

An Interview with

Kay Drey

at *The* Historical Society of Missouri St. Louis
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interviewed by Dr. Blanche Touhill
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Oral History Program

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PREFACE

The interview was taped on a 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, Josephine Sporleder.

Blanche Touhill: Would you talk about your childhood: your parents; your grandparents; your cousins; your playmates. Who encouraged you to sort of be your own person and be what you wanted to be? And the other thing I want to know is: How did you play? Did you play with dolls? Did you play with the boys? Did boys and girls play together? Was it free? Did you just run around the neighborhood together or bicycle together? Just talk about your childhood.

Kay Drey: Well, when I was born, we lived in the Delmar Loop in an apartment building, and we were on the 3rd floor, and my father's parents were on the 1st floor, and my mother's parents were in the building next door. So I had a lot of parental guidance, grandparents.

Blanche Touhill: And a lot of love.

Kay Drey: And a lot of love. And I'm Jewish, and I think most of the neighborhood—this was the Delmar loop—most of the Eastgate/Westgate was pretty much filled with a lot of Jewish people. I'm not a religious person, but my great-great-grandfather had 26 children...

Blanche Touhill: Oh my; yes.

Kay Drey: ...and so it's hard to be middle-income or less-than-middle-income Jewish and not be related to my...

Blanche Touhill: ...somebody.

Kay Drey: Kranzberg, which is my family. So, at any rate, I grew up in this very down-to-earth kind of wonderful neighborhood and went to school just off of Delmar, Delmar-Harvard.

Blanche Touhill: So you were in the University City Public Schools.

Kay Drey: Initially, for kindergarten and 1st and 2nd grade, and then we moved to Clayton to a wonderful little old house on Maryland. It was old when we moved in, and it was old when they decided to tear it down, and when I heard they were going to tear down my house—I mean, I was already married and moved away, but I called the mayor of Clayton, and I said, "If I see that they're going to tear down my house, I'm going to get a headache ball and kill the person tearing it down." And he said, "I don't think that's a good idea." But, like, a week-and-a-half later, they immediately tore my house down, and I think he probably called the

person [and] said, "I think you better do it." I mean, it was just a little frame house. It wasn't a big deal to tear it down, I think, but it was a wonderful house. And that house is where I went mostly to grade school, and then Clayton High School was a half a block away on the same street. So I grew up very provincially. A couple of times we took vacations, and we went up to Michigan once and Wisconsin once, I think, but pretty much I was raised very much in St. Louis and went to Washington U. for two years and then the University of Michigan; I graduated.

Blanche Touhill: In Ann Arbor?

Kay Drey: In Ann Arbor, right.

Blanche Touhill: So, who in your family encouraged you?

Kay Drey: Well, my dad had a little tiny advertising agency. Sometimes it was bigger and sometimes smaller, but he was creative, and he was a good writer, and he encouraged me in that way, and my mom encouraged me, also, and my teachers, and so on.

Blanche Touhill: Who among your teachers?

Kay Drey: Well, I had a wonderful teacher named Miss Foristell [*spelling uncertain*], and I went to Delmar-Harvard in University City, and then I went to Maryland School. I went to Delmar-Harvard and then Flynn Park, actually, and then Maryland School. And I was skipped through the 3rd grade, and so I think I read at a 3rd grade level, which is kind of [*unintelligible* 0:03:57]. I don't read word by word; I read letter by letter. It's very slow reading, but I have a good education.

Blanche Touhill: But your comprehension is on top?

Kay Drey: It's okay. I have to use colored pencils. I use red and green and blue. Red is, of course, the most important. But I had a good education, I think.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, I think the University City schools particularly...

Kay Drey: I started in U. City and then moved to Clayton.

Blanche Touhill: And the Clayton schools have always been good too. You went to two good public schools—systems—you did.

Kay Drey: Yeah. Good systems. And then...

Blanche Touhill: Where was the Clayton High School?

Kay Drey: Well, there is a building at Maryland and Jackson, a big building that's been empty, I think, for quite a while.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, and that was the high school...

Kay Drey: Across the street, I went to Maryland grade school, which was that building that's still there, and the high school was across the street, and they tore it down, my high school.

Blanche Touhill: They tore it down?

Kay Drey: Yeah, and they built a great big new one farther west.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, yes. Yes. But I've often wondered. I knew where one of the elementary schools was, but I didn't know...

Kay Drey: ...where the high school was.

Blanche Touhill: ...where the high school was.

Kay Drey: Yeah, and across the street from the high school, on the little street that was on the side was a place called "The Dump" and all the kids who were in high school would go to high school, and then they'd go to this little place called "The Dump" and visit, and my sister was older than I, and she's three years older, and everyone went to The Dump, and it was sort of a social thing. Or we went—I would sometimes take my friends down to my house which was a half a block away, but if my sister got there first, they'd roll the carpet back in the living room, and they'd dance.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, yes. Oh, they'd dance.

Kay Drey: And we weren't allowed in. We weren't allowed in.

Blanche Touhill: Oh! *[laughs]*

Kay Drey: We could look...

Blanche Touhill: Because you were three years younger.

Kay Drey: ...younger, and we could look through the window.

Blanche Touhill: *[laughs]* Well, when you got to her age, did you roll up the rug and dance?

Kay Drey: [laughs] No [laughs]. No. My sister was sort of more—she was more appealing to the boys. I've been this tall since I was about two-and-a-half years old, so. But it's taller than most of the boys. I had boy/girlfriends that my sister—they were more serious—and this was during World War II, so. But I have a wonderful sister, just one sibling. She lives in California.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, that's a shame. Do you go back and forth?

Kay Drey: Well, I'm going to go out there because my daughter is also out there, and my one grandchild—grandson—and that's kind of fun. He was in his class. He's in a very integrated public school, and they were able to kind of compete for an opportunity to—they could write a play, and then—I'm going out there, to San Francisco, this coming week because he was one of the two plays that were chosen, and professional actors are going to do it. So he's just very sweet.

Blanche Touhill: What does your daughter do?

Kay Drey: Well, I have two daughters, actually, and a son, and my older daughter works in the kinds of things I do. She does environmental work and so on, and she lives in North Carolina, and my son is in the middle, and he lives in New York City, and he does writing, medical writing and things. And my younger daughter, Eleanor, is in San Francisco, and she's the director of the abortion clinic for the University of California, UCSF.

