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Richard J. Daley Library
University of Illinois at Chicago
801 S. Morgan St.
Chicago, IL 60607
3rd Floor
(312) 996-2742

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Interview with Patricia Daley-Martino

12 June 2002

Present: Patricia Daley-Martino, Dr. Robert V. Remini, and Dr. Fred W. Beuttler

Location: UIC Historian's Office, 628 UH, 601 South Morgan, Chicago, IL.

RVR: I'm a historian. And I'm here at this university. Your father made this place. It's my feeling that your father has not been treated with the understanding that he deserves. Historians and others do not know what an extraordinary and distinguished man he was. This is our way of providing materials that for now and in the future, scholars will be able to say, "We have the evidence." And you're part of that. I'm trying to interview as many of you as possible. But please understand, I don't want to intrude on your private life or the family life. And if I get too close, because I'm a New Yorker, I'm pushy. I know you. You would say, "Back off (PM laughs)." I think we can serve the family, and we need to.

PM: I agree.

RVR: But I think we need to serve Richard J. Daley more. My colleague and I have been talking about the exhibit they have of Mayor Daley. It's very small. We need something, I think, that would be much more representative, like a replica of his office. Now I understand....

PM: Richard has his desk.

RVR: He has his desk, you see. And there are lots of artifacts. Fred knows. You can tell Mrs. Martino.

Dr. Fred W. Beuttler: It's very common, like for a presidential library. At the University of Minnesota, there's an area for Hubert Humphrey that replicates his senate desk.

RVR: Right. It's part of the library.

FWB: It's like his office, just the way it was. That's a very common way to sort of teach the community and school kids.

RVR: This is so that your grandchildren, who never knew him, could come here and see.

PM: And so many of his own grandchildren could learn also.

RVR: Right. They'll hear from you and from their parents, of course. But as it goes on, this would be a lasting memorial. The more we can gather, and we've just started but we don't have the papers. That's going to take a while, I think.

PM: Yes. I'm going to try and expedite that.

RVR: Oh please (laughs)! What can you do?

PM: I could physically go down there and get them (PM, RVR, and FWB laugh).

RVR: And bring them?

PM: Me, as the eldest (laughs). You know, a lot of this delay has been because of my mother's health situation, which is deteriorating right now.

RVR: And we're afraid of that.

PM: And my daughter is going to try to. I'm going to enlist her help a little bit.

RVR: Now, if there's anything we can do to help you, you let us know.

PM: I want to pave the way first and then get this rolling.

RVR: So, should I keep in touch with you?

PM: Yes, and Michael.

RVR: And Michael. I did call Michael. Then he said he was going to call me back last week, but he never did.

PM: Have you talked with him yet?

RVR: I talked with him once.

PM: Have you interviewed Michael?

RVR: No. He wants to be interviewed. But I can't get a hold of him. He said he'd call me. And I don't want to be pushy. Is it all right to call?

PM: Yes, I'd be happy to help as much as I can.

RVR: One of the things I mentioned to Michael was that, although the gift has been made, we don't have your mother's signature. And she is the proper owner. He said to me, "I don't want any legal papers going to her. They have to come to me." And we said, "That's fine." So, it's now being reviewed and it'll go to Michael. They're also going to send letters out to everybody who came to the ceremony and to the luncheon saying, "If you have reminiscences, if you have documents, get in touch with us." We think we could have an enormous library.

PM: You'll get a tremendous number of people actually, from his administration. They're still in this area. He surrounded himself by so many younger men. These men are still players in the business world, most of them. Interestingly enough, hardly any of them are in politics.

RVR: That is interesting.

PM: It's very interesting.

RVR: You know, if I had known in my talk that there were people, I would have said, "Please contact me if you have reminiscences." Some of them don't have any papers anymore.

PM: No. But they would be able to talk to you.

RVR: But they have memories. And they could give us some wonderful stories.

PM: Many of them were my age. I'm sixty-five. They were my age and a little older. Imagine that, serving in my father's cabinet, as commissioners.

RVR: Right. Well then, you won't mind if I call you?

PM: Not at all. I'm very available.

RVR: That's part of the tradition of the Daley's, serving the civic community in different ways. You don't have to go into politics. That's how you can tell us how extraordinary this man and your mother were. Where shall we begin? Shall we let you just reminisce for a while? Or do you want me to ask you questions?

PM: Yes, let's begin.

RVR: What's your earliest memory of your father and your mother, but you father in particular?

PM: I probably remember my first dog. This is a silly story. I was a little girl. I think I was three years old. My father hung a little cocker spaniel in a stocking on a Christmas tree. And I remember coming in. I just remember his delight. I remember his delight at

Christmas, at holidays, and every time a new baby was born in our family. I remember that, because he was an only child and because so many of my grandfather's, the Daley family, did not marry. He didn't have very many cousins. He didn't have people around him. He was just overjoyed with us. He was much like one of us, in a sense, as a child. So I do remember that. My mother? I just remember my mother from forever. My father was the light of the house. We waited at the window for him to come home. I do remember that. I remember my mother dressing us up at about five o'clock and standing in the window, waiting for him to come, because then the fun began. That carried on even with my own children until the day he died. When he would come up to Michigan, where we all had houses near each other, when we would see his car, we would all come out of our houses because we knew he would arrive with liver sausage, donuts, new books, or candy (RVR laughs). He'd have something. But it was as if, "Let the games begin."

