

An Interview with
Anita Gorman

at her home in
Kansas City, Missouri

26 September 2014

interviewed by Jeff D. Corrigan



Oral History Program
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PREFACE

Anita Gorman was born in Quincy, Illinois, on November 17, 1931. She grew up in Marion County, Missouri, and attended Salem School and Prairie View School, both one-room schoolhouses. In the early 1940s, Anita's family moved to Claycomo on the outskirts of Kansas City where she graduated from North Kansas City High School in 1949. Following high school, she earned a bachelor's degree from William Jewell College and a master's degree from Boston University, both in economics. In 1979, she was appointed as a commissioner for the Kansas City Park Board. She was the first woman named to the Park Board, and she served into the 1990s. She was named the 1992 Kansas City Woman of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce. In 1993, she was appointed by Governor Mel Carnahan to the Missouri Conservation Commission. She was the first woman named to the commission and served until 2005. The Anita B. Gorman Conservation Discovery Center in Kansas City is named in her honor. In this interview, Anita discusses growing up in Marion County, her educational experiences, her work with the Kansas City Park Board, and finally her time with the Missouri Conservation Commission.

The interview was taped on a CompactFlash card, using a Marantz PMD-660 digital recorder and an audio-technica AT825 microphone placed on a tripod. There are periodic background sounds but the recording is of generally high quality.

The following transcript represents a rendering of the oral history interview. Stylistic alterations have been made as part of a general transcription policy. The interviewee offered clarifications and suggestions, which the following transcript reflects. Any use of brackets [] indicates editorial insertions not found on the original audio recordings. Physical gestures, certain vocal inflections such as imitation, and/or pauses are designated by a combination of italics and brackets [/]. Any use of parentheses () indicates a spoken aside evident from the speaker's intonation, or laughter. Quotation marks [""] identify speech depicting dialogue, speech patterns, or the initial use of nicknames. Em dashes [—] are used as a stylistic method to show a meaningful pause or an attempt to capture nuances of dialogue or speech patterns. Words are *italicized* when emphasized in speech or when indicating a court case title. Particularly animated speech is identified with **bold** lettering. Underlining [] indicates a proper title of a publication. The use of underlining and double question marks in parentheses [(??)] denotes unintelligible phrases. Although substantial care has been taken to render this transcript as accurately as possible, any remaining errors are the responsibility of the editor, Sean Rost.

Narrator: Anita Gorman
Interviewer: Jeff Corrigan
Date: September 26, 2014
Transcribed by: Teresa Bergen

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[Begin Track 1. Begin Interview.]

10 Jeff Corrigan: This is Jeff Corrigan, oral historian for the State Historical Society of Missouri. And I'm in Kansas City today to interview Anita Gorman. Today's date is September 26, 2014. It is a Friday afternoon and I'm in Mrs. Gorman's home. And this is the first time that I've interviewed you for our Missouri Environmental Oral History Project. Could you start off by telling me when and where you were born?

15

Anita Gorman: I was born November the seventeenth, 1931, in Quincy, Illinois. Born in Illinois simply because that was the closest hospital to our farm in Marion County, Missouri, which is in the northeastern part of Missouri.

20 Corrigan: And can you tell me a little bit about your family? Your parents, their names, if you had any siblings, and what kind of farm it was?

Gorman: It was a 640-acre farm. We raised cattle and oats and wheat and corn and some timothy. My mother had chickens. We were a family that had long roots in the community.
25 My great-great-grandfather James McPike helped found Bethel Baptist Church in 1823. And his home still stands in Marion County, and is in good shape, I'm happy to say. And incidentally, when he went to help found that church, he took one of his slaves with him. And when you see the list of founders of Bethel Baptist Church, you'll see James McPike. And right under his name is Hezekiah, and then in parenthesis, beside it, is "slave." So that was, I
30 think, unusual. But I'm certainly not an advocate of slavery, but I will have to say that the descendants of the slaves that my ancestors owned were still on our farm when I was a child. And the reason that we moved to Kansas City was that World War Two came along. And neither of my parents ever had good health. And so even though they both worked hard, when the slaves were, descendants, who'd become our hired hands, were all drafted, we
35 needed to sell out. And we moved to Kansas City at that time. And my father took a job with Trans World Airlines.

Corrigan: Oh, he worked for TWA?

40 Gorman: Yes.

Corrigan: What did he do for them?

Gorman: He was a mechanic. He could fix anything.

45

Corrigan: A good farm skill.

Gorman: Yes.

5 Corrigan: Now what was your father's name, and what was your mother's name?

Gorman: My father's name was Zack McPike. He now has a great-grandson at Harvard named Zack Royle. And that's spelled R-o-y-l-e. My mother's name was unusual. Evadna. E-v-a-d-n-a. Evadna.

10 Corrigan: Evadna.

Gorman: Evadna McPike. Yes.

15 Corrigan: And what was her maiden name?

Gorman: Her maiden name was Leake, L-e-a-k-e.

20 Corrigan: And were they, and so your father is definitely from the area, since you had mentioned your grandfather--

Gorman: And my mother's family was also an old, old Confederate family. Both sides.

Corrigan: Okay. And they were both from Pike County?

25 Gorman: Marion County.

Corrigan: Marion County.

30 Gorman: Yes.

Corrigan: Now if you were, 1931, okay. So you had, you would have went to school then up there for grade school and—

35 Gorman: Yes.

Corrigan: So can you tell me a little bit, where did you go to grade school?

40 Gorman: Yes, I went to Salem Grade School at the beginning. There were fifteen in the classroom. And then I went to Prairie View later. Interestingly, my grandfather did not want me to go to Prairie View at first, because my great-grandmother, during the Civil War, had realized that there were Union soldiers in the area. And she hid what valuables she had, and her livestock, so that they would not be taken away. She had a neighbor who sympathized with the Union. And when the soldiers came, he showed them where everything my great-grandmother had hidden.

45 **[End Track 1. Begin Track 2.]**

Gorman: So they took everything she had. My great-grandmother knew she could not do anything to the soldiers. But as the neighbor was leaving, she picked up a brick and threw it and hit him in the back. Knocked him off his horse. And he was never able to walk again.

5 That man's great-grandchild was in the school that I should have gone to. My grandfather did not want me to go to that school, because he was there. So I went to this other school. When my grandfather died, my mother moved me into the school I should have been with. And I sat right in front of that kid, and I liked him a lot. (laughter)

10 Corrigan: But even so many decades later, he—

Gorman: It was seventy years later.

