

## CONCLUSION

AFTER THE INTERVIEW was complete I had a column for further comments and sometimes wrote a note to myself as an afterthought or impression. Some people were very impressive in the way they expressed themselves and there were a few interviews that left me shaking my head at the simple profundity lived out before me. After one such interview I wrote “this was an excellent interview with a very impressive, intelligent and articulate lady.” Similar comments include “this was an inspirational eighty-nine year old, well spoken, clear headed, engaging, active and still living on his own,” and “this person typifies a generation that worked hard, accepted struggle and didn’t feel the world owed him anything. He worked very hard with little complaint and was thankful for the opportunity.”

There were also several couples who had a deep impact on me in the way they understood each other and their life together. Some were very progressive for their generation and were equally empowered, something the wife especially appreciated. One such interview caused me to write “this was a very well adjusted and content couple, best I have interviewed, who have lived a happy and fulfilled life together.”

There were also some interviews that were not so inspiring. Some people seemed medicated or distracted by illness while others acted doomed and interpreted the world through that lense. Others lived in dismal conditions like a smelly old apartment with old and broken furniture or a hospital-type shared room in which they were not happy. For many it affected their state of mind knowing they didn’t have the ability to change their living environment and that it would remain that way until death. After one such interview I wrote “there was tremendous pain in this person. She was very guarded about revealing painful things of the past and cried much of the time during the interview.”