RVR: At your home in Bridgeport, did he come home pretty much every night?

PM: Almost every night, yes.

RVR: He did?

PM: Yes. He then went out again. He would come home, have dinner, and play with us. We don't know how he was able to do this because there were turbulent times in the city. Trouble was left outside at our front door. He assumed the role of father. He got down on his knees. He put the little children on his back. He asked about our homework. He and my mother always had some private time though, interestingly. He came in the door. He greeted us. They usually went downstairs and talked for a little bit. That was just their moment. It was very lovely. Then he came back upstairs. We had already had dinner. He would have dinner and talk to us about our day. We never thought anything or anyone took precedence over us.

RVR: That's extraordinary. That really is.

PM: And we felt that same way if we were in the Loop. We could walk into his office at any time. And we could walk into his office for anything that anyone else would walk into their father's office for. You know, if you ran out of money (PM and RVR laugh). We never felt that we were trespassing, we wouldn't be received, or that we couldn't see our dad.

RVR: He didn't bring a bodyguard, an aid, or a secretary?

PM: Oh no, no one else.

RVR: It was just himself?

PM: There was no one else. My parents never entertained in our home, except their own personal friends and family. There was no official aspect to our residence. Dad would have dinner. He'd take a little rest and change. Then he'd go back to the tail end of whatever dinner he was attending, or to attend wakes almost every night of the week. He liked to go. He was happy. As an adult, I would ask this. "What is the dinner tonight?" And he would answer with things like the Cookie Dippers Ball and laugh about it. Then he'd say, "Why don't you come along?"

RVR: Oh, he would invite you to come?

PM: Perhaps you'd not be attending the dinner. But sometimes you'd want to get in the car just to take a ride with him. He'd say, "Take a ride with me." Then you'd ride down, he'd get out, and you'd get a ride back. Or he'd have you go to wakes with him. He'd love to have us come with him. And we all did. We all took turns.

RVR: To be with him?

PM: Yes, just to be with him. But he really was home more than any man I know.

RVR: For a politician, with what was going on in the city at that time....

PM: He never missed a single thing for us in school. Now, he might not have been able to stay for the entire game or the entire recital. But he was always there. He even did that for my own children, for gym shows, for swim meets, or whatever. I think he had more hours in his day. His presence was very, very much in our lives on a daily basis.

RVR: Peter said he was taken to a fight.

PM: Peter has a picture from that night. It was a great memory.

RVR: That's very special.

PM: We were my dad's focus, my mother first and always, and then us. He had this great love for us and this great peace. We had a wonderful, calm home. My mother was fabulously organized.

RVR: Somebody has to be.

PM: Everything was in order. I mean at the drop of a hat, he could come home. There was a bag in the closet with a change of suit, always. He could travel and be ready to leave in five minutes.

RVR: Your mother was so well organized. Were you part of the organization? In other words, did you have certain things you had to do?

PM: We all did.

RVR: Then, when you returned, after you left the convent, how long were you living in the house before you got married?

PM: Six years.

RVR: Okay. Going back to your youth then, you said you usually had dinner before he came home.

PM: That's when we were children. We would sit up at the table while dad enjoyed his meal.

RVR: Tell me what the table talk was like. What did you do at the table? You all sat down and the first thing you did?

PM: The table talk was us. "How was your day?" You have to remember, there were seven. It was asked of each of us. "What did you do? What was new in school? What was new in your day?"

RVR: Did you start with grace first?

PM: Always.

RVR: Did he say grace, did it go around the room, or did your mother?

PM: No, we all said it together.

RVR: Oh, you said it together? Okay. And it was the formula grace.

PM: Right.

RVR: And then he would ask you?

PM: He'd ask about our day. Our family was the focus at dinner. Certainly we would bring up things that were going on in the world and in the city. But it was just political.

Not that we were discouraged at all from voicing our opinions, we weren't. But we really were the focus. It was a very normal dinner hour.

RVR: Did he go around the room to each one?

PM: No.

RVR: It was spontaneous?

PM: Yes, it was just natural.

RVR: And if somebody didn't say anything he might ask them.

PM: Right, he might ask them. My dad really kept in very close touch with us. He'd know when you had a test. He'd know when papers were due. He knew what you were writing about. We were very important to him.

RVR: How did he help you, in any way, let's say at school, or in problems you might have had to face as children?

PM: I think he helped us most by loving us and encouraging us. He was in our corner no matter what.

RVR: You knew that.

PM: We knew it. He encouraged you to make your own decisions. He was a decision maker. So if you were stewing about something, he would encourage you to examine all sides. But make up your mind and then act on it. Do your best and then act on it. He was very decisive. That helped us a lot. I know it helped me.

RVR: Yes, your son indicated that (PM and RVR laugh).

PM: I'm sure. My dad had a wonderful way. I know this even sounds unbelievable for me to say, but I never heard my father raise his voice in our home.

RVR: I was going to ask you.