Blanche Touhill: So they're all active?

Kay Drey: Yeah.

Blanche Touhill: They are.

Kay Drey: Yeah.

Blanche Touhill: So you gave that to them. Well, your husband gave it to them, too.

Kay Drey: Right.

Blanche Touhill: Leo. You were a pair.

Kay Drey: Right, yeah. We prodded each other, I think.

Blanche Touhill: I think so, yes. Well, that's what it takes.

Kay Drey: Or encouraged each other, right.

- Blanche Touhill: That's what it takes. If you had to say who were your favorite outside influences, was it a teacher? Was it a neighbor? Was it a religious leader? Was it a political leader? Who spurred you on?
- Kay Drey: Well, I think it was a hodge-podge. My mom was very supportive, and my dad was very creative and also supportive, and I guess because I was tall from the beginning, I sort of was elected this and that...
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, so you were a leader always?
- Kay Drey: ...because I was taller. Well, I did things like that. But I also—when I moved into the neighborhood—we'd lived at different apartment buildings—and then when we moved to this little old house in Clayton—did I say to you that I told the mayor I was going to...
- Blanche Touhill: Yes, that you were going to knock—get the ball and knock him [down?].
- Kay Drey: Yeah, if they were going to tear my house down, I would shoot the man with the headache ball. Well, I grew up in that wonderful little house which was torn down, but a day-and-a-half, I said to you, after I told the mayor that that's what I was...
- Blanche Touhill: Yes, yes.
- Kay Drey: So, at any rate, but I just—now I can't remember what the...
- Blanche Touhill: Well, we were just talking about was there a teacher, a favorite teacher, or...?
- Kay Drey: Well, I liked my teachers. I think I was more encouraged by my parents.
- Blanche Touhill: Well, what I'm interested in knowing: How did you get so focused on the environment?
- Kay Drey: Well, I got focused on the environment but not initially. Initially, my field was—and I still look on it as my main field—is civil rights because...
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, okay.
- Kay Drey: ...because of my...
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, and you were coming up at that time.

Kay Drey: No, I'm a little before that time. I think the term "civil rights" didn't even exist. I was born in 1933. But when we moved to this little house, my parents had never lived in a house. We were renting the house, and it was very old, and they eventually bought it. But when we moved in, we lived in the middle of a block of houses, and ours was, I guess, the oldest. My maiden name was Kranzberg, and word got out in the neighborhood that we were Jewish, and so the kids at the corner, the grandson of A. G. Edwards and his—and there were two Edwardses who the mother of this, the Barker boy and—they'd tie me up, the boys in the neighborhood, and I don't know who else, tied me up to a tree when I just moved in, and I was still in the 2nd grade, I guess, and then I skipped the 3rd, but I was in the 2nd grade, and they tied me up to a tree and threw snowballs at me because I killed Christ whom I never heard of. And I went—when they untied me, I went running home to my little tiny bedroom and just wept, and I didn't tell my parents until I was way grown up. And...

Blanche Touhill: And how did the boys treat you later?

Kay Drey: They became friends. It wasn't just the two boys who were double first cousins, but it was also girls. I don't remember, I just know I was in the back yard of A. G. Edwards' daughter, I guess it would've been.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, that was traumatic.

Kay Drey: And this was grandson. Yeah, but it was terrifying, so I went home. But because I experienced such a dramatic expression of hatred really: they just hated—and obviously...

Blanche Touhill: Prejudice.

Kay Drey: ...they got it from their parents because they were, like, a year older than I was, and I was in sort of the 3rd or 4th grade age. And they were both very religious families, Protestant families, and I guess, because of that experience, I knew I wanted to fight against prejudice.

Blanche Touhill: Isn't that wonderful.

Kay Drey: And majored in—I went to Washington U. for two years, and then I went to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor for my other two years in college, and have a degree in cultural anthropology. But I did things, when I was at Washington U., the second year, I signed up—I had a

petition drive which I seem to do still, to say that people wanted to have black families able to go to Washington University, and so I got a bunch of signatures, and then we...

Blanche Touhill: Oh, before they were admitted!

Kay Drey: Before they were admitted. When I went my two years, it was all white, and so we submitted those names to the chancellor. So I've been fighting against discrimination since, really, my 2nd grade, and...

Blanche Touhill: Did you follow through in Michigan with that same...

Kay Drey: Well, I majored in cultural anthropology also because I happen to love American Indians. Once we went on a vacation when I was a child, and I just—we got to see some Native Americans. I went to Washington U. for two years, and then I had a scholarship to go to the University of Michigan for my second two years. I thought I was the “Crappo C. Smith” scholar, but it turns out it was “Crapo” with one “p,” but I always told people I had this “Crappo C. Smith” scholar, which I'm not. But a couple years ago, I heard about some General Motors—this was up in Michigan—some General Motors person, and his name was George Crapo or something...

Blanche Touhill: Oh, so you think he was the source.

Kay Drey: I figured out—this wasn't very long ago, this was not many, [maybe?] five years ago, I found out I didn't have the “Crappo C. Smith.”

Blanche Touhill: Well, when you graduated from Michigan, you came back to St. Louis?

Kay Drey: I graduated from Michigan. I studied cultural anthropology or anthropology.

Blanche Touhill: Did you get a job in St. Louis then?

Kay Drey: Oh, well, after I—yeah. I worked when I was in college, too, at the library at the University of Michigan and so on, which was neat because then I got to use a “carrel” they called them—a little [*gestures a rectangle*]—because I was working there, I got to use one of these little...

Blanche Touhill: So you had a private study space?

Kay Drey: Yes, I did.

Blanche Touhill: When you came back to St. Louis, were you active in civil rights then?

Kay Drey: Well, not in the regular civil rights, but I've always been...

Blanche Touhill: Active.

Kay Drey: ...very much interested and active, and...

Blanche Touhill: What did you...?

Kay Drey: ...I did at Washington U. I did have a petition drawn up, and we said we wanted blacks in.

Blanche Touhill: Did you make any friends in those early years that you're still friendly with?

Kay Drey: You mean, like...? Oh.

Blanche Touhill: Girlfriends or boyfriends?

