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Oral Memoirs
of
Fr. Daniel Walsh, C.S.Sp.

A Series of Interviews
Conducted by
Megan DeFries
April 6-May 2, 2016

Collection: Oral History Initiative
Project: Spiritan

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Interview History

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Project Detail

The purpose of the Spiritan Oral History Project is to document the lives of Spiritan priests, brothers, and Lay Spiritan Associates in their own words in order to preserve the history of the Spiritan congregation.

Fr. Daniel Walsh, C.S.Sp. [b. 1958] was ordained in 1991. He attended Duquesne University, the University of St. Thomas, and Catholic Theological Union, where he earned a Master of Divinity in 1991. From 1992-96, he was a missionary in Carauari, Amazonas, Brazil, going on to serve in many different roles at universities and dioceses across the United States, including as the University Chaplain and Director for Campus Ministry at Duquesne University from 2013-18. Fr. Walsh is a Parochial Vicar for St. Paul Cathedral Parish in the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Megan DeFries was the oral historian for the OHI.

Fr. Daniel Walsh, C.S.Sp.
Oral History Memoir
Interview Number 1

Interviewed by Megan DeFries
April 6, 2016
Duquesne University
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Collection: Oral History Initiative
Project: Spiritan

DeFries: I am Megan DeFries interviewing Fr. Dan Walsh for the Spiritan Oral History Project. This is our first interview on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at the Laval House at Duquesne University. Hello Father.

Walsh: How are you?

DeFries: I'm good. How are you?

Walsh: Good.

DeFries: Good. Thank you for meeting with me today. So why don't we start by talking a little bit about when and where you were born, your family background, your family—things like that.

[00:00:31]

Walsh: I was born in August of 1958 at Jacksonville, North Carolina. My father was in the marines, stationed at Camp Lejeune [North Carolina]. I have—dad was from Squirrel Hill [ed. note: Neighborhood of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania], mom was from Crafton [Pennsylvania]. Dad's a Duquesne grad, mom went to Mount Mercy [College] which is now Carlow [University]. I have—had an older brother, Tim, who was born also at Camp Lejeune actually on base and that wasn't a very good experience for mom, so I was born in one of the hospitals off the [base]—

DeFries: A civilian hospital?

Walsh: Yeah. Timmy died twenty-five years ago—he was a great, great guy—and I've got a younger sister Kathleen, who lives up in Gibsonia [Pennsylvania] with her husband Bill and two kids. Hopefully both of them will come to Duquesne, Mary Rose and Ryan. So after—after I was born, within a year my family moved back to Pittsburgh. We lived over by Greenfield [ed. note: Neighborhood of Pittsburgh]—Greenfield/Squirrel Hill for a little while. I have no idea how long. My sister was born at Mercy Hospital, where my grandfather was a dentist and my uncle.

[00:01:55]

So my great grandfather, Peter Walsh, was superintendent of Pittsburgh's police and his home was on Bluff Street, probably right by the corner of Mellon Hall [of Science], maybe as close to the corner of the Bayer [Hall] building.

DeFries: (speaking at the same time) Oh my goodness.

Walsh: So literally I could throw a baseball into what would have been his backyard, my great grandfather, who was known to a lot of our priests at the time. He was the superintendent of police in Pittsburgh. So when I came to the community, a couple of the very old Spiritans said, "Was Peter your grandfather?" and I said, "No Father, he was my great grandfather." The one guy looked at the other and says, "Damn we're old." (both laugh) They remembered that he would come in the squad car and ask—the priests would be outside either, say, their office or visiting—"Hey Father, could you jump in the car and hear my confession?" So, you know, we go back a long way. So this old house, [Laval House] my grandfather probably came in and had a cup of coffee at some time.

DeFries: That's amazing.

Walsh: Yeah, and he was superintendent of police back—certainly during the Prohibition [ed. note: The eighteenth amendment to the US Constitution banning the production, importation, transportation, and sale of alcoholic beverages, 1920-1933] and when—oh, what was the—they—they kidnapped the baby? Who was that?

DeFries: Lindbergh?

Walsh: Lindbergh.

DeFries: The Lindbergh baby [ed. note: Charles Lindbergh, Jr., son of aviator Charles Lindbergh and his wife, author Anne Morrow Lindbergh, who was abducted on March 1, 1932].

Walsh: Yeah, Lindbergh—when he came through town there are pictures of great grandpa, my great grandfather, with Lindbergh when he came through Pittsburgh.

DeFries: Oh my goodness.

Walsh: Yeah.

DeFries: (speaking at the same time) That is amazing.

[00:03:40]

Walsh: So after dad—well now, getting back to my little family, after dad got out of the marines he worked for Mine Safety Appliances and worked there for more than thirty-five years, I think, and retired from Mine Safety, but we lived in Pittsburgh until I was in kindergarten. We moved from, like, Greenfield over to Crafton to Park Street, right across the street from my maternal grandparents. And in 1965, when I was in kindergarten we moved to Syracuse, New York; lived there for about a year

and then we moved to San Jose, California. We were there for five years. Then to Philadelphia [Pennsylvania] for ten years. I finished grade school, went through high school, and while I was—while we were still living there, I came to Duquesne and by my senior year, the family had moved back to Pittsburgh. So the—my parents lived here for the rest of their lives and Kathleen continues to live here.

DeFries: So what was that like to move so often as a child? What was that like for your family and your home life?

[00:05:01]

Walsh: It was—it was challenging. You move to a new place and you've got to make new friends and you're the—kind of the new person and you talk funny. The—your accent kind of gives you away that you're not a local, so my brother, sister, and I are all—were very, very close. (phone sound) But, yeah, it creates its own challenges, but it also—you get exposure. My parents were glad we got out of California when we did. It was 1969 and things were getting—I can remember dad driving us through Haight-Ashbury [ed. note: Neighborhood of San Francisco, California] with all the Hippies from the 1960s and we—my brother and I were always playing ball and there were kids who delivered papers and one of them offered us drugs, and we were in elementary school, and my parents just said, "This is just not—"

DeFries: Not the place to be.

Walsh: Not the place to be. So we moved to Philadelphia. Here we are, tan little kids coming in from California. The school uniform were corduroy pants, a white shirt, and a sweater. Pull into Philadelphia and it's a coat and a tie in elementary school, so kids said, That's cool, they don't have to wear ties, and we had to wait until we found out what school we were going to be in and then go get the uniforms, but big, big changes. Like I can remember the first day of elementary or first day at school in Philadelphia and in the morning the door opens and these ladies come in. They're mothers selling pretzels, "Are there pretzels? You guys get snacks?" Five cents for a pretzel. We didn't have any money, we—going to school, what do you—what kind—who needs money? You got your lunchbox. So one of the kids or one of the mothers [said], "Oh these are new kids," gave us all—my brother, my sister, and myself in three different classrooms, we all got a pretzel, a big soft pretzel. That night at dinner, the talk, "You know what happened? Well, those mothers came into our classroom too!" It was amazing. We thought, What a treat, you know? The first day of class and they had treats. The next day, the door opens—pretzels again. Every single day, you could have a snack of a pretzel for a nickel.

DeFries: That was big thing. (laughs)

Walsh: Oh, it was huge. So changes in—like in California there was no cafeteria.

DeFries: Really?

Walsh: You sat outside on benches. It never rained. If it did, you would stay in your classroom and have your lunch at your desk, but there wasn't—I don't remember that there was a cafeteria and the—the big thing was you couldn't leave—you couldn't feed the seagulls that would come and try to eat all of your—whatever kids didn't

want they would feed to the seagulls and so there were big campaigns, “Stamp out seagulls! Don’t feed them.” (both laugh) And then in Philadelphia—the rain and the snow—you had a cafeteria, you could get a hot lunch, yeah.

