

Q. Full names of mother and grandmother?  
Florence Anna Keil

SCHRADE: Yeah, my grandfather on my father's side, and grandmother also. And my mother's side of the family, the Keil family, was in the baking business, running a bake shop and a store in Poughkeepsie, New York. There had been other locations, but Poughkeepsie was the longest and the last.

were from Germany

CONNORS: As far as education goes, did you go to public schools in Saratoga?

SCHRADE: Yeah, the same ones my father went to, and his grandchildren also. My brother's kids went to the same school, Public School Number Four, which of course was in walking distance from our house. And then I went to Saratoga High School, graduated there in 1942 and, with some difficulty, did make it into college. I went to Clarkson College of Technology. My family was reluctant in sending me to school. They wanted us in the family business. The family never had very much money, and it was a very difficult thing to finance. But one of my mentors during that period was Dr. Oskar Baudisch, who was a research organic chemist, who I'd worked with a couple of summers in a research lab in Saratoga. He persuaded the family that it would be a good idea that I get further education. So it finally got worked out.

CONNORS: As far as, say, a high school experience goes, what were the subjects that particularly interested you?

SCHRADE: Mostly scientific work: chemistry, physics, math. I did get the science prize in high school for doing good work. I don't think it was that outstanding, but it was good enough to get the prize and decent grades. I was really interested in that, and that's why I signed up to become a research chemist. I had worked at it a couple of summers in Saratoga, where there was a state laboratory <sup>named after</sup> at Simon Baruch New York State Reservation the Saratoga Reservation. We were studying mineral waters. Mineral waters are a wonderful thing about Saratoga. They're bubbling up out of the fountains there all the time. It's great drinking water, and it's naturally carbonated, and it has a lot to do with the history of the area.

CONNORS: That's right. Yeah, now that I think of it, Saratoga was pretty much of a spa type area.

SCHRADE: Spa, yeah. And the Indians used it for its medical use. And Franklin Roosevelt also went there for the baths and to drink the water, because he was suffering from polio. He was the one that inspired a whole state development during the New Deal days. There was a lot of work then for local people, and this great park grew out of that. My uncle <sup>Henry SCHRADE</sup> worked there for a long time. He was a New Dealer, and was Saratoga's mayor in 1932.

CONNORS: What kind of park was that?

SCHRADE: It's called the Saratoga <sup>New York state Reservation,</sup> Reservation. There's

spa for short.

Q Can you recall  
the official name?

Q Uncle's name?

the bath houses, there was a theater, a music center, a big swimming pool, golf courses. It's still there and very active. It's a beautiful area just outside the city.

CONNORS: You say your uncle was a New Dealer. What was the political persuasion of your immediate family?

SCHRADE: Oh, my family was generally conservative Republican. But this one uncle was the eldest of the Schrade brothers of my father's generation, who ran the florist shop. He was at that end of the business. He was mayor for a couple of terms of the city in the thirties as a New Dealer. A much more affable, social-type person than my father or my other uncle. So he was sort of the deviation from the family conservatism, because my family was very conservative, politically.

CONNORS: Would you have characterized yourself as having been conservative in that high school period? Or when you were coming of age?

SCHRADE: I don't think so. I hadn't really made any decision of being a Democrat or a Republican during that period. But generally I was of a rebellious nature, which led me into very active politics when I finally got to California.

CONNORS: Rebellious in what way, as far as--?

SCHRADE: Well, in school I was not always tolerant of rules laid down by teachers or the principal. We sort of

organized in the school on some things of a political nature and got ~~into~~ some difficulty for it. But generally I got through school without any real problems.

CONNORS: Those things being political in terms of world politics or local politics?

SCHRADE: No, I don't think that kind of politics was really entering into school at that point. But generally dealing with teachers who were more hardline than they should be.

CONNORS: You would have been in high school in the--

SCHRADE: <sup>1938</sup> 'Thirty-eight to '42.

CONNORS: So that would have been the mid-period of the New Deal.

SCHRADE: Yeah, and the beginning of the ~~war~~<sup>1-</sup>, with that having a pretty devastating effect, with young people going off.

CONNORS: So you would have been too young to have been draftable.

