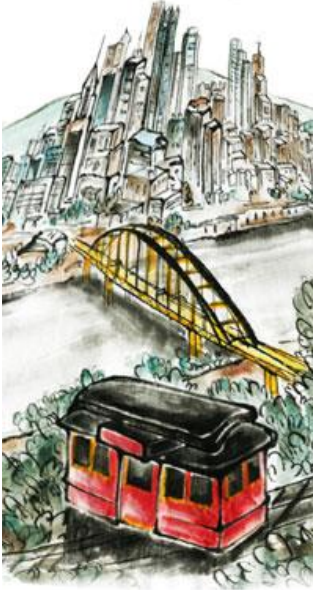


Pittsburgh Oral Histories
Pennsylvania Department
Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh



MD

Interviewed by Barry Chad

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Interviewer's Note

There is a pronounced clarity of thought and determination in this past Executive Director of Pittsburgh's American Civil Liberties Union and prominent member of the National Council of Jewish Women. Her activism, her volunteerism are unabated. Her vision for Pittsburgh is a vision for Pittsburgh's future. And--she continues to play tennis three times a week.

Interview

bc: Have you always lived in Pittsburgh?

MD: Yes, I was born here.

bc: How did you come to be President of the Friends [of the Squirrel Hill Carnegie Library]?

MD: I was elected. [She laughs.] But in any event, I've been President before. I was one of the organizers of the Friends' group. In fact, I was one of the organizers to get a library in Squirrel Hill. Which was very difficult. So I was involved "from the ground up" when we finally got it. We set up a Friends' group here almost from the beginning. We have pictures in our library collection where we are celebrating 25 years having been Friends of the Library. So we've had one [a Friends group] here for a long time. There's sort of a group of us who sort of take turns being president. Many of these same people are still with us and still do almost as much work as they originally did, which is a lot. Everybody does something—very much—not just "belong" and give money. (Our dues are extremely minor. I hate even mentioning it.) We do a tremendous amount of income from book sales [however]. We sell a lot. We usually have two big book sales and then we, just this year, started having a small monthly book sale—usually picking a topic, a specific topic, like Judaica or Home Arts or something of the sort. We had one just last weekend on Fitness and Health Care. We use the money—and, if I may say so, we have a tremendous income—we use the money to buy things for the children's group: we bought all their puppets. [In addition], we bought little stools so if you need to get to the top of the shelves, you can step on a stool. We bought several chairs in the front that you can actually get out of. (The architect picked some [chairs] that are artistically very attractive and go with the modern design, but nobody over 20 can get out of them.) And so we did that. We

have a bid out now—the Librarian is looking around for some pillows for the computer seats because they designed the tables and the seats so that only somebody who's over six foot can really look at a computer. The rest of us have to go like this [she illustrates the awkwardness of the pose]. We do a tremendous amount of work for the library. We straighten the shelves; we provide special books that the library can't afford...things of that sort. We're invaluable.

bc: You were also part of the renovation of the Squirrel Hill library that took place recently.

MD: They had meetings. We put in our two cents. We had input on the renovation and on what they planned. And the community did too. They all commented.

I happened to be in charge, and have been almost since it started, with the art work. Now, in the "old" library—our former library—we had a lot of space. We had walls. We had two walls actually, that were terrific for displaying art. We had one of the best art exhibits that the Carnegie had—and I'm not just saying that. [She laughs]. Other people have said it. [When we pointed out] the problem the architect said, Oh, well.... As you might have noticed—we [now] don't have any walls. We have windows. And so I said, We've got to have art up. If you came to my house you would see I don't have any spare space. I've got tons of art: I like art. And I used to know a number of artists. I was a model, an artist's model. (You don't have to be pretty to be an artist's model; you just have to hold still.) In any event, [the architect] said we'd have rolling panels; well, we have two rolling panels. That's all—although you can use both sides of them, but it's very restrictive [compared to] what we used to have. We're very unhappy. We'd like to get a couple more. We could probably order more except for, given the fact of the dimensions of the place, it isn't clear where we'd be able to put them. But, we did finally get sort of a wall that is behind stacks. But you can, in one area, see the wall; and we can put up art there. And, if you can once get back there, we just started that; that was just made available. So I have to let the artists know that there is more space available than just the panels.

bc: I want to ask about the origins of the Squirrel Hill library, but I've got to ask...did you ever model for Samuel Rosenberg?