DeFries: Now did you move so often because of your father’s position at Mine Safety—

Walsh: (speaking at the same time) Position, yeah.

DeFries: Did he choose to move or they—did they just send him—

[00:08:56]

Walsh: He would—he would get—he would get promoted. When we were in California, they sent him to Harvard [University] for a program in management development and so—then he was made district manager and was district manager in Philadelphia for ten years and then was brought in—I think he was national sales manager and then a director of international affiliates of Mine Safety in Canada, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Australia. So he would have to travel a lot and then he came back into the domestic sales after I don’t know how many years, but—so it was—he was—dad was moving through the ranks at Mine Safety and different opportunities that—

DeFries: And your mother, was she primarily a homemaker during this time?

[00:09:53]

Walsh: She was, she was primarily a homemaker and would always volunteer wherever we were in school and then when we were in Philadelphia and all of us were in—certainly in high school—mom went to work in a couple of nursing homes. Mom had a great compassion for the elderly. So she worked at a couple of—or one (phone sound) nursing home in Philadelphia. Then when we came to Pittsburgh, she commuted from, like, Fox Chapel [Pennsylvania] over to Green Tree [Pennsylvania] and worked at [Vincentian] Marian Manor for a while and then took a job with [Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of] Harmarville, which was pretty close to our house and she really—she really enjoyed that. Yeah mom—mom really had a great, great way with the elderly. (chapel bells ringing)

DeFries: Why do you think that is?

Walsh: She had a good heart, yeah, mom was—mom could sense anybody who needed help. All my buddies, all the friends, they were always welcomed in the house and mom had a kind of a way of knowing which kid needed attention, whether it be a cousin, whether it be a friend who was just hanging around and loafing. They all—a lot of my classmates here at Duquesne, they still remember mom for her kindness.

DeFries: That’s really nice.

Walsh: Yeah.

DeFries: That probably helped too as you moved around, she probably helped you with the transitions.

Walsh: She did and for kids you—you would make friends, but for mom, particularly in Philadelphia, sometimes parishes can be—those who are the established members and then new people, there would never be room. So I think that’s influenced me that, we’ll always make a—widen it to include another person who might not be one of the stakeholders, one of the families who’s always been here. I worked in Arkansas and if your family hadn’t been participating in the parish for fifty years you’re new, and if you’re new you can’t be a part of the committee. (both laugh) So kind of, we can open up space and—

DeFries: Make room for everyone.

Walsh: Make room for—yeah, for everyone, which takes—first you have to—I think having had the experience allows you to be attentive to the needs of people who might not be—or who might be on the margins, not by their own choice—

DeFries: Right.

Walsh: —but by the way things are structured.

DeFries: That’s true. Going back to your childhood—and you had said that you had a love—well, you do have a love of baseball.

Walsh: I do.

DeFries: And so, was that something that kind of carried—well, obviously it carried through your childhood, but, I mean, did that kind of help as you went—moved from place to place, you always had baseball?

[00:13:27]

Walsh: You know, it’s—it’s amazing because we would—I would, whatever sport was—if it were baseball season, I’d be playing baseball; if it was football season, I was playing football. The—we came home from school, you would get a snack, put on your play clothes, and then you had to be out. Mom didn’t want you in the house, “You get some sunshine. You get out and play,” so—but I loved baseball. I love all sports, but I really, really love baseball. Wasn’t as good at it as I would have liked to have been. I wanted to play in the outfield with Roberto Clemente. [It] was kind of tough, I was very little when he was playing, but still he was my hero and where—wherever we were—like in California, we were in a parish (phone sound) and one of the other families, the guy was one of the assistant coaches at Santa Clara, so Santa Clara University would play in the spring against the [San Francisco] Giants—Willie Mays, Juan Marichal, Willie McCovey. I mean, these unbelievable ball players and we could go to the game and watch the Santa Clara Broncos play against the—the San Francisco Giants, so you’re seeing some of the baseball greats. So going to—we didn’t see many games at Candlestick Park, but then coming back East, now you’re in like sixth grade and up through high school, you’re following the local team, the [Philadelphia] Phillies, but always keeping an eye on where the [Pittsburgh] Pirates were.

And when we would come to Pittsburgh, my—I have this little transistor radio up here [points to radio on top of bookshelf], my grandparents—one lived in—set of grandparents lived in Crafton, five miles from Three Rivers Stadium. They would listen to every game on the radio. They knew who was playing well, who wasn't. I can remember sitting at the dining room table with my grandfather and Richie Hebner was playing third base, "Danny, he's going to be a hell of a ball player, you watch him," "Okay, gramps." (both laugh) Well, it's going to be on the TV, you're not going to go to Three Rivers. And then my grandmother lived over—my grandfather died in 1969, so I remember grandpa, but not real well—she lived over in Oakland [ed. note: Neighborhood of Pittsburgh]. Little transistor radio, she could tell you how the Pirates were doing. She would not—you would never see her go, it was just—just the way things were. I think everybody loved the Pirates, but—

DeFries: Didn't go to the games.

Walsh: Didn't go to the games. So I would just always be interested in any sport. I'm not that big of an NBA [National Basketball Association] fan, that's kind of—that's a stretch. I'll watch the last two minutes of a game, but the rest of it—

DeFries: What is it you love about baseball? What makes you love it?

[00:16:52]

Walsh: I don't know. I just—I love playing it, just being outside. I don't know, just good memories. You could—you only need—you could play stick ball, like we would play stick ball because you didn't want to walk all the way down to the park and if you got down to the park there would probably be another organized game that you—you have to wait, but we would play stick ball in the street. We would play street hockey in the street, we would play football in the street, we would play anything we could. But baseball—so it's a game—there are 162 games, it's not that expensive, like to follow the—I love the NFL [National Football League], but it's too expensive and I have to work on Sundays, so—and I would rather watch the game on TV. I think you see a better game, but baseball—I can remember going to the Buc Nights—last night was a Buc Night for the Pirates—eleven innings in the cold, but I can remember loafing with my buddies here at Duquesne, "It's Buc Night. We're going to the game. There's no way we're going to study." You get into the—so we walk over to the Three Rivers Stadium and watch a game for a buck [one dollar] and this is back in the seventies and after we graduated, we get together and we can still remember the knucklehead conversations that we used to have. The Pirates had the Pirate Parrot [team mascot]. There was a third baseman, Dale Berra, who was, I think—well, at least the Pirate Parrot was picked up for selling drugs, (both laugh) but if you saw the Pirate Parrot, you didn't see Dale Berra. If Dale Berra was playing, you wouldn't see the Pirate Parrot. We came to the conclusion that Dale Berra was the Pirate Parrot. (both laugh) So we were—a couple of the buddies came in—if they come in, we'll just automatically, "Let's see if the Pirates are in town," and we're sitting there, "Do you remember that conversation?" "I do," (laughs) this is—this is many, many, many years after the—yeah, and with baseball, there are lots of games, lots of people all over the country. If—one of my hobbies was to go and see every baseball stadium and I've done it twice.

DeFries: Wow.

[00:19:29]

Walsh: You know, and then they open up a couple new stadiums. Now next they're going to open a new stadium in Atlanta [Georgia], so I'm going to have to go down to Atlanta. Now, I've done it three times.