Corrigan: Your grandfather still didn't want, still had an issue with the family.

15

Gorman: And one wonders why the Middle East is in turbulence? They've been fighting for thousands of years. (laughs)

Corrigan: And so how long did you go to Salem Grade School?

20

Gorman: Four years. And then I went to—

Corrigan: Prairie View?

25 Gorman: —to Prairie View for two years.

Corrigan: Now were any of these one-room schoolhouses or anything?

Gorman: They were both one-room schoolhouses.

30

Corrigan: Oh, they both were.

Gorman: Both one-room schoolhouses. No electricity at Salem. By the time we got to Prairie View, Franklin Roosevelt had been in office long enough that we had electricity. Called the REA. And we actually got boxes of apples that, from time to time. And there'd be a little milk card inside that said, "Have a good year. FDR."

35

Corrigan: Oh, really?

40 Gorman: Mm hmm. (laughs) Isn't that funny?

Corrigan: And you said there was fifteen kids. Was it in the school, or in your—

Gorman: In the school, yeah. That's right. So we moved to Kansas City—

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Corrigan: So did you finish, where did you start high school, then?

Gorman: Well, I finished grade school here in Kansas City in Munger, the seventh and eighth grade. And there were fifty in my class. And over 200 in the school. And that was quite a change.

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Corrigan: So Munger, it was called?

Gorman: Munger. It no longer exists.

10

Corrigan: Okay. But that's where you went to seventh and eighth grade.

Gorman: Yes, sir.

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Corrigan: So how was that transition from—well, let me ask you this question. So how was that transition from Marion County in the country to Kansas City? But also, where did you guys move to in Kansas City? Did you live in the city, or—

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Gorman: No. We moved into a suburb called Claycomo. That's on 69 Highway. And Vivian Road is 69 Highway, it's just on east of here.

Corrigan: So at that time, was it still pretty—

Gorman: There was one red light north of the river.

25

Corrigan: Okay. So it's still pretty rural.

Gorman: And it was right up here at North Oak and Vivion Road, was one blinking red light. That's all we had.

30

Corrigan: So it was still pretty—

Gorman: Rural.

35

Corrigan: —rural, or country.

Gorman: Yes. Yes.

Corrigan: Okay. And now where did you attend high school?

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Gorman: North Kansas City High School.

Corrigan: And what year did you graduate?

45

Gorman: Nineteen forty-nine.

Corrigan: And what kind of things, going back just a little bit, you didn't mention, did you have any siblings?

Gorman: No.

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Corrigan: Oh, you were an only child. Okay. So did you help out, then, on the farm?

Gorman: Yes. Oh, yes. Obesity was not a problem in those days. Because you went to school, and then you came home and worked. And my jobs were, you know, you'd gather the eggs, or you'd work in the garden or whatever. Whatever needed to be done.

10

Corrigan: And you said, so this was right before World War Two. But did you do things—

Gorman: During World War Two.

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Corrigan: During World War Two. So did you have a big garden? Did you have a—

Gorman: Oh, yes. We had a big garden. Yes, a big garden. We ate well.

20

Corrigan: Did your mom and you put up food for the winter?

Gorman: Yes.

Corrigan: Did you can and—

25

Gorman: Did all that canning. Mm hmm.

Corrigan: And did you have any like fruit trees or other—

30

Gorman: Yes, we had apple trees. And we had the typical gardens. It was amazing. Peaches and apples. We were well fed. Yeah.

Corrigan: Okay. And you said you had cattle. Did you have a particular breed that you raised?

35

Gorman: Yes. We had Hereford cattle. And they were, that's—

[End Track 2. Begin Track 3.]

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Gorman: —the kind of cow, or bull, that you see on the top of the big [pole], they were Domino Herefords. They were excellent cattle.

Corrigan: Okay. And did you have any dairy cows at all to get milk?

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Gorman: Yes, oh, yes. Yes, indeed. We always had three of those. And we had horses. Because although my father had a tractor, most people in that era did not. To just give you

some idea, in the 1936 election, which I can remember very well, our kitchen was about as big as this room. And I can remember when the linoleum people came from Illinois to put in new linoleum, one of the workers said, “This isn’t a kitchen. This is a barn!” Because bigger than they would find in town, even with a big kitchen. And that kitchen was full that night.
5 Because we had a radio and most people didn’t. And we didn’t have electricity. So, but it was a battery-powered radio. And we were listening to the results. God himself couldn’t have beaten Franklin Roosevelt in that county. Because he promised the REA.

10 Corrigan: And that’s really what carried it for that area was—

Gorman: Oh, well, just, yeah.

Corrigan: But electricity was important.

15 Gorman: Was terribly important. Think about that, you know.

Corrigan: Yes. Now you said your father had a tractor and that.

Gorman: He did. That was not typical.

20 Corrigan: Was the family fairly well-off compared to some of the neighbors, or was everybody—

25 Gorman: I suppose so. We didn’t think about things like that. I do know that there was one family nearby that was illiterate. When they’d get something that they didn’t know what it was, they’d bring it to my folks. My folks had gone to college.

Corrigan: Oh, they did.

30 Gorman: And they would bring things to them. And my family had always been involved politically. I mean, my great-grandfather was a sheriff, and another one was a presiding judge. James McPike was in the state legislature and stuff. They were always—nothing big. Just involved in politics. And I can remember when my grandfather and my dad would pay the help on Saturday afternoons, they’d always speak to each other as to who was going to be
35 home Saturday night. Because the help would go to town, and sometimes they’d get into it and they’d need to be gotten out of jail. It wasn’t difficult, because the sheriff was our cousin. But we wanted to be sure to take care of the help.

40 Corrigan: Okay. And did your parents have a lot of hired help? Or was it—

Gorman: Usually three.

Corrigan: Okay, three.

45 Gorman: Three. Jim and Jasper and Cliff.

Corrigan: Okay.

Gorman: Jim was my favorite. (laughs)

5 Corrigan: Any particular reason why?

Gorman: Oh, he was nice to me. I had no siblings, and big farm. Nobody to play with. And he, I mean, I'd do things, I can remember, he'd mow our yard, and it was just a hand mower. I'd go lie down in front of it because he'd have to, he'd pick me up. "Come on, Miss Anita."
10 (laughter) And he was just always nice. And incidentally, when he was drafted, somehow he wound up being a chauffeur for one of the big officers in World War Two. And we got a card from him from France saying, "I'm in Paris. Everybody ought to see Paris. It's beautiful!"
(laughs)

15 Corrigan: That had to be pretty exciting for a young girl to—

Gorman: Yeah!

