

Interview: Ken (1 of 2)
Interviewed by Michael Riordon

Key

[] one word (at most, two) inaudible
[inaudible] several words inaudible; in some cases, two people are talking at the same time
[redacted] word(s) redacted for privacy
[Really] interviewer said “Really”
?duck? sounds like “duck” but it’s not clear
... an interval without speech

[Interview 1 of 2]

[0;00;00]

Interviewee: This is the southwest shore.

Interviewer: So, this is Ken, and we’re on the southwest shore. Can you tell me your age?

Ken: Sure, sixty-eight. I’ll be sixty-nine in seventy. Magic number.

Interviewer: All right, that’s working. Can you tell me, to start with, how or why you came to be living here, by what journey did you [] here?

Ken: I was in the Air Force, I served in, on the east coast mainly, and, Labrador, Newfoundland, Gaspé, I flew out of Gaspé for eighteen months I guess with Number Five Bomber Squadron, then I was injured, so I went into radar, and military police, and then, because I couldn’t function on a remote base I went to headquarters in Halifax. And if you can love the east coast during the forties, why you can go almost ecstatic when you see it today because Halifax is a beautiful city. So I just, made up my mind that, when I retired I would come back to the east coast. And I came back, oh ... not every year, but, every two or three years for a holiday, and I traveled from, I liked Halifax, and I liked Chester Basin, and I liked the southwest shore because of the climate, we get the Gulf Stream here, and I came down with my friend and we were looking for property, not really looking but, you know, if it catches our eye. And, when I saw this house it had everything, it was an old house, I think it’s a hundred and twenty years old, twenty two years old, and it’s a fisherman’s house, and, it was close to the ocean, and we were looking either one or the other, we had both; it’s a little remote, but still it’s ... perfect for what I and my friend wanted. And [Have you changed it?] Oh yeah, you wouldn’t recognize it. You wouldn’t recognize it. The basic structure outside would be the same, the front half. But the back, I put this ?fifteen? by forty I guess from the door to that

wall, that's all new, this whole thing, and then all of these windows. There was, like a cellar window here, and of course there wasn't anything beyond ... Brian! (laughs) I was going to call you Mike Adam [] (laughs) Wear a little sign for a while, Brian. And, so I changed the character of the entire house. And, my partner drew up plans for the kitchen. We worked together quite well. But when it came to, my half being paid, he wouldn't kick in his half. So, it's not a partnership. So, that was the beginning of the end. But that's why we came here, we liked it, and ... the climate is excellent, so it's, to me an ideal place to live. I wouldn't return to Ontario, that's for sure, although, most of my family is up in Ontario, but, um

Interviewer: So, where did you live before here?

Ken: Before I came here? I lived in the Muskokas [Like all year?] Oh yes, yeah. I lived, I worked up there. I taught school for ... five years I guess. And then I worked the last few years, well, the last thirty years, as an accountant, which I hate, I hate figures, I hate adding up anything, I hate adding up my bank book, and, I try to avoid it until finally the bank says You're overdrawn, would you like to make a deposit? (laughs) Then I start adding up figures and I say, Oh yeah, I am overdrawn (laughs). Ah yeah.

Interviewer: So when you were with the Air Force, that was during the war?

Ken: Um-hmm, yeah. I joined up when I was eighteen. Yeah. And, four and a half years later I was discharged.

Interviewer: Really. So you were flying right away.

Ken: Yeah. Well, right after basic training. Yeah. But, I guess I flew for about fourteen months and then I ... couldn't fly anymore, I was grounded and ... and I spent nine months in the military hospital ... and they ... bugged up my leg when they operated on it, and, placed it, there's plates, I got more metal in me than you got metal in your car (laughs), it's all [] in your car but mine's screws and plates (laughs). So ... And then I did, well, I guess, radar work and working on computers and, flight data, and then, in headquarters I just did about everything ... that was clerical, and, then I was discharged.