DeFries: Wow. (laughs)

Walsh: Complete—well they're just—the next ones opening up are easy to get to, but yeah I can call up or plan a trip. When I was moving from San Diego [California] to Chicago [Illinois], I had to drive so—plot out the course and where am I going to go and family knows that I'm a big baseball fan, so my dad flew from Pittsburgh down to Dallas [Texas] to his sister's house and I came through and we went to see the Texas Rangers. When I was in San Diego I—I did a loop. One of the parishioners—people know that I'm a baseball fan, so I—Fr. Mike White and I would, at the drop of a hat, go to the [San Diego] Padres' game. So I had an inkling that I wasn't going to be there for too many more years. I had been there at least three, and thought I'll probably be moved again, so it was nothing to go up to LA [Los Angeles] for a day game for the Dodgers or the Angels, but I thought I'm going to get up to—they have a new baseball field up in San Francisco, Pac Bell [Pacific Bell Park], and I've never been to Oakland [California] and then if I'm up that far, over to Denver [Colorado]. I've got cousins over there. And you've got to come back through Arizona—

DeFries: There you go. (laughs)

[00:21:07]

Walsh: —so it's a week and a half. (laughs) So one of the ladies who lived—went to—to Saint Agnes, Estelle Gallagher, in a Portuguese—a very Portuguese parish, came and says, "Father, you're a baseball fan," I said, "I am," she says, "My son works for the Giants, if you ever want to go to a game, let me know, and I'll have him get you tickets." "Sure Estelle, that sounds great." I have no idea what her son does for the Giants. The next year, I'm going to do this trip. I plot it out—I can go—leave on, let's say, whatever day, make it to a game in San Francisco, the next day the Oakland A's are at home, then drive over to Denver, spend a—arrive one day, see the game the next day with cousins, then come down through and spend a day—I had been—worked for a bank in Arizona and I loved Sedona, but—I'll spend a day in Sedona and then go down to Phoenix and then back to San Diego. Take a week, get it all done. So I said, "Estelle, I'd like to go on this day," "No problem, Father." I said, "I need two tickets. One of our priests, he's Vietnamese, he's up there studying. I don't think he's ever been to a baseball game, but I'll bunk with him and take him to the game." "No problem." The next week, envelope from the San Francisco Giants. Open it up, not two tickets, but four tickets, parking, blah blah blah, "Father, thanking for taking such good care of my mother. I would like you to use these seats. Signed, Patrick Gallagher, President of the San Francisco Giants."

DeFries: Oh my goodness.

Walsh: His own tickets.

DeFries: Wow.

Walsh: Yeah.

DeFries: Very nice.

Walsh: So you go in and they—this is the first—first of the stadiums, they—they don't tear your ticket, they have an optical character reader. So you put it through the turnstile, get into the stadium, you got to do it again to get to these seats. I'm bringing my own peanuts. (both laugh) So I call my cousin, who's a character, he's down in Sacramento [California] and I said, "You know, I didn't get two tickets, I got four." He says, "Let me think about it," I said, "They belong—these tickets belong to the president. I'm in them," (laughs) so I mean we—they—

DeFries: You had the president's suite—

Walsh: Yeah, I mean, it's cheese with a little tomato and basil leaf, if—and so I said, "I want a hot dog," it comes on like a Kaiser roll with Grey Poupon mustard. This is nuts. (both laugh) So we have a great day. The next day, back to my kind of ball getting the general admission and the Vietnamese priest didn't want to go anymore. (laughs) I don't know why. I have never—and you watch the—it's the—from the [Oakland] Coliseum where the A's play and the Raiders [ed. note: The Oakland Raiders, an NFL team later known as the Los Angeles Raiders, now the Las Vegas Raiders] and you watch these Raiders games and they're all nuts. I mean they come dressed in a costume, they're rowdy, they're dirt bags. I have never seen more beer concessions in my life (laughs) in a stadium. They're all loaded. So finish that, drive over to Denver, have a blast with my cousins. We all go to the game, perfect, glorious day in Colorado. And then I'm coming back through—I want to get down to Arizona and I want to spend a day in Sedona. It's this beautiful place with red rock and I'm driving and I didn't really look at the weather forecast and they said, well, it's going to be 110 [degrees], forget that. And then, the next thing is the sports and they say Randy Johnson is pitching. Well, Randy Johnson is just awesome and you can do a YouTube or Google thing and say "Randy Johnson" and "pigeon."

DeFries: Okay.

Walsh: It's good, if you like to watch feathers fly. (DeFries laughs) This stupid pigeon flew in front of a ninety-five mile an hour fastball. (Walsh laughs)

DeFries: Oh, that had to have been messy. (laughs)

Walsh: It was great. (laughs) It was great. Not at the game that I was at though. (DeFries laughs) It's on there. So if you're ever having a bad day, think it could be worse, you could be a pigeon.

DeFries: Right. (laughs)

Walsh: So, I'm driving in and I plan to—to go the next day and I hear Randy Johnson is pitching and it's going to be 115 [degrees]. I'm not staying in that kind of nutso heat. So I get to the stadium, I've—scalpers are nice people, it's their little business, so

you—you'll get a cheap seat. There are no scalpers. (chapel bells ringing) Randy Johnson is pitching, I don't know if I told you that.

DeFries: Yes.

Walsh: So I go to the box office and I can't find any park—parking is tough, so I go up and I say, "What's the chance of getting a ticket tonight?" "Oh, not good. Randy Johnson is pitching," I said, "I know," he says, "How many do you need?" I said, "One." "Oh, let me see." Fifteen rows behind home plate in the middle of an aisle.

DeFries: Oh my gosh.

Walsh: You can hear the ball hitting the glove. It was glorious.

DeFries: Most people wouldn't think to pick that seat, one in the middle of a whole—

Walsh: You know, if—if you need just one ticket, that's easy. Getting two together or five or four you're either up in peanut heaven—

DeFries: (speaking at the same time) So you lucked out?

Walsh: So I had a great seat for—for Randy Johnson. And then your—that was one of the few on this tour—Minnesota, I didn't get in. Didn't know anybody up there either. Couple of places I didn't know anybody, but it's still baseball. So—

DeFries: You can always get—find someone to talk to in the crowd I'm sure—

Walsh: Yeah.

DeFries: —and you get along talking about the game. (laughs)

Walsh: Yeah, and baseball fans are generally—now where was it? It was—it wasn't Kansas City [Missouri] or Minnesota, someplace it was the La Roche boys—there were a couple of them who played professional baseball and it was this kid's debut. It was in Atlanta and he comes in, he hit a home run—I'm sitting with his family. You know, I just bought a ticket, I'm sitting down and ends up being this guy, it's his debut, rookie, and he hits a home run and his family is sitting in the same row as me.

DeFries: What a nice moment. (laughs)

Walsh: Yeah, it was—I think it was Adam LaRoche, but yeah, just some—baseball is fun.

DeFries: Thank you for sharing those stories. (laughs)

Walsh: Yeah.

DeFries: So just going back a little bit to your elementary school years again, so you started school—kindergarten—in Crafton?

[00:28:00]

Walsh: And that was in public. That was second ward—or first ward—first ward in Crafton and then by the—by Christmas we had moved.

DeFries: To Camillus [New York]?

Walsh: To Cal—San Jose, California or no to Syracuse—to Syracuse and we began at Saint Chris—not Saint—Saint Charles.

DeFries: (speaking at the same time) Saint Charles.

Walsh: It was Saint Charles up there and Sr. Mary Columkille was the kindergarten teacher and she was old and we thought she was mean, but Sister Fedelia, she was the first grade teacher and she was a dear and she was a—mom kept in touch with her and my sister. Sister Fedelia died maybe four or five years ago, but she was just off from the novitiate. She was probably eighteen or nineteen years old from Ireland and my sister and brother went over and stayed with her sister in Ireland one year.

DeFries: (speaking at the same time) Really?

Walsh: Yeah, but Sister Fedelia was just wonderful.

DeFries: Did you have her as a teacher or was it your brother's?