Corrigan: I mean, you probably hadn't received mail from Paris before.
20

Gorman: No. No. Well, it was for all of us. None of us had been to Paris. (laughs)

Corrigan: Now you said your parents had went to college. Where did they go?

25 Gorman: William Jewell.

Corrigan: Oh, okay. And what did they study?

Gorman: My mother was a teacher. And my dad took scientific courses. Physics and
30 chemistry and that kind of stuff. Both of them.

Corrigan: Okay. So you spent probably your entire childhood outdoors.

Gorman: Oh, yes. Right. Right. And in fact, when I was appointed—
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[End Track 3. Begin Track 4.]

Gorman: —to the Conservation Commission. I got a call from a gentleman who, you know, I was the first woman. And it was scary for some people. And I got a long distance call from
40 a fellow. And he said, "Miss Gorman? I hear you've been appointed to the Conservation Commission. Congratulations. But I hunt all over this state, and I don't remember seeing you hunt. What do you hunt?" I said, "Well, I hunt wildflowers and Morel mushrooms and pretty rocks." And he said, "Oh my gosh, what have we come to?" (laughs)

45 Corrigan: Did you know this person, or not?

Gorman: No. No.

Corrigan: Oh, okay.

5 Gorman: But I got a lot of calls. But that one—

Corrigan: That one stuck out.

Gorman: He was horrified.

10

Corrigan: Now when did you get elected to the commission?

Gorman: I was appointed in 1993.

15

Corrigan: Appointed, sorry.

Gorman: And then I went off in 2005. I served two terms.

20

Corrigan: So kind of stepping back a little bit, I don't want to miss some things before that point. But what did you do after you graduated high school?

Gorman: I went to William Jewell.

25

Corrigan: Oh, you did, too. Okay.

Gorman: I went to William Jewell. And then I got my master's at Boston University.

Corrigan: And when did you graduate William Jewell?

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Gorman: Fifty-three.

Corrigan: And then Boston—

Gorman: University.

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Corrigan: University, okay.

Gorman: Got my master's there.

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Corrigan: And when was that?

Gorman: Nineteen fifty-three.

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Corrigan: Oh, you did it in one year?

Gorman: I left Jewell, I finished Jewell in January. And then went, luckily for me, Boston University had two terms in the summer. And I managed to work it in. That was—

5 Corrigan: (laughs) Difficult, I'm sure.

Gorman: I'm glad I don't have to do that again. (laughs)

Corrigan: Yes. What was your field of study for both?

10 Gorman: Economics.

Corrigan: Oh, okay. What drew you to economics?

15 Gorman: Well, I think probably that we had a great professor at William Jewell. He worked for the *Wall Street Journal*, and he'd been head of the Federal Reserve Bank in Kansas City. So pretty interesting.

Corrigan: Do you remember his name?

20 Gorman: T.B. Robb. Dr. Robb. R-o-b-b. And he was a really, really fine person.

Corrigan: And so it was because of him that kind of led you down that path of taking more economics?

25 Gorman: Mm hmm.

Corrigan: Okay. And what had you envisioned? What did you want to do? So you had went to east coast. I'm curious what, was there a reason why you went to Boston University?

30 Gorman: Oh, you bet. Across the river was Harvard. That's where Gerald was. (laughs)

Corrigan: Okay. So will you kind of get me to that point? So you were married at the time?

Gorman: No. No. Gerald and I met in high school.

35

Corrigan: And what's his—tell me a little bit about him.

Gorman: He's a lawyer. He is a lawyer. And he won a national scholarship to Harvard. So—

40 Corrigan: Did he go to William Jewell with you?

Gorman: No. No. it was less expensive to go to Harvard, because the national scholarship paid for it. Do you know what? In 1950, when he started to Harvard, it was 800 dollars. Do you know what my grandson's tuition is?

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Corrigan: Oh, because you said your grandson's at Harvard right now, right?

Gorman: Yeah. He's got a grandson there now. Fifty-eight thousand.

Corrigan: A year?

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Gorman: Mm hmm.

Corrigan: And that's just tuition, probably.

10 Gorman: That doesn't get him there. Doesn't buy his books.

Corrigan: Or room and board or, yeah, books.

Gorman: And Gerald was 800. Of course, that was sixty years ago.

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Corrigan: So you two met in high school.

Gorman: Mm hmm.

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Corrigan: Okay. So this is how we're getting out there. So did he go to Harvard for undergraduate? Okay. But then he went to Harvard Law School? Okay. And so that's what got you out to the east coast—

Gorman: That's right.

25

Corrigan: —was your husband. And, okay. And how—well, no, he probably didn't graduate in '53, if you were there.

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Gorman: He actually did go through Harvard in three years. So he graduated in '53 and started law school in '53. And then in 1954, we were married. So this is our sixtieth year.

Corrigan: Okay. Congratulations. So you're married in 1954.

[End Track 4. Begin Track 5.]

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Gorman: Right.

Corrigan: Okay. And so he would have graduated law school then in—

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Gorman: Fifty-six.

Corrigan: So you lived out there for several years then while he was in law school. Did you guys always intend to come back to Kansas City?

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Gorman: You know, I never gave it really any thought. But, yes. And then there was an overwhelming reason. My mother, we were married in June of 1954. And in September of

1954, my mother was stricken and was an invalid for twenty-seven years. So as an only child—

5 Corrigan: And Gerald's family was here, too.

Gorman: Yes. Yeah. Matter of fact, Gerald's home was right down there, and my folks' home is right next door. (laughs)

10 Corrigan: Oh, your parents' house was next door?

Gorman: Yeah. Now that's not where we moved to when we first came here. But that's where, yeah.

15 Corrigan: Okay. And then his family just lived not too far from here, too.

Gorman: His folks, you can see their house from here.

Corrigan: Oh, really? Okay. (laughs)

20 Gorman: So, it's a little neighborhood.

Corrigan: Yeah. So you didn't go very far.

25 Gorman: No. (laughs)

Corrigan: Did you guys build this house then?

Gorman: Oh, no.

30 Corrigan: Or was it already here?

35 Gorman: No, this was already here. In fact, this house had interesting history in that this paneling was special order in 1940. And it was being finished by a man whose last name was Scott and was considered *the* builder in that era. And on December the ninth, 1941, he was working on the front door and a car came up the driveway and a uniformed officer got out and said, "Mr. Scott, we're sorry to have informed you that your son was on the *Arizona*." And the family, they said Mr. Scott said nothing for a minute. And then said, "I'm going to finish this house to the best of my ability in memory of my son." Isn't that something?