Kay Drey: Yes, actually. Well, most of my girl- and boyfriends from my childhood are dead. It's really creepy, but two girls, two of my closest girlfriends are still alive, and I don't think—I was in love with various—it was never reciprocated [*laughs*] but I had many romances: one-way, if you can call it one-way.

Blanche Touhill: [0:15:07] Yes, yes, yes. Sure.

Kay Drey: But at any rate, I think that the boys that I was closest with and most of the girls, I think there are two or three girls that I hear from or I call still, not in St. Louis.

Blanche Touhill: They're not in St. Louis anymore?

Kay Drey: No, but I kept up with them, and...

Blanche Touhill: Well, how did you...?

Kay Drey: And one of them probably was one who threw snowballs at me, because she lived next door to the house.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, I think that's awful. I just think that's awful.

Kay Drey: I was terrified, and I went home and cried and never told my parents.

Blanche Touhill: Oh. How did you meet Leo?

Kay Drey: Well, I met Leo at a wedding. I went to Washington U. for two years, and then I was the “Crappo C. Smith” scholar at Michigan for two years, and I graduated in cultural anthropology because of an interest in race relations and because I love every American Indian. I have the opposite of a prejudice. And so I...

Blanche Touhill: Leo was back in St. Louis?

Kay Drey: Leo was in St. Louis and we went to a wedding—I went to a wedding...

Blanche Touhill: And you met him there?

Kay Drey: ...not with him—and I met him at the wedding, and he said...

Blanche Touhill: And he asked you out?

Kay Drey: No. People said something like, “How are your trees?” or something, and I said, “Oh, do you have a tree? I’m a tree worshipper,” and he walked away, and that was the first time I met him. I said, “Oh, do you have a...” [And this?] is true, I do love trees. And I said, “Oh, do you have a tree?” because somebody said, I thought, “How is your tree?” but instead they must have said, “How are your trees?” So that was, like, in the summer, and then I went to a party, like, January 1st or something and talked to him again, and he said where did I go to college, and I said I went to Washington U. and then...

Blanche Touhill: Michigan.

Kay Drey: ...University of Michigan, and I said, “Where did you go?” and he said, “Antioch,” and I said, “Oh, I always wanted to go there, but we couldn’t afford it,” instead of saying, “Where?” which most people say, and they work half the year, and they go to school half the year, and it’s just a wonderful school, and Leo became ultimately—he was one of the people who was chairman of the board. And all three of our kids attended Antioch at some point, at least, and so it is still—I think it’s just a great school. But the fact that I had heard of Antioch—and so Leo, after that party, which was, like, a January 1st kind of party, he called my across-the-street neighbor—I must have mentioned somehow that she—or maybe she was at the party—and he wanted to know how to get in touch

with the “Kranbury” person who lives at—*[laughs]*. So we went—started dating.

Blanche Touhill: *[laughs]* That is interesting.

Kay Drey: Yeah, but it was the Antioch connection, in part. But I’ve always been politically liberal.

Blanche Touhill: How did he get interested in trees?

Kay Drey: Well, he loved the outdoors as a child. He went to various boys’ camps, and so they just loved the outdoors, and then, I guess, he heard at some point that some forested land was being sold, and he gradually bought bits and pieces as people put their homes or their...

Blanche Touhill: But he had the new approach to tree...

Kay Drey: Right, tree farming, absolutely.

Blanche Touhill: Yes. What is tree farming?

Kay Drey: Well, what they—And then he ended up with what became Pioneer Forest. Part of it had been bought from a cooperage firm that wanted the wood for barrels, and so he bought a hunk of land from Pioneer Cooperage at one point. So he called the land “Pioneer Forest” which it still is called. But he always loved the out-of-doors. He was one of these kids who was able to go to camp every summer and he just loved the out-of-doors. And so he ended up starting buying small tracts of land, and then he had a wonderful [forester]—actually, a couple of foresters who had worked for something called “Moss Tie Company,” and they bought trees to make into barrels for liquor. And then they—he bought small tracts of land, and then he heard somewhere that they were going to put their land on the market, and he bought their land which was great. So he put together what’s now called “Pioneer Forest,” and...

[The video cuts out from 0:20:01 to 0:20:30.]

Kay Drey: ...shown that selective harvesting works. You don’t have to clear cut. You can choose trees.

Blanche Touhill: No, it’s wonderful. Did he create it, or did...?

Kay Drey: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: He created it.

Kay Drey: Yes, he created Pioneer Forest, but he worked with a couple of wonderful foresters.

Blanche Touhill: Who had the...

Kay Drey: [He?] did a lot of reading and so...

Blanche Touhill: Well, how did he react to your civil rights activities?

Kay Drey: Well, he was supportive. It wasn't his field, and it was very much my field around the clock initially, and then I started fighting nuclear power...

Blanche Touhill: Oh, yes. I remember that.

Kay Drey: ...and I, of course, worked with Leo.

Blanche Touhill: How did you get into nuclear power?

Kay Drey: I began reading about it, and just, the more I read, the more concerned I became. And there are certain aspects of it—I've brought some pamphlets that I've [printed?]...

Blanche Touhill: Oh, good.

Kay Drey: ...but there are certain aspects of nuclear power that are just, to me, not acceptable. For one thing, it creates huge amounts of radioactive waste that will remain dangerous and radioactive, some of it literally for billions of years giving off radioactive particles and rays. The workers are exposed to, I think, inhumane levels of radiation, and then when they—so I began working sort of around the clock on fighting nuclear power and radioactive waste issues, and then Union Electric decided to build a nuclear power plant that they called Callaway, and they built Unit 1 or were building it, I guess, and I started a petition drive to put on the Missouri ballot. All we could do is talk about the funding sort of. We couldn't say, "You're not allowed to build it," but we said that they were going to be charging electric rate payers while the plant was being built, so we put on the ballot state-wide, "Do you want to pay in advance for a nuclear power plant during construction?" And people said, overwhelmingly, no. So we won on that, and they decided not to build a second unit, but they went ahead and built the first. And so I was working on that, too, and I worked with some workers who were building the

plant, like in the carpenters' union and different union people and submitted concerns of theirs to the State of Missouri and things like that. But we did have a vote state-wide. We did a petition drive state-wide and put on the ballot, "Do you want to pay in advance for the construction of a nuclear power plant, or do you want to wait until it's complete?" And we won state-wide which was very good.