SCHRADE: Let's see. No, I was subject to the draft, but I had a physical disability that kept me out. I have very poor sight in one eye, and I went through two operations in order to make myself eligible to get into the armed services, because I felt the need for doing that. One of my fantasies was being a fighter pilot. Though, what I finally did, I was turned down by Selective Service. <sup>##</sup> I

tried to get into <sup>16</sup>Maritime <sup>16</sup>Service, and during the <sup>16</sup>War, I did do some work for the army at a depot that started up there doing redistribution of surplus equipment. So I really didn't do any service, even though I was of age at that point.

CONNORS: Was that depot work volunteer work or something? Or what was it?

SCHRADE: No, I was being paid for it. It was a pretty decent job.

CONNORS: So it was like a war industries type of job.

SCHRADE: What we were doing was classifying equipment that was coming back from overseas. In fact, we had the first contact with the effort on the atomic bomb, because equipment was coming in from the Manhattan Project, which hardly anybody knew about at that point. But we were classifying equipment. Then I found out a lot about the corruption in government, because there were military officers who were moving this equipment to their own private domains or passing it off to people at very low cost. So there was that kind of stuff happening, as well.

CONNORS: Last time, when we were speaking informally, you spoke about having grown up in a Lutheran church. I was wondering, was that a conservative Lutheran group? I know that there's a full political spectrum there among Lutherans. Where did this particular church group fit in?

SCHRADE: I think it was fairly conservative. There wasn't any kind of political discussion. But my family was involved in building the church and maintaining the church. Very strong support for it, starting with my grandfather.

CONNORS: What was the name of the church?

SCHRADE: It was Saint Paul's Lutheran Church. My father hardly ever attended. My mother did occasionally. She was a more active churchgoer. But we were sent as kids to Sunday school and forced to do that. It wasn't a very happy church, I remember. It was a very tough place to be. Finally, we actually changed. My father wanted to join the Masons because that's where his business friends were, and as a Lutheran, he could not do both. So we left the Lutheran church and went to the Presbyterian, which was a lot friendlier place. We knew the sextant there, we were friends with him. I worked with him occasionally on Saturday as a volunteer and sang in the choir, and the coach at our high school was a Sunday school teacher. So it was a lot easier place to be.

CONNORS: What was the name of the Presbyterian church?

SCHRADE: First Presbyterian Church of Saratoga.

CONNORS: So in Saratoga-- You were showing me an aerial photograph of what-- I'll have to describe this because we won't have this in the transcript, but it's a racetrack,

right?

SCHRADE: Uh-huh. [affirmative]

CONNORS: And what is the racetrack?

SCHRADE: It's Saratoga Racetrack. It's the oldest track in the United States. A lot of glamour to it, because it was a big time in Saratoga, several thousand people moving in to attend, to bring their horses and race them.

CONNORS: And your property was adjacent to that, right?

SCHRADE: Yeah. Well actually it was in the racetrack at one point. In the 1890's, my grandfather had a growing area in what is now the Saratoga Racetrack paddock where the horses, you know, get organized to go out on the track. And one of the Whitneys and the Vanderbilts, who were big horse owners and racers, got to him and finally persuaded him to sell that property to the racetrack. He was able to make enough money off it to buy a larger piece of property right across the street from what is now the race track, which is where the family greenhouses and nurseries were. And our house was right next to the racetrack, too, so it was something very important in our lives because, not only the excitement of the racing season, but it was also our playground. We used to race around the track. Sometimes the track was ice, so we ice-skated around the track. We just thought it was our playground, and it was.

ice skated =  
one word

CONNORS: Was there betting on the horses there in those days?

SCHRADE: In those days-- Well, my father and mother usually took us out and rented an old farmhouse, really a kind of primitive place out in the country, because they didn't want us involved in all this, as kids. But finally we got of age. We stayed in town, we sold newspapers, Racing Form, Morning Telegraph. We usually got up very early in the morning in order to race out on our bikes to the stables and to the homes of the trainers' owners to get those papers out, because they wanted to start reviewing the races and the horses and so forth. And so we made a little bit of money that way. Then, midmorning, the race track programs, which listed all the horses in the particular races, were sold wholesale-downtown. We bought them. And then we organized ourselves on the key corner, very close to the race track, Union Avenue and Nelson. And our cousins and my two brothers, two cousins and two brothers, organized that corner, and we maintained it. We occasionally had to fight off competitors, but we were able to control all four corners. So we sold programs there. It was our summer money; it was money for clothes and for school.

