

Rich_interview

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SPEAKERS

Richard Gralnek, Elliot Wesselborg

- E** Elliot Wesselborg 00:01
This call is now being recorded. Hello, my name is Elliot and I will be having a conversation with Rich for LGBT Oral Histories of Central Iowa, a project of Grinnell College. This is an oral history project centered on the experiences of LGBT-identified people in Iowa. It is May 5, 2020 and due to social distancing as a result of COVID-19, this interview is being conducted remotely. Hi, Rich. It's good to be talking with you today.
- R** Richard Gralnek 00:29
Yeah, glad to be here.
- E** Elliot Wesselborg 00:32
So can you start off by introducing yourself and stating how you identify?
- R** Richard Gralnek 00:37
Uh, my name is Rich and I identify as male. I was born female and have transitioned about forty years ago.
- E** Elliot Wesselborg 00:50

Okay. How about you tell us about your life growing up.

R

Richard Gralnek 00:55

Well, I grew up in a small town in Iowa. I was actually born in Brooklyn, New York and given up for adoption at birth, and ended up in Iowa. And since I was born in '48, right after the Second World War, a lot of the games we played as children were war games, and cowboys and Indians. That was the big thing on TV. And I just naturally identified as male. And the friends—the kids that I played with—didn't even question that. I was just another guy in the group and it was kind of—it was, it was very nice, you know? I just didn't—I had no interest in the female role in any of the games and, and there was—nobody questioned it or seemed uncomfortable with it. And I tended to wear more male clothes at school, when I could, from grade school on up there into high school and on. And at work, when I had jobs, I wore predominantly male clothing and—

E

Elliot Wesselborg 02:26

How did the adults around you perceive that? I know you said the kids were fine, but what did adults think?

R

Richard Gralnek 02:32

Well when I was a little kid, I don't think it really bothered them. They just thought I was a tomboy. But when I got into, like, junior high and senior high, I didn't—I didn't wear— Excuse me, I didn't wear skirts or dresses very much at all. And mainly blue jeans, when I could. Some of the schools allowed that in boys or girls, you could wear jeans. And others decided they were too fancy for that and nobody could wear jeans. So I would wear other kind of pants: corduroy or some other fabric. And sometimes my folks—I could, I could buy my own clothes. They paid for them, but I could pick them out. Sometimes they rejected some of the more male stuff, but, um—and nobody seemed to be bothered about it at school. I mean, what I wore at school, nobody—nobody seemed to label it anything. I think because there was a—it was a small town and most everybody were either factory workers or farmers and so people just wore those kinds of clothes and it wasn't, it wasn't considered odd.

E

Elliot Wesselborg 04:01

Were there other girls at that time who were also dressing similar to you?

R

Richard Gralnek 04:12

Oh, some were. Because, like I said, there was a farming community and a lot of the women and girls couldn't do the work with, you know, their fathers and their husbands, unless they pretty much dressed like them, because of the jobs, the staff. So yeah, I think it wasn't probably until I got up into senior high, maybe my—I don't know—junior year or whatever, where I really looked different, because most of the girls were trying to get boyfriends and this was the time of—when the Beatles came on and everything was—women's clothes became very a sign of the times stuff (??) and I just didn't bother with any of that, so I kind of stood out just because of the difference in clothing. And I think it, you know, some people I think caught on that there was something different with me. But—so it wasn't too big a deal at that time.

E

Elliot Wesselborg 05:17

So when other girls were pursuing boyfriends, what were you doing?

R

Richard Gralnek 05:22

I was pursuing girlfriends. And I dated probably, oh, four or five girls from school throughout my high school years. One point I was dating two sisters. It was, it was an interesting time, because all of the women that—well, they weren't women then: they were girls. All of the girls that I dated back then went on to marry men and have children. They weren't—I never really got into or even knew of any, you know, lesbian women or anything about that. I never even really defined myself as anything, because I didn't know what the definition was or I just didn't have one.

E

Elliot Wesselborg 06:21

How did you meet those girls?

R

Richard Gralnek 06:24

Oh, some were in gym class, some were just in classes that I had and we'd, you know, like each other. We had some kind of affinity to one another and it just went into a dating situation. I'd take them to the, to the—we had a big building downtown, and on Saturday night, they would have dancing—to records, you know, they didn't have performers. But it was a big deal to go to that and I would take them out just as a date and we'd go to the dance, because women have always been able to dance together so it didn't really affect anybody adversely.

E Elliot Wesselborg 07:17
Do you think the—your classmates would have also perceived that as you were dating these girls?

R Richard Gralnek 07:25
Yeah, I think some did. I think some did. But nobody really said anything. Although I remember at one dance, somebody called me a queer and I had no idea what that meant. I'd never heard that term. And I—it—so it was just—I didn't really know what to think about that. But mainly, there wasn't much said. And I later found out that there was a lot more going on in the high school than I even knew, when the gym teacher for the girls suddenly got fired. And apparently she was having a little fun on her own side with some of the girls. Not that I—none of them that I knew. But, I mean, she was there one day and gone the next and it was very, very hush hush.

E Elliot Wesselborg 08:24
Were you involved with these girls sexually?

R Richard Gralnek 08:28
Yes.

E Elliot Wesselborg 08:29
How did you learn about that or approach that?

R Richard Gralnek 08:33
Trial and error, I guess. Just, uh, just experimenting with each other, I think, was the main thing. Because, yeah, neither of us, you know, neither the—most—well, most of the girls that I dated were virgins. There was a couple that weren't, but most of them were, and I was. So—and a lot of it helps, when you're in a farming community, because animals have no shame, and, you know, you can get the idea of what's going on pretty well. But yeah, we just—we kind of just taught each other, I guess.

E Elliot Wesselborg 09:19
When did you—so you mentioned that someone had called you queer at a dance—when

did you find out that being gay was a thing, for example?

R

Richard Gralnek 09:31

Well, I think—gosh, it was probably in my junior or senior year, that I really got some sense of, you know, trying to figure out what my identity was. And at that point, I obviously was not interested in men and I was interested in women, so I decided that I must be a lesbian. And, there wasn't—I mean, there wasn't like a group of us at school. I really didn't know anybody else that was a lesbian. But the high school had a thousand students in it, so I'm sure there were a few. They just—I didn't know them and they didn't know me.