Interviewer: We saw ... what looks like a former NORAD ... tracking station or something near Barrington, a big dome? Looked like a sort of soccer ball?

Ken: Oh, I haven't seen that.

Interviewer: I assumed it's a kind of radar ... Baccaro, Baccaro, that's it.

Ken: Oh, Baccaro, yeah. No, I don't know it. I never got any further than ... Greenwood, down, Nova Scotia. I was always around Halifax, Dartmouth, and the Gaspé, and then, Gander, Newfoundland, and Goose Bay in Labrador. That was my main ... territories.

Interviewer: So you never ... Did you grow up rural? Or, city? Or what?

Ken: Small town, in midwestern Ontario, near London, and I had lived in a very small village when I was pre-school, and, had a lot of friends, it was small, and I just hated moving from there to what was a town, because all my friends were left behind. And so when I grew up I made up my mind I would never go back to the little town I came from. And

Interviewer: What was the experience

Ken: Guelph

Interviewer: Guelph was a little town then?

Ken: I was small, yeah, it was a big town then to me, but, it's a little town at the time as I grew older. But, and I hated it. And yet it's a lovely city. But I'll never go back there to live. And then I moved around, mainly in the Muskokas, and I, moved to Huntsville when I started when I left school, like where I taught, and I moved to Huntsville, and worked up there for ... guess eighteen years or more, and after twenty-three years of marriage I divorced ... and

Interviewer: So you've never lived in a city.

Ken: Briefly. I lived in Toronto for about eight months, and I thought I'd die. I do not like Toronto. I like to go to Toronto for a weekend, but I know that Sunday night I'm taking the first flight out, or whatever, so, it's tolerable, but I don't like it. I don't like any city. I have gone to England a few times and I love London for about a week, and then I can hardly get out, wait to get out to Cornwall or the Yorkshires or Scotland or. But, no, I'm not a city person. Aw, look at me (laughs). I think there's a couple of cottages or houses over there that love it. I like people around me, I couldn't live here without people coming in, because I would find that very lonely. But, when I say goodbye, I know that I have this little kingdom all my own, sort of thing. I miss a partner. I ... bemoan the fact every day. And ... Tom can probably tell you, I've got sucker written across my forehead 'coz I pick the wrong friends all the time, they rip me off (laughs).

Interviewer: How many acres do you have here?

Ken: Seven.

Interviewer: And, we're looking out on

Ken: The Atlantic.

Interviewer: Sable River.

Ken: The mouth of the Sable River. Quite a piece 'round that land. But that's the Atlantic out there. Oh, it's beautiful here.

Interviewer: The tide, you were saying, it's on its way out.

Ken: Yes, it's on its way out now.

Interviewer: Leaving clam flats. Can you tell me something about your ... sort of, journey of self-discovery in terms of sexuality, [] of shape does that have?

[0;09;42]

Ken: Oh, I don't know. Probably ... my first awareness, is that what you're, sort of []? Well, even as a young man in the Service, eighteen, 'course when he's on a, on a base with fifteen hundred men, naturally you're attracted to ... fifteen hundred men, there's no women around, so what else is there to be attracted to, except the bears, the birds and the bears and whatever's in the bush, 'coz I was in remote areas a lot of the time, and ... I just knew that I liked the male body and the male person, ... Oh, we horsed around you know, [] somebody's ass or something, when you're waiting in the mess hall [], somebody'd give you a feel, but, hell, straight life does the same, what's the difference. But, it never occurred to me to ... that this was a sexual thing. And, and of course when I got out of Service and went back to school I went to Mac in Hamilton and, everyone was getting married and that's the thing to do, that's the thing you're expected to do, and, of course, I suppose, other things were developing in me that I, that that looked attractive, somebody, a partner, and someone you get along with, and I just happened to make the wrong choice. And ... But, I stuck it out for twenty-three years, and ... I never horsed around with either men or women while I was married. I ... I feel that, no matter what the relationship is it should be monogamous or there isn't any, there's no point in having a relationship. And, I certainly wouldn't screw around on my wife, although she did on me, and if I were in a male relationship I wouldn't screw around with somebody else either. I have to respect and be true to myself and that's the only way I'll go. But, um

Interviewer: Any children?