40 Corrigan: Mm hmm.

Gorman: The family's been back here two or three times to see it. But the people that built this house, the man was an executive with the gas service company at the time.

45 Corrigan: And then how long have you been here?

Gorman: Oh, we've been here forty-some years.

Corrigan: Oh, okay.

5 Gorman: The house is over seventy years old.

Corrigan: Oh, okay. Okay. Now so you guys, when did you return back to Kansas City?

Gorman: As soon as he got through law school.

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Corrigan: So '56.

Gorman: Well, and then he got drafted right away. So then we went back to the east coast because he was in a, quartermaster depot arrangement. Interesting thing. He applied for a
15 judge advocate general officer, because he was a lawyer. And in those days, you typed the thing because there weren't computers. And it had six carbons. I typed it on a little portable typewriter. Every time I made a mistake, you had to make all those erasures, you know? We didn't hear and we didn't hear and we didn't hear, and finally after six months we got a letter
20 saying, "The application that you used has now become obsolete. Please reapply." (laughs) By that time, we were well settled and he had a good job. So we didn't worry about it.

Corrigan: Okay. (laughs)

Gorman: He finally was promoted.

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Corrigan: Okay. So after he served in World War Two, were you here during World War Two?

Gorman: No, that wasn't World War Two. That was Korea.

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Corrigan: I'm sorry. Korea. Korea, sorry. I was off there a little bit. You moved here in World War Two. Moving forward a little bit. Sorry about that. And so anyway, after the war—

35 Gorman: We came back here in 1958.

Corrigan: Okay. And then was he able to take up law fairly easily?

Gorman: Yeah.

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Corrigan: Okay. And then did you work outside the home?

Gorman: I did until we knew that our older daughter, the one with the kitty, that I was expecting her, and I quit then.

45

Corrigan: What did you do?

Gorman: Actually, I was a programmer for the Department of Agriculture. And the computer was, would have filled our dining room. (laughter)

5 Corrigan: But you were—saw one of the earlier computers.

Gorman: That's right.

Corrigan: So what did you do? Like what was the, what were you actually working on?

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Gorman: Well, it was the Department of Agriculture. It was—

[End Track 5. Begin Track 6.]

15 Gorman: —keeping records of how much crop there was, or where it was going, and all that kind of thing.

Corrigan: Okay. You had your ag background is why I was thinking that you would know what corn and soybeans and timothy—

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Gorman: Oh, yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

Corrigan: It wasn't just a foreign object to you, then. Okay. And so go ahead and mention, before we move on—

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Gorman: Two girls.

Corrigan: Two daughters.

30 Gorman: Two daughters. Gwen was born in 1960. And Vicki was born in 1962.

Corrigan: Okay. So Gwen and Vicki are your two daughters. So you said you stayed at home with them. And then, so how is it, can you, we'll kind of get up to what we were kind of talking to. So you went on the Conservation Commission in 1993. Can you kind of tell me a little bit how, leading up to that, where that came about, did you have an interest in that? Can you kind of walk me through a little some of that?

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Gorman: The Conservation Commission has always been something that, I've always taken the magazine and something that I think we've always been proud of. My grandparents worked on the campaign in the 1930s when the department was first done. And then in the 1970s, we worked on the campaign to get that one-eighth of one percent sales tax. Which means that if you spend eight dollars, we get a penny of it.

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Corrigan: So your parents and you—

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Gorman: Gerald and I worked on it.

Corrigan: Oh, you and Gerald, okay.

Gorman: We were very minor. I don't mean to say, we were very minor.

5

Corrigan: But you supported it.

Gorman: We certainly did. And Jim Nutter, Senior, over town, was very important in that election. It was something that we felt very strongly about, always. I would embarrass young women these days. But once I married Gerald Gorman, I never really had any ambition. That's all I wanted to do. In fact, when I graduated from William Jewell, I got an award. And one of the trustees at William Jewell told me that, he said, "I'm an executive of Standard Oil of New Jersey. And I'd like to offer you a job." I said, "I don't want a job. I'm getting married." So the thought of being on the park board was, I mean, I was astonished that Dick Berkley would do that. I was his co-chairman for his election. But I did it because I thought he was going to be a great mayor, not because I wanted something. But as it turned out, I really enjoyed being a park commissioner.

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Corrigan: Did that happen before the conservation—

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Gorman: That happened in 1979.

Corrigan: So in 1979, will you say his name again? You were working for who for election?

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Gorman: Richard L. Berkley.

Corrigan: Berkley. Okay.

Gorman: Berkley. And he's the only mayor that's served for twelve years in Kansas City. And I worked for him. He and Gerald were friends in college. So we'd known him a long time and knew him well.

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Corrigan: So was that an appointment, then, to the parks board?

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Gorman: Yes. Yes.

Corrigan: And that was in 19—

Gorman: Seventy-nine.

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Corrigan: Okay.

Gorman: And in this town, Greg, that's a big deal. And for a woman to be appointed, it had never happened. In fact I can remember one of the staff said, "We've got a convention coming up and we've always just had men. We only have one room." And I said, "That's

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okay. I just need one room.” So they had to learn to get along with different things. Anyway, because—

5 Corrigan: Well go ahead and talk about that a little bit. So just in the sense of you were put onto the park board. Well, what was the situation with parks at the time?

Gorman: Well, the park board was in good shape. Frank Vaydik was a fine director.

10 Corrigan: What was his name?

Gorman: Frank Vaydik, V-a-y-d-i-k. And we had had good support for the park board from Ike Davis, who was an earlier mayor and so the park board was in good shape. But you always knew—

15 **[End Track 6. Begin Track 7.]**

Gorman: —more as things progress. And because I was different, there was a great deal of, a great deal of publicity because I was a woman. And they were very kind to me, to be honest about it.

20 Corrigan: How many people were on the board?

Gorman: Three.

25 Corrigan: Oh. So you just had to work with two other men.

Gorman: Two men. Right. And Ollie Gates of Gates Barbecue, and Carl Dicapo, who was a restaurateur.

30 Corrigan: What was his name?

Gorman: Carl Dicapo. D-i-c-a-p-o.

35 Corrigan: Oh, Dicapo.

Gorman: And we managed to do a lot. Because the park board hadn't had a bond election in over fifty years. And we passed them. But as a result of that, the Chamber of Commerce in 1992 named me Kansas City Woman of the Year. Around here, that is considered a big award. And Mel Carnahan was present that night, our governor. And he needed a Republican member on the commission when the next appointment came up. And there'd never been a woman. And he took the risk.