R

Richard Gralnek 10:20

But it was when I, when I moved out with my girlfriend, we moved to a bigger city that then we got involved in the lesbian community. But I've never felt right there. They—it was, it was too structured for me, how the, you know, if you were masculine, you were butch, and you had all these rules to follow as far as—your girlfriend did all the housework and you did all the outside work. And it was—it was just—if anybody varied from that, they were, like, chastised, like, Well, you don't do that. And I told them "Well, you don't do that, either, because I'm going to do whatever I want to do." And so I didn't get along with them that well.

E

Elliot Wesselborg 11:18

Where did you meet these people?

R

Richard Gralnek 11:20

Um, through friends. Once, once my girlfriend and I got out on our own, we made friends. We met a few at a couple of the gay bars.

E

Elliot Wesselborg 11:36

What were those bars called, if you remember?

R

Richard Gralnek 11:39

Excuse me?

E Elliot Wesselborg 11:40
What were those bars called, if you remember?

R Richard Gralnek 11:44
One was called the Blue Goose and the other was called the P & S, and that was for Peggy and Shirley. There was another bar, but I don't remember—don't remember the name of that one.

E Elliot Wesselborg 12:02
And so you would go to those bars with friends sometimes?

R Richard Gralnek 12:06
Yeah, we went mainly to dance. My girlfriend and I, we went mainly to dance. I got a few fights there, that was kind of exciting. But mainly it was just to dance.

E Elliot Wesselborg 12:25
Was it exclusively a gay bar, or who was in there?

R Richard Gralnek 12:29
Anybody, anybody could be there. I remember one night walking in and I saw a guy that I worked with. And we both, of course, were startled to see each other there. And—so yeah, it was just—it was just a place to gather and dance and occasionally, the police would show up and wander around in there, because this was the late '60s, early '70s, and they still were kind of—it wasn't like the big cities, like New York and all that, where they would routinely haul you off to jail for a night or two, but the police were, were there. In other words, it was a frowned-on behavior, being in the gay bar, and they just would come in just to let you know they were still there. It was very strange.

E Elliot Wesselborg 13:30
Did you ever know anyone who got arrested?

R Richard Gralnek 13:34

No. No. Not for not for being gay. I mean, I had a friend arrested for parking tickets or something. But, you know—but no, they never—they really—I'm not sure what the presence was for. It probably was just a historic thing. They probably just did them for the last twenty, thirty years, wandering in and out of gay bars just to see what was going on and they just maintained that. Once it got into the '80s and so they—that all went away, that just was done with.

E Elliot Wesselborg 14:11
And were there men and women in those bars for the most part?

R Richard Galnek 14:15
Yeah. Yeah.

E Elliot Wesselborg 14:18
Were people involved in any kind of, like, drag scene or otherwise gender-nonconforming behavior?

R Richard Galnek 14:26
There was, there was a few drag queens. They'd have drag queen shows where they'd get up on stage and lip sync to songs and everybody, you know—they would all dress up. I kind of found that boring, but my friends liked it, so I'd go with them. But I don't know, it just seemed kind of silly to me.

E Elliot Wesselborg 14:49
So when are you finding out that being trans is a thing?

R Richard Galnek 14:53
Excuse me?

E Elliot Wesselborg 14:54
When did you find out that being trans was a thing?

R Richard Gralnek 14:57
Well, it was in a doctor's office for something and I had picked up a Time magazine sitting on the coffee table and they had an article on transsexuals. And I had never even heard the word—was probably in the early '70s—and I read the article on—I was just, just stunned because it was me. You know, they were writing about me, in a way. And that's what opened the door to all that for me. I had never, never heard of that at all and it was, it was just a stunning revelation. I was just stunned by it.

E Elliot Wesselborg 15:42
Do you remember what the article was about?

R Richard Gralnek 15:45
Not specifically, except it was, it was a really big, long article, somewhere in the early—it had to be—oh, gosh, I'm trying to think of where I lived at the time—it had to be somewhere between '72 and '76 and probably closer to 1972. And I don't even know, you know, why the article was in there, but it was, it was a big article. It was—somebody decided this was an important thing to print. And yeah, and I was just, I was just blown away with it. It changed the whole course of my life.

E Elliot Wesselborg 16:29
Did the article mention people who are female-to-male as well as male-to-female?

R Richard Gralnek 16:36
I don't remember it to that degree, but I'm sure that it did. It did. Although, you know, drag queens have always been more visible and a lot of times drag queens—people became drag queens, just so they could dress up like women and go outside that way. It wasn't the same thing with the female-to-males, because women, as women, could wear really masculine clothing and nobody gave a poop, but you know, some guy couldn't go to work in a blouse, but a woman could go to work in a man's shirt and nobody blinked. So I think it was more impactful for the, for the, uh, male-to-female group than vice versa.

E Elliot Wesselborg 17:25
So when you realized that being trans was a thing and that you are trans, what did you do?

R

Richard Gralnek 17:32

Well, I talked to my girlfriend about it, and she was, she was very—she was very scared of what people would say at work about her and I, and what her family would think. And she was, she was more outer-related: What's the world going to think? And I was much more inner-related: like, What am I going to think? And, uh, and I did talk to my parents about it. And they were—they were very—I mean, these people were—my parents, when they adopted me, were in their mid forties, so they were in their sixties, at least, by the time this came up to them that openly, and they were very—they were okay with it. They said, Well, you know, if that's what you got to do, then, you know, we'll support you.

R

Richard Gralnek 18:28

But my girlfriend was not interested in that at all. Not because she wasn't interested in me, but because she didn't want her family talking about her and people at work talking about her and I was totally the opposite person on that. I never cared at all. You know, it was like, it's, it's my life and if they don't like it, they can step out of it, but I can't step out of it, because it's mine. So eventually we broke up. She left me for someone else.

R

Richard Gralnek 19:05

And I was friends at the time with the lady who was the—I don't know what to—director of education is not really the term, but she was high up in the Planned Parenthood office here. And I asked her, I said, "Who can I go to for a therapist to get started, you know, doing this journey?" And she gave me the name of a lady and I made an appointment with her and that was the start of the whole thing. And I had to go to therapy, because no, no place, no gender identity clinic, as they were known then, anywhere in the United States would take you unless you had been—had already been previewed, I guess.

R

Richard Gralnek 20:04

And—but I decided at that point, I wasn't going to leave the city I lived in. I owned my own home and I'd had a good job for twelve years and I couldn't see any reason to leave and go somewhere. I thought I could get it done here. And that's what I ended up doing. I had to be—I had to be in therapy for, I don't know, it was probably four or five months, and they started me on hormone shots. And so I've been taking those every other week for the last forty-some years. Forty-three years.

