another Italian purchase that place. Right over this way, it’s not far from the area, you don’t see no black people.

I: But this was, there were black people around here?

GW: Oh yes. All this was farmland you know. You know that?

I: When you were here?

GW: Yes when I was here. This was farmland. You had goats and sheeps on there, right on the border here, water down here when we came to the bottom, the base would be nothing but water until we got the drainage. Oh yes, this was all farmland.

I: When did it start to get more populated and developed?

GW: As time marches on, I can’t tell you --

I: But this building that we’re in, you’ve been here since --

GW: Yes [inaudible], it’s a big building, we’ve been here a long time, but now for me to give you an accuracy as far as the time, I wouldn’t want to do that.

I: But you moved from Gun Hill --

GW: I moved right from over there.

I: Into this building.

GW: Into this building, we were supposed to be in here on Christmas Eve and they had a fire in the elevator, we ain’t gonna stay over there.

I: So is this like the 1950s?

GW: Around about that time.

I: It wasn’t the 1970s? Not the 60s?

GW: No, no, no. It may have been in the 50s. After World War II.

I: Right. And you’ve been here ever since.
GW: Ever since, yeah.

I: So even in the 1950s, a lot of this was farmland.

GW: Oh yeah, yeah, it was farmland.

I: Where did black people live up here? Did they live in --

GW: Down here? Oh they live in Harlem, they come from Harlem.

LA: They live in Harlem. How do you think the South Bronx had them?

GW: They come from Harlem. No, they came from Harlem. Because, the people at that time, if you know somebody, they’ll rent you a room. They rent a room. And it was the devil too. A person slept in those, they were comfortable. And he lived right now on 135th Street on the other side. You see I only wish one of my daughters were here so I could give you more accuracy.

I: It’s okay.

GW: Yeah, and then I will feel much better with that, you see. I spoke to her, and she said you’ll do alright.

LA: You’re doing very good.

GW: Yeah and I let her know what was happening today, and that young lady she hasn’t been with me long but she’s very beautiful person. I’m not saying this because of [inaudible], but she’s done a good job with me, one thing she sees if I take my medication.

I: When did you start to work for Larry Seabrook? Was that in the 60s, or the 70s, or later?

GW: Hmm. It is after I retired. Because after I retired, I went right into working with him.

I: So you retired not too long ago?

LA: Well he started to work with Seabrook before 2004, he must have retired before 2004.

GW: I was retired, that’s why I don’t want to get misleading.

LA: Because that’s when I start coming up there.

I: Did you work til you were ninety years old?

GW: Yeah, approximately.

I: You worked until you were ninety years old?

GW: Yeah, well I tell you right now, if I didn’t have arthritis I wouldn’t be sitting here. I would go back to work, rather than stay in the house.
I: What did you do? What kind of work did you do?

GW: I was a supervisor. I was a supervisor, believe it or not. And then, I became, through politics, you know. Then I became a manager.

I: What do you mean by that, through politics? Meaning through politics in the post office?

GW: Through politics in the post office.

I: Not through politics in the Bronx?

GW: Oh no, no, no, no. I had, you see, they knew I was a workaholic. I mean, tell me to do something, I didn’t question it. Even as far as taking a [inaudible], we had a man by name of ‘Big A,’ Alexander he pass, lived up here. After twelve o’clock, up to twelve o’clock, I’m just an ordinary seven.

I: What does that mean?

GW: The position I have. The clerk. My position after twelve is a fifteen. And I say fifteen because when Alexander come in there, he say ‘Winsor, what’s the count.’ I have all of that ready. Because I know he gonna ask me that. That mean, what the house is like, how much mail we got in the house, what kind of mail we got in the house, it’s necessary for the people to call over time. I got all this [inaudible] because I know when he comes in the first thing he gonna ask me is, what’s the count. And do you think we [inaudible] and that’s why I fell out with certain foremen. After twelve o’clock, I got just as much power as they have. Because he knows he can depend on me. Because, first thing, ‘What’s the count, how many do you think we need?’ ‘Overtime’ ‘Should we keep the forwards?’ ‘The forwards for four o’clock, they all for twelve thirty. Now if they want to volunteer, they get a coffee break, they gotta come through me. And if anything happens, he look this way, and say, are you having a problem? I’m nothing to brag about now. But [microphone moves]. Sorry.

I: That’s okay.