Ken: I have three ... and [What assortment?] Oh, a boy, two boys and a girl. My boys are close to me, my daughter never speaks to me, or writes to me, or, I've never seen her for ... Lord, she must be forty-three, so, nineteen whatever that subtraction is, I haven't seen her for those many years. And ... She doesn't know what she's missing 'coz I think I'm a pretty nice guy. (laughs) You can put that down for conceit! (laughs) But uh

Interviewer: Is that ... to do with the divorce?

Ken: Yes. She felt that I had deserted her mother. And I don't speak ill of my wife, she is what she is and that's fine. But ... Is this on tape? [Um-hmm] Oh shit, I maybe shouldn't say this. Oh, what the hell, it doesn't make []. We were married less than a year, and I worked at that time with a surveyor, for the summer holidays when I was off school. And ... I guess school was finished about June so I didn't have to go back to teaching until September so I worked with a survey group. And my ex seemed to enjoy the ... surveyor, quite well, while I wasn't around, I was out in the woods with the crew, and came home a couple of times and, found them in bed. However, I accepted that, for some stupid reason, and we ... never, discussed what was going on. But I should have, I really should have pulled out of it then, because we had no children and, I would have been a helluva lot better off. But uh

Interviewer: Given the opportunities which you [inaudible] surveyor?

Ken: No it didn't really appeal to me.

Interviewer: I meant sort of in general.

Ken: No, no [Or, did you just put everything, kind of, away?] ... [You were married] Now this [] stupid but I didn't realize what gay life could be, and the joys in it, and there's damn well a lot of sorrows in it. But, I was attracted to men, but, not sexually attracted. I would think, God you're handsome, you've got great buns, or, or whatever you were admiring on the male body, and but I never had any inclination to go beyond I like you. And, not 'til I was divorced. And the, our family physician called me in two or three times and told me to keep my nose clean, that my wife was trying to screw me. And she would do anything to ... you know, destroy me. And, and we knew each other quite well, we used to go to social functions together, and I'd go alone a lot of the time 'coz my wife wouldn't go. And, so we were friends, and, he spoke to me as a friend, more, than as a physician, I suppose.

Ken: (continuing) And so I left, the house, and I went to another town, another city, to work, and I did, I kept my nose clean. But I told you earlier I don't like bars, but I started going in after work for a drink, with some of the guys,

and then I'd go in on my own. And, while I was there I met different chaps that I was attracted to, but we, we went out together but ... we didn't have sex together. We'd hug each other goodnight or whatever when he went back to his home and I went back to mine. And then, one time at work, one of the chaps that worked for Olivetti came in and, I was working late different nights, and, ... I guess he was attracted to me, I certainly enjoyed his friendship, and of course I was alone again, ever since I left my house I was alone, and, so we went out a few times, and then it began to be ... more than just going out for dinner and a show, and he traveled from Toronto, up to northern Ontario to New Liskeard where I was at the time, and ... then he moved into my apartment on weekends, when he was off work, he'd try to hit New Liskeard on a Friday night or Friday so he could do his work Friday then we'd spend the weekend together, and of course it was a one-bedroom apartment so obvious we end up in bed, eh? And ... I don't know whether we planned it or whether it, it just seemed to flow together. And Murray was a great guy. I really enjoyed []. And, he introduced me to, well, we introduced each other, to the gay life, and we both enjoyed it, and, Murray was a ... a mommy's boy ... [What do you mean, he lived with his mother?] He lived with his mother. And (laughs) I'm telling you, Mike, Michael, (laughs) you better erase some of this. You really want to know how it happened? (laughs) Well, anyhow. The first night that he came to the apartment to stay, he unpacked his suitcase in our bedroom and mother's picture came out, and sat on the bureau. We're in bed with, nothing on and enjoying whatever we were enjoying and I got up and I was just furious, and I said, My god, Murray, do we have to have your mother in the same bedroom with us? (laughs) I just about died. I was mad. So I got up and I put her picture down. Well, he was mad. That spoiled that weekend, we just did not have a good weekend. So every time that mother came in the suitcase, I asked him if he would put it out in the living room on one of the tables because, you know, when you're first involved in this sort of thing you don't want mother looking at you. ... And, all the time we were together, which was about two years, it could have gone further for me and for him, he was very keen on sharing it, but I couldn't put up with mother. And when we went down to Toronto to where his mother lived, she didn't like me, because I was taking her little boy away. And, she didn't know that Murray was gay or that I was gay, and, so I had to play it straight as he had to play it straight. And ... she didn't think that Murray should give up his bedroom so I could sleep in there, I had to sleep on the chesterfield because mother didn't approve of me sleeping in Murray's bed with or without him. And I thought