Then we would go into the racetrack. And one of the great things about it is that we knew the places to sneak



in. We never paid to go in the racetrack: <sup>1</sup>under fences, over fences, and so forth. We would get out into the center field area, and as soon as the race was on and a lot of excitement, we would bolt across the track into the grandstands. And that was the day when there were bookies in the stands, and you could bet a quarter or fifty cents on a race--which was our limit--with a bookie who would be sitting there with his own particular odds. It was before pari-mutuel, so it was kind of all these independent entrepreneurs as bookies, before the real system. But it was a very exciting period. The racetrack was sort of the center of our lives for a long time.

CONNORS: Were you at all aware of or familiar with what the New York labor movement was doing in that period?

SCHRADE: No. Through my high school days and into college, I didn't have much sense of that. The only time that I knew anything about that was a friend of mine, Jean Loop, lived near the high school, and we palled around a lot together with some other guys from high school, and her house sort of became the center of our activities. Her mother rented rooms, and one of the persons she rented to was a guy named Colman Cheney, who was a professor at Skidmore College and a socialist. I think he ran with Norman Thomas a couple of times, once at least as a lieutenant governor or something, or on the state ticket as

a socialist candidate. And occasionally CIO [Congress of Industrial Organizations] organizers working to organize the mills up the Hudson Valley would come through. I remember sessions with them talking about that. But that was about the only real contact, except maybe reading about it in books in high school.

CONNORS: What sort of mills were up there?

SCHRADE: All kinds of garment knitting mills. In fact, the Van Raalte <sup>Co.</sup> mill was the big mill for many years in Saratoga. Now closed. But there are a lot of mill towns up through the Hudson Valley, Mechanicsville [New York], Stillwater [New York], and through there. And, they were also in the Massachusetts area as well.

CONNORS: Yeah, that's right. The western part.

SCHRADE: Yeah.

CONNORS: You mentioned earlier Oskar--is it Baudisch?

SCHRADE: <sup>Dr.</sup> Oskar Baudisch.

CONNORS: And you said that he was a strong influence or mentor type of person. Tell me more about him.

SCHRADE: Yeah, he was a-- I really don't remember how we made contact, whether it was through school or just my investigating the laboratory at the <sup>New York State</sup> state Reservation. But in any event, he was kind of an old-world Viennese character, played the violin, liked good food and stuff, but was a very important scientist. He was the person who

Q. What was  
official name?  
Sho-oo mill  
be capital 3-9?

Q. Official  
name?

discovered that the lack of cobalt as a trace element in the grass in Australia was killing the sheep and was able to persuade the Australian government that this was the cause of <sup>death.</sup> This, I think, was in the thirties. He was doing a lot of research on trace elements, <sup>it</sup> a very tiny, tiny portion of a particular metal or something, that was very important in human growth as well as animal and plant growth. His job at the state reservation started as a result of-- What was the name of the family? Big finance family, family in American finance. I'll think of it. They put a lot of money into the state lab because of his work. Who was they guy who sat on park benches and advised on finance? Anyway-- (Bernard Baruch. The lab is named after his father, Simon.)

CONNORS: All I can think of is Rockefeller.

SCHRADE: No, it's not Rockefeller. Anyway, he was investigating the value of mineral water for medical purposes. Were there elements there that, through mineral baths, would penetrate the skin and affect bodily functions? There was also a discovery that there was radioactive material in Saratoga mineral water. So he asked me to come down and work in the lab over summer at fairly decent pay, which is better than selling newspapers and racetrack programs and more in the line of what I wanted to do. I wanted to test out lab work to see if it was really what I wanted to do. So we would take samples

of bathwater before a person got in the bath and after a person ~~did~~ to see if there was any change, doing very intricate measurements this way. His theory was that there was some transference. I don't think there was any real conclusion resulting from that. He moved on to other work afterwards. He was out at the Scripps Institute during the late forties, early fifties, and then died. So he was the kind of person, very friendly, very open, like my grandparents were, <sup>in a way,</sup> but much more open and interested in what I was doing and very helpful.

CONNORS: Which grandparents?

SCHRADE: On my mother's side, my grandfather, Hermann Keil

CONNORS: These are the bakery--

SCHRADE: Bakery people, yeah. Better educated, interested in things I was interested in, and very helpful to me, I think. He was a good advisor, sort of my mentor during that period.

CONNORS: How did you connect with him in the first place. Was it just through a job situation?

SCHRADE: I think so. I think it was possible that-- My best recollection is that the teachers in high school knew about this job opening, and I went down and met him and was accepted. I worked there two summers.