E

Elliot Wesselborg 20:49

How did you learn about the fact that you needed to be in therapy to pursue transition?

R

Richard Gralnek 20:56

Well, I just knew I had to, because I couldn't just walk into a doctor's office and say, "I need some hormones and, and I want to have, you know, my breasts removed and a hysterectomy," without them going, "Yeah, well, you need to see somebody before you see me." So I knew I had to—I knew I had to be verified somehow, before they would do anything. And so that's why I was seeing the therapist. And one doctor was—he was very—he was kind of concerned. He was the one that was going to do my hysterectomy. And he said that I—he wanted me to have a bunch of psychological testing done, because he didn't want me to come back in ten years and sue him, saying that, you know, he didn't realize I was crazy and he should have. So he, he wanted those tests done. So I had those done. And after, you know, after I got the test done and I, then—I was already on hormones, but then I had my breasts removed, first. I figured that, first of all, they were obvious, and I figured once I got that done, and it went well, then I would go into total hysterectomy, because that was a—it was this more in-depth procedure. Breasts really just sit on your chest, you know, you don't go into a body cavity. So I had those removed.

R

Richard Gralnek 22:37

And before I did that, I went in to my manager at work and told her I had something to talk to her about. And so that's when I told her that I was going to have my breasts removed and I wanted to give—have people use my male name. And she said—my company was just wonderful. She said, "That's fine. When you come back to work, you'll have a new name nameplate on your desk and they'll call you by that name, and that'll be it." And so that's what happened. I went in and had my breasts removed and came back to work after a couple of weeks. And people were real leery of me. They—and I've worked with these people a long time, but I think the thing was, they had no idea what to talk to me about. It was—because the conversations were different after that than before that, because this whole new thing had come in kind of between us. And so while they were supportive, I think they just had no idea what to say to me.

E

Elliot Wesselborg 23:56

Going back to how you were able to get those surgeries and hormones: How did you find doctors who were willing to treat you?

R

Richard Gralnek 24:07

Well, I had taken before—right after high school, I had taken a course in operating—operator—I can't speak—operator technician, where you do kind of the work of a nurse in the operating room. You get the room set up, you get the patient set up, you set out the, the surgical tools that the doctor is going to use, and then you hand him the tools. You have to know what, what they are, so when he asks for something, you can pass it out to him. And I did that for a while, but I had an odd back injury and I didn't realize I was going to be standing as long as I was going to be standing. So I had to give that up and went into working for insurance companies in their home offices.

R

Richard Gralnek 25:09

And so I knew several doctors from just being in the operating room with them. And I picked out in my head about four or five of them to write to for my breast removal and just sent letters out, explained my situation and how long I'd been at my job, I owned my own home, trying to let them know I was stable and that I had a job, because insurance wouldn't pay for any of this. I had to pay for it myself. And one guy wrote back and—or called me and he said, "You know, I spent all this time looking at your letter, thinking about why I couldn't or shouldn't do this surgery" and then he said, "I decided to think of it in the reverse—of why I should and could and that made better sense to me." So I went in and—went in the hospital and had them removed. I had friends over at the hospital the night before and we kind of had a little party in my room. And I called it a Getting It All Off Your Chest Party. (Elliot laughs)

R

Richard Gralnek 26:23

And then I went in, had the surgery, woke up the next day and put my hands on my chest and it was flat, which was—I just was so happy about that. It was probably one of the, one of the best moments of my life was just waking up and they were gone.

E

Elliot Wesselborg 26:45

What year was that?

R

Richard Gralnek 26:47

I think it was 1980. Yeah, I think it was in the—well, when I went home I had to shovel the driveway, so it must have been around January or February of 1980.

E

Elliot Wesselborg 27:02

What was your experience with the rest of the medical staff? Were they—How did they treat you?

R

Richard Gralnek 27:11

Everybody was fine. I mean, I have no idea what they thought or said to one another when they were out of my sight. But they gave me really good care. They were attentive. Nobody said anything or made any snide remarks, which I wouldn't have cared about anyway, you know. I was here to have the surgery. I didn't want to win a personality contest. I just wanted to get out alive with no boobs. So I didn't really care what they thought about me. But they were—yeah, they were great.

R

Richard Gralnek 27:45

And so then, after that, this was January—let's just say January of 1980. Well, then, of course, then I have to get rid of the internal organs. So I did the same thing. I pulled out about four or five doctors that I remembered that we're gynecologists and did surgery and wrote them a letter. And then the guy that answered my letter and did—actually did the hysterectomy. He was the one that talked about how I had to be psychologically sound before he would do that. He was a character though, anyway. He was—I really, I really liked him as a doctor.

R

Richard Gralnek 28:28

But I went in and they took everything out the next day, you know. I remember being wheeled back to the room and I said, "You know, I got to go to the bathroom." And the aide said, "Well, can you get up and walk in there?" I said, "Yeah, I can get up and walk in there." So I got up and walked in there. Well, off course, once somebody's playing around in your innards, sometimes they don't want to work, so I couldn't go to the bathroom. I ended up getting catheterized. But I had—it was a—I was just amazed because I had such little pain. I took—I had some shots, I think the day of the surgery and the next day I told them, "I don't need any, because I'm not in that much pain." And went home the day after that.

E

Elliot Wesselborg 29:21

And so you paid for all of this out of pocket yourself?

R

Richard Gralnek 29:26

Yes, yes. But see, back then, things were cheap. I mean, I had—I went in—when I had my hysterectomy, I had the hysterectomy and I was in the hospital for three days. It cost me \$1,500.

E

Elliot Wesselborg 29:45

Wow, a bargain, compared to now. (laughs)

R

Richard Gralnek 29:47

Yeah, yeah. And I can't remember. The doctor might have been \$300 or \$400. So it was, you know, it was cheap. And I had—I had money saved up, and I had a job. So I just told the hospital I would pay them \$500 a month for three months and they said, That's fine. So that's what I did. And that was it. Nowadays it costs a fortune.

E

Elliot Wesselborg 30:16

Yeah. How did you learn that you could even get top surgery or a hysterectomy, like, that that was even an option?