Interviewer: What year was that?

Ken: Oh god ... '73? '72? '73? ... So that spoiled the relationship. I couldn't compete with mother.

Interviewer: And Murray wasn't prepared to take mother on, obviously.

Ken: No. I had to ... be the straight little guy ... and ... while we're in her apartment we couldn't touch, and if I stood close to him, getting breakfast or washing the dishes, he would move away. And I thought, the hell with it, if you're my friend and I want to hug you, mother's in the other room or beside us, what difference does it make? I'd hug his mother if I liked her. And, but I didn't, and she certainly didn't like me. And it was a strange, yeah. But when we were back in New Liskeard we were friends, and ... It was good, and uh

[0;20;03]

Interviewer: You were teaching then?

Ken: No, I had ... had taught in Muskoka, yeah, and for four, five years, and then I went to accountancy and I moved up to New Liskeard.

Interviewer: In New Liskeard with him coming every weekend, did you, not, sort of, were you anxious ever about kind of exposure or ... people?

Ken: No, not a bit. It was a ... Well, I lived a straight life, and, Murray was my first partner, and, I really cared for him. I don't bar-hop and I don't ... take casual, I can't stand one-night stands. ... but, no, we went out to dinner together and shows together, and, walk around the lake and you know, it was just natural. ... He was very straight-looking, very straight-acting. I don't, I can't tolerate nellies, it bugs me, the same way as transvestites and so on, I just don't understand that. My feeling is, two men ... quotation marks, who look and act normal, what's wrong with having strong love and feelings for them and hugging them or whatever you want to do? That's life. Love is life. Christ teaches love, so why can't you love your fellow man? I see nothing wrong with that. But at the same time, I do not ... want to be around, again, quotation marks, nellies or transvestites or. That, to me, is unnatural. I could love you, and give you a hug, and think, Gee, you're a great guy, but that doesn't mean I want to go to bed with you or, or have sex with you, it's just that I *like* you. And so, I act, I'm natural about it. I hope, if I have any nellie attributes I try to tone them down, or, if I realize I'm doing fairy things I, put the heavy shoes on to bring me down to ground again (laughs). 'Coz I don't, I don't [] that. I think it's just as natural for two men to care for each other as, well, a man and a woman, and I think the really, I haven't seen anything in the Bible yet and I read my Bible fairly often, where Christ says that two men can't love each other. [] a lot of John does, that it's improper, what's the terminology there, not improper, it's a sin to, to lie with a man, and, yeah, which I think is bullshit. That's, the only reason that's being promoted is because they wanted to begat, begat, begat all the more kids for whatever

religion they wanted them to be in. That's nonsense. And I'm sure ... Well, is this blasphemy? Christ must have been, homosexual tendency, my god, he had twelve good-looking men around him, why wouldn't he be? You know, not saying he practiced, but by George, if I could have twelve men following me around like he did (laughs), that'd be kind of nice, wouldn't it? (laughs) If you were promiscuous, anyhow. No, I, I don't, I think ... the love of a man for another man, there's nothing immoral about that at all. If they flaunt it and act like assholes and stuff, why, sure, that's wrong. Because I don't even like to see two [] of straights, making out in public, or, holding hands is great, but when they stop on the bloody streetcar and start fondling and kissing each other that's a little bit much, that's for your privacy or wherever your home is your property is, whatever, you don't do that.