GW: He’d say, ‘Let him go home.’ And I used to have a problem then because, until twelve o’clock when ‘Big A’ comes in, I’m just at level seven. You know you’re acting clutch, you’re acting formal, and by me being as aggressive as I was, it would give me, they’d call me out and he’d say, ‘You can do it.’

I: So you worked a lot. That’s how you spent most of your time. When did you start to get involved in local politics, when did you start to --

GW: After working with Seabrook. Then I started getting around with him. Because if there was anything, any places he wanted me to go with him, because if there was any places he wanted me to go, I’d go around with him, then I met DeCastro.

I: DeCastro.

GW: I met DeCastro in the Post Office, but meeting him again, was just like Granby. I met Granby in the Post Office.
I: What was Granby’s first name?

GW: I don’t remember his first name.

LA: Granby.

GW: I’d have to look it up, I got to have it somewhere. He’s very good, nice guy.

I: So you spent sixty years with the Post Office, and it was after you retired you started to do work with Seabrook. So what kind of things did you do with Larry Seabrook?

GW: Well that’s a good question, everything. I’d answer the phones, I take care of situation, they come to me they say they’re having a problem with the school, they wanted kid to go to a different school, they got dispossessed, I got a case right here. I got a case right here. This young lady --

I: This is now, this is going on right now?

GW: Right now! Right now, because she herself is being dispossessed. I held onto her as much as I possibly can. In fact, before you all came in here, I was about to call [inaudible] here to see if he can stop it. I can’t do anything.

LA: Stop what?

GW: The dispossessed, she got the date, she has a date March something on her. When they come and put her out in the street. And she’s still depending on me. I got a young lady, this young lady, she works at Harlem hospital, and she had a patient, and the patient was HIV positive, and she stuck her with the needle, he, she’s supposed, I got that, she’s three cases in one.

I: So you work on these cases now.

LA: They call it constituent services.

GW: In fact, we just got through a few minutes before we came here and I was thinking what I could do. You Adrian Armstrong? Adrian?

LA: Who?

GW: Adrian Armstrong.

LA: Oh yeah.

GW: Well I called him to see a good lawyer, because she wore her welcome out. She’s known all over downtown, in the Bronx and also downtown, and she’s being dispossessed. We tried to do the best we can for her and she’s not the only one. They call here all the time. In fact, you believe it or not, even when I was in church with my wife, after the service was over, the people be holding me up. And they had to remind me that Sunday school was about to start, take in the street or on the sidewalk somewhere. If I’m coming out the store, it’s ‘What time will you be in the office?’ I’ll tell you something. Right at 216th Street, and right across the park there, they used to be lined up for me. They want to see the gray-haired man. That’s the way they called me.
I: Because of the work that you do with constituent services?

GW: That’s right with Seabrook. He spoke about that the other night. I hate to see people perish.

LA: [phone rings] Hello?

GW: And not only that they got these people with babies, you got people with babies, and they haven’t got anything to eat, they need diapers, I took, I’ve taken twenty-five dollars of my own money and bought food for the babies. See that they taken care of. I’m not telling something to impress anything on you, I’m giving you the facts.

I: Have you noticed the problems getting worse recently or has it just been the same?

GW: Well, the, I can’t say too much about that, but after the time I left, it was, if I could make a comparison, I know it should be worse.

I: So you no longer, you’re still working for Mr. Larry Seabrook?

GW: I’m not on the payroll, oh no. These are people that I continuously work with. And Mr. Hall help me with certain things because he is so much, even a lawyer, he went to school, he work with Johnson, and he has helped me considerable with this thing here. But at this given point, as I told her today, she was on the phone with me for the longest, I told her that it’s nothing I can do for you because, and you muddle things up, like I’m muddling things up with you right now, and I can’t decipher what the things she says. She was speaking to me about what happened as far as the, she be speaking to me about something that happened with her mother. And she leave that and she go to what happen to her. How she’s being dispossessed and what’s going to happen to her, and is there any help, I can help her. They want money too sometimes. But you just, I can’t afford it.

I: Perhaps maybe a last question, since you’ve been living in this neighborhood for so long, how have you noticed, how has it changed, from when you moved here --

GW: Well, I tell you, it has changed dramatically in here. Because when we first move here, the people with kids had more respect for you then than they have now.

I: Had more?