PM: Absolutely never in my life. I'm sure my mother and father must have had differences, obviously. I never, ever heard a cross word. I never, ever heard him raise his voice. He never raised his voice to us. He was very soft. He always felt sorry for us when we were being corrected. My mother was the disciplinarian. My father would feel as bad as we did if we were punished.

RVR: How were you punished?

PM: Usually we were grounded.

RVR: There was never physical punishment?

PM: Oh no, never.

RVR: None of the children were ever hit?

PM: Oh no. If he wanted to get a point across, it was always done with such kindness. He would never hurt your feelings. He would never hurt you. I never heard him speak ill of a person. I remember being critical of a particular broadcaster on television. I was horrified at the things he was saying about my father. I kept saying, "Did you hear this? Would you watch this?" He said, "No. Why would I? You're an educated woman. Don't you know that's not true? But, forgive the guy. He's trying to make his mark. He's new. He's young."

RVR: We know he could explode.

PM: Oh, could he ever! But he would never explode in our house.

RVR: Not in your house?

PM: No.

RVR: Were you in his presence when he ever exploded, say at the city council?

PM: Never. I've only seen it on television.

RVR: I think that's probably true of all the children, too. He was always kind.

PM: I'll put this in a personal context. Let's say I was dressing for an evening and I looked particularly atrocious in something that probably hadn't fit me for three years. Instead of saying to me, "Change that," he would say to me, "That's lovely. But you know, I love the green dress on you. That looked even lovelier." That kind manner was the mark of his life. That's how he would say things to you. He would never, ever hurt you. This kindness was shown to the people that worked for him. Mary Junquera was his secretary for many years. She said that every single night when he left the office, he came to her desk and thanked her for her work that day. He said, "With the help of God, I'll see you tomorrow."

RVR: See, I don't think those things are known outside.

PM: That kindness was innate. It just was him. It permeated everything. And that's how he was in our home. He thanked my mother at the end of every single meal.

RVR: He thanked her?

PM: He said, "Thank you, sis. This was delicious." It could be a fried egg sandwich. He would say, "Thank you sis. This was delicious." So we all heard that and learned that. He

said, "Good morning" and "Good night." You had to do this in our home. You had to greet one another in the morning. And he didn't like you to argue. If you had a difference, you had to settle it. There was no fighting or raising the voices.

RVR: Well, weren't there disagreements between the children?

PM: Of course! I remember coming home from the convent and being furious with one of my brothers. I came in from a date at ten o'clock at night. My father was sitting up. He said to me, "Did you apologize to your brother?" I said, "No, I didn't. He was wrong." He said, "Well, you can't do this in this home. We don't have this. We don't have words exchanged. You have to settle it. Go in and apologize to him." He made me go in and wake him up. My brother was furious that I woke him up and the thing started all over again. But my dad just wanted the house to be peaceful. There was nothing nasty or petty about him. He would correct you by saying, "That's unworthy of you," if you said something he didn't like. He wouldn't raise his voice. He would just say, "I'm sorry. That's unworthy of you."

RVR: There was no foul language, ever?

PM: I never heard him say damn. I'm sure in the company of men perhaps, but I never heard that in our home. I never heard that in front of my mother.

RVR: Did any of the boys ever use that kind of language in the house?

PM: No.

RVR: They knew.

PM: Oh, they knew. It just wasn't done. As he'd say, "That's unworthy of you."

RVR: Right. Tell me about your grandfather who was living with you.

PM: Oh, he was lovely. He was a sweet, quiet, and calm man. He was retired all of our life. My grandmother died when I was ten years old. They had lived with us.

RVR: Oh, so you knew the grandmother, too?

PM: I knew my grandmother also, yes.

RVR: This was your mother's parents?

PM: No. These were my father's parents. My mother's parents were both deceased before my parents were married.

RVR: So it was his father and mother?

PM: Yes, his father and mother lived with us.

RVR: I see.

PM: And he was very devoted to them. He was an only child. We called them Lil and Big Mike. My grandfather was about five foot three tall. My grandfather was a very private man. He was a sheet metal worker and worked very hard in his life. He retired when my father was married, or shortly thereafter. I remember him just being home all the time. He was lovely. He would spend so much time with us. We were so fortunate.

RVR: We have a tape of your father. In the beginning, he mentions his father. He said that his father said to him, "Take off your hat, son. There goes the Governor of Illinois." That's the only mention that we have.

PM: My father never spoke of them that he didn't tear up.

RVR: Really?

PM: Every Sunday he'd mention them specifically at grace when we'd have Sunday dinner, when we were children. They were a devoted family.

RVR: Oh, I could imagine that.

PM: His mother was a very forceful and dynamic woman. I spent a lot of time with her.

RVR: Oh you did?

PM: My grandmother was very outgoing, very much involved in her parish and community organizations. She marched for womens' votes. She was involved. My grandfather was more retiring. They were both from large families. My father was so respectful of his parents. He just adored them. They had wonderful discussions. There was always a time in our home for the adults. We never felt excluded. But there was always an adult time. There was always time for my parents alone. Then in the evening, my grandfather, father, and mother. But there wasn't any topic we couldn't discuss in the house. We certainly did discuss the events of the day. But it was never specifically his politics of everyday.

RVR: If he stayed home after dinner and didn't have anything to go to, what was he likely to do, more often than not?