R

Richard Gralnek 30:27

Well, you know, I don't really remember that, except that I must have started reading articles or doing some investigation, or whatever. I mean, I knew I wanted those things done. I just wasn't—that's why I wanted to do it myself. I didn't want to be in anybody else's hands. I wanted, I wanted to do it in my own time and space and do—pick my own doctors and, you know, control my destiny, so to speak. But yeah, once I got into realizing what being transgender would be, then I knew those things had to go. And I didn't—some people at that time, were still—kept their internal organs, and then, you know, had testosterone shots as well. And I thought that was really silly, because you never know what the interaction of all the hormone stuff is going to do. One person I found later had actually died of uterine cancer. Now that may have been coincidental or it may have had to do with all of the, all of the hormone differences going on, I don't know. But I didn't want to risk the chance of having the period, somewhere, you know, out of the blue. It was like, I just wanted it all gone so I don't have to—don't even have to worry about it anymore.

E

Elliot Wesselborg 31:58

When you said you were doing research, where would you have been going to find information?

R

Richard Gralnek 32:02

Oh gosh, that's so long ago. I don't really know, I think I got a lot of stuff from my therapist that I went to, because she had, she had other clients also transitioning. And about once a month or so, then, she'd have one big meeting and we'd all get together. And so I'm sure a lot of stuff was just shared between people. Some were more affluent than others. Some had, you know, had investigated it. I was there—or when I was there, there was a guy there who was in his sixties, who ran a very good business here in town and he was going to give all that up, including his wife and children, because they were not interested in him, you know, doing this procedure and he said, "You know, I'm in my sixties and I don't have a whole long time to live, so I'm going to live it now." And he did a lot of research and went a lot of places. And so I think he opened a lot of doors for us that didn't have all that life experience.

E

Elliot Wesselborg 33:20

Who else was in the group?

R

Richard Gralnek 33:23

It was mainly, it was mainly just transgender—pre-transgender—people. Just people that were, you know, not comfortable in the bodies that they had. There was a pretty equal amount of male and female people. It wasn't a huge group. It might have been ten people.

E

Elliot Wesselborg 33:45

And you said most people were middle class?

R

Richard Gralnek 33:48

Oh, yeah. Or less.

E

Elliot Wesselborg 33:50

Okay. Was anyone—do you know whether anyone was able to access any kind of care covered by insurance at that point?

R

Richard Gralnek 34:02

I don't think at that point it covered people. There have been some insurance companies that would cover that, but it was probably none that we could get, because most of the people got their insurance from their jobs and most of them—most of those companies had riders saying that they would not pay for transsexual surgery. And most of them even wouldn't pay for cosmetic surgery, unless you were in a car accident and, you know, your face was badly damaged. But if you just decided you didn't like your nose, you got to pay for your nose yourself.

E

Elliot Wesselborg 34:47

What did the process of getting, like, your legal documentation and identification changed look like?

R

Richard Gralnek 34:54

Well, actually, it was, it was to my benefit, because nobody had—I don't think anybody had ever done that in this state, and so what I did first was to change my name. And so I got lawyers. Legally, you can just change your name. You know, if you didn't like being Suzy, you could change to Linda, and just start using it and get your paperwork change to that, like at your bank or whatever. You didn't need a court order. But I decided that everything that I could do that had a legal connotation to it would make more sense, because all I'd have to do is produce a paper, saying, "Here's my name. I have a court order. You have to change my name." And so that's what I did. I got a lawyer and went before a judge and got my name changed. And so then I'm stuck with a male name and female name on my driver's license. So I took the paperwork into the DOT (Department of Transportation) and got my name changed. They wouldn't change the sex, but they would change my name.

R

Richard Gralnek 36:10

Well, then, a while after that, I thought, Well, you know, I've got to get this F off of my driver's license. It needs to be male. So I just went into the driver's license office—and by then I had a beard, so I looked pretty male—and I showed him my driver's license, and I said, "You know, when I came in last time to get my license renewed, somebody must put an F on there, instead of an M." And the lady said, "Oh, we'll fix that." So they took another picture of me and typed "male" in there. She handed me back the driver's license and she goes, "Well, there. Now you've had a sex change." And I said, "Yeah, thanks." (both laugh) So yeah, that was pretty funny. She just didn't know how funny it was.

R

Richard Gralnek 37:02

So then, you know, time went on. And, of course, now I have my driver's license as male. And the state I was born in was New York. Well, Brooklyn isn't part of the New York state control. The five boroughs of New York actually have their own government. And if you're born outside of that, and you're born in the state of New York, you go to the state offices in Albany, New York, but if you're born in any of the five boroughs, you have to go to your borough and mine was Brooklyn. And I had to get a letter from my doctors saying the surgeries that I had and that I was male, and I had to get a letter from the place I worked, who said that I was employed there, and that I was employed there as a man and they wouldn't change the sexual connotation on my birth certificate, but they would change the name. And so I thought, Well, you know, one thing at a time, and so, that's fine, just do it.

R

Richard Gralnek 38:13

Well, then a few years later, gosh, probably ten or fifteen years later, the company I worked for was bought out by another company and we were given a severance package. And back then, we had to—because of all the immigration issues and all that—you had to have your social security card and a birth certificate. Well, I didn't want a birth certificate that had a male name and a female sex connotation on it. So I wrote for a copy of—change my birth certificate, and they sent me back a form. And the part where it had the place for sex was clear over at the edge of the paper. And I thought, You know what, I'm going to leave that blank. And so, when I sent it in and I left it blank, all they did was look at my name. So then my sex got changed to male, because they never looked—they never looked on the original birth certificate and saw female. Because my driver's license said "male"—I had to send, you know, a copy of that in—and so they just never looked any farther. So even though the law didn't allow them to do it, they did it anyway. And so now I have a birth certificate with male on it. So it was just, you know, it was just, I don't know, serendipitous, I guess, all this stuff—it just happened to work.

E

Elliot Wesselborg 39:50

Things just fell into place, somehow. (both laugh)

R

Richard Gralnek 39:53

Yeah, just lucky. But I had some interesting—really interesting experiences, which I guess one would never think of. But when I started taking my shots, I happened to be very sensitive to testosterone, because they took—they started me on a really minimal dose.

Back then, doctors didn't really know what to do with all—how to dose people. So then the guy that I got was just out of medical school—the doctor—and he said, "Well, we're going to start low, because we can always give you more." And they started me on a really minimal dose, and it worked just fine. I've never raised it in all the forty years. But I mean, within like two weeks, my voice started to drop. In like six months, I would start to get face hair, which I just left alone. It was kind of interesting at work, because I looked a little moth-eaten. You know, I mean, I had little hairs growing out of one side of the cheek and it was very, very strange, but nobody ever said anything. And people'd say, Well, didn't they—anybody say something? I say, "Well, would you walk up to a lady and go, you know, you got hair growing out of your face?" Nobody would—nobody's going to say that. So they just—it was just kind of the issue that was there that nobody touched.