MD: No, but he was a relation of mine so I knew him. No, Henry Koerner. I principally worked with Koerner. There are a number of sketches of me.

bc: You know, Kenny Love [the Pittsburgh filmmaker] is working on a movie about Samuel Rosenberg.

MD: I know Kenny Love. In Pittsburgh everybody knows everybody. You're related to them or you know them. I know Kenny because he was a Boy Scout. I knew the Rosenbergs. We were indirectly related. When I was growing up, my mother would take me over there...family affairs or some such.

bc: Why did Squirrel Hill need a library?

MD: Actually they kept saying, Oh, you can get down to Oakland. Well, everybody can't get down to Oakland. Squirrel Hill is a very vibrant community. It's a very active one. [Some people can't get to Oakland]--particularly families with children. It's very hard. And parking: it's very difficult to park in Oakland; and it certainly hasn't gotten any better. We felt that [a library] would be a tremendous resource and [be used] and that proved to be quite true. We are the most used branch of the whole system. We have a tremendous number of people. People even come from outside our area to Squirrel Hill.... (Frankly, where they park here I'm not so sure.) But, they do come. That's one reason our bookshelves are so good because we have so many people coming in. It's a library that they like to use, that they can use. We've always had computers; we have space.... It's vital for the community. And we told them that.

Mayor [Pete] Flaherty, at the time, didn't think it was necessary. We had to fight that. But we proved that we were right.

bc: Have you had a work life?

MD: Oh yes, oh yeah. I worked for 30 years for the American Civil Liberties Union [ACLU] and I retired as the Executive Director. And that's been most of my life. Before that though I worked in advertising which is what I studied in college. And, I was an executive for a number of small companies around Pittsburgh mostly dealing with communications because that's what I featured. I'd write radio scripts, newspapers, and things of that sort. At the same time I also did some work, through my volunteer work, at Montefiore Hospital. At Montefiore I worked with a doctor who specialized in therapy and, weekends, I would go down and be a secretary and do some minor therapy—putting people's hands in hot water and stuff like that. When I left that, I shared a secretarial job at Pressure Chemical Company. And that's when I had small children.

With the ACLU at that time, it was in my basement. We didn't have an office like we have now. When we started, it was in my basement, so I could do a lot of things.

At first [the ACLU here in Pittsburgh] was very much a volunteer thing. They had: Roz [Roslyn] Litman, who is still around, was very involved; Tom Kerr, who has recently died, which is much too bad; Tom Checkley.... In any event, most of the original people are no longer with us, but Roz is. As a matter of fact, Roz is on the National Board. Now she's an attorney in town: Litman and Litman.... And she was an attorney with her husband, David, and she's still an attorney and practicing. They were using Roz's secretary...and so I said I would help out. What I started to do [and] this was during the time of the House Un-American Activities Committee [HUAC]...the ACLU had put out a film about it [HUAC] and they were trying to distribute it around the various colleges so young people would know what was going on with the House Un-American Activities Committee. That's where people were declared Communists; then lost their jobs. A lot of our friends lost their jobs. Working for Westinghouse, Westinghouse was miserable at it. (And, to digress a little bit, that's why I always

held a little animosity to Father [Charles Owen] Rice. He was on “the wrong side.” I was very upset that he didn’t stand up for the laborer. He was very anti-Communist. Oh well.... He [came to see] his wrong decision, and he apologized. (Meanwhile people lost their jobs.) I volunteered to help distribute the film. I would send it off to a certain college and make sure it came back, and then send it off to another college and make sure it came back...things of that sort. Then, Bernie Yadoff, who was a psychologist, and a member of the original group—he, and the others, decided that they had enough money to hire somebody instead of relying on Roz’s secretary to do it in her off moments. So they said they’d pay me. I think 25 dollars a week to be secretary.

bc: Was this before the ACLU actually got started here in Pittsburgh?