PM: He'd sit with us and supervise our homework or read to us. He would listen to us. He would find out what we were doing and read our papers. He would find out what we were reading.

RVR: It was family then?

PM: All family time, the house was family.

RVR: He didn't go off and do some reading of papers and books?

PM: Not usually, I would imagine after we went to bed he would do that, because he always brought things home in his briefcase.

RVR: He did?

PM: He always brought work home. He would also read in the morning before he went to his office. He would prepare himself.

RVR: Was there a time when all of you had to go to bed?

PM: Oh yes.

RVR: What time was that?

PM: Oh, I suppose it was seven or eight. It was early.

RVR: But it changed as you grew older?

PM: Yes. We had half hour intervals.

RVR: Oh, you had half hour intervals?

PM: Yes.

RVR: Starting with you?

PM: Starting with me (RVR laughs). My mother was very organized with us.

RVR: She's the one who decided?

PM: Yes. He would have let us stay up, I think.

RVR: Yes. Did you ever discuss politics with him?

PM: Of course. He included us. He took us to every convention. I was a page in the 1952 Convention at the Amphitheater for Adlai Stevenson. My dad brought us to his office as children on Saturdays, starting with the oldest. He always worked on Saturday morning. He wanted us to know what he did and what his job was. He needed to be away from us sometimes. When he was in Springfield, he was gone a few days a week. So, we always were made part of it. So sure, we had lots of political discussions.

RVR: What did you do in his office, just sit and read?

PM: We'd sit and read, or learn how to type. But it was just to see what he was doing. Then he would take us out for lunch and then usually to a bookstore. Then we'd buy books for the children who were at home. It was kind of a Saturday routine. He kept it up with my brothers. Then, really my brothers traveled with him frequently.

RVR: That was part of their learning experience that he wanted for them.

PM: Not that he was grooming them, but he wanted them to see what he did. He was adamant about making sure we all did what we wanted to do. There was no sense of "You must...."

RVR: "You have to go into politics."

PM: No way at all.

RVR: Or education or whatever.

PM: No, not at all.

RVR: It was your choice.

PM: It was our choice, absolutely.

RVR: Do you have any recollections of those political meetings that you went to that you could share with us?

PM: Well, I do remember that they were primarily male (PM and RVR laugh)!

Dr. Fred Beuttler W. Beuttler: Let me ask you a quick question. Did your mother ever go?

PM: On occasion.

FWB: Okay, your mom always went as well.

PM: Not always. But she was such a part of everything. She was his confidant.

RVR: Did your mother do anything to help election year, for your father, that you remember?

PM: Campaigns were so different (RVR laughs). They were certainly not media directed.

RVR: That too is quite an education.

PM: It was wonderful.

RVR: It helped so you could be able know and answer questions that people would have while you were meeting them and try to impress them.

PM: But politics were very different. It was very non-combative. Even though the times were dire, the respect the men had for each other was there. Republicans and Democrats

didn't have such a dramatic line drawn. They were respectfully serving on the other side of the aisle.

PM: One of the things that amazed me was that he enjoyed every event. It could be the one-hundredth parade of the year and you would think that it truly was the first one. He loved people. He loved parades. He loved the excitement. He loved his job. And that is amazing when you think of how long he served, and the difficulties of the sixties and the seventies. It was such a new world emerging. But he knew that. I think that was one of the reasons you saw so many young men and women serving in his cabinet.

RVR: Do you still campaign when needed for your brother, the mayor?

PM: We all do anything he asks. We're so very proud of him.

RVR: Your son told us that you're very well knit.

PM: We like each other. We like to be together. We are great friends.

RVR: But where does this love of politics come from? It is genetic (laughs)? Or is it the atmosphere that you grew up in?

PM: My dad thought so highly of public service. I think it inspired us.

PM: My children, I'm sure Peter said that we could never tell an ethnic joke of any sort. So my children thought all jokes were Martians (RVR laughs). That was another very important part.

RVR: This was a man of very high morals?

PM: Yes.

RVR: And ethical standards?

PM: Absolutely.

RVR: He went to mass and communion every day.

PM: He did every day, no matter where he traveled.

RVR: And your mother did, too?

PM: My mother was a very devout Catholic.

RVR: Did he insist that the children go? Surely, he did for Sunday mass.

PM: Yes. Sunday of course.

RVR: He was a very, deeply religious man.

PM: Yes he was. And yet, he was the most tolerant of men, which unfortunately is not always the case.

RVR: I notice that you all went to Catholic grade and high school. And many of you went to Catholic colleges.

PM: Yes. But we could have attended any school of our choice. We were not directed. My mother was a very independent woman, so she encouraged us to look into many schools.

RVR: But you wanted to please them. Therefore, you did what would please them, what you knew would.

PM: Yes, absolutely. I think that if you did something that you knew disappointed dad, that fact was punishment enough.

RVR: How would you know it? Would your mother tell you that you had let him down?

PM: No. You just knew it, because you learned so well how to behave, just watching them. So you knew when you stepped off the program.

RVR: Oh, you could tell?

PM: You knew, yes. And it hurt you to do that, to disappoint them.