Walsh: No, my brother and then I had her and then my sister, so we were all a year apart. So all three of us had Sister Fedelia and she was absolutely the best. And then, I don't really remember—I remember one of the—this one sister who taught music, she was also very nice, but most of the other teachers I don't remember from—it was Saint Charles's in Syracuse, Saint Christopher's in San Jose, and then when I went on this baseball trip—or no, I was—I was doing mission appeals, I went back to see our old house. I was—I had returned from Brazil, so it was probably like 1997—and we do mission appeals, we go around and so we had four mission appeals in the diocese of Salt Lake [City, Utah] and the expectation would be that somebody would go and would—week after week go, but they would give—stay in a parish and give the pastor a chance so that he could get a vacation. So one—I had two mission appeals and the guy didn't—he wasn't going to go anywhere, so I figured I'm going to go over—it was still a pretty long drive, but I went over and I saw our old house and having left in the sixth grade you think, Oh my gosh, that house was so big and where we played baseball and played football across the street, that was such a big thing. Go back and—

DeFries: Tiny?

Walsh: Tiny, tiny, (DeFries laughs) but the memories—and went back to the school and this parking lot that we thought was so immense, I mean, you could play kick ball—had two kick ball games going at the same time, Oh that was so huge, and everybody got to sit on the bench and have lunch at the same time. Go back—it wasn't that big. (DeFries laughs)

DeFries: It's funny how things change in your mind with time. (laughs)

Walsh: (speaking at the same time) Yeah, yeah, but the—the school, they were all Catholic schools. Mom and dad were—made whatever sacrifice, but mom would always be volunteering in the library or wherever, so if we got in trouble, they didn't have far to go to get mom (both laugh) because I was always getting in fights.

DeFries: Oh were you?

Walsh: Yeah. My brother was very, very smart and they would pick on us, “You talk funny. You're new,” and Timmy was always just smart and quiet. I would fight anybody—bigger, smaller, older, younger. You start something and I would get into fights and Sister Fedelia, (laughs) she remembers us getting off the bus and something happening and I slugged this kid, (laughs) “All right Danny!”

DeFries: Oh my gosh.

Walsh: But, yeah, Timmy was sensitive and I can—and they tell this story, Timmy, my brother, he always slept on the top bunk. I was on the bottom bunk. He had a particularly bad day, kids were picking on him. So mom says to dad, “Go in and talk to Timmy, he had a bad day.” So I can remember I was—they thought I was asleep on the bottom bunk, “You know, it was a bad day, dad,” and dad says, “You know, Timmy, I don't want you to start a fight, but if you have to, don't let the kids pick on you.” Well, that was the next morning I clobbered this kid, (both laugh) I hit him with my lunchbox. I got on top of him—

DeFries: (speaking at the same time) Oh my gosh—and you were in first grade?

Walsh: (speaking at the same time) —beat the hell out of him. And I was in first grade.

DeFries: Oh, wow.

Walsh: Just—so I was remembered for getting into—

DeFries: (speaking at the same time) You were the tough one.

Walsh: —lots of fights.

DeFries: Did you win?

[00:33:25]

Walsh: Oh yeah! (DeFries laughs) Yeah, so—but that was—that's kind of like growing up. We were—we were tight as a family and then once things—you kind of get settled. You've got your friends and I still have friends from grade school, from Saint Dennis. We went to high school together and you don't talk to them very often, but when you meet each other after maybe one or two years the conversation picks up today where it left off two years ago. You're just—you're just friends. The stories we tell, they're the same silly stories, but—

DeFries: It's good to have those friends your whole life long.

Walsh: It is, it is, and I still keep in touch. I haven't been back to Philadelphia for—maybe this summer I'll go back. So—and I know the boys are going to be coming in. I'm celebrating twenty-five years of ordination, so my sister is preparing a—

DeFries: Congratulations.

Walsh: —something so the boys are already saying, We're going to be there. So that'll be fun and my sister hasn't seen a lot of them since mom died which has been a long time so—

DeFries: Would your friends have ever picked you out to become a priest when you were kids?

Walsh: You know, some of them, they're surprised, but then they say, Not really—both high school and college, but I was never a holy roller. We were just good, Catholic guys.

DeFries: Were you involved in church as a child? Were you an altar boy and—did those kind of things?

[00:35:10]

Walsh: (speaking at the same time) Yeah, altar boy, but never—not really youth group. We—we had our group of friends, we were always playing ball. It's not like we—we were—whatever was going on the parish we were always involved, but then that—like my niece and nephew are very involved in their youth group, not so much in sports. I mean, they come home and my nephew will play video stuff. We weren't allowed. We could watch "The Three Stooges" while you have your snack, but then out of the house. Find something to do, but don't be under mom's feet. (both laugh) That's just the way it was. All the guys would—we'd build our own hockey nets and carry them out in the middle of the street or if we were playing another team from another neighborhood, we'd carry them down to the—to the park and use the basketball court, but you were just—you just played. Came home and—

DeFries: Kind of gave you freedom to—to roam and—

Walsh: Yeah, and I mean it was a lot different back then. You weren't worried about crazy people kidnapping or doing stupid things to kids. You could be a kid.

DeFries: Do you feel like neighbors looked out for each other—

Walsh: Oh yeah.

DeFries: —and each other's kids?

Walsh: (speaking at the same time) I mean if you—neighbors would let your parents know if you were doing something. Throwing rocks at cats or something. (both laugh) Maybe hitting a cat with a rock. If they saw you throwing rocks at cats, I think they would give you—someone would give you a pass, (DeFries laughs) (phone rings) but hitting Fluffy would be probably frowned upon. Sorry.

DeFries: That's okay. So you talked about this a little bit, about the differences between going from the East Coast to the West Coast, then back to the East Coast, so can you talk a little bit more maybe about the differences between the schools or experiences—were there any major differences in the way the schools were structured or your—

[00:37:38]

Walsh: You know, the—yeah, it was—academically my brother was really smart. I muddled through, but they were good schools. I would imagine kids today, when you're in elementary school, you're shooting to get accepted into a high school and then you're in high school and you're—pass sixth grade to get into seventh, Danny, you'll be fine. (both laugh)

DeFries: One step at a time.

Walsh: Yeah. (laughs) You know, you're not looking too far into the future. The—kind of the Philadelphia was a huge system and it's—you come to find out later—but if you were—your parish would pay for a significant portion of your high school tuition. The parish would be assessed for however many kids from your parish went to the high school, which made it affordable. It was kind of a—a big Northeast cities diocesan school system. It was big and with kind of resources—every school had to take care of itself, but at that time in the seventies the parishes were full, there were many religious vocations. The school I went to was run by the [Congregation of] Christian Brothers. My father went to Central [Catholic High School, Pittsburgh], so this Easter I went for Holy Saturday Mass to say Mass for the brothers at my dad's high school and one of the brothers who's in the community over there, after I left was the principal—a couple years after I left, but he was principal when some of my buddies' little brothers went through and so I said, “Do you know any?” “Yeah I know him, I know him, I know him, I know him,” so the Philadelphia was a bit more closed. Now, we lived in San Jose and it's kind of a melting pot and my mom got really upset when she was in the grocery store and asked for something and they said, “Oh, and what country are you from?” “I'm from Pittsburgh!” (both laugh) “What's the matter with you people?” Yeah—but yeah, the—there were, I guess, more Italians in Philadelphia and we had—I don't know if we were really Irish where we were in California, but I mean Kenny—Kenny Johnson, I mean, he was Indian.

DeFries: Really?