Blanche Touhill: What is going to happen to Callaway? Isn't it getting quite old now?

Kay Drey: Well, it's old compared with some, and it should be shut down. They were going to build two reactors, so we got them not to build the second reactor, our vote. They did announce then that they would stop building the second one—would not build...

Blanche Touhill: Was it hard to deal with the state government?

Kay Drey: Some people more than other, but some people were very supportive. And I think people know today that nuclear power is not working.

Blanche Touhill: But it seems to be coming back, don't you think?

Kay Drey: I don't think so.

Blanche Touhill: You don't think so?

Kay Drey: No, I don't think any electric utility in the United States would dream of saying they're going to build a new reactor, a new power plant. In fact, I just got a letter recently. I'm a member of the American Nuclear Society so that I can get their magazine which is good, *Nuclear News*. It's all pro-nuclear, but they're even admitting this is not a—it's a failing industry, sort of. They don't say it in that many words, but no electric utility would build a new reactor, so although the Callaway plant that we have in Missouri, they went ahead and finished it.

Blanche Touhill: Yes. So you had your civil rights, and he had his trees, right?

Kay Drey: Yeah, which is "trees" or "environment," and I was fighting—I mean, Leo was doing a demonstration forest to say you don't have to clear cut to have a...

Blanche Touhill: Yes.

Kay Drey: And so he was doing—and he worked with various national environmental groups. And then, I always loved the out-of-doors. I didn't get to travel very much as a child or anything, and I went to a camp in the Ozarks one summer for [two?]...

Blanche Touhill: Let me change the subject for just a minute and ask you, have you received some award that you're really proud of? Did you get an award of some kind?

Kay Drey: I've gotten awards.

Blanche Touhill: Yeah, which...?

Kay Drey: I can't remember which I'm proudest of.

Blanche Touhill: Well, just name one of your awards.

Kay Drey: I can't—oh, dear. I probably can. Maybe I can give...

Blanche Touhill: Well, I'll tell you, we can put—okay.

Kay Drey: One of the things I'm not proud of is my memory.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, that's all right. That's all right. Everybody...

Kay Drey: And you know, in fact, I also have no math, and I have to tell you that a year ago, my birthday—I was born in '33, 1933—and I was having a birthday coming up, and this was last year, and I did the math, and I subtracted 1933 from—what was last year? Was...

Blanche Touhill: 2016.

Kay Drey: Yeah, and I found out I was going to be 84 this past year, so I was 84, well, it turns out. And then this year I did the math again. I just had a birthday in April, and I found out I was 84 again. That tells about my math.

Blanche Touhill: You do all right with math. Don't worry about math. Well [you're from?] a well-known St. Louisan, and I know you've gotten really a lot of recognition. And I was just trying to figure out what recognition did you really—you really thought you were glad to have been recognized?

Kay Drey: Well, if you want to know, I can't remember any of them.

Blanche Touhill: Okay, well, that's all right. That's all right.

Kay Drey: Isn't that awful?

Blanche Touhill: What about...?

Kay Drey: And Leo got a lot of awards, too.

Blanche Touhill: Well, you got them, too.

Kay Drey: Yeah.

Blanche Touhill: You're well known. You're a well-known St. Louisan, yeah.

Kay Drey: Well, it is fun sometimes. Well, people think my name is Kay Drey [IPA: /dʒeɪ/] because it's spelled D-R-E-Y, and they say, "Isn't that cute?" and I have to be very polite and say, "Well, it's Drey [IPA: /dʒaɪ/], like 'wet and dry.'" I was a Woman of Achievement, and that was a nice thing.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, you were a Woman of Achievement, you were. And...

Kay Drey: That was nice. And I made a speech, and I wrote—I can't even give my name without writing three drafts. I'm really not an author, so I had written a speech, and the people in the audience laughed. You know, this was when I was...

Blanche Touhill: ...getting the award, yes.

Kay Drey: Yeah, and at that time they had people make speeches. I think they stopped after my year.

Blanche Touhill: Well, they now have it with [laughs]—they now have sort of a video. You speak to the camera, and then they show that.

Kay Drey: Yeah. That's an interview, but I had to speak in front of all these people.

Blanche Touhill: Yes. No, no, I know.

Kay Drey: And so everyone laughed a lot, which—you know, I didn't mean to do monkey business kind of thing, but...

Blanche Touhill: But you...

Kay Drey: And they stopped having people make speeches.

Blanche Touhill: *[laughs]* I don't think there's a connection there, but I'm sure you made a wonderful speech. But it's sort of interesting to be a well-known woman in St. Louis, isn't it? That when you go places, and you give your name, they know you.

Kay Drey: Yeah. Well, it's not like "Blanche Touhill." I'm not that well known.

Blanche Touhill: Well, it's sort of fun for me, too.

Kay Drey: Yeah.

Blanche Touhill: You go places, and...

Kay Drey: Well, it is fun. Somebody will say, "Oh, I've heard of you," [and?] somebody else will say, "I appreciate what you worked on." But it is—I still feel my field is civil rights, and that's because of my experiences as a child, being in my totally Protestant—if there were any Catholics there, they didn't admit to it because [that area?] was anti-...

Blanche Touhill: *[laughs]* They didn't want to be tied up in the back yard. *[laughs]*

Kay Drey: That's right. It was a very committed Protestant neighborhood.

Blanche Touhill: You know, there were always Catholics and Jews in the public schools. I had a dear friend, and he used to say to me, "Oh, you can pass."

Kay Drey: What religion were you growing up?

Blanche Touhill: I'm a Catholic, so I thought to myself, "Yes, I guess that's right. I can pass."

Kay Drey: Did you have a name like Murphy?

Blanche Touhill: No, no, I had a very Dutch name.

Kay Drey: No Irish name?

Blanche Touhill: Very Dutch name.

Kay Drey: Oh, okay. My last name was Kranzberg, but these were the people I grew up and became friends, life-long friends, really.

Blanche Touhill: But I must tell you, I think that that could really—well, it was traumatic for you.

Kay Drey: Oh, terrifying.

Blanche Touhill: It moved you to the civil rights.

Kay Drey: It did.

Blanche Touhill: [0:30:00] Why should you be judged on a stereotype?

Kay Drey: Yeah.

Blanche Touhill: You're Kay Kranzberg. You're not somebody else.