RVR: Isn't your brother, the present mayor, like him in that respect? You can look at his face and know when he is displeased, unhappy, or has been ruffled in some way?

PM: I think he's a very emotional man.

RVR: Oh yes.

PM: As my father was. My father was a very tender hearted man. And Rich is, too.

RVR: Getting back to your grandmother, she was a unique woman in this. Could you tell us a little bit more, because perhaps that is one of the real defining elements in your life and in your father's life.

PM: She was a very social woman. She had six sisters and one brother. So I think you see in her family, oh my goodness, this one wonderful brother. And then she had just one child, a son. So my father was the shining light for all of them. As I said, my grandmother was involved in the church. She was in women's organizations. She was president of the Altar Guild. She had a woman friend who drove. Now imagine, my grandmother died in

1947. She had a friend then, who had a car. I thought that was fabulous. But she was an activist. She was politically active.

RVR: Was she intellectually stronger perhaps than your grandfather, would you say?

PM: He was a very studious man. So that's hard to determine. The people person was my grandmother Lil, outgoing and fun loving. She played the piano. She sang. She entertained at family events. My grandfather loved Steven Douglas and Abraham Lincoln, as did my father. My father was a very witty and fun loving man. He had a great sense of humor. He was a great combination of his parents' personalities.

RVR: Yes, we captured him in some of his funny moments.

PM: Yes, there are lots of funny moments.

RVR: He laughed at himself sometimes.

PM: I remember one of his comments during the turmoil in Lincoln Park when they were talking about the hippies. And then he was referring to the flippies (RVR laughs). I mean, that was just fun for him. Now, it went on to be quoted as, "My goodness, he doesn't even know the names." Well of course, he did. He was having fun with it and trying to lighten up the moment. A delightful, light moment I remember is the Picasso statue. At that time, it was most controversial. The city was in a very tumultuous time. My father thought it was fabulous because on the bus and in the plaza, people were all talking about him and about how crazy he was to put this thing up. Or what was this statue? He said, "It's marvelous." Look at them. All differences are forgotten. They're all the same looking at the Picasso (RVR laughs). So, he would find great humor in that. And he could laugh at himself. He slept all night every night. He never had a fretful night. My father knelt next to his bed, every night of his life. That's one of the most beautiful memories I have of him, of seeing him kneeling alongside his bed. He knelt down every night of his life and prayed.

RVR: When he got up in the morning did he kneel down and pray?

PM: He'd pray again.

RVR: And then went to mass?

PM: He went to mass. Now, there wasn't any preaching about, "You should do this." It was just his example. I think what bothered my father the most were empty critics. I mean people without a plan, without a solution, or without an alternative, who only wanted to be heard. They wanted to be heard for themselves. This, I think, caused his greatest outburst. "What trees have they planted? What have they done? What is your background to tell me this is wrong? What is the alternative? Give me an idea." This goes back to his make a decision kind of mentality. "Put something together, make a decision, and then act on it. Don't harp on it. Run for office." He would say to a critic, "Change things. Run for office. Get in the mix. And make your ideas known."

RVR: To your knowledge, was he ever angry with the university because he wasn't treated.... ? If he came on campus, there was heckling.

PM: No, I don't think he was ever upset by that. He always thought it was part of the job. He put it in almost the same category as his belief that no political leader should ever be introduced at a sporting event.

RVR: I mean, he was our guardian angel. He was our powerhouse, where we felt that Urbana was trying to hold us down. And the only person we had was Mayor Daley. Then he'd come here and they'd boo him.

PM: I think he just accepted that as part of the job.

RVR: And that didn't in any way demean us in his....

PM: No, not at all. I think he was able to separate it.

RVR: He was really a remarkable man.

PM: He was. He was absolutely remarkable.

RVR: One of the people who worked with him said that your father had this extraordinary talent to understand what was motivating people in what they were doing. And in that way, he knew where they were coming from and how to handle it. Is that your thinking, too?

PM: Yes. He was tuned into people. He listened. He was a great listener. He thought everybody's point of view was valid. If you had an opinion, he respected you. But just empty criticism drove him crazy. Again, another reason I think he surrounded himself with young people was because that they were more apt not to be in awe. They'd speak to him and not be concerned with the ramifications of holding onto their position because they'd been there so long. He was so interested in having young people around him.

RVR: This explains to a large extent why he was able to be such a great mayor. There was one thing in my talk that I forgot to say, and I regret it now, that he provided Chicago with twenty-one years of political and economic stability. There's not another city that had a mayor that could do that. Any why? Okay, it works, but how? Somebody's making it work.

PM: And he really was twenty-four seven. He worked all the time. I don't think he ever took a vacation for more than a week.

RVR: Yes. But you had the summer place together.

PM: It was a wonderful family home, a great escape.

RVR: May I ask you a personal question?

PM: Certainly.

RVR: You don't have to answer if you don't want to. When you were divorced, did that hurt him?

PM: I think it hurt him for my children. My decision was my decision. Both of my parents said, "Fine." That was their response. "She must have thought long and hard about doing this." His concern was, I remember him saying, "This is going to be difficult. We'll have to do everything to help with the children." My mother and father loved us so unconditionally. It wouldn't have mattered what I did. I could have joined the circus and they would have applauded me. That's how I felt my entire life. I went into the convent and out of the convent. It was all equally wonderful to them. In the marriage or out of the marriage, it was equally wonderful, whatever I wanted to do.