Walsh: Yeah, and I sat on the bench with him eating lunch with him one time and you're getting the same stuff all the time—peanut butter and jelly or bologna—(chapel bells ringing) and kids as they will do, “Want to trade?” “Yeah! I'm sick of peanut butter and jelly,” and so, “What do you have?” “Tongue,” I said, “Get out of here!” (both laugh)

DeFries: Oh my gosh.

Walsh: Tongue.

DeFries: Now—Indian as in from India or—

Walsh: No, as in—

DeFries: Or Native American?

Walsh: Native American.

DeFries: Oh, okay.

Walsh: You know, and I'm there—came home, “Mom, he wanted to trade—I'm not eating that!” (both laugh) Now that, you give to seagulls.

DeFries: So did you have a pretty diverse group of friends in San Jose or was it—

Walsh: (speaking at the same time) You know, they—we were—I can remember a couple of Italian names, few Irish, Kenny Johnson was Native American. He was Indian. Yeah—but I don't—it was just kind of—yeah, I don't remember really the ethnicity, but in Philadelphia, there were Irish and there were Italians and that was kind of—

DeFries: (speaking at the same time) That was it.

Walsh: Yeah, the—Philadelphia—or when we moved here to Pittsburgh or when I came to Pittsburgh to Duquesne, some of the Polish names there were—wow! One of my buddies, his name was Wieszczyk [ed. note: Pronounced wisecheck]—and I still see him, I probably will see him on Friday—W-i-e-s-z-c-z-y-k. Send that kid to kindergarten, “What's your name little boy?” (laughs)

DeFries: “How do you spell that?” (both laugh)

Walsh: “How do you spell that?” (laughs) Yeah, so—

DeFries: You had it easy with Walsh.

Walsh: Walsh, was very—(DeFries laughs) just one vowel.

DeFries: So you had said that—it—that California, at the time with the counterculture and things going on, your parents were getting a little nervous about being—

Walsh: (speaking at the same time) Mom and dad—mom and dad were nervous.

DeFries: (speaking at the same time) What do you remember about that?

Walsh: It was a—it was a good experience, but they wanted that kind of more sane and stable atmosphere for kids when they were going to begin their adolescence and so Philadelphia was—

DeFries: Do you remember seeing—I know you said you had driven through Haight-Ashbury and that's when you'd seen the Hippies, but do you remember seeing, like, in your day to day life, like protesters or counterculture or—

[00:43:19]

Walsh: (speaking at the same time) No, not—no, dad would come home and he would—some of the places he would have to call on were some of the universities and he would come home about all these protests and in California in the sixties—

DeFries: It was the center for a lot of it.

Walsh: There was—there was a lot and going through Haight-Ashbury, “Roll up the windows! They’re Hippies!”

DeFries: Oh my gosh. (both laugh) It’s a very bad thing to say, right? (laughs)

Walsh: Yeah—

DeFries: What did you think about it at the time when you saw that?

Walsh: You know, I had no idea, but I can remember my uncle came back—we have a—my mother’s sister, my uncle was in—in Vietnam in the army and he retired. He was just about to become a general and we—as we moved, many times they would follow us. So when we were in San Jose, they came to Fort Ord [California] and I can remember they would—when Uncle Den was in Vietnam, they stayed with my grandparents and then we moved to California and all of the sudden we hear Aunt Ann and Uncle Den are coming. So they came to stay with us and I can remember my dad grabbing the American flag and waiting for my uncle who drove almost non-stop from Pittsburgh to San Jose. I mean, he did it in just a remarkable amount of time back in the 1960s and they were stationed at Fort Ord, so kind of back and forth for visits. Then we moved to Philadelphia and they came to—back to New Jersey, well he was—my Uncle Den taught at West Point [New York] and then they were at some other—fort something in New Jersey.

DeFries: There’s fort—fort—well, not that I can remember—Fort Monroe? Fort Dix, I think?

[00:45:20]

Walsh: (speaking at the same time) Fort Dix, I think. He was at Fort Dix and when he was at West Point that started the tradition for the Army-Navy [football] Game. Everybody came from Pittsburgh and we had cousins everywhere and we’d sleep on the floor. We’d go to the game and we would freeze. (both laugh) It’d be so cold and then the aunts and my grandmother [would say], “Okay kids, if we go home, hot chocolate for everybody. Doesn’t that sound good?” So, all the bribery would start. (DeFries laughs) “If you guys go home, we’ll make a special treat for you,” but I mean it would be people on top of people and it would be a blast. So then, after that Uncle Den—after he got out, they moved down to South Carolina, but a couple of my cousins—Mary, from that family—Julie came to Duquesne, met her husband here. Mary, she started off at West Point. Mary’s about five foot one, 100 pounds, and not much of an attitude, but enough, “Hey listen, quit yelling at me, I’m a girl.” (both laugh) She had to carry this big rifle with her—oh, the stories she tells about her time at West Point, but two of her brothers, went to West Point, so—but yeah—

DeFries: So you have kind of a military connection in your family.

Walsh: (speaking at the same time) There is, and one of my other cousins from the Walsh side, he just retired as a general in the marine corps. Holiest guy I know. His wife—Michael’s my age and his wife, he met—she went—he went to Notre Dame and played lacrosse with my brother at Notre Dame. Timmy was the captain of Notre Dame’s lacrosse team.

DeFries: Wow.

Walsh: And Michael came to Notre Dame and all—Timmy’s in his dorm with his knucklehead buddies and there’s a knock at the door, he says, “I’m looking for Tim Walsh.” “That’s me,” “My name’s Mike Brogan, I think we’re related.” (both laugh) He says, “Well come on in, have a beer.” So they sat down and they’re trying to figure out how it is that they’re related. So Mike’s dad and my father were first cousins.

DeFries: Okay.

Walsh: So next thing, Mike’s trying out for the lacrosse team. But yeah—and then he married a girl, [name redacted], and she’s had MS [Multiple Sclerosis] and she’s now confined to a wheelchair with a respirator. Mike is the primary caregiver and he was when he was a general in the marine corps. Guy is just unbelievable.

DeFries: Obviously suited to his—as a general, he can handle a lot, clearly, because he’s—

Walsh: Yeah, yeah, but just a—I have nothing but admiration. The marines were very good to Mike and Mike was very good to the marines. He was tasked with during the Iraq War—all of these IEDs [Improvised Explosive Devices]—he was charged with developing a way to put armor on all of the vehicles so that the men would survive these horrible blasts. So he was in charge of all the finance for the marines, so—

DeFries: Big job.

Walsh: —pretty big responsibility, but a good guy. So—

DeFries: So following—after you finished elementary school years—and you went to Archbishop John Carroll High School? So what were your experiences? What kind of student were you in high school? Were you still getting into fights or—(laughs)

[00:49:42]

Walsh: No, no, no, I didn’t get into fights in high school. I was a wrestler, which was a lot of fun. Good buddies, it was a good experience. It was further from home, so we go to ride the bus or take the trolley and after school with all the practices and this and that—a little bit more—we’d still play a lot of hockey, whatever. If it wasn’t wrestling season, you could still play hockey and we would play against other kids from other neighborhoods, and so my brother was a year older than me, so some of his buddies and my buddies from the neighborhood—there were kind of two different groups—my wrestling buddies and then the other ones. So it depended on the season who I was hanging out with, but high school was a lot of fun. Being a boy’s school I—and guys don’t really—you don’t really pay attention to a whole lot. If you give a ball and say you have to do your homework, we’re kind of—we’ll take care of

ourselves. It wasn't a whole lot of competition for the best grades or—I think I went to a couple of the proms, but that was because everybody did, but I started to caddy to make money. The—there was a golf course about a mile from the house, so we would go over there and caddy and if you got a loop you were doing good. If you didn't, you'd go out and play golf or go and find something to do. By my senior year, I'd found a job working for a construction firm that was digging for a sewer pipe. I wasn't an intellectual, (both laugh) but I got to drive a pick-up truck.

