

Interview with Bill Cutler  
Interviewer: Blake Jones  
n.d.

**Q:** What community did you live in?

**A:** Well, a variety. I was thinking about this. Twenty five years ago, when I was in , I graduated from KU. I went to a seminary, a theology school in Kansas City. I was there and was grouped with about six others that shared a house together. Partly to save money and partly because we were all going to school together ... So that was in Kansas City about 1970 or so. And then in '71 there was a guy that I had gotten to know and he and his wife and at that time I had gotten married to my first wife, and the four of us lived on, grouped down together on a farm that were known by ... We sort of turned it into a retreat for people who lived in the city and wanted to see what the country was like. We had a huge a garden and planted it in Kansas City ... So that was kind of the same thing on the farm. I guess do you want me to go through all these or

**Q:** No, that's fine.

**A:** Then after that, the same couple and my wife and I lived together the four of us in a building that's across. I can't quite remember what it's called now. It's directly across from the student union at KU. It's ...

**Q:** Smith, the school of religion.

**A:** The school of religion is behind that. It used to have a lot of campus organization offices in it. It's to the south.

**Q:** Yea, I can't think of it.

**A:** And it used to have a day care center in the basement. In the basement there used to be a big apartment and we lived there and we exchanged for a janitorial service. So that was a sort of example ... We shared the work ... kind of stuff altogether Then for a while, for about a month, my wife ... we lived together in? it's called Sunflower House, is that what it's called still? It's down the 14<sup>th</sup> ... And I guess there are some departments the university looked at ... none set up an experiment in communal living and see what would happen. That was real interesting because it was really well structured. ... different turns with a different choice ... Then the last one would be ... at that time, my wife and another guy bought a farm between Topeka and Lawrence. All of us lived in that house, so that would be the last...

**Q:** Well, what was the common ideology in most of the different groups you were in? Was it ... or was it ...

**A:** Some of them , I suppose that you know as a group you feel part of pooling your Resources ... notice on your own I think we did have, certainly we had an earlier farm we have lived on with another couple. Philosophical, part get back to the land and part trying to be part of the idea of being a resource center. ... Probably trying to live more simple and things you could share ...

**Q:** Why do you think so many people flock to community living at one point?

**A:** Certainly the combination of lot of ... on the whole ... lot of ... use news, magazines, publication ... who were talking about the simple living in a lot of various communities ... advertised showing the story quite interesting seemed to be a good idea being with people to ...

**Q:** Do you think there is some type of predisposition towards community ...

**A:** No, they hadn't, actually they were a little skeptical about it in that they, my father is a botanist and he traveled pretty extensively through Latin America and they stayed for a while in a religious community ... women were sort of doing most of the work and the men made the decisions they sort of saw that they were, for their short stay there they did seem like they were attracted to the alternative setting. There was a curious, some ...

But, no, I don't think there's any family predisposition. And it's sort of, you know, it's an attractive idea in the sense you have an inherent, kind of a broader circle of friends. You have more ties to reach out to, and everybody knows the people you don't know.

**Q:** ...

**A:** Not, probably not directly more, certainly there's a lot of question of the, I mean ... sending people off to war ... whatever values they have ... so to that extent probably anything would be horrible you're certainly taking a look at, they don't think that's a good idea ...

**Q:** ... some literature and music where you ...

**A:** I was thinking about that, ... there were a number of things ... Danny Hoffman, he certainly was a cross of ties. In that alternative living there's a group called the Diggers in New York ... maybe group living and helping out kids who are running away, and stuff like that...it was very charismatic, anti-.... Going to this seminary in Kansas City, one of the things they got into was their class and study in religious belief. In the history of religion there's been an awful lot of communal living. Whether it's the shakers or the ... or a whole long list ... It's a lot of groups living together, and a lot of times it gives different ways to give values ... from religious to anti-religious...and different family structures, from religious polygamy, whether there was some sort of a sense of ... So it's a whole idea of the utopian society ... I mentioned the .... catalogue, and it used to come periodically, and other groups came ... came through Kansas City during that time, and they were talking about going down ... Even though that wasn't something I wanted to run out to Kansas City, it reinforces ...