Kay Drey: I didn't kill Jesus, but they claimed I did.

Blanche Touhill: You didn't kill Jesus. Yes, and that does display the family background.

Kay Drey: Yeah.

Blanche Touhill: Do you think we've improved civil rights in this country?

Kay Drey: Well, yeah, and I did work on that, and I set up a housing organization at Concordia Seminary.

Blanche Touhill: And what did it do?

Kay Drey: And worked with black families who were looking for housing and who were being discriminated against. And we would find the housing, my students, and we'd use our white voices to find out what was available, and then the student would go with the family, and then I had the student call from, like, around the corner—this was before the days of telephones that you have in your car—they'd call and say, "We must have made a wrong turn or something. How do we get to your apartment building?" and then the white student would go with the black family, and the owner of the apartment building couldn't say, "Well, I'm sorry. It's already been rented," because they would've called from around the corners. So I worked with minority families at Concordia Seminary. This was before they had a big split, and I also then set up an organization in University City called the University City—or one was called New Neighbors, or County Open Housing it became, because New Neighbors sells something like floor cleaners or something. We were threatened...

Blanche Touhill: Oh, using their name?

Kay Drey: It was a patented name. They would've really had a fit if they'd known what we were doing. But at any rate, so I worked on that, but then University City was having white flight. A lot of people were moving out of University City when black families were moving in. So I helped set up an organization called University City Residential Service, and we worked on finding white families who were interested because a lot of real estate agents weren't even showing white families in University City anymore. So I felt very good about that and working to keep it racially integrated.

Blanche Touhill: Well, actually, University City is still racially integrated.

Kay Drey: That's right. That's right, and our schools are still racially integrated. So that was wonderful, but the students with their white voices on the phone had to pretend to be interested, and I said that I'd taught lying at Concordia Seminary, and that my 4th year students lied better than my 1st year students. Because they had to pretend that they were interested in the house, and how many kids they had, and here these were students. But at any rate...

Blanche Touhill: Did you have to bring a lawsuit against any of those...

Kay Drey: Well, I was involved in some lawsuits, yeah. I can't remember all of them. And then...

Blanche Touhill: But, I mean, in that housing?

Kay Drey: Right. There were some lawsuits, and then I also then worked to set up in University City—we had a lot of white flight so we set up something called University City Residential Service, and we looked for white families who were willing to move...

Blanche Touhill: How did you find them?

Kay Drey: Well, every month we sent out a list of houses that were on the market, nothing elaborate, just [*gestures a rectangle*], and described them briefly, and then people would come to the University City—it was sort of near the city hall where we had an office—and then find out what was available. And so I think otherwise—because there was steering on the part of the real estate industry and white flight, and so I worked very hard on that because I believe in integration, and partly because I integrated a neighborhood in Clayton with my religion, not my race.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, you did. Have you seen the civil rights display at [the] Missouri Historical Society?

Kay Drey: I have something on my calendar. Isn't there going to be a speech, or did I miss it?

Blanche Touhill: Oh, no, I think they're having a series of speeches, and...

Kay Drey: Okay, I have something on my calendar.

Blanche Touhill: ...and I would urge you to...

Kay Drey: I've not seen it [and I'm?]?...

Blanche Touhill: I would urge you to go.

Kay Drey: ...definitely planning to do that.

Blanche Touhill: It's very, very interesting. I was a little too young for this—well, I wasn't too young, but I was young, and I was moving out of town at that time where the Jefferson Bank, when they had the sit-ins with [CORE?] and the Oldhams. You knew Marian and Charles.

Kay Drey: Yes, I did. Yes, I did. I did.

Blanche Touhill: And she went to the University of Michigan, now that I think about it: Marian.

Kay Drey: Oh, did she? I didn't really know her then, but I knew of her.

Blanche Touhill: Because she couldn't be admitted to the University of Missouri. It was a segregated public higher education. And so she couldn't get admitted. *[Editor's note: Some black students had been admitted before then.]* So they paid her way to go to the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor to get a Master's degree in counseling. Isn't that just incredible?

Kay Drey: Really. We've come a long way.

Blanche Touhill: We've come a long way. This campus gave Marian Oldham an honorary degree.

Kay Drey: Great.

Blanche Touhill: And when we did, I said something like, "Well, she finally got a degree from University of Missouri." *[laughs]*

Kay Drey: Good for you! So she was not admitted there?

Blanche Touhill: No, no, but that was before Brown versus the Board of Education.

Kay Drey: Yeah.

Blanche Touhill: And when you talk about being at Washington U. and urging them to admit African American students, they didn't do it until after Brown versus the Board of Education either, and the public institution, the University of Missouri, delayed even beyond what the public institutions did before they—and they were a public institution.

Kay Drey: Wow. That doesn't [surprise]—it's a Southern state.

Blanche Touhill: No, no, it is a Southern state. We had a man who was John Nagel [*i.e. Paul Nagel?*]. Did you ever remember...

Kay Drey: I know the name but I can't remember [him?].

Blanche Touhill: He wrote about Missouri, and said that they were very conservative in the Civil War, and after the Civil War they freed the slaves, but they're still a very conservative community.

Kay Drey: Yeah. Yeah, I think so.

Blanche Touhill: Which we all know.

Kay Drey: Yeah. But yeah, but a lot of places and a lot of Presidents of the United States currently.

Blanche Touhill: Yes.

Kay Drey: That is a nightmare.

Blanche Touhill: It is, yeah.

Kay Drey: But at any rate, he is a nightmare.

Blanche Touhill: What are you doing now? You're gathering all your materials together?

Kay Drey: Well, the materials are gathered, but I write pamphlets. I wrote pamphlets on civil rights initially, and I do environmental pamphlets. And I'm head of a national board called Beyond Nuclear, and I do a lot of reading and talk with a lot of people, but I'm really working against nuclear power and working to try and have no nuclear power, at least in

this country, and we did have a statewide petition drive that I headed, and we got rid of one of the reactors, but there are reactors...

Blanche Touhill: But that's the only reactor in Missouri, isn't it?

Kay Drey: Yeah, just one. We were going to have two there, but it's huge, the one we have.

Blanche Touhill: No. No, I know. I go by that Highway 70. I look over and see the plumes of smoke coming up.

Kay Drey: Yuck. Radioactive smoke.