R

Richard Gralnek 41:18

And um—see, where was I going with all that? Hmm. I had a point to it. Oh! So anyway, then, of course, when I was out in public, I could walk into a store and say—you know, talk to a clerk and they go, "Thank you, sir." And I could walk into the next door and they'd say, "Thank you, ma'am." And I never argued with anybody over it. It seemed really futile. I'm just in a grocery store, you know what I mean? I don't care what sex they think I am. But it was funny, when I'd go in with friends, we'd all, you know, we'd snicker and just _____ what a boob (??). Because, you know, it was just, it was just fun.

R

Richard Gralnek 42:02

But one time I went camping with this lesbian couple that I'd been friends with for years, and at that point, I still probably wasn't male enough to go into a male—totally male bathroom without somebody looking at me, but you know, so that left me with a female bathroom. Well, what I learned real quickly was that if I took one of them in the bathroom with me, no matter how strange I looked, nobody seemed to be bothered by me. But if I went in by myself, they all got terrified, because they didn't know what I was. So, so that's what I would do. Somebody had to babysit me in the bathroom—every time I went to the bathroom, or showered, or whatever. And then, I was sitting down at the lake fishing. My friends were back at the tent. And this little boy came up and he says, "Well are you a man or a woman?" And you know, for this game, I was a woman, because I was trying to be a woman in the bathroom. So I said, "Well, I'm a lady. I'm a woman." He goes, "No, you're not." So we argued about what sex I was, which was incredibly amusing. And then one of my friends came back to get me for dinner, and we're walking back to the tent, and this little boy's on a swing—his mother's pushing him on a swing. He's probably like nine years old, something like that. And he points to me and he says to his mother, "There's that guy that thinks he's a woman." And I tell you, we laughed for so long. I mean, I'm surprised we

just weren't rolling in the grass, it was so funny. (both laugh)

E

Elliot Wesselborg 43:53

Did you—so you mentioned that you were friends with that lesbian couple. What was the reaction from the lesbian community, when you came out, if you were still connected with people?

R

Richard Gralnek 44:06

Yeah, I was connected with some. It was, it was kind of an interesting phenomenon. Because—of course, the Women's Movement had really started at that point, in the early '70s—and so there was a lot, I think there was a lot of hostility against men at that point. And so—and this one lady, well, she said to me, she said, "Well, now you're going to go from being the oppressed, to becoming the oppressor," and I said, "I've never been either one of those. I don't know what your life's like, but I haven't been oppressing anybody and I don't really feel oppressed." So there was, there was a lot of anger about it. Like, you know, I was, I was betraying them by giving up being a woman. It's strange.

E

Elliot Wesselborg 45:04

Do you think that was mostly coming from people who identified as feminists or just a general sentiment?

R

Richard Gralnek 45:12

Well, the whole thing, in a way, lesbianism—or at least the people I, you know, were involved with—the whole idea is that you're women loving women. And that was never my identification. So I never fit in with that at all. But it was, it was like a validation of self for them, I think. And so, for me to throw that away and take another value—they just couldn't understand that. It just didn't make any sense to them. Even the—not so much—the really, really masculine, butch women—and some of them were very masculine—I think were less about that. It was more of the feminine women that seemed to be bothered by it, because the other ones had taken on part of a role of being masculine. But the others were just—for lack of another term—just plain, old women, you know. They, they didn't have that, that—they couldn't understand why anybody would want to be a man, I guess.

E

Elliot Wesselborg 46:41

Were your experiences of transitioning—do you think they were similar to, like, those other people you knew from that support group?

R

Richard Gralnek 46:50

Well, a lot of them didn't go very far with it. They either didn't have money, which was the main, you know—if you don't have the money, you might as well forget it, because there's no way to do that. And others, you know, could have stayed—like, I didn't transition for a while, because of my girlfriend, who, you know—I had to weigh in my head: is it more important for me to be male and lose her, or will I be okay keeping her and staying female? Because—and kind of inside my own head it's like, it's not a death sentence being a woman. It's—I can still control my own destiny: I do and wear and think and whatever, wherever I want. It's just the exterior that would change. And so I decided there's no rush. I'll just ride with it for a little bit. Well, then when she left—I mean, I literally was probably two weeks after that talking to my friend at Planned Parenthood. I knew this was my, this was my chance and whoever was going to get me next was going to get me as male.

R

Richard Gralnek 48:09

And it ended up that eight years later, we got back together again. And she was still kind of antsy about marrying me or, you know, being identified as—she was scared that people would still remember me as her old girlfriend and—instead of male, but her family was very much for it. We had a nice little wedding and she had—we sent out invitations. Oh, probably a hundred and some invitations—mainly her family. Mine was all dead—and most of them showed up. And these were people in their seventies and eighties at that time. They were, you know, in-laws and sisters and brothers to her mother and father's side of the family. So we had a really good wedding. A lot of people. And then she was fine, you know, she was fine with it. So we've been together ever since.

E

Elliot Wesselborg 49:09

Were you able to get legally married?

R

Richard Gralnek 49:12

Yes. Yeah. All I had to do, see—all I had to do was walk in and get a license, you know, marriage license, because my ID all showed me as male. And I had a beard. And so nobody would even have questioned that. And they didn't.

- R** Richard Gralnek 49:38
I might have been the first person in the state of Iowa to get married that way.
- E** Elliot Wesselborg 49:43
Wow.
- R** Richard Gralnek 49:44
I have no idea what other people were doing. But—I mean, they didn't know—the state didn't know any more than what they saw on my paperwork and me.
- E** Elliot Wesselborg 50:00
Yeah. (pause) Were there any, um—outside of that group at the doctor's office, or the therapist's office, did you know any trans—other trans people, at that point?
- R** Richard Gralnek 50:20
No. No, I don't think—I don't think—no, I didn't know any at all—male-to-female or female-to-male, I didn't know anybody.
- E** Elliot Wesselborg 50:37
What were you—were you seeing anything, like, in the media about trans people? Or was it really just your own life was what you had for reference.
- R** Richard Gralnek 50:51
I don't think I had any reference. I was my own reference. I just, you know, I just had a mission, so to speak, of becoming male. And whatever it took to do that, I would do that. And I figured I'd learn the ropes along the way, which I did. Yeah, I don't—I don't remember any transgender people. A few years later I met several and, you know, became friends with some of them. But by that point I'd already, I'd already made my own identity.
- E** Elliot Wesselborg 51:39
Prior to getting back together with like, the woman who would become your wife, were you dating at all?