MD: We had started. We did a lot of work...well, there were members...it was a small, core group, but it was an ACLU.

bc: Was there any specific kind of motivation for starting a chapter related to what may have been going on in Pittsburgh at the time?

MD: Well, all the Communist thing. Absolutely. McCarthyism. A reaction to that. Very much so. In fact, I remember [Joseph] Welch [head attorney for the U. S. Army] standing up there and talking [at an HUAC hearing and addressing Senator Joseph McCarthy; MD imitates Welch’s pleaful question to McCarthy], “Have you no sense of decency, sir?” He [Welch] was terrific. I loved that.

It was very small at first, but we had a separate phone in the house and got mail. When my kids were growing up, sometimes they had to answer the phone. And then we got used to the phone ringing at all hours. It was pretty interesting. As they say in China: You should live in interesting times. (Unfortunately we always do.)

bc: What are some of the particular battles that you remember?

MD: We had a big one when we went to the Supreme Court. We’ve had several that we’ve gone to the Supreme Court. One where we almost were opposed by the national ACLU. They didn’t want us to be in it. We were on the side of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission that had clients that wanted to sue. (It used to be in the newspaper that you had female employment, male employment—they were separated.) We said that was unconstitutional: you couldn’t do that. And the national ACLU wanted to be on the side of the newspaper for a free press—that they could do what they wanted. We [Pittsburgh] came in and Tom Kerr was the one, who, at the time, he was on the national board and he really argued long and persuasively that our [Pittsburgh’s] position was better and more worthy of support. And so, they didn’t oppose us. Sometimes the ACLU does get into almost...where we’re on both sides. [She chuckles.] It’s a weird situation that sometimes happens, but they didn’t oppose. And we won. The attorney for it became a judge, Marion Finkelhor, and we became very good friends as a matter of fact. That was an important case, because nobody remembers now that there used to be male/female type designations for employment.

We, of course, were in the Supreme Court, and this was later, much later, when we went in on the crèche case in Pittsburgh and that was down at the County Courthouse because that was something that you had to go into if you were doing Court business. And that was our argument: that it wasn't something that you could choose to walk by. And [the crèche] was supported by the County— technically it wasn't supported, it wasn't put up [by the County]. It was put up by a Catholic agency. But, the County kept, during the non-Christmas season, kept all the accoutrements in their own facilities, and they provided the space. We won that. We lost on...the [issue of the Christmas] tree, which I didn't think was anything to argue about because a tree isn't symbolic of much. But, they said you could have the tree; and there was big stuff about the menorah, which actually isn't symbolic of Judaism. People are very confused on that. In any event, we lost if you had reindeer around or bunny rabbits....

There was a case in which I got a lot of publicity, in fact, national publicity. I was on NBC. They flew me to New York. And it had to do with a couple of rapes in Homestead--mostly of elderly women. The police couldn't find the perpetrator. They did have some fingerprints. They wanted to fingerprint every Afro-American male. I said, That is awful; you cannot do that! And also, [the police] would follow you if you were walking around. The police would drive by and say, Have you been fingerprinted yet? And they'd go to people's jobs and make sure that everybody got fingerprinted. And they'd even go to homes and get 83-year-old men! or kids! Well, I put up such a fuss and complained about it and argued that it was absolutely unconstitutional, that you wouldn't do it if it was a White guy. The ministers would all say, Oh yes do it; we'll find out who did this. But, I said, That is absolutely wrong. It got a lot of publicity. And, just when I was up there [in New York for the TV show], through proper police procedure, they found the person because the stupid guy had gone in and tried to [hock] some of the items that he got while he was in someone's home, and they caught him. And even though that happened right the night before, and I was up in New York, we talked about it. That was with Bryant Gumbel, who is Afro-American. It got publicity and it was good for ACLU, I think. And police chiefs ever after know me very well. [She chuckles.] But it got a lot of support from police all over the world. I mean it got a lot of publicity. They kept saying, everybody thinks this is a great idea; other police departments are going to follow it. And I thought, This is horrendous! You can't do this to people! You follow procedure, but you don't fingerprint every single person who's Afro-American particularly. And then what do you do with the fingerprints? Well, they said they'd throw them away, but, ha-ha.... These were some of the cases that came up.

bc: What are the origins of your "politics," your view of the citizen in a free society?