RVR: Because you know some real....

PM: We felt that no matter what we ever did in life, my parents would be in the audience applauding us.

RVR: And Peter then told us that you lived across the street.

PM: I lived across the street and next door. Raising my three children near my parents was wonderful.

RVR: And they were in for breakfast every morning. He was a wonderful grandfather.

PM: He was so present in their lives. As I said, they saw him every day. I had to leave for school before their school day began. They really were very important to him. He gave such a great example as a husband, father, and grandfather.

RVR: Now, what would you say to the criticism, if we can get into the difficult parts? He was a machine politician. What's your comment?

PM: Well, he was an organization genius. In order to be in politics in Chicago as he was growing up, you had to be part of the organization. That was the word he preferred, rather than machine.

RVR: He was the last, supposedly, of the single individual who can really run the party and run the city.

PM: I don't know if that's necessarily a criticism.

RVR: Right. Give it the good connotations. That's what I want to hear.

PM: Well, I think political organizations started as neighborhood organizations, almost as social service organizations with immigrants. And I think he was part of that. He was part of their culture. He saw the political people who were those in the neighborhood that rose above their ranks. Most of the time they were educated, knew more, and helped the people. I think that was always uppermost in his mind, to help people. He was a very astute man. I'm certain he saw the abuses and knew the problems you'll have anytime with a group that large. There will be people taking advantage and not acting in a correct way.

RVR: It reminds me of that book, "The Last Hurrah."

PM: There was no designated heir. There wasn't any. Politics had changed. The world had changed drastically with Vietnam. The world would never be the same again. With the changes and the conventions, politics changed tremendously. There were no more conventions. There were just meetings to honor whomever the person was that won in the primary.

RVR: And whatever that thing is called, he really was effective in choosing the right people, putting them in the right positions, working with them, and working with people. He was a kind of organizational genius as well as a financial genius.

PM: He liked to reach out to anyone with expertise. He liked to bring them in. If you talked to some of the people who served with him, they were not political at all. His commissioners were not precinct captains. His commissioners were geniuses in their own right. They were young men and women. I remember in those years when city planning and metropolitan planning was a new kind of a study. IIT started a master's degree in public policy and planning. Those were the young men that he hired and brought in as interns, just to hear about this new idea.

RVR: That's what he did. It was almost the first thing when he became mayor. He made a planning commission.

PM: So he certainly saw the wheels of change.

RVR: He did. And he changed with them. He didn't try to resist them.

PM: No. Not at all.

RVR: And he would have continued, I think.

PM: I think he saw the lack of respect for a man in political office, with the Nixon situation and the lack of trust in Vietnam. He knew that. So, I think when you talk about the heckling and the displeasure, I think he just knew this was the tempo of the times.

RVR: Let's talk about his relations with other politicians in the state, big and little, governors and such. Do you have any recollections on Governor Kerner, Governor Walker or anybody else?

PM: Governor Walker was very antagonistic and very anti-Chicago. He was very difficult. I know my father had great respect for Governor Ogilvie and Governor Stratton. Interestingly, that combination of Republican governor and Democratic mayor seemed to work. I know he had great respect for Dick Ogilvie because Dick Ogilvie was helping speak for the school children of Chicago. I'm sure someone has a copy of that speech for you. It was one of the rare times my father addressed the legislature on behalf of the school children of Illinois.

RVR: Yes. But Stratton was important in the development of this university.

PM: Yes. Governor Stratton was a friend of my father. Now, every event that my parents would host, it was automatic that the governor and his wife would attend.

RVR: How about Jim Thompson?

PM: Well, Jim Thompson wasn't governor when my father was in. He was the U.S. Attorney.

RVR: Your father was always personally honest and above any of that.

PM: Absolutely.

RVR: Even though it was going on in some of the underlings.

PM: He was very disappointed with them. He was very disappointed and heartbroken.

RVR: They would do stupid things.

PM: Yes.

RVR: Did he help people? Did he use his office to give people jobs?

PM: Yes.

RVR: He did?

PM: Yes. He helped people in every way.

RVR: Did he help you get a job teaching?

PM: No. Never.

RVR: I had to ask that.

PM: None of us ever worked or were employed on a city payroll until my brother Richard had ran for office. We were board of education teachers, but on our own. We went through the system. My mother and father were proud that we were educated. That was part of the real strong upbringing for all of us. All seven are college graduates, four with graduate degrees. My parents were very proud of that statistic.

RVR: As a teenager, did you have outside jobs that you got yourself?

PM: Yes. They were not city jobs. We had to stand on our own. My mother and father were very concerned about what they had seen as young couples, more so in our lifetime. Politicians' children were just out there. They were wined and dined. My parents saw many sad consequences. They would preach to us about this, that people can use you. You had to be very careful. My father would say if someone wanted to give you tickets for something, he'd say, "No, buy them. For the price of a ticket, you don't want to be beholden to anyone." He was very concerned about that. So, he paid his own bills.

RVR: And he passed that on to you and onto his children.

PM: Yes.