40 Corrigan: Did you know him prior to that? Or no.

45 Gorman: No.

Corrigan: Okay. So it wasn't like—

5 Gorman: It wasn't, no. But I will say this. The *Kansas City Star* and the Chamber of Commerce were merciless on that man. They said, "She's got to have it. She's just got to have it." And to be perfectly honest, Greg, we're not nearly as big as Saint Louis. You know that.

Corrigan: Yeah.

10 Gorman: But we are good-sized. We had not had a commissioner in Kansas City in decades.

Corrigan: Oh, okay.

15 Gorman: So it was time. And I was lucky to have all that come together. But I didn't have any, I can't take any credit for it.

Corrigan: But he was there and then did he approach you? Or did a staff member approach you?

20 Gorman: No, he called me. He called me. I'll never forget it. (laughs) Goodness.

Corrigan: So it was completely unexpected.

25 Gorman: But there was no question. There were editorials in the paper. I mean, the Chamber of Commerce. And our chamber is very strong. And so, anyway, I have to hand it to [them], they get the credit, not me.

Corrigan: Okay. So it was a complete surprise.

30 Gorman: Yes. Well, except that I knew this was going on. But yes, it was.

Corrigan: Yes. But prior to that, you didn't know that you were ever going to be considered or asked to be on the commission.

35 Gorman: No. No.

Corrigan: Okay. Did you know much about the commission at the time?

40 Gorman: No, I'd not been to any of their—yes, I had been to one—let's see. I had not been. They asked me once to come to Jefferson City to speak before the legislature. And I've forgotten the reason, but they did. So for whatever reason, I mean, I knew what they did.

Corrigan: Maybe it was related to the parks or something?

45 Gorman: I can't remember what it was. That's awful. They drove me down there. Sorry, I can't remember.

Corrigan: That's okay. So the commission, as you stated, it is made up of two Republicans and two Democrats. So it's a bipartisan committee that is—

5 Gorman: And you never hear politics. I mean, it is not a political, at least, when I wasn't here, it was—

Corrigan: The only thing political about it is just the initial party of the individual. But other than that, it wasn't a political—

10

Gorman: No.

Corrigan: Okay. So can you tell me, you said you served nineteen-ninety—

15 Gorman: Three

Corrigan: —three to 2005.

Gorman: Right.

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Corrigan: So can you tell me a little about when you went on the commission, and kind of what was going on? Because you had to deal with the whole state.

Gorman: Right.

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Corrigan: You were making decisions that affected statewide. So can you kind of tell me a little bit about once you got on the board, maybe got your footings and that, where you thought, or what, kind of how the commission, I know that people would probably go to you and pitch, give you reports and things to let you know how things—

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[End Track 7. Begin Track 8.]

Corrigan: —were going. But I'm curious what some of the ideas and things that you had or that you had to deal with while you were on there.

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Gorman: Well, the thing that took most of my time, very shortly after I went on the commission, our staff said, we need to have a center in the urban area. Because that's where people live. And there are so many people who don't have the opportunity to really enjoy or understand the world of nature. And our nature centers are out in the boondocks. In some cases, anyway. And so I said, "We'll give it a try. We'll give it a try." And again, Mel Carnahan was a great help on this. Because I thought, since I'd been on the park board for so long, I could probably put a center in one of the parks and even talk to the park director and said "I think we'll," and two men that I knew would have to give big money if we were going to make this happen. One was Jonathan Kemper, who heads Commerce Bank. And the other one was Bill Hall, who heads the Hall Family Foundation. They said, "No, if you're going to do this, you've got to put it on Troost because that's the dividing line between the

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black race and the white race in this town, and that's where it's got to go." And so the place that they all told me to put it was at 47th and Troost. And the University of Missouri—Kansas City, owned the ground, and wanted to put commercial buildings there. Luckily for me, one of Gerald's classmates from college lived in the neighborhood and he didn't want
5 commercial buildings there, and he headed the neighborhood association. And so I went to the governor and said, "We have got to get the neighborhood to tell the UMKC they're not going to happen." And so Governor Carnahan arranged for me to go in front of the trustees of the Missouri University. And I've made many speeches in my life. But I've never been in a place where I was more disliked than I was that day. They said, "You've got five minutes."
10 And I was seated way in the back and I rushed up to the front. Gave my speech. You could feel the ice as I walked out. And I got a call from the chairman of the board saying, "Nope. We're not going to do it." So I called the governor and said, "He said no." And I said, "But I'm telling you that the neighborhood will never agree to let commercial buildings go there." And the governor said, "Well, are you sure about that?" And I handed the phone to Charlie Egan. And you didn't even need a long-distance wire for Charlie to tell the governor there
15 was no way. The governor called the chairman of the board of Missouri trustees, and the next day they said, "You've got a deal."

Corrigan: So it took a lot of—
20

Gorman: That took for ages. Twelve million dollars came from the Kauffman Foundation. They bought it and they own it. We have a ninety-nine year lease.

Corrigan: Oh, okay.
25

Gorman: They also built the lake that I thought I was going to have to raise the money for, which was great. And then we needed eight million dollars to do the building. And we got it.

Corrigan: So this wasn't money that came from conservation or—
30

Gorman: About half of the money came from the department. They said, "If you can raise—"

Corrigan: So it was a public/private partnership.
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Gorman: It was. Public/private. And people like Kit Bond, for example, got five hundred thousand bucks from the United States government. But some gifts were ten dollars. But anyway, we got it. And I'm very grateful. And Greg, we've got people coming—

40 **[End Track 8. Begin Track 9.]**

Corrigan: Jeff.

Gorman: They come from—
45

Corrigan: What I was going to ask you is, but early on, though, there was a discussion that it needed to be along that line to benefit everyone.

Gorman: That's right.

5

Corrigan: At the time, it was the kind of the racial divide. But that was on people's mind, that's where it had to go.

Gorman: And they were right. They were right. I was wrong. They were right. Because I just thought, I'll put it in one of the parks. That hadn't quite gotten through to me. But that is right.

10

Corrigan: And today the center is called what now?

Gorman: Well, that's now called—

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Corrigan: It wasn't at the time, but go ahead.

Gorman: No, no. No, no, no. No, indeed. No.

20

Corrigan: But now it bears your name.

Gorman: It does. Yes, it does.

Corrigan: And when did that happen?

25

Gorman: I guess, after I went off the commission. Probably in late 2005. Yeah. Yeah.

Corrigan: How did that make you feel?