MD: [She laughs.] The ten amendments [to the Constitution]!? I believe they should be enforced. They're not enforceable, I think, as originally stated. The Second Amendment, I don't think that it prohibits registration or keeping guns

out of.... It doesn't permit everybody to own a gun, willy-nilly, without registration, without care, and I think there can be control over guns.

Look at the Supreme Court decisions and some of them obviously were quite bad. (The Dred Scott decision was horrible.) There will be bad decisions. There are not always good judges. I believe that the government should stay out of your private affairs definitely until you violate somebody else's right--and that can be physical or it can be psychological or some other way. I think that your own affairs, private, should be private; and the government doesn't have much effect or say.

My mother was very liberal, very active in social work and she had been a social worker. She worked briefly, but not as a Social Worker. She was a homemaker when we were young. She was very involved in, I suppose you'd call them, charities and non-profits. She was involved in a sewing group at our Temple. She did a lot of work there. She was involved in the National Council of Jewish Women, very involved in that. She was a very activist-type person, very involved in the theater and that type of thing. After my father died, when I graduated high school, she went to work in the Return Department at Gimbels Department Store—the "late" Gimbels. [She laughs.] And I remember once they went on strike and she took part in the picket line wearing her fur coat. It was cold weather. And she always felt sort of funny out there walking back and forth protecting our poor workers' rights. But she had a fur coat, and she wore it.

bc: Let me change gears. Let's talk a little bit about Henry Koerner. There is a disturbing painting of his parents in a wood, simply titled "My Parents." How did you come to model for him?

MD: He came from Austria. He was a refugee. He had a lot in his paintings of reminiscences...of family and what he'd lost. He lost his brother. His widow still lives in the same house. He met her at Chatham College where he was teaching at the time. They had two children, a boy and a girl.

I'd been modeling. I modeled for very good friends of ours. The woman was an artist, Emily Sigal. Her husband, Joe, worked with my husband. And we were very close. And Henry became a very close friend to them. I modeled for Emily quite a bit and then [through that] Henry knew me. I also did some modeling for Ben Fisher's brother Leo because they lived next door to us. He was a sculptor and I'd do modeling for him. We'd see Henry a lot through Joe and Emily. And he asked me. And that's how.

Rosenberg and Koerner, I'd say they're different styles, but actually they're somewhat.... Rosenberg he wasn't flowery. Henry is very stark, very precise in his work although the one of his parents isn't exactly like that, but a lot of the other work...a couple of them our friend Joe Singer was in.... Henry did big paintings generally. He had one that had to do with scientists and so Joe modeled for one of the scientists. He had a painting studio on the first floor of his house and I'd go over there in the morning before going to work and model.

bc: You're in the Friends. How else do you keep busy now?

MD: Well the Friends isn't the only thing. I'm very involved in the National Council of Jewish Women [NCJW], I'm on the board and I'm co-chair of Service for the Elderly. I'm very involved with our Temple of late. I'm on the Social Action Committee. I also deliver, with my son, Meals on Wheels twice a week. I'm a co-convenor of the Pennsylvania Prison Society, the Allegheny County Chapter here. So that keeps me very busy--with prisons, and police, and visiting although I don't do as much visiting as I used to. I run all the meetings and take all the minutes and answer all the mail. And, because of that, I attend all the Jail oversight board meetings to talk to them about complaints.... I'm also on one of the IRB [Institutional Review Board] committees of the UPMC [University of Pittsburgh Medical Center] and that's a big job actually—all the medical studies. They have about six committees. We review about twenty things. They assign different reviewers and I'm the non-medical person for some of them. There are several non-medical people and we get three or four studies to look at the consent forms to see whether they're understandable by non-medical people. And that takes a lot of time. That meets once a month. Plus I play tennis three times a week.

bc: Let me just guess: you have received awards for your involvement in the community.