RVR: Don't take these freebies.

PM: No. I remember after he died, Bill Veeck, president of the White Sox, held up the check that my father had already sent, my mother and father's personal check, to pay for the next season's seats at the White Sox. My brothers still do that, they still have the seats, and they still pay for them.

RVR: Let me ask you about the 1968 campaign. You've seen the video?

PM: Yes.

RVR: What's your comment on all of that?

PM: I think it was so apparent. It was so planned and so unlike a spontaneous outpouring. My father's job was to protect the citizens of Chicago. It broke his heart. Who knows whatever could have happened to have made it better. It was just an eruption in our world.

RVR: That's good. And I'm not surprised. But unfortunately, you see, what has become of it....

RVR: tell me about his relationship with President Kennedy. You all went to the White House.

PM: Yes, except for Rich. He had his exams at Providence College. He would never ask for an exception. Now that's true.

RVR: At which college?

PM: At Providence, in Rhode Island. He couldn't leave it, not even to come to the inauguration.

RVR: I know, those Dominicans (laughs)!

PM: No. My father would never ask. I'm sure if he asked, they would have allowed it. But he never asked. We could never do that. So we did go. My father had a very close relationship with President Kennedy.

RVR: That election of 1960 was very close.

PM: Yes.

RVR: And Illinois, they accuse your father of...

PM: Sure, always. Except when he offered to pay for half of the recount (RVR), the Republicans refused to allow it. That I think is the postscript to the whole thing.

RVR: And that's your comment on the criticism?

PM: That's my comment.

RVR: And then, we're told that President Kennedy was dumbfounded when all your father asked for was to have his family go to the White House. He didn't want a cabinet seat for somebody or that sort of thing?

PM: No. He was so proud to have President Kennedy as president. I think that was enough.

RVR: Right. Did you stay overnight in the White House?

PM: No I didn't.

RVR: We only recently learned at the ceremony that Robert Kennedy called and spoke to him. I don't think anybody knew that.

PM: And you know, Robert Kennedy's people were certainly among the most anti-Daley people in the convention. Yet he and my father maintained a very close relationship. Yes, that was one of his last calls. And as he said, "On to Chicago."

RVR: Who were his close friends in the council and people he could work with? Would you say most of them in the city council?

PM: Yes.

RVR: Dick Simpson maybe, and one or two others who were difficult?

PM: Yes.

RVR: He worked with them.

PM: He worked with them. He could work with anyone.

RVR: And that's why he got so much from them.

PM: Yes.

RVR: Well, the man has so many facets to his personality and his character.

PM: He was very interesting because he had such a quiet side. He always took some quiet time every day. At night, he'd read something. He always had a book he wanted to talk to you about. He always encouraged us to read.

RVR: I understand that fishing was his hobby.

PM: Yes, he loved to fish. You would imagine that he was a man that could sit never calmly in a boat because he moved quickly. He walked very rapidly. But he enjoyed fishing.

RVR: Did he?

PM: And he was quite a walker, before it was fashionable. He would get out of his car at Twelfth Street and walk to city hall most mornings. That was one of the changes when it began to be dangerous for him that he missed. On Sunday mornings, he used to love to walk along the lakefront. He did that frequently.

RVR: Would he meditate?

PM: Yes, he did. Well naturally, he had that quiet peacefulness that came with his deep faith.

RVR: Were there any other hobbies? Fishing was a hobby.

PM: There was gardening.

RVR: He was a gardener?

PM: We had a vegetable garden. He loved to tend to his plants.

RVR: Were there any other facets of his personality or character that you'd want to comment on, that I haven't mentioned, and is worthy of inclusion in our record?

PM: He certainly was a man of the people. He always considered himself a working man. This was his job. It was a particularly great one. With all of the trappings and wonderful exposure, he always knew it was because of his job. And that's what he tried to preach to us all the time. He would say to us, "There's nothing deader than a dead politician. So be prepared." (RVR laughs) And he would sometimes talk about himself. He'd say, "When daddy is gone, people are going to cross the street to get away from you. Remember that. You have your education. Hold on. Stay together." That's all he said to us, "Stay together, help one another." I think we've done that.

RVR: Did you call him dad, daddy, or both?

PM: I think the girls called him daddy.

RVR: Daddy?

PM: Well, we called him daddy.

RVR: You called your mother....

PM: I called my mother mom.

RVR: Mom and daddy. And the boys....

PM: They said dad a lot.

RVR: But the girls said daddy.

PM: We always called him daddy.

RVR: Do you think he ever had any ambition beyond being mayor?

PM: No, absolutely not.

RVR: I don't think so either.

PM: He said there were two jobs in the United States. Those were the President of the United States and the Mayor of Chicago (PM and RVR laugh). I think he believed it.

RVR: I'm sure he did.

PM: Imagine having a dream like this come true, to become mayor of a city.

RVR: And as long as he could have lived, I'm sure he would have been mayor for the rest of his life.

PM: He loved his neighborhood. He loved his background. He never left it. He always knew where he came from. That's very interesting.

RVR: Peter said he's just moved, that he lived there until recently. And of course, the present mayor has moved. You're no longer there?