R

Richard Gralnek 51:46

Yes. Oh, yeah, I dated quite a bit. I got married a couple of times before she and I got back together. And it didn't—the first—I'm trying to think—The first person—first lady, it didn't work out with very well. She, uh—it's kind of sad, because she actually was so terrified of being left, so to speak, that she actually tried to control my life down to just about anything. You know, she wanted where I was, what I was doing, who I was doing it with, where was I spending my money, and I said, "You know what, it's time for you to go." And so I divorced her, like, I can't live with this. And the second lady, she and I had been friends for a while and we were doing pretty good together. I mean, I was raised as an only child, so I'm not really used to—what am I trying to say—and my folks were very lenient. They just—I could go to a dance, you know, with my friends on a Saturday night—and this was before I had a car—and I could call them up, like eleven o'clock, when the place closed and just say, "I'm going to go to a party with friends and somebody will bring me home, sometime in the middle of the night." My dad'd go, "Okay, bye bye." I mean, they were just extremely lenient. I could do just about anything I wanted and nobody seemed to be bothered by it. So. So I was just used to—I was just used to, you know, being the commander of my own ship and then when I got somebody else on there, that was trying to tug at the wheel, it was like, Yeah, no, we're not going to do that.

R

Richard Gralnek 53:47

So, the second lady—I actually divorced her, because my first girlfriend came back and wanted to, you know, wanted to get back together with me. And so that's what happened with my second wife, although she and I remained friends and still are friends.

E

Elliot Wesselborg 54:12

I want to go back to um, like talking a little bit about your experience at your company after transitioning.

R

Richard Gralnek 54:21

Yeah.

E

Elliot Wesselborg 54:24

How long did you stay there? What were—did you ever experience any kind of like harassment or anything as a result of transitioning?

R

Richard Gralnek 54:34

I stayed there I think two years after transitioning and I only had—well, the department that I worked in was—oh, how do I say it?—you could call it the complaint department, but anything that went wrong—I worked in a company that did auto insurance and so anything that had to do with a consumer issue with their policy or their coverage or whatever, that's what my department dealt with. And I actually was the liaison between the company I worked for and the State of Iowa Insurance Commission. So if the, if the Attorney General or whoever, the insurance section of it, would get a complaint from a policyholder, then they had procedures that they used and then they would send everything to me and then I'd have to research what the customer's issue was. I'd have to get a hold of the agent and say, "What did you tell him when you were selling the contract?" All this different stuff. So I had a really interesting job there.

R

Richard Gralnek 55:54

And my boss was married to the Vice President of the company and so he would come down and talk to her. And I sat a few desks away from her, so he'd come and talk to me. (clears throat) And one day he came down and he said he had a story to tell me. And so I said, "Well, what is it?" And this guy in a different department had not been comfortable with me being in the bathroom with him—in the men's room—and so he, you know, was complaining about that, and the Vice President told him, he said, "Well, you know, this company has about five or six different bathrooms." He said, "You could either use a different bathroom or you could go work for another company." And that was that.

R

Richard Gralnek 56:48

That was the only, the only thing I ever heard that was, you know, derogatory or whatever, but I'm sure there was other stuff that went on that just never got to me. But I didn't care. I had a job. That's what I—you know, and I enjoyed the job and the people there. But what I finally got tired of was in my own head, I was kind of like the office transexual. You know, there was no way to get around that if they hired anybody new or whatever they'd do. Well, this guy used to be a woman. So I could never get out from under that, there. And so I did quit and I didn't want to, because I did like the place and the people and the job that I did and all that. But what it gave me, when working there throughout this transition, is it gave me a male past to take my next job. The human resources department wrote a recommendation letter and it was all "he" and "he did this" and "he'd been here this number of years" and all of this, you know, for me to take on to another job. A lot of people that transition have no jobs when they're in that transition point, because they don't look one sex or the other. And, you know, all sorts of stuff goes on in their lives, some hardly have the money to pay for it. So they may have four, five, six, seven years of no job

experience. Like, what did you do for seven years? I didn't do anything? Well, you don't do that unless you're pretty wealthy. And none of these people were. So I had a built-in past. I could just go step from one company to another, having held down a job and having a male ID. And so I just went into the next company as a man and I didn't have any of that residual memory thing from people that I worked with, which was kind of interesting, because when I took the job the manager said, "Well, we had a guy here before you, but he didn't work out, so you're the last chance to have a guy in this job." I go, "Oh gosh, the pressure." (both laugh) But I said, "Oh, okay, no problem." And of course, everybody was fine with me and I was fine with them and they started hiring more men for the job. It was just kind of funny.

E

Elliot Wesselborg 59:24

So that had been predominantly like a female-held jobs beforehand?

R

Richard Gralnek 59:27

It had been—yeah, it had been. And I don't know, maybe because this was in, oh, must have been '82 maybe—I think they were trying to open—making jobs less gender-oriented. If it was a job—if you have to lift hundred-pound sacks of grain, you know, that might be—not too many women going to do that. But if it's just an office job, anybody can do it. And so they were trying to blend departments into male and female people working in them, instead of just you know, the typing pool is all women and the underwriting department is all man—is they were integrating the system.

E

Elliot Wesselborg 59:45

Did you—at your first company, were there ever any issues because the job you were working was perceived as predominantly a female environment?

R

Richard Gralnek 60:28

No, no, that wasn't any issue at all for that.

E

Elliot Wesselborg 60:36

Okay. I also wanted to ask a little bit about your decision to stay in your city for—to pursue transition care. What were—what would have been the other option if you didn't stay there?

R

Richard Gralnek 60:54

Well, the other option would be I would have to sell my house, which I owned. I mean, I didn't have a mortgage on it; I had paid it off. And I would have to get a whole new job somewhere and I would have to do the transitioning on top of all that. Back then, I think there was several—gender identity clinics is what they called them—and one was up in Minneapolis, and it was a really big one. It was—it saw a lot of people. And this friend of mine who was transitioning lived up there and I went up to visit him a couple of times. And it was interesting, because there was this whole large group of people, both male and female, on the periphery of the clinic, because they—for whatever reason, the clinic decided that they were not good candidates for surgery or, or any sexual change things. Whether they didn't have money or they were psychologically unstable. I don't know the reasoning behind that. So there was this little area underneath of the clinic where these people were just kind of left hanging. And it was, it was interesting, because I met some of them, and some I could see why they probably emotionally or mentally they might have not been deemed successful if they had gone through it. Other people just didn't have the money. They couldn't hold down a job, because they were either dressing too masculinely for women or too femininely for men and, and I just didn't want to go through all that.