Blanche Touhill: Yeah. What did your mother think about your active nature?

Kay Drey: Oh, I think she was pleased, and there was nothing she could do about it anyway.

Blanche Touhill: I know, but I mean...

Kay Drey: Yeah, she was pleased, and she had a very good friend who actually worked for us, like, once a month or something, who was supposedly black. It was kind of interesting, but she had bright red hair and white skin, but she was considered black because she had a black parent or grandparent or something, and so she was discriminated...

Blanche Touhill: What did she consider herself to be?

Kay Drey: I don't think she considered herself...

Blanche Touhill: ...[self?] to [be?] one thing or the other.

Kay Drey: ...one thing or the—I think she—Her husband was black. And she was a very close friend of my mom's, but my parents were very politically liberal and believed that everyone had good and so forth, so I was brought up—and having experienced prejudice myself, there's a question I'm—just in the last week or so—I've wanted to ask black people I know: at what point did they find out that being black or Negro or whatever was something that people disliked black people? How old were they when they discovered that? Because when I was tied up to a tree in the 2nd grade and had snowballs thrown at me because I was a Jew, I learned that in the 2nd grade. I didn't tell my parents about that for many years, but I began realizing that anti-Semitism existed, and so I knew that all my

life, but I'm wondering about a black child, when a black child first finds it out, because they're just as bright as anybody else. At what point did that person, that child or adult or whatever, realize that there were people who disliked them because of their color and thought they were stupid because of their color or dishonest or whatever that people think who are bigoted? I just thought of that in the last week, and I'm going to ask some of the black people I know, friends: How old were you, and what did you experience, or did you read something? How did they find out?

Blanche Touhill: You know, we were just talking, Josie and I were just talking to a woman who was African American, and she said at one point she had a chance to go to John Burroughs. She was very smart, and her family didn't allow her to go because it was going to be an integrated society, and it was just the beginning of that, you know, private schools reaching out to bright African American students, and they were afraid that she would be not treated as...

Kay Drey: Be discriminated against...

Blanche Touhill: Discriminated against...

Kay Drey: ...by the other children.

Blanche Touhill: ...by the other children, and that it would be better for her to stay in an African American high school. But, you know, it's...

Kay Drey: Well, my husband went to John Burroughs, and I don't like private schools at all. Our kids...

Blanche Touhill: Well, you're a public school person.

Kay Drey: Yeah, so were my kids.

Blanche Touhill: Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. And I'm partially a public—I've gone to all kinds of schools, but I've been to the public schools, too, and the public schools in St. Louis when I was going [were] just wonderful schools, and I know that University City and Clayton were wonderful schools, and I think Ladue schools today, it was said that they were one of the best in the state or something. It was some...

Kay Drey: Well, they're probably 99% white.

Blanche Touhill: Well, I...

Kay Drey: Ladue Schools.

Blanche Touhill: I imagine they are, but I don't know that.

Kay Drey: Yeah, yeah.

Blanche Touhill: Well, of course, you have Metro in the city which is a very good high school.

Kay Drey: Yeah, but I am curious to know, at some point...

Blanche Touhill: Yes, just...

Kay Drey: ...just the way I had that...

Blanche Touhill: Yeah, when did they...

Kay Drey: We weren't very Jewish. I never went—I guess I did go to Sunday School for a couple of years.

Blanche Touhill: Well, I think it comes to everybody who's a little different. It comes to everybody, that they recognize they are different. And...

Kay Drey: Yeah, but when you're a WASP—White Anglo-Saxon Protestant—in the United States, they may never experience personal discrimination.

Blanche Touhill: Yeah.

Kay Drey: I think. You know, the Catholic kids may. And...

Blanche Touhill: Well, the Hispanic children...

Kay Drey: ...and Hispanic children...

Blanche Touhill: ...and the African American children...

Kay Drey: Certainly, yeah.

Blanche Touhill: ...and Jewish children. I taught school in New York City once, and I was on the college level, but I was friendly with a Chinese-American family, and they told me the story that when the girl in the family was young, they had a place in New Jersey on the shore and that the children—she was two or three years old, and she thought everybody spoke Chinese, so she was so shocked when she went out on the beach, and she came running back to her mother and father to tell them those other children didn't

know Chinese and she was worried about them. *[laughs]* So I guess everybody who's just a little different...

Kay Drey: That's interesting, yeah.

Blanche Touhill: ...all of a sudden, it dawns on them. But she felt sorry for the children who were speaking English. She thought, "How are they ever going to learn the language of this country?"

Kay Drey: Yeah.

Blanche Touhill: So it pops up. But I do think the African American has had a hard, hard time.

Kay Drey: Yeah.

Blanche Touhill: What did you think of Ferguson? Do you want to comment on Ferguson, or...?

Kay Drey: Well, I was horrified and saddened by it. And I knew a wonderful man named John Brawley who was Mayor of Ferguson years ago, and he grew up in the middle of the Missouri Ozarks, and that can be a very conservative—politically conservative—can be—isn't always, of course. And he was Mayor of Ferguson for four terms, and there was no finer person ever. John Brawley was just superb, and I just kept wishing that he was the mayor at the time. I guess I listened to a panel of people at some church a couple of years ago, and one was the young mayor of Ferguson at the time. I don't know if he's still mayor. And I was thinking if it had been John Brawley, I think that wouldn't have happened, because John was from the middle of the Ozarks but, boy, he...

Blanche Touhill: ...he understood.

Kay Drey: ...he understood. He had no prejudice against anybody. He was just a very *[unintelligible 0:44:35]*...

Blanche Touhill: Well, I would say that Ferguson is probably 70% African American now.

Kay Drey: Now, but I think when John was mayor, I don't know if there were any.

Blanche Touhill: But you're saying he would have welcomed...

Kay Drey: He wouldn't—yeah. And he would've known how to deal...

Blanche Touhill: ...how to deal [with?]...

Kay Drey: ...with this uproar that happened. And it's very sad it happened, and it's that kind of thing that I wonder, if a person is black growing up in this city, knowing that Ferguson was there and all and how much—there's so much anti-black feeling among some groups of Caucasian people. And it's just tremendous hatred, and I don't understand it, but they hate other groups of people, too.

Blanche Touhill: [0:45:26] Oh, yes. I think once you start...

