

My name is Jim Conrad and I was born in 1941. When I was growing up we grew up on a truck farm. Well my mother and father, and there's 9 of us siblings, 5 girls, 4 boys, and we basically did general farm work until I starting caddying at a fairly early age, which was nice. It got me into golf which is still a passion of mine. Oh the fondest memories? Of course being with my parents, and my family was always good. Being on a farm life, you learn to have a close family type life. Several of us have passed on already. I have one sister i'm very close to. In fact, she's pretty much my age. We were always in the same grade together until high school. We went to Perokorial School Illinois, and we had a close relationship ever since. We never got in trouble, but we always walked up to that line and dared that line, but never crossed it, and we would of course date a lot. I was big into cars, and I would drag race a lot which got to be pretty expensive being a young man. At one time I had a 1940 Ford Coupe with a 56 ol's engine, and that was all souped up and it was almost too fast to drive on the street, drag race in the streets. My kicks were what we would call it at the time, "blowing off daddy's corvettes". So we would pull in to where we knew there were a lot of vets parked, and we would entice them to go out and race, and I would never lose to one. That was, that to me was a lot of fun. I attended Mile's township high school in Skokie Illinois. Northern suburb of Chicago, and shortly after that, a year after that, I entered the army. I was born at the right time. I went into the Army in 1960. In April of 1960 for 3 years. I did all my basic training at Fort Leonard in Missouri, and from there I shipped right out to Munich Germany. I got married in December 5th of 1964. Lady that I had met in Skokie Illinois. She worked at GB's Cereal and Company. At that time a very large pharmaceutical company that has since been acquired by other companies. I've lost track of what they are now. We were married for 34 years before she passed away. She had dementia at a very early age of 50. She started getting it at 53 years old and passed away when she was 54 because in addition to the dementia, she developed breast cancer. She went very quick after that. We had one son that we had adopted while we were living in California, and he is now 47 years old living in Charlotte North Carolina. Tried to give him a whole lot of stuff. Tried to give him better education. Just kinda almost pampered him, a little too much I think in a lot of ways. But he grew up sort of on the privileged side in a way. I have no regrets about that, but he kind of resented at times that type of lifestyle where he would be privileged. He always tried to hide where he lived, so the kids, his friends wouldn't think that he was privileged or as he would say, "Snob".

Society in general I think. People years ago would be more willing to share what they had with others. They took their neighbors more seriously than they do today. It's not as integrated as it should be; you still have the, in your bigger cities, you still have your ethnic areas where, you know a certain population would be in one place. That still exists today, and it's good. There's a lot of heritage being found, and as we're getting immigrants coming into the country, this I see remaining as a way of life going forward. I think a lot of teenagers in the inner cities have lost respect for almost everything and everyone. Not like in the suburbs. Suburbs, they still have that same old respect for the elders, and for the teachers, for who they are, but the inner cities today I think they're worse than I have ever seen them. The advice that I would give today; just be yourself, respect your parents more than anything, respect your teachers, and lead a good normal life. Have fun, but keep it within all civil bounds. Jim Conrad resides at the Carmel Senior Living Homes where he continues to spend most of his free time reading and watching golf. For 91.3 WHJE, this has been Xavier Cocca. More podcasts and interviews like this can be found at WHJE.com