CONNORS: It just occurs to me that you're in this kind of a German milieu. Did you speak German? Did you take that

Q  
Full names?  
in response?

in high school?

SCHRADE: No, hardly. I did take it in high school and was learning to at least read and write German. In fact, the German teacher was one of the other persons that was very influential in stimulating me to continue studying German, but also in going on to college. She was Ruth Johnson. She's still alive back there so I see her occasionally.

CONNORS: Did your grandparents speak German?

SCHRADE: Yes, both. Well, I didn't know my paternal grandmother. She died before I was born. But my grandfather did, my mother did, my father did only a little, but my grandparents on the maternal side also spoke German, and my aunts and uncles did. But then it was dropped. There was some antagonism against the family and friends of the family during World War I. There wasn't so much during World War II. I didn't really feel it in high school at all.

CONNORS: Was there a sizeable German community there in Saratoga?

SCHRADE: Not sizeable, but there was a group of people that used to get together. I had a great-uncle <sup>Gottlieb Schrade</sup> who was there and three or four families we used to visit or get together with out at my great-uncle's place. He was a celery farmer. I used to joke that he grew the most succulent celery in upstate New York. And it was a large

Q  
Uncle's  
full name?

celery farm. But part of his operation was that he would take material from the sewer beds of Saratoga and use it as fertilizer. Of course, it had been broken down and was safe and that sort of thing. But it was kind of a vision when you think the sewage of Saratoga provided great, juicy celery.

CONNORS: This was obviously before you were born, but you must have heard that there was a problem during the World War I period. Was it a discriminatory thing? Or was it catcalls on the street that, you know, "You German"--?

SCHRADE: Yeah. Yeah, and accusations and some real harassment of one family I remember reading about, friends of my family, who were really harassed by other people in the community. And I remember, too, my grandfather married his housekeeper at one point, and her kids by another marriage were under investigations being members of the German-American Bund <sup>in New York City</sup>. And I think they were, in New York. And the FBI was around checking on them. But that didn't create any public problem at all.

CONNORS: But that would have been in the thirties with the German-American Bund.

SCHRADE: No, it was either before or during the war.

CONNORS: Oh, during which war?

SCHRADE: World War II.

CONNORS: World War II.

Q which grandfather?  
her name?

Henry Schrade

SCHRADE: Yeah. Probably beforehand. Was the Bund operating during the war?

CONNORS: Bund was operating here in this country, I think up to the war. Then I don't know--

SCHRADE: Probably, then got squelched pretty hard. It may have been, uh, you know, just--

CONNORS: I know it flourished like, say, in the mid-thirties.

SCHRADE: Yeah, and there was a lot of anxiety in the family at that point. We didn't know too much about it. I know the FBI was up in Saratoga investigating her and her kids. Her sons were old enough to be in the Bund. One other track there, again, the Priester family--Frank and Gretel Priester were an aunt and uncle of ours--she was the sister of my paternal grandmother from the Mohr family in Germany. And I remember my father, when he was very ill and died a few years ago, talked about Gretel saying to his father, my grandfather, <sup>Henry Schrade</sup> that her <sup>Rouise,</sup> sister would like to come over from Germany. And my grandfather at that point sent seventy-five dollars over, and she came over, and a year later they were married. So I'm sure that's one of the things that was going on during that period, that sort of mail-order arrangements were being made to bring people over who <sup>were</sup> compatible and also to help somebody out in the old country.

Q Sister's name? which grandfather?

CONNORS: But that was the form of connection with the old country? It wasn't that your father or grandfather, say, go back there at all to visit?

SCHRADE: I think he did. Both my grandparents, sets of grandparents, went and visited. But my father never did, my mother never did. We still talk about that, occasionally. But it was one of those connections.

CONNORS: Where in Germany was that?

SCHRADE: Southern Germany. Let's see, my maternal grandparents were from around a town called Frankenberg, and my paternal grandparents were from around Stuttgart. I've not been over there, either. My younger sister, <sup>Louise, has</sup> been and visited, and her son, <sup>Gordon,</sup> who graduated from University of Pennsylvania a couple years ago, is working in West Berlin now for-- And he spent a year over there living with a German family as an exchange student. So he's fluent in German, and is probably the only one in the family who still is. My mother does speak some German, but he's probably the only <sup>other</sup> one.