MD: Oh yeah. I have lots of awards.

bc: Which are you most proud of?

MD: The NCJW gave me the Hannah B. Solomon Award and that was very impressive—Hannah B. Solomon, who was one of the organizers of the Council of Jewish Women. A lot of very active and involved women have received it. I got Civil Libertarian of the Year Award from ACLU and I'm getting another one from them in March. It's just a new award, named in honor of Tom Kerr, who was "Mr. Civil Liberties" in Pittsburgh. He was President for many years; also President of the State for a number of years—the State ACLU. He died just this past year and so they've named an award for him. I also got the Marjorie Matson Civil Libertarian Award. [Marjorie] was a very good friend of mine, she was an attorney, and very involved in the ACLU. This award [the Tom Kerr award] I'm the first awardee. One of the things I did, for 20 years I was the Chair of the Selective Service Board. (Luckily we didn't have any wars.) We met and we practiced what we would do.... Appointed by Ronald Reagan.

bc: Is there a remedy for the problems of our prison system?

MD: Probably not. Certainly not what we're doing. Mandatory sentencing is one of the worst things we have. And we are ending up putting the mentally ill in prisons now because we cut funds for hospitals and facilities, plus treatment centers. The basic problem is the attitude of the public--which has been encouraged by everyone and anybody who wants to run for office. They say, I am tough on crime. And you see a clanging door behind them or cells or whatever. And that gets people thinking, Gee, crime is awful. Well nobody likes being robbed, murdered.... [There are remedies:] One, try to give people a better

education, try to get rid of poverty. Everything that we do leads to a great number of people—one fourth of the Afro-American population in jail or under probation/parole or with a record. So, if you've been in jail or even if you have somewhat of a misdemeanor, they won't hire you. What are you supposed to do, you know? What you do is the only thing you can do. If you're rich, maybe they will hire you, or, you set up your own business. A lot of people do. A lot of people with means do--who have been crooks--just as much as anybody else, and probably injured many more people than just one person. However, they can come back. They can set up their own company or work very nicely. But, if you're not [rich], and you've been in jail for a number of years and you get out and you've served your time and you can't get a job, you have to eat. The only thing you know how to do (and now you know how to do it very well because you've been trained all these years, [she laughs] by others) is to commit a crime: steal, rob, whatever...and then you're back where you started—maybe yes, maybe no. If you're caught, you're back. And then you're back longer because you have the prior, etcetera. It's a catch 22. You are deliberately setting people up to fail. And, as long as you continue to do that, you're going to succeed in what you're doing, which is failing. And we have more people in jail than any other—maybe except China—but percentage-wise I think we're higher. I mean they have more people because they have more people period. And so they have more people in jail. And they put you in jail for a lot of things that, so far, we don't—although you wouldn't know it lately. But, percentage-wise we do.

And we execute a lot...the only other countries that do that are China, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia...countries we probably [wouldn't want to be associated with on these terms]. Any other civilized society, England, European countries...they don't do that. Israel doesn't have the death penalty and United States does. And the United States kills people. I happen to be strongly against the death penalty. I don't think it's our job to kill people. I don't think--I know reviews and reports have shown that it does nothing to deter somebody from murder. Murder is actually one of the least recidivist crimes...you don't generally commit two murders. There are serial killers yes, but those are psychopaths and we're not talking generally about psychopaths who belong in a psychiatric [institution], not in jail anyway. But, a person kills somebody, maybe in the heat of passion. He's not going to kill his second wife--maybe he does--but generally they don't. Crimes of robbery, bank robbery are repeated. There's a lot of recidivism in that. There's very little in capital crimes, very little recidivism. If you once get out, you don't kill somebody again. But people say, Oh gee, get rid of them; they're terrible; they won't be killing anybody else. (They're not going to be killing anybody else anyway.) It costs the government a lot of money to kill somebody. And, it costs the government a tremendous amount—it costs you, the citizen, a tremendous amount of money to keep people in jail. Tremendous! That's the biggest line item in the State government is our Department of Corrections. It costs the most.

bc: The world refuses to change, but you don't stop trying to change it.