PM: No. But I raised my children there. We loved our neighborhood. We loved the people. We loved being familiar. And again, because my dad was only child, these people were his family. He had a great facility for names and faces.

RVR: Yes. And genealogy.

PM: He was unbelievable.

RVR: He had so little in the way of a family, and then suddenly. Of course, he inherited all of the Guilfoyles.

PM: Yes he did.

RVR: And your son said that the family is still very tightly knit, everybody. It was amazing to me. With Peter, I was able to ask him all about his brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, and cousins. He could tick them right off.

PM: In fact, the next generation of cousins are as close as we are as brothers and sisters.

RVR: Isn't that amazing?

PM: I attribute a lot of it to the fact that we are all fortunate enough to have summer homes in Michigan. And these children have grown up together all summer long. For many years when they were small, we women would go up and stay all summer. So all the children were there. But the cousins see one another on a constant basis. They talk to one another all the time.

RVR: Yes, they're friends.

PM: They're closest of friends.

RVR: Right. That's wonderful.

PM: Yes.

RVR: Here's another question. I'm trying to vary them. There's been a lot written about your father, biographies. And I'm hoping that out of all of this, a really good biography can be written. What are your comments on any of the biographies that you've read? Have you read them all?

PM: Yes I have.

RVR: Yes, I'm not surprised. Are they all meretricious (laughs), full of error?

PM: Most are full of error. There are quotes and comments that are just out of line. But, I think in fairness, there was great scholarly research in *American Pharaoh*. I think at the hind end of that, they had to remorsefully admit that my father did many great things (RVR laughs). But I felt that at least there was some evidence of scholarship.

RVR: You know, I think it's only fair, if you want to get a real balance. If I were to write a biography, I would like to show it to you and your brothers and say, "Is this a fair shot? Be honest yourself, because I think you could be."

PM: We certainly are not people who are saying my father never made a mistake or never made a bad judgement call.

RVR: That's it! People are afraid that you'd want to white wash it, a hagiography and not a biography. And that's not true.

PM: That's ludicrous, because that's unfair to the man.

RVR: Oh, that awful three hour PBS series. And they distorted it.

PM: It was beyond distortion. We felt like we were all blind sided by them. We were. We hosted a wonderful event and invited all of his cabinet members and so forth to the Historical Society for the initial viewing.

RVR: You were humiliated and embarrassed.

PM: It was horrible. They began by talking about a race riot in 1917. They presumed that because my father was a teenager, perhaps he had something to do with it (RVR laughs)!

RVR: Let me assure you, Mrs. Martino, that anything that we do will have your approval. I want to pass things through you and your brother Mike. He's a lawyer besides. We would never publish anything without your permission.

PM: Meeting you and listening to you, I think I knew that.

RVR: Peter told us yesterday that there's going to be a meeting in a couple of weeks. Do you know about that?

PM: Yes, Michael said we were going to get together.

RVR: Oh right. So it's going to be a while before....

PM: Yes.

RVR: Will there be grandchildren that will be selected to go through it?

PM: Well, I don't know. We're trying to keep the numbers to a minimum. You know, a lot of chiefs but too many Indians....

RVR: Right (laughs).

PM: So, I think that's why we're meeting. We have to establish something.

RVR: Well, if I can be of any help, but I don't want to intrude on your privacy. But if I can help, I'd be most happy to.

PM: Yes, I think we have to set up some kind of way to expedite this. I mean, we have to bring some expertise into this, initially.

RVR: Our history and background are expertise. But as I say, it's only to help the family because I think this man has been given short shrift. A lot of people know, "Oh yes, he did the city that works." It means nothing.

PM: But the image of my father as a man, personally, is awful. It's so insulting to his memory. He was a very well educated, well-read gentleman. And to portray him as one of these big, loud-mouthed bosses is the antithesis of the man.

RVR: Yes. I had a picture there. We had them take it down for the ceremony. We haven't gotten them back. You know, it's the one where he's standing on the forum. It's in our book here.

PM: It's where he's looking down?

RVR: Yes. And then, over there, we had one where he's standing all by himself.

PM: Yes.

RVR: And that picture is an enlarged....

PM: He looks like Michael, doesn't he?

RVR: Yes (PM laughs). Do you have a copy of this?

PM: No I don't.

RVR: Oh please, let me give this to you.

PM: I'd love to have it.

RVR: We gave your son a video. This picture I had over there.

PM: My dad so loved young people. I think if he had done anything beyond mayor, he would have taught. That's what he would have liked to do.

RVR: If he had ever retired?

PM: If he had ever retired, yes.

RVR: Did all the girls teach?

PM: All the girls taught. My father had great admiration for teachers. My father instilled great respect for teachers. He was very good to the public school teachers of Chicago, all the years he was mayor.

RVR: I always remember, well, he was accused of helping his son. And he said, "Well, what father doesn't help his son?" Was your sister, Eleanor, who died, like you?

PM: No. She was more like my mother. She was a wonderful teacher. She was very quiet and calm natured. She was a kindergarten teacher and smart as a whip. She was so interested in her students.

RVR: How old was she when she died?

PM: She was fifty-six.

RVR: Cancer.

PM: Yes.

RVR: And your father died of a heart attack.

PM: Yes.

*****END OF INTERVIEW*****