CONNORS: Just staying on the immigration side for a minute, when both sides came over, did they immediately end up in Saratoga? Or was there a kind of a journey for a generation getting there.

SCHRADE: My maternal grandparents wound up in New York and ran a bakeshop there and then were in Saratoga for a short



period of time. That's where my father and mother met first. Then they moved into Poughkeepsie, New York, and that's where they settled, where I knew them, from at least the thirties on. My paternal grandfather came over in the early 1890s and worked around New York and New Jersey, working for florists and <sup>in</sup>greenhouses, and then moved to Saratoga. I guess my father told me that he came up during the racing season at one point and was working getting planting and some flower arrangements and that sort of thing done. He thought it would be a good place to set up a business.

CONNORS: So he was able to save enough money to set up his own business?

SCHRADE: Well, they started really from scratch, really scratching it out of the ground. There weren't greenhouses immediately. They had what were called sash houses, which were dug into the ground and then just glass panels, frames laid over them to protect them during the winter and covering them with dried leaves during the autumn to keep things. It took a long time. In fact, the family business was supporting my father and his two brothers and my grandfather for a long time in a very limited way. My grandfather seemed to do better. He went to Florida in the winter. A very dapper guy. My father was generally the one who stayed back in Saratoga, took care of the

Q: Uncles' names?  
Q.  
greenhouses and did the shit work, shoveling coal and keeping the greenhouses going through thirty, forty [degrees] below [zero] winters and stuff. My two uncles: one <sup>(Karl)</sup> was in charge of the nursery, which is mainly a spring, summer, fall, business, and would go to Florida in the winter. My <sup>Henry</sup> uncle who became mayor of the town ran the store. But the tough work was really by my father. He finally took over the business heavily in debt after my grandfather died. It was just loaded on him because the other brothers were not contributing much and were taking more than they should have. So <sup>my</sup> father and mother really ground it out over the years to get the business out of debt, and did, but never really made much money on that. It was a tough way to live and one of the reasons why I think none of us in our generation are in the business.

CONNORS: On the bakeshop side, how big of an operation was that? Did your grandfather hire help and that sort of thing?

SCHRADE: Well, he had one son working with him, and my grandmother did the store, and usually about two helpers. There were about four. I don't know how to compare it in size, but it was a regular bakeshop: <sup>#1</sup> a store out in the front and the bakeshop ~~back~~ in the ~~back~~.

CONNORS: I was just thinking of the German connection to

the Bakery and Confectionery Workers, and I was wondering if there was any part of a--

SCHRADE: Unionization?

CONNORS: Probably be too small of a shop.

SCHRADE: Too small, yeah. Because my grandfather was a hard worker, too. He'd get up at two in the morning and work till nine or ten getting the stuff out. Both very tough businesses.

The only other business I got to know about was my uncle's, Jim Siro. He was in the nightclub and restaurant business. He was married to my father's sister. She was my godmother, Aunt Louise. <sup>Jim Siro,</sup> ~~A~~ Greek immigrant, but made it with Billy Rose at the Diamond Horseshoe in New York, which ~~is~~ <sup>was</sup> a very famous old nightclub at the Paramount Hotel. When I was going to school in New <sup>Haven</sup> York, I would visit with them, and they would come to Saratoga. He also was the maitre d' at a place called the Brook. This is one of the fantastic things about Saratoga. There were these very upperclass kind of nightclubs in the summer. You know, formal dress, gambling, crap tables, roulette, and so forth. Really big time gambling. And he ran the food side of the Brook mainly and stayed with us, generally. A lot of fun and very emotional, much more than the Germans in our family, but always good to us as kids and so forth.

I got really friendly with him and worked for him a

Q full name?  
Jim Siro?  
Q He full?  
married name?

Q. Restaurant name?

Siro's

couple of summers at the restaurant that he set up in Saratoga. He finally quit Billy Rose and decided to go into business for himself. And right next door to our family home in Saratoga, he bought this old frame house and made a restaurant out of it, which he ran only during the summer, during the racing season, for four or five weeks, and was able to make \$25-30,000 thousand dollars clear in a month, which was good money in the forties. So I'd work with him-- Let's see, it was one summer, I guess.

\$25-

[tape recorder off]

CONNORS: You were talking about your uncle.