Interviewer: Speaking of Christ, tell me a little about the, Pentecostal thing.

Ken: Oh god, that's weird. Oh.

Interviewer: Was that something that would come over her?

Ken: Yeah. Well, I think, our neighbours were Pentecosts, and ... we weren't unfriendly but, not overly friendly, but, the guy's wife spent a lot of time at my house. And I think that's how she got involved. And ... the Pentecosts speak in tongues, at least, my wife spoke in tongues, and um

Interviewer: How did that work, [inaudible]

Ken: Oh yeah, we'd have an argument, and I'd use a few good words, like, ask her what the hell she was doing to me, sort of thing, what'd she want from me, and she'd say, I'm praying for you, and then she would go into, her eyes would roll and she'd go into a trance and then she would gibber ... and of course I never touched her because, anytime I had ever touched her it was ... the next time I heard about it I had beaten her to a pulp. So I didn't go near her but I ... You didn't know whether to slap her face to bring it out of her or just ?stand? there, so I just stood there, ... or walked away and sat down, and, then she'd come out of it, and she'd said, I've, the Lord has spoken to me and you're sinful and blah-blah, and I said, You're praying to the devil, you s.o.b. And you don't say that to a woman if you love her, so ... obviously, so, it was pretty grim. And then it got to the point, she wouldn't wash my clothes, then she wouldn't cook my meals, and she would never sit to eat with me. And then of course the bedroom door was locked. And, so what the hell, there's no marriage, you know, you gotta share something.

Interviewer: This was all because you were consorting with the devil, or something?

Ken: Yes, 'coz I wasn't a Pentecost. ... And I put up with it for three years and went to a marriage counselor and ... she wouldn't sit in the same room with me with the marriage counselor, she'd see him Wednesday at two o'clock and I'd see him Wednesday at four o'clock. What the hell, you're not solving anything. And I put up with it for three years and

Interviewer: Why do you think you did, why did you ... try so hard to keep it going? And if it certainly wasn't for you.

Ken: Well, I had children, and I enjoyed my children. I have three great kids ... and I adored my daughter [So, for their sake] Yeah. And I still ... I still love my daughter, but, two out of three isn't bad, so, I'm lucky, I am damn lucky. [So that's why you were sticking with her [inaudible]] Yes, and my wife and I had a lot of interests together, we shared a lot of interests, even though I think ... I don't like calling any person a son-of-a-bitch, but, my wife was; she never pulled her weight, she's a good woman but, she never pulled her weight. And ... funny, she'd lie to me, I don't understand why people lie, but anyway, she would lie to me about things that she had done, and I'd find out afterwards that she hadn't knitted those socks for me that I thought, Isn't that lovely, she cares so much for me, she's making socks. Hell, the neighbour was making the socks, and then she would show up with these socks, Here, I made these for you. ... And then my neighbour would, few months later, Oh, how do you like the socks I made? ... Jeez. I couldn't believe it. So even, you know, all my life people have lied to me. At least it appears to me. So anyhow. And, I really ... No one likes to admit to a failure, right? You, you want to think you can succeed at something. And I felt that, I married this woman, I should be true to her, and I should support her and she should support me, I thought, that's what life is all about. And I, my children were great, we have three great kids, and I suppose my wife is alright in her own way, but, I don't want to associate with her. I went to my son's wedding and ... she didn't want to go, because I was there and she didn't want me to go, and she did everything in her power to stop me from going. And 'til finally the bride's parents said, Lay off or you get on the first plane back home. And, so she quieted down, and, when I saw her walk in the church, I was sitting at the back, not up in the pew where I should be but I sat at the back, 'coz I didn't want my son to be ... his wedding day to be upset by her behaviour, and I didn't care where I sat as long as []. And I turned and saw her walk in, and I thought, My god, you're the greatest guy going, you know, you're not married to that ... bitch. So. It was, I was glad I was out of it. Yeah, it was good. And I've looked back over the years and gone, Why did I marry, why? and I think I married because I thought I should. That was the, thing we should do, man and woman should marry. B S. Man and woman should not marry. Marriage is not the be-all or the end-all of anything. So, it's just a declaration of war. (laughs) So

