

## **Covid\_bryant\_nancy**

*Cara:* Today is August 24, 2020, and we at the Ashland Library are interviewing Nancy Bryant about how Covid has affected her life.

*Cara:* Nancy, when did you first hear about the coronavirus?

*Nancy:* You know, I don't know the date. I know I remember reading about it online, but it was coming out of China and they closed China. They closed the city in China. And I remember thinking, "Aha," but it never occurred to me that it would make it here.

*Cara:* What was your reaction when you first started hearing about it?

*Nancy:* I guess because as old as I am, I've lived through a lot of diseases and it's just one more.

*Cara:* Who all lives in your home right now?

*Nancy:* Just me.

*Cara:* What challenges or changes had to take place in that home specific to the virus?

*Nancy:* Well, I don't grocery shop in Dodge anymore, and I don't go to Walmart in Dodge anymore, but that's it.

*Cara:* When did the virus first become real to you, when it first started affecting your life?

*Nancy:* Well, I went to the grocery store. There really wasn't any toilet paper. And I snuck into Dodge and there really wasn't any toilet paper. And I went to Wal-Mart and there really wasn't any paper. And that's when I thought, "Huh, this is real."

*Cara:* And anything else that changed right away with the virus?

*Nancy:* No, that was it.

*Cara:* There wasn't any toilet paper! How did you feel when they closed the schools?

*Nancy:* I felt sorry for the kids because you need to be in school. On the other hand, they were really lucky, you know, because they got out of school! And then I felt really sorry for the parents because there's no babysitting system here, there's no place for them to go. I was really upset when they closed the playground, because I know a lot of kids would go down and play on the playground.

*Cara:* I don't even know when they opened that back up.

*Nancy:* Yeah, I don't know when they did, I presume when they started school, but I would have thought when they started swimming again.

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*Cara:* Were there any changes that were so incremental, you didn't notice them at first?

*Nancy:* I don't think so.

*Cara:* What is your job situation right now?

*Nancy:* Part time and volunteer.

*Cara:* Has it changed any because of Covid?

*Nancy:* Can I say I'm glad the kids aren't here anymore? It's a lot quieter. I can take time and alphabetize everything with the books. I'm not glaring severely at three kids who are pounding each other on the computer.

*Cara:* So, you're saying there's always positives along with the negatives?

*Nancy:* Well, I do worry about the kids, but yes, it's really nice as far as I'm concerned. It's very nice.

*Cara:* When do you think life will get back to normal and why that time?

*Nancy:* I don't know if it ever really will get back to completely normal, because I don't know what completely normal is going to be, I think we'll always be social distancing. I think it's something we have learned. Not in movies and concerts and things like that, but just when standing around talking to people everybody backs up. Washing your hands all the time.

*Cara:* What changes do you think are temporary and what do you think might change long term in our new normal?

*Nancy:* I don't know about temporary, because in a small island like this, half of the people aren't doing any of the things they're supposed to anyway, although I must say more people are wearing masks when they go to the post office and the social distancing is getting better. You know, they don't walk out of the post office, all three of them, and stand right next to each other and chat for 15 minutes while you're waiting to go into the post office to get away from people. But I think we'll probably always have to social distance. And I think probably, a lot of times, maybe it'll spike and go up and down and we'll have to wear masks.

*Cara:* Even out here?

*Nancy:* Even out here, yeah. I think we're just so lucky here that we haven't had a death.

*Cara:* Yes, and we haven't lost any young people.

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*Nancy:* And it hasn't killed four older people at the rest home, like it has in so many other places. It made me mad this morning on Facebook, "Oh, we don't want to wear a mask and we want to visit our old people at the rest home." Well, come on in and kill them. It makes me mad that they don't... I know it's hard on the older people, I know it's hard on them, but, "What are you doing Sunday? Let's go up and kill Grandma."

*Cara:* You think it's a little selfish?

*Nancy:* I think it is.

*Cara:* What is your reaction to Covid at this point, how do you feel about it?

*Nancy:* I don't think we have a choice to feel about it. It's here. It's something we're going to have to deal with.

*Cara:* And when you say, "Deal with it," you mean prepare to try not to get sick... How do you deal with it?

*Nancy:* Just plan on... OK, if I do go to have to go to Dodge or to a WalMart or someplace like that, I do it Wednesday morning. I don't go on Saturday when it's all crowded. I plan things and I will go and buy groceries for two months. It's just more planning when you go out. Do I have a mask? It occurred to me this morning I've been really good with my masks. I haven't washed them since I first put them on a month ago. It's like, well, that's not working (the cloth ones).

*Nancy:* So much for me, feeling highly superior about what I do.

*Cara:* You're not giving it to others!

*Nancy:* No, I'm not. But I have to go home, and I thought I'd throw them in the washing machine.

*Cara:* Do you have any other things that in 20 years you'd wish people knew about how we dealt with Covid?

*Nancy:* I'm sort of torn, I wish we didn't have the social media because I think there's so many scares going around and misinformation. And on the other hand, it is the place where everybody goes to get information. And it'll be interesting to see 20 years from now if they don't look back and go, "Oh, look what they did. Look what they were believing." And they we'll know more about it than we know now, which I think is absolutely nothing.

*Cara:* Nancy, thank you very much.

*Nancy:* You're welcome.