MD: Well, if you stop trying, you'll never.... No, the world is refusing to change. I don't know—some places have changed. Some countries have changed. You keep

thinking, Maybe they'll change. Maybe it'll get to such a point, where they will have to change. Presumably they haven't gotten there yet. Maybe they want to put half of the Afro-Americans in jail. I don't know. It looks that way, but....

Working in penal institutions is a very hard job. It pays moderately, but you're in jail the same time they're in jail. They're just there overnight--or unless you're there at night [as a night guard]. So you don't get out either. All day long. It's not like you can walk out here and get a hamburger. They can't. The inmates are not always great guys.

They talk rehabilitation every once in a while, but they don't do it. They don't follow through and they don't do it. And there isn't any. I'm Chair of the State Probation and Parole Advisory Board in this district. We keep talking to P and P (Probation and Parole) about working with...at least when they get out of jail having an ID (it doesn't have to be a driver's license probably, but an ID), getting their Social Security cards. Now, Social Security Department is saying, No; and PennDOT [Pennsylvania Department of Transportation] is saying, No. Because they want to see the person. Well, you can't see the person if they're in jail and once they get out, you won't see them. And they won't get Social Security or they won't get Welfare if they don't have their ID. They've got to get these things and, if you let them out.... In fact, one of the things I have to complain about at the next Jail meeting is that they are letting people out this time of year [January] who have been in since August. So guess what clothing they have? They're freezing out there! They're going to say we can't afford...well, they can't. But, they ought to arrange something that some organization knows that they're getting out and to have.... There are enough organizations that have clothing for people. They have clothing for people who are looking for jobs...Goodwill etcetera.... Why couldn't they hear that there's somebody out there and get somehow coats over to them? That they're going to be released.

We had a big to-do in Squirrel Hill. It wasn't even with prisoners. Across the street here they wanted to set up (in fact, they may have; I'm not sure they stayed)...Gateway was setting up a Rehab for drug and alcohol. They were seeing that they were having a number of people from the Squirrel Hill area and they had to travel quite a distance [to Gateway]. It would be easier if they could come to a facility [nearer to where they lived]. I was very vocal at the meeting, unfortunately. They were women who said, "We don't want them around our children. Nobody I know is on drugs and alcohol. And we don't want them walking around Squirrel Hill." And I thought, I bet their next-door neighbor is an alcoholic. How do they know who's on drugs or alcohol? These people are also recovered, recovering; and they need the therapy. And they [the Squirrel Hill residents] screamed and yelled; well, they lost. And they [Gateway] were able to set it up.

bc: How has Pittsburgh changed in your lifetime?

MD: Oh quite a bit. Some probably to the good; some not. Little things I was thinking on the way over: we used to get live chickens on Murray Avenue. They

would cut...and pull the feathers and all that. We used to be able to get live fish down there too. You can't do that now.

bc: Are those good things or bad things?

MD: Maybe bad. That was nice. That was sort of interesting. You got to know what a chicken looked like. Maybe it wasn't healthy. It was an interesting experience: you saw what life was like: what happens to chickens; what's a good chicken; what's not a good chicken. I don't know whether it would pass health standards now by any means.