Interviewer: So after the divorce thing, so time after that, you met, that's when you met Murray.

Ken: ... it'd be about ... my divorce wasn't final so, it would be about two and a half years; your divorce isn't final for three years. [Oh really] No, wait a minute. I had to wait three years for a divorce, and it isn't final for a year. So it was sometime between two and a half and three years that I met Murray. And uh

[0;30;22]

Interviewer: Again, can you put a year on that, approximately?

Ken: Oh ... '71 I left, so it'd be around '72, '73? And ... And that seemed right. The day I was married I was standing at the front of the church, and I'm looking at, into the ... priest, and he said, You can turn, your bride is coming in, and of course I heard the music, my feet were just planted like this ... I turned my body, 'coz I knew, when he said, Your bride is coming into the church, I thought, My god, you've done the wrong thing. Why am I here? Not because of anything sexuality [*sic*] or anything, just that I knew this wasn't what I should be doing. I had that feeling, you know, about twenty-four hours too late. (laughs) If I had felt that way ... oh Lord, I'd never have got married, I'd never, not because I had the love of anybody else, male or female, it was just that, that wasn't what I wanted, and what I should do. And, obviously she shouldn't do it either. But ... She was never a partner with me. I like to ... you know, if you're going to heave a log, and you have somebody to help you, you want him to be lifting as much as you're lifting. And I remember when we went on a canoe trip, and I beat my guts out to paddle that canoe and keep it on course, I was in the stern, and my wife at the time was ... just putting the paddle in and letting it drag back. I was doing the work, she was just doing the motions. I couldn't believe why I wasn't making headway. And, no matter who your partner is, male or female, if you don't row the boat the same together you're not going to get very far. That was the story of my life right there. I should never have, I should have got out ?on? it. But, you stick it, because you think this is what you should do, you've got to make a mistaker, er, a success, you can't make a mistake. And, so, you stick at it. But it wasn't right; I shouldn't have. You know. If you're looking for dust, don't (laughs), you don't have to get down on the floor.

Interviewer: So, after Murray, what ...?

Ken: Well, we sort of drifted apart, and I didn't see anybody again for ... oh, casually, ... several along through the years, but nothing, no one that I was attracted to, ... or wanted to make it a commitment. And I had made up my mind I wouldn't get involved again unless there was a commitment.

And then ... I met another chap, and ... Al, and he was a teacher, and that's his second name, and we seemed to hit it off. And ... so

Interviewer: In New Liskeard?

Ken: No, no, I was back in the London area. And ... I got a transfer 'coz I wanted to be, New Liskeard's hell and gone up in northern Ontario as you know. And, I was tired of that life, and it's so remote, there wasn't anybody up there that I could possibly meet, there're no doubt a lot of gays around, but, not that I had discovered, or they had discovered me, type of thing. And, so anyhow, I went back to southern Ontario, and met this chap, and we hit it off, and, we met at a party through another friend, actually, and ... and we started seeing each other every weekend and so forth, and I thought I had the world by the tail. And ... but he would never ... make a statement that this was going to be a commitment of monogamous, type of thing, which I thought it was. And ...