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Gorman: Oh, that was very, very nice of them. Very nice of them. No question about that. Very nice of them. And I'm so glad that people have the opportunity to see what it does. And the staff, you know, I thought it looked pretty good when we opened it. My goodness, have they improved it! They have really. But the conservation department has a great staff. No question about it.

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Corrigan: So it wasn't that it was just built and then finished. It's evolved over this time, too.

Gorman: That's right. And it continues to improve.

40

Corrigan: Now have they built other, was there, you know, you built one here in Kansas City. But as a commissioner, was there something like that in place already in Saint Louis?

Gorman: And there isn't yet. And, off the record, there were two things—

45

Corrigan: Hold on. [pause] Okay. So you were just going to tell me two things.

Gorman: There were two things that I think were probably the most important thing. Number one, I suggested shortly after I went on the commission that we start a foundation. Because as it was, when people would give us money, it just went into the general fund. Not
5 that it wasn't carefully taken care of; it was. But the person that gave it wouldn't necessarily even know what it was spent on. I suggested that we do a foundation and that I thought it would attract more money. I got a four-page single-spaced typewritten letter from a legislator telling me what an awful idea that was. We did it. And I'm pleased to say that more than twelve million dollars has been raised and given out to do various things throughout the state.
10 And money comes in all the time. And now when you buy your car license that supports it. And it's been a good thing. And ground has been given. It's been a good thing. The other thing that I was happy about, the Conservation Commission, long before I was ever a part of it, started trying to buy the confluence area between the Missouri and the Mississippi River. They started that in the 1980s. They could never, ever, you know, Saint Louis has twenty-six
15 aldermen. They have the president of the board of aldermen, they've got the mayor and they've got the, oh, gosh, what is she called? There's one other job that, some kind of auditor. You have to have all those people. And I spent much time one summer lining them up. The present mayor of Saint Louis, Francis Slay, I think, is his name, was a big help on that. And we went down to—and the mayor agreed to it. All the aldermen agreed to it. We
20 still had to have that one final vote from the, I've forgotten what the name of it was. And she said, "I understand you want this." "Yes." "It's twelve million dollars." "Yes, we've got the money." And she said, "You just have to understand one thing. We are—

[End Track 9. Begin Track 10.]

25 Gorman: —going to continue to get the rent, even though you own it. And that rent is \$400,000 a year from the farmers that are farming it." And so we told her that she didn't understand it but that when we bought it, she could have the twelve million dollars, invest it in, at that time, you got interest on savings. And she said, "No, you don't understand. We've
30 already spent the money." So anyway, we walked out and walked up to the *Saint Louis Post-Dispatch* and talked to Tom Uhlenbrock. And they were having an election in a couple of weeks. And he just crucified her. And in about three days, I got the phone call. "You've got a deal." But getting that for posterity, that needed to be. And another place that needs to be is John L. Morris' Dogwood Canyon. Have you been there, Greg?

35 Corrigan: No.

Gorman: Oh, Greg, you've got to go. It's so special. And of course as John L. is around, it's fine.

40 Corrigan: Is that Johnny Morris of Bass Pro?

Gorman: Yeah. That needs to be protected. I don't care if the department doesn't own it, as long as somehow there's a way that it can never be developed. It's lovely.

45

Corrigan: Now going back to the first one you said with the foundation, did the legislator give you a reason?

Gorman: Oh, yes.

5

Corrigan: Because you said you got a four-page letter that said it was a terrible idea.

Gorman: Yeah. It was a terrible idea.

10

Corrigan: I wondered why, or what the reasoning was.

Gorman: Well, when we did pass it and start it, I got called over there. And I was told that this was a terrible thing that we'd done. And it's just one more pot of money that we can't control. So that was the reason. I took it as a compliment.

15

Corrigan: Because I guess, I think, at least, and tell me if this is right or not, but the legislature in general didn't like that they didn't have oversight of the conservation. Is that correct?

20

Gorman: That's correct.

Corrigan: But that was before you were there. That was a longstanding thing, wasn't it?

Gorman: I didn't cause that. I didn't help it.

25

Corrigan: Because that was one pot that they didn't have control over, you're saying. But this would have been another—

Gorman: Another pot. Which is true. They were right. No, they were absolutely right.

30

Corrigan: And is the foundation overseen by—

Gorman: It's overseen by a board that is appointed by the people that are on the board.

35

Corrigan: But is it by the commission? Or is it separate?

Gorman: It's separate.

Corrigan: Okay. Okay.

40

Gorman: Yeah, it's separate.

Corrigan: Okay. So you as a conservation commissioner was trying to form it, but it was, it's run by an independent, a different board. Okay.

45

Gorman: Yeah. Yeah.

Corrigan: And what is their—you said they have given out lots of money.

Gorman: You can apply for a grant.

5

Corrigan: It's a statewide—

Gorman: Yeah. Anybody in the state.

10 Corrigan: And what's the, how did you envision what the money would be used for that would be different, say, than general funds or something? Is there a certain emphasis or criteria?

15 Gorman: For example, suppose that you had a child in the school. And the school didn't have an outside classroom. That's a typical thing that a lot of elementary schools have. And you wanted to get one. So you thought well, okay, I can raise the money to do it. You need a 501c3 to do it. So all you have to do is call and say, "I'm going to send you 100 dollars. I want that for my child's outdoor classroom. And the child's school's name is XYZ. And anybody else that sends in money will go there." So you've got your 501c3. You don't have to spend thousands of dollars to some lawyer to get it. I mean, that's just one little thing.
20 Another thing, we had one couple that gave us money constantly. And they didn't know what they wanted to use it for. Well, now—

[End Track 10. Begin Track 11.]

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Gorman: —it's separate and it keeps building up. Now, I don't know. I've been gone so long, they've probably spent it on something. But it just gives people an opportunity to give money to something that they want it to go for. And it doesn't get swallowed up and used someplace else.

30

Corrigan: And I'm guessing this is a speculation, but that money's coming into the foundation that wouldn't have come in. Because I'm guessing that not many people would have wanted to give, at least in a large sum, money to—

35 Gorman: To a government.

Corrigan: —to a government, like you said, that went into a general pot.

Gorman: No.

40

Corrigan: And so although the legislator was against this because it's money they couldn't control, but isn't it also money they probably wouldn't have had?

45 Gorman: I don't think there's any question that there's money, I mean, when I buy my car license, I give them fifty dollars to go to the MDC. Well, if they didn't have that, I wouldn't.