We had more (well, we won't have it too long) transportation although not always. Certainly it's changed, I think, for the worse downtown. We used to go downtown a lot on the streetcar. (I kind of miss the streetcars.) [She mimics:] They'd "Clang clang clang!" You could get a shuttle or a bus that went over across the river to Frank & Seder's. You did a lot of shopping downtown at Department Stores, which we don't have now. And there was a market. I think having that market there--Market Square is called "Market" for good reason--there was a market. Even when they got rid of Market Square, which had roller skating up on top, and the bottom was all the different produce people. Like they have in Philadelphia [in the Reading Terminal Market]. We had a market like that. I think that was a big mistake--to lose that. Even after that it went over to Murphy's and they had somewhat of a market there. And they've lost that. That I think was bad. They also used to have movie theaters downtown. And now they barely...they have one--sort of. We used to have more theaters for shows. You have the Benedum. We used to have the Nixon.... We used to have more reason to go downtown and now, very seldom, unless I'm going to the Symphony or something special and I don't hang around downtown generally. Mostly 'cause there's not something to hang around for. They don't make it easy or convenient to do that, but we were able to do it then. But, it's gotten, I think, in general, a little better. We now "go over the river." In my earlier...you know, you seldom went across a river. I knew people who grew up in Squirrel Hill...and they'd go downtown and they never crossed the river. [Everything was either in Squirrel Hill or downtown.] Now you'd go over. I go to South Side...South Side I go a lot. I go to North Side. You're used to going over a river and it's become much better that way. We're trying to get the use of the rivers--and have pathways--we didn't have anything like that before where you could run or bike along the river. If they would get something like San Antonio or Savannah or some of the other places where they have activities or [are] selling things along the riverbank, I think you'd get to use it more, but we don't seem to be doing any of that. We've got three rivers and we don't really utilize them. We used to have tremendous barges up and down and we still have more boats--we're the biggest inland port and all that--but we're not really using it for people. But I think we could use the rivers more than we're using them. [Sailboats]--you can't do that too well because we have bridges; we have a lot of bridges. Except for Venice, we have more bridges, and they're very impressive. So you can't really have high sails or you'd run into a bridge. We ought to use the paths along the rivers more. I think what we're trying to do is pretty good. What we used to do for fun, was go out and watch the

coal...the slag heaps, and you'd watch them tip over, and watch the red coals come down. [She laughs heartily.] And you'd drive out to see that! [now "Summerset at Frick Park"] That was what we did. I'm sure that not having [the slag heaps] is probably good, except that means we don't have the steel mills. So we have to think of ourselves as another type of city...which we haven't exactly.... We're still thinking of what we used to be—we used to be a steel city and we're not a steel city now....

bc: Why didn't you run for politics?

MD: No thank you no. No no, absolutely not.

We've had good things coming in. I think Squirrel Hill has developed very nicely. I think they've surmounted having Waterfront [shopping center] which they thought was going to take away a lot of business and it took away some but not everything. There's still a lot here. And, of course, remodeling the [Homestead] Grays Bridge has certainly kept people...I've stopped [pretty much] going to the Waterfront because that traffic is horrendous, but it'll get back eventually.

So I think there's a lot [that's] better. Certainly the new parks are better than Forbes Field which was cozy and nice and right in Oakland. But, you get used to it and they're pretty nice.

And I think we have to get a new attitude about Pittsburgh and consider ourselves either a medical or medical slash technology city. We've got a tremendous amount of medical care here, one of the best, which tries to get some promotion...we're number one in "U. S. News and World Report." We have a lot of technology skills at CMU [Carnegie Mellon University]. All the graduates they have...and we should try and keep them here. Yet we make it very difficult for them, but they really should stay here. A couple of them are going to California because they couldn't really get venture money here to start up what they were planning to do. We need something that's going to help them do that. CMU is [putting up] a big building with [Bill] Gates money and that's going to have a lot of people working there who should live in the city and we ought to encourage them to live in the city or live nearby. CMU's parking is almost non-existent. So, they're getting more people; they're building another building; they're going to have to park somewhere, or take transportation. So what are they doing? They're getting rid of transportation. [A reference to currently impending transit cuts proposed by the Port Authority of Allegheny County.] Nobody's working together...I'm sure that people are thinking...I would hope.... Allegheny County Conference people should be thinking...we're getting more people in CMU we ought to figure out where they're going to live and how they're going to get to work. I'm hoping they're thinking that. You don't see any results at the moment, doesn't mean they aren't. I think we need definitely an attitude change. Obviously people like me...we have a very high incidence/percentage of people who stay here, live here all their lives. We don't leave...people even go away and some come back, but you need to get new people in here. (I really haven't been to a store, except a grocery store, for months. I'm not the customer. You've got to get

people here who need stuff, who need to buy. So that means you really have to look at attracting a younger group of people while not losing the people who are still staying around.) We need transportation for older people definitely. And parking: we can't park that far away 'cause we can't walk that far. You need things to get young people interested in Pittsburgh. And you've got, I think, to get some idea, some attitude [like] "we are an up-and-coming city"...