DeFries: (speaking at the same time) Did you enjoy that job?

Walsh: (speaking at the same time) Yeah, you're digging in [the] dirt. And the guy—the owner of the company—I'm glad I only did it for part of one summer—the worst temper I have ever seen in my life—and come home—and I didn't know anything. I'm supposed to shovel (laughs) and pick this up and move it over there, drive the truck and get this—just not a whole lot of thought. You just do what you're told. Well, this guy had this monumental temper and he'd throw stuff at you and he would yell and he would curse (chair creaks) and so—kind of the debriefing at the dinner table, “What went on at work today?” “Oh, nothing,” and then when they found out that we were—had to go down and put this sewer pipe together and the holes weren't shored, which means putting up structures so that the thing doesn't cave in. Dad found out about that, “You're done with that.” (both laugh) Okay, I can go back to caddying, but that was—that was kind of cool. I was the only guy in high school who had a cool job like that—sewer pipe. (DeFries laughs) It was out in some field. I mean it was—they were going to develop something, I have no idea what.

DeFries: I wonder if they'd even hire a high school student to—to do that today? I don't know.

Walsh: Probably not. (DeFries laughs) Probably not. It would be like an indentured servant. If you were the son, you could go down into the hole. But then, like in college I—dad—Mine Safety built another office and dad got to know some of the people so he got to work for one of the big landscaping [companies] and they did a lot of building roads, like industrial, when they would build a thing—a big building and it would have to be landscaped, all kinds of really big projects. So we got to work—I got to work for them for two summers, which was really cool. Got to drive a dump truck. That was—if you had a hot day, some days you would have to do paving and in the middle of the summer, when you're standing on asphalt that's coming out of a plant at 300 degrees, if they tell you to drive a dump truck, that backhoe will fill it, you get to the place where you're going to go, you pull this lever, shift that knob—it unloads itself. That was cool. That was—they didn't have air conditioning in the trucks in those days, but you got to drive.

DeFries: Right.

Walsh: That was fun. Yeah—and then, those were—yeah those were kind of the jobs and just all my buddies. We were all doing different things, but always in touch with each other. And because I had to—these jobs, I had to get up very early. I was the party pooper. About nine o'clock, ten o'clock, “Good night guys.” (laughs) “See you Dan, come back next Friday.”

DeFries: You were the old working man? (laughs)

Walsh: You know, yeah, the other guys, they had jobs, but probably more stamina, but I would have to work six days a week and I was making so much money.

DeFries: Now is this in college or high school?

Walsh: College, in college.

DeFries: (speaking at the same time) Okay.

Walsh: You know, making just five dollars an hour, which was a lot, plus overtime, which would be time and a half and I would be working a minimum of sixty hours.

DeFries: Is that above minimum wage back then?

Walsh: Oh yeah. Not by much, but minimum wage might have been \$3.75, but it was—it was pretty good (chapel bells ringing) and working so many hours, I would be dead—that I didn't spend it, which was part of my cheap disposition, I guess.

DeFries: So during your high school years—so it was 1972—

Walsh: Two to seventy-six.

DeFries: Okay, so we're still—I mean, as far as national things going on, we're still in Vietnam, things like that. So is there any part of that that touched you in your day to day reality?

[00:56:25]

Walsh: Not in high school. I remember, Timmy, my brother, had to register for the draft, but I didn't.

DeFries: Why is—

Walsh: By seventy-six, the war in Vietnam was over—

DeFries: Oh, so you register when you're eighteen, that's right.

Walsh: Um-hm. Timmy was still under that. I'm sure that the—I wasn't that aware of things kind of going on nationally, but I do remember the end of the war and just kind of what that meant. Not that I was worried or that anyone was really bringing up the fact that there was a—you had to register for the draft. There wasn't a draft, but I can remember people burning their draft cards in California, (clears throat) being—protesting against the war and at that time, when your uncle is fighting in Vietnam and you have these people and everybody is saying, "Oh they're dirty. They've got long hair. They're doing drugs," that was kind of like, don't do that. And just kind of the changes as a elementary and high school kid, you're vaguely aware, but—what season is it? It's hockey season, it's football season, (DeFries laughs) you're kind of a guy. You're not paid to think. (DeFries laughs) Just stay out of trouble.

DeFries: What stands out to you about your—your school years and your childhood years now?

[00:58:23]

Walsh: They were happy and I always had a lot of friends. Not huge numbers, but a good group of guys and I'm proud to be their friend even today. We—I somehow have been one of those fortunate guys that just found myself in making good friends with guys I'm proud to be friends with and we—we still are all good friends. My sister, she loves my buddies and whenever I get in touch with them I've got to tell her who's doing what and she can't wait for this summer to see them. They're just good guys, both the grade school, high school, and my college friends. Just good, good people.

DeFries: That's—that's always a plus, I think, that's always a blessing to have friends last your whole life long and you're proud to be—

Walsh: Yeah

DeFries: —to have those friends. (laughs)

Walsh: Yeah, like Friday the group from Duquesne is getting together for lunch. We get together about a few times a year for lunch and then for other things and it's always a hoot. And the—the buddies from high school, I don't get over there as much. I get—see a guy here, a guy there, but we're all in touch with each other and wanting to know what's happening, so it's good.

DeFries: So you chose Duquesne for your university—

Walsh: Yeah.

DeFries: —your college years. What made you choose Duquesne, other than being a third generation Duquesne student—(laughs)

[01:00:14]

Walsh: Because Notre Dame says you can't come here, (both laugh) you're not smart enough!

DeFries: Was that your first—

Walsh: Well, Notre Dame—I wanted to go to Notre Dame and so it was between Duquesne, which was my number two, and Saint Francis, but I was a good wrestler and when the—all the propaganda came from Duquesne, Oh they've got a wrestling team, I thought, I could walk on. Got here and they had disbanded it several years before that and sold all the equipment. Oh nuts! Well, so, my grandparents lived in Crafton and my grandmother lived over in Oakland and you're kind of in this little bubble up here on the campus. So I would go out and—not that frequently—to see my grandparents, but to keep in touch with them. And at first it was hard to adjust. My first semester wasn't—wasn't that easy. By the second semester—the friendships—you're kind of sorting things out and Duquesne just became this great place.

DeFries: What was tough about the first semester?

Walsh: I don't know. My roommate wasn't—was challenging. Wasn't—we didn't talk to each other very much, my buddies were on the other side of the floor. He was kind of alone, didn't mix with everybody. Academically my first semester, I did really well. Second semester, I didn't do too badly, but my first semester, I had found out I could do this. And then kind of finding your group, finding your friends, and once that happened it was—this is where I wanted to be.

DeFries: What were some of the things that you got involved in on campus or what were some of the things you enjoyed about campus?

[01:02:18]

Walsh: (speaking at the same time) We played sports. (both laugh)

DeFries: Always goes back to sports.

Walsh: Yeah, or intramurals. The guys on the floor were always a lot of fun. We—we would enjoy each other's company. Oh, let's play hockey, let's play football, let's play baseball, and then I joined a fraternity and they played football. They played softball. I wasn't really allowed to play basketball. We were—Darrell and I—and now his daughter goes here—we were only allowed to play in one basketball game because there weren't enough guys because we hated basketball and we wanted to see who could foul out the first, (laughs) so—

DeFries: So you were banned after that? (laughs)

Walsh: After that, yeah. We had no skill. (both laugh) We were not finesse players. (laughs) He was a wrestler too so—yeah we—we didn't—

DeFries: That wouldn't mix well with basketball.