Because it's just one more form I have to fill out. But I want to do it. So you're absolutely right. They're getting more money that way than if you didn't have the foundation.

5 Corrigan: And that is benefiting the state. Just not directed through general revenue. Correct?

Gorman: Right. No, it's certainly benefiting the state.

10 Corrigan: So without that, and without that foundation doing those things, then there would actually be a greater dependence or need for more general funds, correct?

Gorman: Exactly.

15 Corrigan: So the foundation can actually support and do more that probably they couldn't do with their own budget.

20 Gorman: Absolutely. There's no question. No. No question. Now we've been privileged, we've been given a great deal of land, and that's wonderful. But that's different from cash. No, you're absolutely right. We've gotten more money because of the foundation. So I'm glad we were able to do that. Yeah.

25 Corrigan: Now I'm curious. You said at the beginning when you went on the commission you got lots of phone calls and congratulations. But also, at least the one gentleman you said, was of great concern. And you also kind of got that with the parks board and that.

Gorman: Yeah.

30 Corrigan: I wondered, was there any point after you had actually been serving a while, that your gender didn't really matter anymore? Or was it still always an issue with some people?

35 Gorman: Oh, I don't think so. If they were—and you know, I was really very fortunate. People tend to be nice to old people. So I was fortunate in that way. And also, I don't have any job. So I mean, I wouldn't be a problem because they might be thinking I was trying to increase my job. I don't have a job. So I was fortunate in that way. They could not have been nicer to me. And I hope that they got to the point where they decided that maybe it wasn't such an awful thing to have—I will say, this is off, too—[pause]

40 Corrigan: I'll put it back on now. Okay. Took a little brief pause there a second. Well, that's good. So very quickly, people got over your gender and moved on from there. And now you mentioned earlier, and this might have even been off, before we even started. But since you, there's been two additional women serve, right?

Gorman: Mm hmm.

45 Corrigan: So at least that has continued on, that you weren't the one and only.

Gorman: Right.

Corrigan: And considering it's only been since 2005, two women serving is definitely, I don't know what your opinion of that is, but it's not an issue anymore.

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Gorman: No, I don't think so.

Corrigan: Shouldn't be.

10

Gorman: No, I don't think so.

Corrigan: Okay. Good. Good. Now are there particular things, I'm curious, that, or other things, you mentioned a few on the conservation commission. You kind of talked about things that you did accomplish. Were there things that long-term, that it didn't happen, but you hope still to happen? I would assume you're always looking forward?

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Gorman: We started—

[End Track 11. Begin Track 12.]

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Gorman: —talking about Dogwood Canyon, for example. And that has not happened. The other thing that concerns me is the continuation of the legislature to want to change. For example, there has been a bill introduced to increase the size of the commission from four to eight, which would put, and one would be appointed from each of the congressional districts. What that would mean, Greg, would just be, you'd just be building a small legislature. As it is now, the commission is representative. And as I think I said to you, I think the thing that was certainly big in my eyes, anyway, that I worked on with the confluence, which is of course down in Saint Louis, but we did things all over. The other issue that you probably may have read something about, maybe we shouldn't have this on.

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Corrigan: Okay. [pause] Okay, go ahead.

Gorman: While I served on the Department of Conservation's commission, I was sent to Houston, Texas, to accept the Chevron Texaco national award. And it was quite an event. The United States senators were there, the governor was there, the mayor of Houston was there. And they spent a world of time telling how wonderful Texas was. And I began to wonder why I was worried about going to heaven when I could just move down to Texas. It was just so great. And finally they got around to announcing the award. And the Department of Conservation's director of Texas stood up and said, "Before you give this award out, you should know that Mrs. Gorman represents the finest department of conservation in the whole country. And I thought if Texas knows that, it must be true. And so anything that's done that changes the department, or threatens it, is going to have me for an enemy. (laughs) Once a commissioner, always a commissioner.

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Corrigan: So you still take an interest in it.

Gorman: Next, on October 1, I will be going to the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce to appear before their legislative session and ask them for their support to make sure that we stay a four-member commission, and that the one-eighth of one percent sales tax is not threatened in any way. Because of course, that comes up, too.

5

Corrigan: Because people want to remove it.

Gorman: Mm hmm.

10 Corrigan: Because it wasn't a tax that was put in for like a twenty year limit.

Gorman: No. It has no sunset.

15 Corrigan: Exactly. Okay. So have you always, and this is kind of getting away from conservation, but we'll come back to it, though. Have you always been interested in politics?

Gorman: Oh, I think it runs in my family's blood. I mean, we've had people here since the 17th century. Had people on the House of Burgesses, in Virginia. Never anything big. But you feel like if you're going to live here, you ought to try to make it as good as you can.

20

Corrigan: Did your parents talk openly about politics?

Gorman: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah.

25 Corrigan: Okay. So it wasn't definitely a hidden subject?

Gorman: Oh, no. No. No, as I told you, that 1936 election, the kitchen was full.

30 Corrigan: Okay. And then, even though you've left it since 2005, the commission, you still keep up with things.

Gorman: Oh, absolutely.

35 Corrigan: You still are, you said, a conservation commissioner for life, then. So you're still advocating for more things.

Gorman: Oh, absolutely. And all of us are that way. It gets in your blood. Yeah. I had dinner with—

40 **[End Track 12. Begin Track 13.]**

Gorman: —Randy Herzog Monday night of this week. He feels same way.

Corrigan: And that was one of the people you were on the commission with, right?

45

Gorman: Yes.

Corrigan: It was him and then Mr. Gates, right? No, I'm sorry. That was the park board. Sorry. I'm mixing them up there.

5 Gorman: (laughs) That's all right.

Corrigan: Not the commission. Sorry. I was mixing up your board and the commission there.

Gorman: Oh, you don't get over those things.

10

Corrigan: Well, good. Now I kind of question, there's a lot of science behind what the department's trying to do. Was there a willingness, or in general, what was your opinion of the commission, when it came to trying something, if somebody came to you with something that was really new or different, was your opinion of, was the commission kind of

15 conservative in its approach, or liberal? Or would you let just people lay out their arguments? Because not everything, you know, people come with ideas that need funding. I'm wondering how you kind of approached that.

20 Gorman: I don't recall there ever really being, I think being just four members, we were always sent all the material before we ever got there. So if there were any questions or concerns, we could have them out. I don't recall any real struggles at all. We really got along.

Corrigan: Okay.