R

Richard Gralnek 62:52

The, the gentleman that I spoke about before, that I had therapy with—the older guy who decided he was going to give up his company and his family to go through this change—he was going up there and he even—he had to go once a week. So once a week, he'd have to drive up to Minneapolis and back and drive up to Minneapolis and back. And finally, you know—and I mean, he was obviously a competent person. He was the president of a company that his family had and he was abdicating that to give that to somebody else to run. He was just going to walk away from it. But he was, he was obviously a competent person. And they just—the clinic just, you know, coming up week after week and week after week. And finally I said to him, "You know, you're just moneybags to them. You're obviously competent. You can't run a company and, you know, and have a family and do all that you did, and not be well enough to go through sex change surgery, you know, mentally. I don't know about physically, but mentally." And I said, "You need to find some—you need to figure out something else. You need to either go to another clinic or try and do—like I'm going to do—do it on your own, whatever it is you have to do. You need to let these people go, because you're just paying their salary. You're never going to get well, because you're more beneficial to them not well." Well, he went in another month and he finally decided I was right and he divorced his wife and left his kids and went somewhere out west, I think Arizona. And I'm not sure anymore; it's been too many years ago, but he did find a clinic that took him and he had, you know, he had the, the surgeries and he had the hormones and he had all that and he wrote back to the

therapist at the—where I was going, about how happy he was that he had gotten rid of them and went out on his own. So yeah.

E

Elliot Wesselborg 65:13

Were the doctors who are treating you—were they willing to treat other trans patients after you?

R

Richard Gralnek 65:20

Actually, they did. They did treat others. The guy that did my breast removal went on to do other people—other, you know, female-to-males. I think most of them actually used him, because once he answered his question, you know, whether it was right for me or not, I think it was easier for him to answer that same question about whether it was right for these other people. I don't know if the guy that did my hysterectomy took any on, but I'm guessing he probably did. So, um, so we had our own little clinic down here, I guess. At least surgical clinics. People got their surgery needs taken care of. And I don't know when all that dissolved, but it probably, it probably was gone by the early '90s. You know, the therapist had probably retired by then and I don't know that they were actually treating any more transgender people. I left the group once I got everything done, which, you know, was my goal. Once I'd reached my goal, I couldn't see any point in, in remaining, because all I was looking for was someone to verify that I wasn't nuts, and they verified that, so I just went on with my life.

E

Elliot Wesselborg 66:50

Do you know how those surgeon names and therapist names got passed around the community?

R

Richard Gralnek 66:56

I think probably from the lady at Planned Parenthood, if she talked to any people, and my therapist, because most of the people wanted to have—just like I did—they didn't want to leave town, they didn't want to leave their jobs, they didn't want to leave their friends or their family and go to some strange place and pay a fortune to have that done, when they could do it locally with a doctor that wouldn't gouge you and the therapist was very reasonably priced. And so yeah, I'm sure that a lot more people got done. I don't have any idea how many, but I met, you know, three or four along the way who went through them. So yeah, I mean, the therapist probably just said, When you're done, done with, you know—when you're started on hormones and things are going right for you, then we'll talk

about surgery. And that's the people that they used.

R

Richard Gralnek 68:00

They used, uh—they had one guy in town at the time—this was in '79 or '80—who would prescribe hormones and then we'd come into the office and get a shot. And, and then at some point, you could give yourself shots. I could never do that. Like, no, I can't stick that needle in my leg. But I could buy my hormones—the actual medication—through a pharmacy. And so that's what I did. I would just buy it. And I had a friend that was a nurse and she would give me the shot. And then eventually I taught my wife how to do it, then she'd give me the shot.

E

Elliot Wesselborg 68:48

This is slightly tangential, but were you aware of the, like, Reed Erickson Educational Foundation at that point? Was that ever a name you came across.

R

Richard Gralnek 68:57

It doesn't sound familiar.

E

Elliot Wesselborg 68:59

Okay. Just wondering. Um, okay, I wanted to ask whether you've been involved in, like, any kind of advocacy work around trans issues.

R

Richard Gralnek 69:13

Uh, not really. I've joined some small groups—people try to get little, little—I don't want to say "self help" groups, but just, you know, so people had friends and somebody to talk to and share experiences with. And those—I've never seen them work that well. I'm not sure what the, what the issue is or—it just didn't—it was very hard to make friends within that group. So that was my thing, because I felt like my life was going fine, but, you know, it never hurts to have new people, it never hurts to have new experiences, and it would be interesting to get in with these—with people who were living the same kind of life I was living, but I found it very difficult. I don't know if it was my personality or, or them, or both, but it was, it was very hard to make a connection with anybody.

E Elliot Wesselborg 70:20
(pause) Sorry, I'm just thinking about—there's so many different things that we've covered, but, um. Were you aware of any, um, like any work that was happening in terms of activism or legal policy changes for trans people at that time? Was that on your radar?

R Richard Gralnek 70:57
No. No, once I was done with it, that didn't have—that didn't really have any purpose for me. And I don't think there was that much of it going on. That was—all that stuff mainly went on really in big cities, when you had big groups and a lot of the people that were transgender were also lawyers or doctors or, you know, somebody with influence and money. Here was just plain old folk. Except for the guy that was the president of his company, most of us were just, you know, standard people.

E Elliot Wesselborg 71:40
How has, like, the increased visibility of trans issues and people impacted your life, if at all?

R Richard Gralnek 71:52
I don't think it has. I've kind of—once I, once I transitioned and got into—got away from my old business and—where nobody knew me as anything but, you know, the guy they'd just hired, I really kind of left that back, I guess. It's just like I walked right out of the door and that was it. I mean, if I saw something on TV or read it, it was interesting, but I probably would never get out there and be an activist or any of that. It was—selfishly enough, I just did it for my own purpose. And I'm not sure that I would be that interested in going out and activ—you know, doing something for other people. Probably a lot of that is just because, once you get out, then it's easy to lose control of your own information and your own life. And so, yeah.

E Elliot Wesselborg 73:10
What do you think has changed for the better for trans people or for the worse in the time since you transitioned?