SCHRADE: My uncle, yeah. We were fairly close and-- Let's see, it was the summer of '46 when the critical period in our relationship occurred. I had a job at a hotel--I was at school from '42 to '44 and took off time to work and got a scholarship at Yale University and spent the '46-'47 academic years there. After that, I had a job at a hotel, but my uncle came to town and said, "Look, I'll pay you more and you can learn something about the business, and I need you. And I need somebody I can trust." What I was doing, my job was cashiering and also taking care of the liquor and wine supply and checking on the waiters and keeping control of a lot of the food and the booze, because those are where the big problems are.

He brought in a crew of generally Greek waiters from

New York who were really great people, a German chef, and I never really had ~~any~~ real problems with them. But there's one trick I learned that waiters use and did a lot at the racetrack. They'd have a bunch of checks. They'd take the big checks, and if they see a group of people not too attentive, will present the big check to a small check table, collect off that, pay the small check, and go back and <sup>collect</sup> ~~use~~ that big check <sup>again</sup> which is one of the ways of making a little more money. But nothing like that ever occurred in the restaurant. It was mainly just hard work.

What I'd do is go to Albany with him--it's about thirty miles south; it's the state capitol--and go buy meat with him. It was kind of interesting to get into that aspect of the business. He served the best food in town at that point. And that's what he wanted. He hated nightclub work where he was working with Billy Rose. He wanted to serve good food. So he attracted all the top gamblers and horse owners. Liz Whitney was constantly there, and her parties drank more champagne than I had ever seen flow. One of the aspects of <sup>the</sup> labor movement, I found out about at that point, was that Phil [Phillip] Murray, then head of the CIO, was a real horse race fanatic.

CONNORS: No kidding.

SCHRADE: He would arrive with a chauffeur-driven limousine at my uncle's place and eat alone every night for two weeks

every summer. A very quiet person. That was in '46, right before the big fight in the CIO. But I didn't have any real relationship with him and didn't ever talk to him, but it was my first image of a trade union leader, which I didn't find offensive at all. He was living a little higher, I think, than most labor leaders did at the time. But he was there.

CONNORS: This is when you were at Clarkson is that right? Prior to going to Yale?

SCHRADE: No, when I worked that summer for him, I had just spent <sup>junior</sup> my year at Yale University. I got into a real problem with the family because I had worked two years at Clarkson in chemistry and then a year at Yale in chemistry. And at Yale, I was really beginning to be affected by the outside world. Here I had been living kind of a closed life in a small town, upstate New York, very conservative family, and then went to a fairly conservative college up near the Canadian border, kind of isolated.

CONNORS: That's Clarkson.

SCHRADE: Clarkson College of Technology. It's <sup>now</sup> ~~not~~ Clarkson University, I understand. Never anything really important in the way of politics. Although, I did, at Clarkson, join the Neutral Club, because I was sort of antifraternity. It was a group of guys that didn't want to join fraternities, or maybe couldn't. But at least we had

this antifraternity idea. But when I went to Yale University, it was with the help of Dr. Oskar Baudisch, again, who had contacts there. And after visiting, I was able to check out the whole system there. And was able through <sup>a</sup> scholarship--and that was because of Baudisch's <sup>^</sup> intervention that I got a fairly decent scholarship on tuition--and two jobs and a long-term loan and with what money that my family could raise and what I could work for, I was able to just skin through. But when I was there, I began to understand that the university was more than research chemistry.

One of my jobs was working for F <sup>≠</sup> S C. Northrop, who was one of the outstanding philosophers in the U.S. I worked in his office generally helping work ~~a manuscript~~ through on his book The Meeting of East and West and got reading some of the stuff. And I began to say, you know, there are other things in this world besides chemistry. So I began monitoring philosophy classes and some political science classes. And Harold Laski came, who was a visiting fellow in our dormitory at Silliman College [Yale residential college], and we had seminars at night. One of my jobs was also working at the library there. Actually, I had three jobs, I guess. I also worked at a chemistry lab where we were testing blood of people who were alcoholics. It was during the first period when alcoholism

was being considered a disease. We were checking alcohol levels of blood and so forth, and I was running the tests on that. Anyway, I began to become more interested in politics and philosophy.

There's one other big event. There was a rally in the Yale hockey rink with Paul Robeson's wife [<sup>E</sup>Islanda Gooda Robeson], and Harold Ickes. It was during the days when there was this fairly left to liberal group of the <sup>arts,</sup> sciences, professions and something or another. It was a left-wing group holding this rally. I got interested in that and went to it with some of my friends. And during that period, I began deciding that chemistry was really not-- I didn't want to continue into chemistry as a career and decided to back off and begin getting into philosophy, economics, and politics, and arranged to change my major for my senior year. I began looking around whether jobs might be available. I didn't really spot anything, but I decided that at least in my senior year I would adjust all this.