Kay Drey: Knowing.

Blanche Touhill: ...hating one group, it's not hard to get to the others.

Kay Drey: Yeah, but it's so—and it's sort of somewhat the same about rich and poor, and Leo and I discussed—he went to John Burroughs, a private grade school, before that, and before we got married, I made it very clear that...

Blanche Touhill: ...that your children would be...

Kay Drey: ...go to public school.

Blanche Touhill: And he agreed?

Kay Drey: Yeah. I mean, either he—we didn't get married [*laughs*], or he had to agree. He didn't fight with me, and our kids got a very good education in University City, but I still have prejudice against private schools. I just...

Blanche Touhill: Do you think if you had been born 50 years earlier, would you have, in your current life, would you have been an activist?

Kay Drey: Probably [*laughs*].

Blanche Touhill: Yes, but it probably would've been suffragette.

Kay Drey: I don't know.

Blanche Touhill: You might have been a suffragette.

Kay Drey: Yeah, it's possible. I think because I experienced prejudice...

Blanche Touhill: ...early.

Kay Drey: ...in 2nd grade...

Blanche Touhill: Yeah, that just set your life.

Kay Drey: I think it made a huge difference, and I have weak tear ducts. I'm surprised I haven't cried. I cry easily.

Blanche Touhill: Well, we all cry easily.

Kay Drey: Do we?

Blanche Touhill: Yeah.

Kay Drey: Well, sometimes it's more embarrassing than I ever expected.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, well, that's [okay?].

Kay Drey: No, but I don't know how much—my great-great-grandfather, I think, had 26 children, so it's hard to be middle- or lower-income Jewish in St. Louis and not be related to a Kranzberg.

Blanche Touhill: Yeah. Let me ask you about that relative. Did he have one wife?

Kay Drey: Ken Kranzberg?

Blanche Touhill: No, your great-great-grand...

Kay Drey: Oh, my grand—Oh, that, I don't know.

Blanche Touhill: Did he have one wife or two wives or three?

Kay Drey: I think maybe there were two wives, I believe, not simultaneously.

Blanche Touhill: Not [*unintelligible* 0:47:21]. Oh, no, I know not [simultaneously].

Kay Drey: And I'm not sure there was one or two. I haven't really ever heard that so-and-so looked like one versus the other. I really don't know an answer to that question. But we used to have Kranzberg cousin club meetings, and...

Blanche Touhill: Oh, how nice.

Kay Drey: ...it was hard to be sort of lower-income Jewish and not be related to a Kranzberg, you know, with all those kids, 26. But...

Blanche Touhill: And they were all in St. Louis?

Kay Drey: Somebody sent me a picture of the Kranzberg cousin club meeting that was at the Hamilton Hotel downtown in 1947 to welcome home the veterans. And this is huge. It looks like everybody in St. Louis is in this picture [*laughs*]. I should've brought it to show you. It should've gone in my file.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, it should go in your file. It should go in your file.

Kay Drey: My mom's dad was a baker, and they lived upstairs from the bakery, and my grandfather worked for a company that made raincoats, alligator raincoats.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, yes. Oh, yes.

Kay Drey: And so...

Blanche Touhill: Did you ever work?

Kay Drey: Yeah, I was always fired, which is too bad. People don't believe it. They know people can be fired, but I have a history of being fired.

Blanche Touhill: But don't you think that's because you're an individual?

Kay Drey: Well, I don't know, but it was always—I worked at Channel 9, for instance. I was fired from Channel 9, but I was fired after Charles Guggenheim was fired, and he... So what was your question? You didn't ask about my...

Blanche Touhill: No, I asked, did you ever work and you said yes...

Kay Drey: Oh, yeah, I worked.

Blanche Touhill: ...that you had worked for Channel 9.

Kay Drey: Yeah, and I don't know, when I was little, I was on a swimming team at Clayton so that I could swim free. I never won anything, but I got to swim free by going every morning and swimming and so on. But I...

Blanche Touhill: I'm just saying that I think that Carol Burnett said she could never dance in the chorus or sing with the other singers because her voice was just a little different. She couldn't blend in. Do you know what I'm saying? And you couldn't blend in. You were an individual, and you were going to do certain things, and you spoke out.

Kay Drey: Yeah, I did.

Blanche Touhill: And bureaucracies...

Kay Drey: That's what I called misbehaving.

Blanche Touhill: Yeah, bureaucracies don't like people that speak out.

Kay Drey: Yeah, but when you do speak out, there are always people out there who agree.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, that's right. Oh, no. I [agree?].

Kay Drey: In my life, I've have had wonderful people who've also agreed and worked on issues.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, of course they did. Of course they did.

Kay Drey: I am interested in finding out about—asking black people I know when—what made you...

Blanche Touhill: You know, we can ask that in our videos when we have an African American. We will do that.

Kay Drey: Like the beautiful woman who left.

Blanche Touhill: ...that just left. She is [*unintelligible* 0:50:50]

Kay Drey: I should've done something, I don't know. I had three people figure out what I should wear today, but I wasn't so pretty and fancy.

Blanche Touhill: Well, you are. You're beautiful. Looks wonderful. What are you doing now? You're...

Kay Drey: I'm working against nuclear power. I'm working on radioactive—I write the pamphlets.

Blanche Touhill: And you visit your children? You go back and forth? You're going to California.

Kay Drey: I'm going to California, and last year I went to North Carolina and visited my older daughter, and Eleanor, my younger daughter, lives in San Francisco, and so I'll see her and her son, my grandson.

Blanche Touhill: Do they come into town here?

Kay Drey: Sometimes they come, yeah, because we're in the middle of the country. And my son, Leonard, he comes back, so, yeah, I get to see them a lot, which is great—I mean, not as if they'd lived in the same place.

Blanche Touhill: Do you have a special friend or friends from your civil rights activity, or are they all dead?

Kay Drey: A lot of them are not alive, but I have—well, there are people I've known...

Blanche Touhill: ...that you can sit down and talk about the old days with them? Not really?

Kay Drey: Not the people that—I guess because I was working in a different sort of way, working with white people, both to pretend they were—to help black people get housing and then luring white people to move into University City so it would stay racially integrated. That kind of thing. But I'm not real social person, so. One of my very best friends is black, someone I had worked with at Channel 9, and she's still one of my best friends, and I have other good friends.