R Richard Gralnek 73:21
Well, of course, for me, there was no rules at all. The state didn't have any rules. Nobody'd

heard of this stuff. So I made my own and they—and tricked them a little bit, as well. And so, for me it was easy. Once you give another power—whatever it is, doctor, lawyer, the government, whatever—some kind of control over your life, I'm not sure it's ever really good. And so, if—you know, I think of if—I think I have the best of all worlds, going through it the way I did, because nobody had any input into it, because they didn't really know what was happening.

E

Elliot Wesselborg 74:13

Yeah, ignorance is bliss, in a way, for everyone on the other end.

R

Richard Gralnek 74:18

Yeah.

E

Elliot Wesselborg 74:20

Given that we are in the time of COVID-19, I also just wanted to talk a little bit about how your life's been impacted by that and what's going on for you in the current moment.

R

Richard Gralnek 74:32

Yeah. Well, course, I'm retired, so I don't have a job I have to go to. My wife is in a nursing home, which—we can't see one another. We can talk on the phone, but I can't go see her and she can't see me. I told her, I said, "You know, I would go to the window of your room and, you know, the"—she's bedridden and so I said, "the nurse could open the shade and we could at least wave at one another." She decided that would be too painful. She'd rather not see me than see me and not me be in the room with her. So I—well that's, you know, whatever makes you happy.

R

Richard Gralnek 75:12

And, and I have—since I was given up for adoption of birth, I got really into genealogy over the last number of years, especially once DNA became such a useful tool for that. And through that, I managed to find my birth mother's family on my own. I just—I'm a good detective. And I found that family. She had died, but I had—she had four children and all of us were from different fathers and only the last one she had, she was married with. And—but then, I couldn't—my mother had falsified all the information on my birth certificate, so my birth father's name was not really his name, and I had to wait for DNA testing to come along to find that family. And he was also dead. But we, you know—I met

—I had three half-siblings on that side of the family. And the interesting thing about that is—well, on my mother's side, you know, it was four of us and I turned out to be transgender, and my half-brother turned out to be gay. And the other two sisters—half-sisters—were both straight, as far as we know. And then on my birth father's side, there was a whole cluster of gay cousins—male and female—and a couple of transgender women, who became men.

E Elliot Wesselborg 76:58
Interesting.

R Richard Gralnek 77:00
Yeah. I'm sure it's just—I'm sure all of this stuff is just within the whole realm of population. It's just interesting when it kind of conglomerates together in a family.

E Elliot Wesselborg 77:15
Are you in contact with, with any of them?

R Richard Gralnek 77:18
Yeah, I am.

E Elliot Wesselborg 77:20
That's really nice. I also wanted to ask, because I got your contact info from Drew O'Leary, I wanted to ask how you knew him.

R Richard Gralnek 77:33
I had gone to some—I think it's One Iowa, here. I had gotten to some of their meetings and some stuff and he was just a person at the table with the rest of us. And different subjects came up and different people talked and I liked him. I thought, This guy really is with it. And so I dropped—I talked to him when we were leaving and I gave him my name and my phone number and just said that, you know, "I'd like to get together and visit with you sometime, if you have a chance." And so that's how we met.

- E** Elliot Wesselborg 78:14
What kind—
- R** Richard Gralnek 78:15
And we've gone to lunch together a couple of times and stuff together. And he is really a nice guy.
- E** Elliot Wesselborg 78:23
Yeah, no, he definitely is. What kind of events were you going to at One Iowa?
- R** Richard Gralnek 78:32
You know, I can't remember anymore. I've gone to a couple of events and I don't even remember what they are, except the food was good. (Elliot laughs) And the other thing was some kind of group meeting. They were trying to work on growing old and being, you know, gay and trans and all this kind of thing. And unfortunately, it got me at a time when I was having some really bad heart issues and I couldn't make it to the meetings, because they would inevitably turn up—the meeting would inevitably be when I had a doctor's appointment, or I was just too exhausted to go to the meeting. So it was, it was more meetings than anything.
- E** Elliot Wesselborg 79:18
Do you have concerns about growing older as someone who's trans?
- R** Richard Gralnek 79:22
Uh, kind of yes and no. I'm not, I'm not sure. I don't know. The more, the more issue I think, rather than with people or being in the nursing home, is that a lot of places I have a feeling probably would find me an uncomfortable person to have, because they couldn't put me in a room with women—or a woman—and they really couldn't put you in a room with a man. So I'm going to get my own room, and that's more expensive so the—you know what I mean?
- E** Elliot Wesselborg 80:04
Yeah.

R Richard Gralnek 80:04
So that might make it harder to, to find a place. I'm not so sure people would be, you know, upset by me or disgusted by me or any of that. But there's—I'm sure by the time they deal with people, you know, in their eighties or seventies or whatever in the nursing home, they've seen just about everything they're going to see.

E Elliot Wesselborg 80:32
It's probably true.

R Richard Gralnek 80:33
Yeah, so it's more or less I'd rather not be in a room with either sex, just my own room would be great and this probably would make that happen, because—you know, it's just like in prisons, they have—the transgender people are kept somewhere else. You know, they're kept in different cells. It's too dangerous to mingle people. And whoever I got in a room with—I was in a room with some guy and the guy's wife came to visit and somebody said, "Well, you know, this guy used to be a woman," she's not going to probably want me in there, and vice versa. So it'll be an interesting thing. I'm—I'd like to live long enough outside of a nursing home and just go in at the very end, if I can, if I can do it, but I'm not sure I have that kind of control.

E Elliot Wesselborg 81:33
I think that's, that's definitely everyone's wish is to—I don't know—stay in control of everything you can for as long as possible.

R Richard Gralnek 81:40
Yeah. Yeah.

E Elliot Wesselborg 81:43
Well, I'm—I've, like, kind of wrapped up what I wanted to ask you, but is there anything else that you want to share, or you feel that we haven't touched on?

R Richard Gralnek 81:53
No, I think it's been very well-rounded. I think you and I have touched on probably all of

the major, all of the major things.

E Elliot Wesselborg 82:02
Okay. Any minor things you want to mention?

R Richard Gralnek 82:05
No, no.

E Elliot Wesselborg 82:07
Okay.

R Richard Gralnek 82:07
No, I think it's been very well-rounded. Hopefully it will answer a lot of questions for people or raise some from others, too.

E Elliot Wesselborg 82:18
Well, I want to thank you so much for talking with me. It's been really great.

R Richard Gralnek 82:22
Well, thank you very much for inviting me.

E Elliot Wesselborg 82:25
Of course.