My family were really outraged by this, my mother and father.



TAPE NUMBER: I, SIDE TWO

JULY 14, 1989

CONNORS: Just jumping back a minute, you had done two years at Clarkson. So when you went to Yale, did you enter Yale as a junior?

SCHRADE: As a junior, yeah.

CONNORS: So you had full credit from Clarkson to transfer it to Yale?

SCHRADE: Yeah. My grades were reasonably good, not great. But in those specialties they were good enough-- chemistry, physics, and math. So I was able to make the shift over.

CONNORS: Just before we switched the tape, you said that your parents were a little bit outraged that you were changing your major. Now, there had been a question as to going to college in the first place, right?

SCHRADE: Uh-huh. [affirmative]

CONNORS: You touched on that, but what was that--?

SCHRADE: Well, their vision was that I was going to be a research chemist and this was where I was headed, and all of a sudden I'm into economics and politics and not really with a career goal in hand. I felt that I had to get into other areas of studies so that I knew what I wanted, because at that point I was rejecting chemistry as a way and wanted something else and was very opened up by this

whole experience at Yale University. And they didn't understand that. So it was a very difficult conflict for us.

And then, what compounded it was that two weeks after I started working for my uncle in the restaurant, my father and uncle got into an argument. And at that point, family loyalty was brought into play, and I was supposed to quit him because of this dispute. I don't remember exactly what it was, but it wasn't very important, at least to me. My uncle wanted me to continue and I wanted to continue, so I did. So that created some more problems for us.

Well, during that summer, my brother <sup>Jack, the</sup> and a <sup>Leonard Brightman,</sup> friend of ours organized ourselves into a departure from the family and from Saratoga. I decided that it was time to take off from school and not press that question with the family and to go and work and make enough money to go back to school on my own to decide what I wanted to do and finance it myself. So we chipped in and bought a jeep, a surplus jeep, for a several hundred bucks, and a little box trailer, and got the camping equipment. We just moved out at the end of the summer.

CONNORS: This is the summer of what year?

SCHRADE: Of '47. So we left early September and just took off. The family was very upset about it. We tried to explain that we had to get out and find ourselves and do

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it. They didn't understand that, because my brother was working with my father in the greenhouses and sort of left. My older brother, <sup>Bill,</sup> had tried to work with my father in the greenhouses and they couldn't stand each other. My older brother, who had trained in horticulture and gone to college and was better able to really get into the business, he and my father never really got along. He had rebelled at one point and took off and lied about his age and went to the National Guard and wound up in military service after that, when the war started. So there's all these conflicts within the family. But we just decided to take off. We headed for California with no idea what we were going to do, but just look for work and try to make it.

CONNORS: Why California? What was the lure?

SCHRADE: Well, in a way, a very romantic idea about going out and panning for gold and working in lumber camps and things like that and just getting out that way. We did pan gold, and we found gold--not enough to live on, but half an ounce or something like that.

CONNORS: Where was that?

SCHRADE: Up in Northern California, Coloma, Placerville area.

CONNORS: Is that where you went directly when you got the jeep and the camping gear?

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SCHRADE: Yeah. That was our first place where we stayed any length of time. We really moved across the country in a matter of days.

CONNORS: Did you take the northern route, then, through Chicago?

SCHRADE: Yeah, Chicago, and though, as I remember, Nebraska, Kansas, Utah, and Lake Tahoe, through that area. Wonderful trip.

CONNORS: And did you camp the whole way?

SCHRADE: Camped all the way, yeah. The first night was outside Buffalo. It was the worst camping experience we had. We wound up near a junkyard, a trash area alongside a railroad track. We were only about twenty feet from the track, and we didn't know this because we camped at night. We decided to check out the camping site a little better next time. A lot of the time, we just drove through. We'd spell each other driving and often drove through the night.

CONNORS: This was in a jeep.

SCHRADE: In a jeep. Open jeep.

CONNORS: So that the suspension on a jeep is really terrible, I can imagine.

SCHRADE: Well, my worst experience was going through Nebraska and Kansas, because I had a terrible hay fever problem in my hometown. And going through that period when