Walsh: We weren't in—we were not—we lost the game too.

DeFries: You belonged to Kappa Sigma Pi?

Walsh: Phi.

DeFries: Phi, excuse me, yeah.

[01:03:19]

Walsh: And Father Crowley was the—was our chaplain and Father Crowley knew my dad through Camp Rosary. My mom—or dad worked at Camp Rosary, which was—I don't know who ran it—but it was one of the camps for the diocese. So he knew my dad. Father Crowley was just great. These Spiritan guys were—were good men. Father Crowley—if you got in trouble, go and talk to Father Crowley. If you were having issues he—he'd sit down, he'd talk to you, kind of get you back on the beam.

Father Duchesne—I can remember we were playing hockey and in the seventies hockey was getting more and more popular. We started to play street hockey, so there

was a—a basketball court down in front of the [Duquesne] Towers where Vickroy [Street] is, maybe just a little bit closer. You can still see actually the wall, this kind of cobblestone wall, and Father Duchesne always had these—these mutts and he would walk these dogs, Jake and Mike and—crazy, crazy—in Brazil they call them can tippers; they're in the alley tipping over your trash cans making a mess. (laughs) Duchesne would keep—would keep one of them. So over the summer, he had these boards built so you could play street hockey. Well, the—the wall was here, the hillside went like this, [gestures to demonstrate a sloping hillside] so they braced them with two by fours [wooden boards]. Well, we were having one particularly hard-hitting game and we were beating the hell out of each other and he would see a guy and he would hit the boards and the boards would go like this [gestures to demonstrate boards wobbling], “Oh sorry Father!” and Father controlled the money here. “You guys break it, I'll build it again! Have fun!” They understood that guys like to hit each other, (both laugh) and they were fine with that. And if you're out there playing hockey and you break the boards, we can rebuild them. Have fun.

So the—Father Duchesne would come out to—to our parish and it wasn't until my senior year that the family moved here and then we're all going to Mass together and who comes, but Father Duchesne. “Hey, how you doing?” and he'd—mom would always every Sunday, whatever priest wants to come out to the house for dinner, so—Father Duchesne would come out regularly. And mom loved flowers, she had flower beds. I would have to pull the weeds and put the mulch in—they were her pretty flowers, but my stupid weeds kind of mom (DeFries laughs)—but the guys—the Spiritans—were always just so human. Not—you don't have to be a holy roller, you can just be yourself. They'd be supportive and you could make a mistake and not—not be the end of the world. So kind of—all the different things, academically it was challenging, not—not overwhelming. I would get decent grades, had good friends, lots to do. College was fun.

[01:07:11]

My first year, I lived in Saint Martin's [Hall]. In those years, it was all boys and then Art Institute of Pittsburgh students rented a couple of rooms, a couple of floors maybe. We didn't really have much to do with them. Junior and senior year we—we got a wing over in the Towers and that was a blast. We had a really good group of guys. Then by my senior year we started to move out and Brottier [Hall] used to be Cricklewood [Apartments] and there were a few guys that went in there and that was expensive, so—Darrell and his daughter, who's here at Duquesne, we found—Bill Clinger moved down there first. Seventy-five dollars a month for rent. 1979.

DeFries: Was that not much or was that a lot for then? (laughs)

Walsh: That was dirt cheap. (laughs)

DeFries: Okay, I'm thinking it doesn't sound very expensive, but—

Walsh: That was—seventy-five dollars a month.

DeFries: Wow.

Walsh: We were cheap guys. It was a common kitchen, common bathrooms, common community area. I could touch both walls. (DeFries laughs) There was room for a bed and a desk, but it was only seventy-five dollars a month. I was so happy. Darrell was paying, like, eighty because he had another six inches and Clinger was probably in that same range and there was the Coke guy, who we never saw, but he smoked a cigar. You know the Coke guy was in the house if you could smell the cigar. All the knucklehead stories about—one guy was a prison guard over at the—not this jail [ed. note: Allegheny County Jail] because that wasn't built yet, but it was another one and he was a—he was a crazy guy, (DeFries laughs) (train whistle) but my mom saw it and she cried, "My son's living in a dump," "Mom, it's only seventy-five dollars a month!" and I used to work at the New Diamond Market down on Market Square, doing whatever—I wasn't allowed to clean fish, but I could work the meat counter. I could work the produce. I could work the, kind of, warehouse and stocking, but, yeah, all the—all the money I made went to rent and groceries. I didn't make—make big money. I wasn't a rich guy on campus at that time, bummer.

DeFries: So you feel like the—the Spiritan priests on campus had a close relationship with the students?

[01:09:46]

Walsh: Yeah, they were—they were all very accessible and different Spiritan priests were involved in different things, but Father Crowley was the chaplain to our fraternity and just a really down-to-earth guy. Father Duchesne, a whole bunch of them—Father Roach.

DeFries: Father McAnulty was president at this time still?

Walsh: He was president and he retired my senior—after my senior year and then [Father] Nesti came in.

DeFries: And—do you remember any of the challenges on campus with—I know that there were some financial issues at the time with campus and—

Walsh: I think that was before I came.

DeFries: Okay.

Walsh: I think that was like the late 1960s or very early seventies. This—Mellon Hall, you'll see the—they had put up the steel framework and a big wind came and knocked it down and that almost bankrupted the university, (chapel bells ringing) but Mellon Hall was already constructed when I got here, but time—I mean, I was a student. I was taking classes. I wasn't aware that we weren't well-off financially. I knew where my classes were, I knew what I had to do.

DeFries: Did you ever meet Father McAnulty while you were here?

Walsh: Probably on a couple of different things. I never had a—Father Mac was always—people kind of loved him. We were kind of mad at him one time because the sewer—or the pipes backed up and our floor got flooded and he wouldn't pay for the—to get us a new carpet, but we got over it. (both laugh)

DeFries: That might be an example—

Walsh: (speaking at the same time) Gave it a—gave it a—yeah—gave it a try. You're not getting any money boys—all right.

DeFries: Why did you choose business as your—as your degree?

[01:11:52]

Walsh: Before I came. Yeah I—I was—my brother wanted to go into marketing. Timmy actually started off in physics, studying physics. He was very smart.

DeFries: And he was at Notre Dame?

Walsh: At Notre Dame, and he was in the ROTC [Reserve Officer Training Corps] and he had an attitude problem. Don't yell at Timmy. (laughs)

DeFries: Timmy, who was shy when he was a child?

Walsh: Yeah, and then they give him a gun, don't yell at Timmy any more. (both laugh) So he did that for a year and said, I'm going to go into business. Well, he was—he was very smart. (chair creaking) He was—there's a—he worked for a company called Parker-Hunter [Incorporated] after he graduated and he said, "I'll work for you for free. I just want the opportunity to be a stock broker." Well, by the age of twenty-seven, he was a vice president and running one of their offices. I mean he was—he was very good and making a ton of money and making a ton of money for the people who he was investing for, but yeah—

DeFries: Was that in Pittsburgh? Did he live here?

Walsh: He started off in Pittsburgh, but then they made him the manager of their office in Painesville, Ohio and now it's Janney—is it—what's the name of the—it was sold—is it Janney Montgomery? [ed. note: Janney Montgomery Scott] Yeah, it's a—it's a regional stock brokerage firm, so—yeah.

DeFries: And did you choose business as—because of your father's influence, because he was a business man?

Walsh: Yeah, yeah I think it was kind of a default and it was either between accounting or marketing, so one or the other.

DeFries: What made you want to—want to join a fraternity while you were here?