Blanche Touhill: Did she get fired, too?

Kay Drey: No *[laughs]*.

Blanche Touhill: *[laughs]* She stayed at Channel 9?

Kay Drey: Yes, she stayed at Channel 9 for a long time, and she was wonderful—is wonderful. I've kept up with her daughters, and...

Blanche Touhill: But those were the days when Channel 9 was starting.

Kay Drey: Yeah, when we went on the air.

Blanche Touhill: And I remember they didn't know whether they could get enough money from the public to keep going.

Kay Drey: Yeah.

Blanche Touhill: They had a hard financial road, didn't they?

Kay Drey: Right, yeah, it was hard. Charlie Guggenheim was there when I was there, and he became a really wonderful producer of films. He was just wonderful, and it was a wonderful staff, and it was...

Blanche Touhill: He did the Arch video, didn't he?

Kay Drey: Mm-hmm, yeah.

Blanche Touhill: Yeah, that was very well known.

Kay Drey: Oh, yeah. No, he was a fine—yeah, he moved to New York.

Blanche Touhill: I bet he got fired a lot.

Kay Drey: I wouldn't be surprised. I don't know. It's too bad. You know, there were times when I wasn't fired; I just wasn't rehired...

Blanche Touhill: Oh, I understand.

Kay Drey: ...like I was a counselor at a camp for kids, and, I don't know, somehow they got in—at lunch, they were all spitting milk at one another and giggling.

Blanche Touhill: Well, that's cute.

Kay Drey: So I was not rehired there. I really don't have a very good work record.

Blanche Touhill: Well, you have a wonderful record in civil rights and supporting your husband with the ecology, and we've become much more sensitive to both of those issues today, haven't we?

Kay Drey: Oh, yes.

Blanche Touhill: When you think about your childhood, and how we treated trees, and how we treated people, it's very much of a consciousness in us all, isn't it?

Kay Drey: Right, and Leo with his Pioneer Forest, they don't do any clear-cutting which is what they were doing in the Ozarks.

Blanche Touhill: They were.

Kay Drey: And they do selective cutting. They pick out the right trees to cut.

Blanche Touhill: And it pays, doesn't it? It's a business.

Kay Drey: Yeah, it's fine.

Blanche Touhill: It's a business.

Kay Drey: He has foresters working for him, for Pioneer Forest.

Blanche Touhill: When you got married, did you go camping?

Kay Drey: Yes, we went floating on float trips.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, did you?

Kay Drey: Oh, yeah, and even before we were married. In fact, I had dinner with Yvonne and Joe Logan last night, and they were among our friends with whom we went canoeing. I think Leo took me on a whole bunch of float trips before he decided he wanted to marry me.

Blanche Touhill: ...to marry you [*laughs*]. He wanted to make sure that he would have a companion when he went into his nature...

Kay Drey: Yeah, but his Pioneer Forest has done really good things for Missouri.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, for [the] United States, I think, really.

Kay Drey: That's right, I think.

Blanche Touhill: He was a pace-setter.

Kay Drey: It shows that you don't have to do clear-cutting. You can leave the best trees standing and so forth. And so he preserved a forest, and...

Blanche Touhill: How many acres did he own before he died?

Kay Drey: I know there is some kind of number, whether it's the final number—something like 120,000, I guess.

Blanche Touhill: Acres?

Kay Drey: Acres, I think.

Blanche Touhill: I would think so.

Kay Drey: I'm not sure.

Blanche Touhill: No, I really do think he owned a great deal of the Missouri forest.

Kay Drey: And he...

Blanche Touhill: And he saved them. He saved.

Kay Drey: Yeah, they're forests now, and he worked on saving rivers like the Current River.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, did he?

Kay Drey: Yeah, he did a lot of—he'd go down and speak, and I remember he spoke on a stage to a big audience. It was like a high school stage with curtains, and the deal was that he was—we had something on the ballot that people could vote, and they advised him, as soon as he finished speaking, to go between the two curtains—they were all [closed]—and he drove home but with a police escort from some town in the Ozarks.

Blanche Touhill: Really?

Kay Drey: Yeah, because people, they didn't all understand what he was trying to do.

Blanche Touhill: No, and they made a living—didn't they make a living from cutting down the [trees]?

Kay Drey: Yeah, that was it, in part, but there were a lot of— things have come a long way, this selective cutting instead of clear-cutting which is—we don't do any clear-cutting, and we both worked on various...

Blanche Touhill: Did you ever feel threatened in your civil rights activity?

Kay Drey: I don't think so. I don't think so. Maybe I should've. Maybe I was naïve or something, but no. I—so much, I guess, because of my background and having experienced prejudice.

Blanche Touhill: What did your family say when you finally told...?

Kay Drey: I told my mom, but I was married by then.

Blanche Touhill: And what'd she say?

Kay Drey: I was in 2nd grade when it happened. She was horrified, yeah.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, I bet she was furious that anybody would treat her child like that.

Kay Drey: Well, it's just little children. I mean, maybe they were two years older than I. One or two. Every time I drive by that house, which is only due south of me and maybe six blocks—well, the song, "You've got to be taught to hate and fear" [*i.e.* "You've Got To Be Carefully Taught"], I love

that song. One world and we all have to learn to get along together. We can learn. It's not a big deal. We're all alike. We have different skin colors maybe or hair colors or whatever, but it's doable and children particularly don't have to grow up with prejudice.

Blanche Touhill: And talk about your belief in the public schools.

Kay Drey: I very much believe in the public schools, and my kids went through the University City schools, and I believe in racial equality, but I also believe in socioeconomic equality. And I just feel that private schools give those children who attend some kind of idea that maybe they're better than others. They may have teachers who have better training perhaps, I don't know, but I'm just not in favor of private schools at all.

Blanche Touhill: Well, I think we both look forward to, let me just say, the growth and development of the University of Missouri-St. Louis as the public higher education research university, and I think we both look forward to people getting along with other people. And when you get along, then you give civil rights to everyone, and with the one world, you have to have an ecology that brings that world together and saves it.

Kay Drey: [1:00:09] And saves it, right.

Blanche Touhill: Well, thank you very much, Kay, for coming.

Kay Drey: Thank you, I enjoyed it.

Blanche Touhill: It was a lot of fun, and you do look beautiful.