GW: Had more. They don’t care nothing about you. They use profanities if you turn the faucet for water. They use that four letter word as if [inaudible]. And if you look at them then they say more. It’s nothing like it used to be. It’s a shame, we’re trying to do the best we can, or make changes, but it has to stay [inaudible], you know. I’ll tell you something, before we can go. My daughter won a scholarship right over here, to go to college. Then turn and give the scholarship to somebody else. And they give her a citation around the scholarship, right over here. And she’s doing nicely today, because she’s a priest, and she has her own congregation, a Lutheran priest out there, and she’s doing very good. She got a school right with it also. She had churches, two churches out there. And, because these people hire, they want to hire a part of her church. Because they have different meetings, different church section meetings, and she gets through, they know how big her service is there.

I: So your daughter, she did well.
GW: Oh yeah, both of them, they’re doing well. And my grandchildren, they’re doing wonderful also. The great-grand.

I: So aside from, you notice nowadays that the children lack respect. What was it like when you first moved here, in terms of young people and older people?

GW: They respected each other. Oh yes. They respected them. I mean if you have a bag, they’ll help you with that bag. You could have bags on top of your head and all over the place, they’ll look at you. And they would close the door when you come in. They’ll open the door when you come in. If there’s anything they see you on the street and it’s too heavy for you, they’ll help you. Sometimes you have to say no.

I: And now --

GW: Oh, they see you dying, they’ll look at you and then instead of calling the cops, they’ll walk around you, and make a crowd around you. If some elderly person doesn’t come by and say, “Anybody do anything about this?” No. They have to do the calling themselves.

I: Why do you think that is? Why has it changed like that.

GW: It is the whole situation so far that, the home is concerned. And I’ll tell you something, believe it or not. Maybe you won’t. If you did anything in the street, it is home before you get there. Your parents will know about it. You better not call these people and tell them anything about their kids. Not only that, they go to church. You know what a great change was? When they changed, when they had something on the money. You don’t remember that?

LA: Hmm no.

GW: Oh yes they had something on the change, and it was change. ‘In God We Trust.’ That’s what it was. And I remember that, and I said to myself and I said, the moment they start doing that and start opening up these liquor stores, Sunday’s the day of what?

I: Rest?

GW: Alright. They knocked that out. Sunday’s, after Saturday night the stores are closed. The stores opened Monday morning. Come back, you got some days of rest. And that’s when it went from one thing to the other. The bars, bars, beer, you can get beer before even twelve o’clock. You go there, they got backs of it and say, ‘How many you want?’ They used to give these, some of the cops, I’m not saying all, they can be bought, like everything else.

I: Right.

GW: And that’s what happens. It’s nothing, they respect nothing. The four letter word come out of them like they turn the faucet on. Four letter word once you turn the faucet on? That’s the way it comes out. Young children. And if you can say that in front of them in the home, what do you think, and they’ll turn around and put it on you too. Tell you, the mothers and fathers. And they think, ‘Oh, that was funny.’ It’s not funny. No. And that’s why, they’ve lost that great respect. They need the house of prayer to come back in there, make a change. And that would be a good idea. Go to church. I didn’t say it, I’m
not stopping you, but whatever denomination, go ahead. Enjoy, then enjoy the rest of the day. I tell you something, on Sundays, we sit down, before we eat, how nice, what have I done that made you unhappy during the week. And they’ll tell me. If I punished them wrongfully and they think they were punished wrongfully, I give them the opportunity to discuss it. They can discuss it. ‘Daddy, you did this, Daddy, you did that. I don’t think it was right.’ Then the mother’s right there, the four of us sit, at the table. That’s before we have dinner. Because she say, the digestive tract, when you eat, and you do that like that it’s no good.

I: Would your family have, would you have dinner together, every night together?

GW: On Sundays.

I: Oh on Sundays? Because you were working most of the.

GW: On Sundays we have dinner together. Yeah.

I: But during the week you probably weren’t.

GW: If I’m home, if I’m home we have dinner together. But Sundays, is the day everybody have dinner together. You go to church, go to the early mass so you’ll be home to see the ball game. Then you come in, and that’s if it’s a concert or something like that, go to the concert. Go to the movies, something like that. Not, it’s always something on Sunday. The plays on Broadway. [sings] ‘I want to be an American, I want to be an American.’ West Side Story, yeah. I mean, that is, right now, all of them are coming right back to Broadway.

I: Mr. Winsor, thank you. I’m going to turn it off now.

GW: Oh yeah. Yes, yes, yes. I thank you sir.