Ken (continuing): I guess in a way he, I hate to use the term but I think he used me, he was living in a ... winterized ... garage that had been turned into a cottage, ... and I happened to have money saved at the time and I bought a, a nice little bungalow, and, he didn't have ... proper sewage, and, so my house had a proper septic tank and what not, it was more convenient, had a full bath, and, washer and dryer, the whole bit, so I bought that and he moved into that and then I went down every weekend. And it was working well ... and, so I thought. But different times I would phone at night just because I was lonely, I'd wake up, had to go to the washroom, and thought, Oh ?shoot? I'll phone, see what's going on, and never gotten an answer, ninety percent of the time. And then on the weekend when he came up to where I was staying in our ... and had the apartment, why, or I went down to the house, why, What were you doing Tuesday night? "Oh, I went to bed early." Well, I called and called. "Oh, I must have been sleeping on my deaf ear." Well, I don't know where he was sleeping but it wasn't on a deaf ear anyhow. And then of course, Murray kept showing up periodically and Murray was transferred, to the ... Windsor. And he would see my friend in the bars, and he'd say, write to me occasionally and say, "Oh, how are things going? I saw your friend in," whatever bar, The Drawbridge was a gay bar, and ... I'd say, Oh, no, you didn't see my friend there, he was home, because I called his house. And then I started calling and he wasn't home, and ... Murray and I kept in touch as friends but not, we didn't spend any time together. And, well, sometimes travelling through he would ... he worked for the Olivetti company and, and I was in an office, so, quite frequently he would come to my office, and service our machines and stuff. So, this is what I, he, and we'd have dinner together ... but we never went to bed together again, and so then I began to, this went on, I had a relationship with this chap for about ten or twelve years, and three different times I ... couldn't tolerate his ... what

do you say, running around, or, philandering, or whatever it is, and, I'd ask him to leave. So we'd break up. [He was living in your house?] Yeah, yeah, and I put him out three times. But we got back together 'coz I cared for him. I care for him today, I really care for him. He just happened to be ... the love of my life, I, I, the first gay feeling of love for another man. I liked Murray, very fond of him, but ... there was something that I didn't feel that, with this other chap I felt, geez, I've got the world by the tail. And ... But I found out I was paying ninety percent or seventy-five percent of everything, and even today I hate to say the word but I was being used, I was just a good meal ticket. Now, he paid his way in many, many things, I'm not saying that, but ... Well, for instance, we had the house re-wired and the bill was twelve hundred bucks, and he said, "Oh, I'll pay for it." We have to have a dryer and all these things, and we couldn't on a hundred amp service, so we re-wired it, and he was going to pay for it. So the bill came in, and it's addressed to me, and, because the house was in my name, and he said, "Oh I can't pay that, I can't afford it." And he said, "I can pay fifty dollars a month." And I said, Lord! This guy wants twelve hundred dollars today, he doesn't, he's not going to wait. You know. Fifty dollars a month, two years for a twelve hundred dollar bill. ... So he didn't pay it, and I, I was stuck with paying it. And. Everything I did, or we did, if it came to a large sum of money, "Oh don't worry about it, I'll pay my half." So I'd put my, whatever it was, we moved a couple of times and bought houses together, and I'd put my ... forty thousand, forty-five thousand I guess was my share of one house, and

[0:39;48]

Ken (continuing): he never came up with anything else. So then I had to take out a mortgage. Now, he did pay for two years on one of the houses we bought, he paid the mortgage, which was what he should pay. But, every time when it came to an agreement, why, he even had his lawyer draw up a partnership agreement, his own lawyer, and we went to my lawyer to sign over the house to, both, put the house in both our names, and my lawyer read this agreement that my friend's lawyer drew up, and he said Are you sure you want to sign this? ... And I said, Sure, I don't need his money, I said, If he pays so much a month and, that's great, I'll go along with it 'coz that'll be income I don't have to report to the bloody government. And so anyhow, I signed it, my lawyer handed it to my friend, and he wouldn't sign it. He said, "I've been taken." How could he be taken, his own lawyer drew it up and my lawyer didn't think I should sign it, eh? So anyhow, we had to sell the property, and we sold it at a loss. I got, I'd made the down-payment, and out of twenty thousand I got twelve thousand back, and because I got twelve thousand back he thought I should split the half of it with him 'coz both our names were on the deed. And he hadn't paid anything but the mortgage for ... two years I guess. I couldn't see the []. So since that time, I have had no relationships. I've had friends that I've

known for different times spend some time with me and ... but, I've ended it, because, it's getting nowhere. You know. Um

Interviewer: Was it he that was in on this place with you too?