[01:13:48]

Walsh: There's this herd mentality. All my buddies are joining, why not? So we were a bunch of good guys. They were lucky to get us. (DeFries laughs) We helped the football team. Steins could play basketball, while we were all good at softball, so they had an outfield and half the infield. (laughs)

DeFries: There you go. Any crazy fraternity stories?

Walsh: No.

DeFries: No?

Walsh: (speaking at the same time) Nothing, no. (DeFries laughs)

DeFries: None that you can share anyway?

Walsh: No, (laughs) not on this campus. (both laugh)

DeFries: Have to ask. (both laugh) So what—at any point, while you were here or even before, when did you start feeling like you might want to become a priest? Or was this after?

[01:14:38]

Walsh: You know, in high school, the brothers were great. My wrestling coach was Brother Theodore. He was the principal, taught Spanish, and was a wrestling coach. And Pip was great—

DeFries: Pip was his nickname?

Walsh: Yeah, we called him Pip—not to his face—and he worked us and we got together in the fall [2015]. We were the—maybe not the last, but we were really good and so the team now is starting again and their really bad. So they said, Bring back the guys from seventy-six. We were the last—I think there was one other team that was [Philadelphia] Catholic League champs, but we—we were really good. So, we were telling stories about Brother Theodore, Pip, “You guys aren’t getting out of here until I see blood on the mat.” “Okay, Johnny Costa, come here, (makes a smacking sound with his hands) he always bleeds!” (laughs) “Johnny Costa, he always bleeds,” some of these stories you haven’t heard in thirty years and as soon as they tell them, you’re laughing again.

But the brothers were always really good and I thought, I’ll give it a thought, but I had a hundred friends and thousand things to do. Goodbye that thought, it’ll come back. Here at Duquesne, once again, the Spiritan priests were always just really good, but whenever you have that thought you—I’ll go out with my buddies. Then, after I graduated, I waited—I worked here for about two years—less than two years and then I took a job with a bank out in Arizona and I didn’t have all my buddies around me. Found that I was going—I thought—I like to drink beer and I like to play ball, not really vocation material if you ask me. (DeFries laughs) But then I found that I’m going to Mass and instead of every Sunday, I’m going every day and thinking, I don’t have what it takes, but I’m young. I can always get a job at a bank. So I called up Father Crowley, “Hey Father Crowley, it’s Dan Walsh.” “Yeah, what do you want?” “I’m thinking about a vocation.” “I’ll have somebody come talk to you.” So he sent—he called down to Texas—and at that time the Spiritan community was divided into provinces, East and West, dividing line the Mississippi [River]. Well, he called the director from the West because I was out in Mesa, Arizona and the guy came out and we talked and before you know it, I’m applying and rather than send the application back to the East, they kept it out West. And I joined out West and the

guys gave crap to Father Crowley for the rest of his life. (laughs) “Why didn’t you fly out there?” So, yeah, they—some of them would pick on him, but I went into formation and into the seminary not thinking—

DeFries: You might stay?

Walsh: Yeah. I didn’t know and I really didn’t think that my kind of personality was—fit the mold, but I’m still around. They may want to get rid of me, but—

DeFries: Do you feel like you’re still outside the mold or do you feel like—

Walsh: You know, I don’t think there is a mold. I think there’s a place for everybody. I think, yeah, there is no—and if there is, somebody’s faking it. Somebody’s putting on a mask and—

DeFries: So while you were—so it was while you were in Mesa or Phoenix—or Phoenix or Mesa—

Walsh: Both—it’s—it’s—

DeFries: (speaking at the same time) Same area.

Walsh: Mesa is a—it would be like Squirrel Hill in Pittsburgh. It’s pretty much the same.

DeFries: So, you didn’t—so, I guess maybe if you—if you can describe, I guess, the feeling you get where—here you are working at a bank, you know. You think you’re going to follow one path of having friends and living your own life in a—in a different way and then you start going to church more and you really are feeling like this—was it like a pull or a call or—

[01:19:09]

Walsh: Yeah, and I—it’s not that I ever missed Mass. I always—Timmy—we were living in Philadelphia. It was a snowy morning and Timmy was the first out the door and he got about two steps and he slipped and he hit his head. Knocked—knocked out. He didn’t have to go to Mass that day, the lucky so and so. He got to stay home and I’m like, I could have done that. (laughs) “Why doesn’t he have to go to church, mom?” “Because he hit his head.” So, like out—I never missed Mass. Faith is something that came easy, not that I was really a holy roller and I—but you’re just Catholic, so just not a whole lot of encumbrances. You can be Catholic and just be yourself. Out in Arizona it was kind of like [a] beautiful climate. Your own apartment with a swimming pool. Different than Pennsylvania with the blue laws. They would send the sale papers for all the different grocery stores and they would have price wars on New York strip steaks and beer. I’m serious. Every week, where am I going to shop? Who has the best price for beer and steak? I mean, it was a nice place to live. (DeFries laughs) Saguaro cactuses, swimming pool, steak. It was good. I was—

DeFries: You were happy.

Walsh: I was—yeah, I was a happy guy. No blue laws. I mean, sale papers advertising—we’re going to have a price war against that supermarket and we’re going to sell you

beer really, really cheap. Good stuff, but this is back before all these candy beers and I can't drink beer anymore so—but put fruit in your beer? Get the heck out of here, what's this? Making up names for beers. You don't need that. It's beer.

DeFries: Where were you working in Pittsburgh prior?

[01:21:24]

Walsh: A place called Disc Writer.

DeFries: Disc Writer?

Walsh: Um-hm.

DeFries: Okay.

Walsh: It was down in Dormont [Pennsylvania] and it was really—this is back at the very beginning of—before there were personal computers, there were word processors. And so, which way was the industry going to go? So, Disc Writer was dictation equipment and word processing, but the companies that they represented were particularly Lanier and Norelco and Lanier was very, very good for training in sales. So it was a good place to start, but I didn't see that I really wanted to do that and it—then they started to develop the PC [personal computer]. So the PC could do the word processing, the word processor was kind of like a dead end.

And so, I started to look for a job and found a job with a bank out in Arizona and that was really what I wanted to do. I wanted to get into commercial lending. I thought that that would be—use the—kind of your business and finance background along with sales and really have an interesting career, but at that time I was being considered both for the commercial lending and for retail management and at that point I was getting really, really serious about what should I do? What should I do? And I thought, They might have me back if the formation and seminary isn't what I'm looking for, so I'd figured I'd step aside and gave up the sale papers, steak, and beer. New York strips and whatever kind of beer you wanted. There were no flavored beers, it was just—

DeFries: Budweiser, Molson, or something along those lines.

Walsh: Yep, along those lines (both laugh) and I wasn't—I wasn't picky. I wasn't going to go, Yeah they had some really crummy beers over in Philadelphia, but—yeah, my grandfather used to drink Iron City.

DeFries: Good local beer.

Walsh: Yeah, good local beer. (DeFries laughs)

DeFries: Well, we're almost at the end of our scheduled time, did you want to stop here today and—

Walsh: Yeah, why not?

DeFries: —pick-up—

Walsh: Why not?

DeFries: Okay.

Walsh: I hope most of the—what I've told you is true.

DeFries: (speaking at the same time) I hope so too. (laughs)

Walsh: Some of it, a little bit of it.

DeFries: (speaking at the same time) I hope so too.

Walsh: A little bit. Yeah I was—yeah, those places I did live in.

DeFries: Well, thank you for your time today.

Walsh: You're welcome.

DeFries: Thank you for meeting with me.

Walsh: (speaking at the same time) And we—we do it again next week?

DeFries: Next week, same time, same place.

Walsh: Good deal.

DeFries: All right, thank you Father.

Walsh: Thanks for your patience.

DeFries: Oh, anytime. (laughs)

end of interview