

[OH2179.Konz-Krzyminski\_file1\_access\_clip2.mp3]  
[01:04:02]

Konz-

Krzyminski: But, you know, I was in—you didn't—I was in the Navy, so it was not talked about. So that was that. So now, at this point, I'm going to my—I'm more—knowing who I am, found some clubs in Milwaukee, had a great time here, knowing who I am but, you know, still not—I had—

Halaska: What were the clubs in Milwaukee, just for—?

Konz-

Krzyminski: The clubs? Oh my god. The Factory, and I went by Robert—I didn't have the same—I didn't go by Raymond. I had a different name. Certainly didn't talk about being in the military, but [inaudible] my haircut at that time. It was like— [Halaska laughs] but it was the disco era. So it was all, you know, Circus Circus, Club 219. [Coughs] It was the disco era. It was the Village People and Donna Summer. So—and I, you know, had had a quick education on the—I think it was pretty much called—use—the word “gay” was pretty much used then. Yeah. Or I knew it was, or in that circle, at least.

But I had to go back to the—I had to go to the ship, and I was on board my ship, and I had to do my job, and I had to be nonsexual and, you know, I mean, I couldn't even joke about women. You know what? When I was in basic training, I had my sister's best friend's daughter's picture, a really pretty picture of her, that I used to tell the guys she was my girlfriend. She—because I needed to have a girlfriend, you know, because everybody else had their girlfriends, and I didn't. Anyhow, so I'm on the ship. I'm doing my job on the ship. And that was an amazing experience for me when I realized that this was a military vessel and when I realized the importance of what it was. And, you know, we had nuclear weapons on board. Those were bombs. And I think the reality of what I had gotten myself into really was present when I got on that boat. That just all really entered into me. But there was this humanity of working in the chaplain's office that I had. I learned—our function was, you know, the chaplain would get the news, you know, and when we were deployed to—from the American Red Cross. And, you know, if somebody died, or if somebody had a baby, or somebody was sick, or they didn't hear from anybody, or if there was some bad news from home—I mean, you remember, this was the '70s. There were no cell phones. There was no internet. There was—you know, I had an electric typewriter.