25 Gorman: I don't recall that. One of the many great things about the commission is people that want to be a part of something like that are good people. They're not out to try to do a scam. They're out to make the world a better place. The one time that I was there that someone got fired, it wasn't because he wasn't good. He was excellent! But he couldn't put a sentence together without at least three four-letter words. He just, you know, "Hello, how in

30 the ____ are you?" I mean, and he couldn't—boy, they did everything they knew how to do to keep him, but—(laughs)

Corrigan: Yeah. That was a personality issue or something.

35 Gorman: Yeah.

Corrigan: I forgot to ask you this. When you were appointed by Mel Carnahan, and we know what happened to him, was he still in office for you, he wasn't still in office—

40 Gorman: No.

Corrigan: Who was the next governor that reappointed you, then?

Gorman: No, he reappointed me.

45

Corrigan: Oh, okay. So he hadn't passed away yet at that time.

Gorman: No. No. He reappointed me.

5 Corrigan: Okay. I was trying to picture where his accident happened in your timeframe there. Because the term is six years, is it?

Gorman: Six years. Yeah. Yeah.

10 Corrigan: So you served two terms, both appointed and reappointed by Carnahan.

Gorman: Right. Right. Yeah.

Corrigan: And then after your second term is when he would have passed away.

15 Gorman: Yeah. Yeah.

Corrigan: Okay. Okay. I was trying to place the numbers there, if you were reappointed by somebody else. But you weren't.

20 Gorman: No. No.

Corrigan: Okay. So quite a few years on there, then. That's twelve years. So you were able to see a lot of changes—

25 Gorman: Yes.

Corrigan: —and progress.

30 Gorman: Right.

Corrigan: And did you always enjoy it?

35 Gorman: Yes. It's a great place. Great job. Lovely people. Really very special people. I keep in touch with them.

40 Corrigan: Good. Good. Now, kind of to move a little bit forward, since 2005, what have you been doing? How do you spend your time? What are some of your interests? I know that Mr. Dillingham had mentioned to me some things, different things that you support and do in the community. But I would like you to tell me some of the things you're interested in.

Gorman: Well, I think, you know, from day one, our family has been church people. And I've taught the same adult Sunday school class for, this is my fiftieth year. So they're tough. They put up with a lot.

45 Corrigan: What's the name of your church?

Gorman: Avondale United Methodist Church. So I do that. We work on church things.

[End Track 13. Begin Track 14.]

5 Gorman: One thing about it, when you've been involved in things like this, when there are elections, you get involved in those things. And we've had a number of elections. We had a zoo election. We had a park board election. We had a liberty memorial election. I chaired the opening of the National Museum for World War One. You know, that kind of thing.
Probably the thing that takes [time] consistently, because I went on that board in 1979, is the
10 Salvation Army. Those people, those officers, are as near to angels as I'll ever know. They do—I got a call a couple of nights before Christmas Eve from an acquaintance saying, "Our neighbor's house has burned. He's a grandfather. His wife has died. He's taking care of three grandchildren because her daughter was murdered by her husband. And he's had a heart attack, so he had to quit work. And he let the insurance go on his house. Is there anything you
15 can do?" And, yeah, I know the number to call. And even at that time of year, I called the Salvation Army and the officer said, "Give us the address. We'll pick them up and put them in a motel. And this is Saturday. We'll sort things out Monday."

20 Corrigan: So that's been a long-serving job. Since 1979, you've been working on that board.

Gorman: I will work on that the rest of my life. Because they can do things that I couldn't begin to do. But I can help them by raising money and whereas they're good at helping people politically, they're not always – for example, we had a city council member that thought the Salvation Army should quit feeding the homeless. And we've had quite a little
25 fuss over that. But we got that handled. (laughs)

Corrigan: So you said church, political things, any kind of political campaign, whether it be, you said zoos and parks. And then I imagine actual general elections.

30 Gorman: Well, and of course thanks to Mr. Sinquefield, we have to have an election every five years to keep our earnings tax. I co-chaired that in 1963 when we got it, and now I've got to co-chair it again. I did it a couple years ago, and now I guess we'll have another one. I mean, that kind of thing is really irritating to me. Once we pass it, for heaven's sake, why can somebody in Saint Louis tell us we have to have another election? But there we are.

35 Corrigan: So you're going to chair that again.

Gorman: Oh, I don't know. But I certainly—

40 Corrigan: It's an issue that will come up again.

Gorman: Yes. Yes. Surely they won't ask me again. But I'll work on it. (laughs)

45 Corrigan: And then, I guess, when did your—I'm assuming your husband's retired from—

Gorman: Oh, no. He goes to work every day. Married him for better or worse, but not for lunch. (laughs)

5 Corrigan: (laughs) So he's still a practicing lawyer, then.¹

Gorman: Oh, yes.

Corrigan: Okay. I wasn't sure where—

10 Gorman: No, no. He does. Bless him.

Corrigan: So he must enjoy it a lot, then.

Gorman: Yes, he does. And he's good at it.

15

Corrigan: Well, good, good, good. Okay. Is there anything else that you spend your time doing or just general interests, or things you'd still like to do that you haven't accomplished yet?

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Gorman: Oh, goodness yes. I've got a ton of stuff to do. I keep working at it. Keep working at it.

25

Corrigan: Okay. Well, I'll give you another minute there. Is there anything else about the Conservation Commission or that you'd like to still see happen? Or since this is for the environmental collection, what is your future vision for what's still yet to come?

Gorman: I hope that it can continue just like it is. It has great support. It's earned it. And—

[End Track 14. Begin Track 15.]

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Gorman: —it makes me very proud of it.

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Corrigan: And do you believe that Missouri's in a good place when it comes to the environment and conservation and some of the issues that all states have to deal with? But does Missouri have a good handle on natural resources and conservation and wildlife?

40

Gorman: Yeah. We're the best. We're the best. We are the only state that has a tax just for conservation. Now, Arkansas has passed a tax that's for conservation and state parks. And that's a step forward for them. And they have a beautiful state, and I think they do some very good things. But nobody does conservation as well as our staff does.

Corrigan: Good. Well, is there anything else? Otherwise, I'll—

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Gorman: You put up with a lot, Jeff. (laughs)

¹ Gerald Gorman passed away in September 2016.

Corrigan: Oh, no, you're fine. No, no, no, you're fine. It's always interesting. So thank you very much for kind of giving me your opinion about the Conservation Commission, and also some background so that we have a little bit more about you and your history. So we'll add this into the collection with the rest of the interviews and that. So I thank you very much.

5

Gorman: Well, you're made out of good stuff to put up with all this. (laughs)

[End Track 15.]

10 **[End Interview.]**