Ken: Here? Yeah. [Then you had to carry it yourself.] Yeah. I've had it with stuck with eighty thousand bucks to pay off, yeah, which I've paid off. But ... Yeah, I can't see ... and I keep making the same mistake. I have different things that have happened to me since here that, friends of my past have shown up or phoned up or written to me and said, Hey, let's get together again, haven't seen you, and maybe we can make a go of it. And, they come down here and, it's disaster. So (laughs). The last chap I had here was here three years ago and he, he'd been drinking a lot, and I knew darn well he was drinking, and I was glad to see him go after a week. So, three years went by and he wrote to me again, and I said, Well, have you given up, are you drinking any more? I should have said, Are you drinking any less? (laughs) But anyhow, he came down. And, my god, he was here six days and ... four forty ounces of whiskey later, I thought, This is ridiculous. I don't want a relationship with this chap, and I try to be clean and tidy about myself, and he was here six days and showered once, shaved once; I thought, This is not going to be my cup of tea. So I said, I'm sorry, we got up one morning and after breakfast and he was sitting over there, "What are you going to do today?" and I said, I don't know what I'm going to do but I know what you're doing, you're packing your bags and I'm taking you to the airport, within fifteen minutes. Well, I was called everything but a white man, but I thought, Oh my god I can't take this. I'd rather be alone. I'd rather, I don't like it, but it's damn lonely. And of course, all my neighbours ... accept me, but I don't mention being gay or homosexual or ... and if any discussion comes out about being gay or homosexuals, I say nothing, I don't say I'm for or agin [*sic*], I just don't talk about it, or, I let them talk it out, and then I change the subject. ... Um

Interviewer: Is that hard, to be silent?

Ken: Sometimes, sometimes. But on the other hand, we may think, in the gay community, that we are changing public opinion, but we're really not. They are to some extent more tolerant, but, if it came to the nitty-gritty, and you and I were gay, and went to a party where there was straights and gays, fine, you're accepted, everybody's happy to see you and very, very friendly. Okay, the next dinner party that comes up, it's all straight people supposedly, for say, I think ninety percent of the married men are, they play the field and it's not always with women, yeah, I, I, any number of times I can give you an example.

Ken (continuing): But anyhow, then they know that you and I are gay, ... Oh. We mustn't ask, Bob and Jim to come because they're gay and our friends are

straight. So you're excluded. Okay, we're so great, another meal ago or two meals ago, why aren't we great right now? It's because we're gay, and they don't want their friends to know that they're friends with two gay guys. Stupid! Even homosexuals have double standards and so do straights, heterosexuals have double standards, they accept you up to the fence, but they won't let you open the gate. And I, you're never going to change that. And of course I'm prejudiced as I just told you, I can't tolerate transvestites and, and nellies and ... But I, even if I were completely straight, I wouldn't associate with them because they embarrass me. And ... Well, I don't know, is it pride? or, I don't know, I don't like being embarrassed, and this chap that I was just talking about, the alcoholic, oh, I had friends in one night and he was here and, and he's somewhat nellie, long hair and he'd 'flop' his hair somehow around and pat it, and I thought, Oh my god. And he got loud and boisterous from the alcohol, you see, and I thought, Oh I can't stand this, so, it was the next day I said, Pack your bags. Because, I, well, it doesn't matter what relationship, you don't like your friend to, or friends to embarrass you. And I try not to embarrass my friends if I can avoid it, I certainly try. But. No, it's, so, I'm funny. (laughs)

Interviewer: So, a bed and breakfast, do you do that primarily

[end of Interview 1 of 2]

[no transcript for Interview 2 of 2]