

Basic Detail Report



Title Interview with Eric Fleming

Date 2022 April 22

Primary Maker Eric Fleming

Basic Detail Report

Medium born digital audio file

Description (a) Interview with Eric Fleming. Interviewed by Peter Moran and

Abbie Cowan on April 22, 2022 at the Connecticut Historical Society, One

Elizabeth Street, Hartford. (b) Photograph of Eric Fleming taken at his interview.

He was interviewed as part of the Connecticut Historical Society's Community

History Project discussing his experience during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Eric

Fleming is 60 years old and is a Walt Disney employee at ESPN. He first heard

about COVID-19 at home in late January/early February 2020 through the news.

The first major disruption to his daily life occurred when the NBA shut down

after a basketball player tested positive for COVID-19. Then all of the major

sports leagues began to shut down, which had a major impact on his work at

ESPN. He was nervous because COVID-19 was not something that could be seen.

He related it to the war on terror and 9/11 – you could see the planes crashing

into the buildings and the buildings falling, but you could not see the COVID

particles in the air. The biggest disruption to his life was working from home. His

routine was changed and he was uncertain of having to work from home (if he

was able to, if he had the proper equipment, and the space within the house). At

the very beginning of the pandemic no precautions were taken as everything

was still unknown. Within a week or two, he began to wear masks and social

distance. He remembers the cloth masks and the debate regarding those and

the social distancing dots on the floor of supermarkets and public places. He

described the lockdown as “eerily quiet” – there was no one out except

getting essentials and no one out driving on the highway. He remembers gas

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being very cheap as no one was going anywhere. He felt like COVID-19 did not

discriminate against race/gender/socioeconomic status. With choice comes

collective responsibility – the need to help and realize your actions and the

impact it has on others (toxic individuality).

Dimensions Duration: 1 Hour, 28 Minutes, 54 Seconds