

Oral History Project Transcript

Nolan Davis: This is Nolan Davis from Langston Hughes Middle.

Sue Schram: And this is Sue Schram.

ND: Can you name and describe some of the technology you used when you first came here, in Reston?

SS: Not too much because I've been here forty one years. There wasn't much technology, so I've really seen the changes. When I moved here there wasn't such a thing as computers, or anything we use today.

ND: You had TV?

SS: Of course we had TV.

ND: And radio?

SS: Yeah. And hairdryers and things like that. Very simple things. But I remember as we lived here, getting my son the first computer on the market. It wasn't really a computer, it was almost more like an adding machine. But it was big, very big and awkward. And expensive.

ND: Did you like those technologies, What did you think of them?

SS: I think some of the technologies are wonderful, I think the very fact that we have internet is great. I do use internet a lot.

ND: What are some of the technologies you use today?

SS: iTunes, and mainly the internet. I use it a lot, because I have a son that lives over in Holland, and I can communicate with all my children who live in different places. As a source of information, I think it's wonderful. You find that you're not using encyclopedias and almanacs very much

ND: Do you use any other technologies?

SS: I have a lot of CD's, I play a lot of music.

ND: When you came here was radio pretty big?

SS: No, televisions

ND: Do you still use it, You still use television a lot?

SS: I use television a lot. And thats another big change with new technologies. I like things on HBO a lot. I have HBO on demand, so if I miss a show I can watch it anytime I want to watch it. It's just amazing, wonderful.

ND: You started this bookstore, Lake Anne Used Bookstore, do you find that you read less, with more technology?

SS: No, I don't think so.

ND: You still read a lot?

SS: Yeah.

ND: okay, How have these devices changed your life?

SS: Well, certainly computers have. I mean you can just communicate so much easier. And we take things for granted now, things we couldn't do before. It was a very expensive thing to call- long distance was expensive. Oh, and another thing I have is a cell phone. And that comes in very handy.