

Transcript: Home Economics: A Documentary of Suburbia (1994)

Directed by Jenny Cool

Produced at the Center for Visual Anthropology, University of Southern California

Speaking Subjects in Order of Appearance:

Jenny Cool, director --- **DIR**

Kelly Killen --- **KEL**

Vicky Ivanov --- **VIC**

Harmony Hutton (Vicky's daughter) --- **HAR**

Kaury Killen (Kelly's daughter) --- **KAU**

Saleswoman --- **SALESWOMAN**

Customer --- **CUSTOMER**

Transcription Notation

Period marks (.....) have been included to denote pauses in a subject's speech

Denotes a scene change in the film

Bolded words were spoken more loudly or with greater emphasis

Home Economics (1994)

DIR: Now that you have been here 23 years and you've seen some of the changes that happened with the development, could you describe some of the ways that you've noticed Lancaster and Palmdale changing, specifically?

KEL: I think probably the most significant change is economic. There have been amazing amounts of money that have come in to the Valley in the form of the building industry in the last 10 years. I don't know where the money is coming from, but **huge** housing tracts, multiple housing tracts and single-family dwellings and condos, have been erected like Lego sets.

DIR: How would you describe your house to somebody who had never seen it?

VIC: Beautiful,..... incredible, uh,.....big,.....nice,..... white, lots of windows.....I'd describe it as wonderful. That's how I do describe it, you know, people say "How can you do that drive? How can you do this?" and I say "You should see the house I live in", you know, the surroundings that I have here.....more than I've ever had in my life.

HAR: I think that basically it's a goal that almost all adults have eventuallyto get married, or not get married, but.....to find, basically to get married you know and settle down and buy a house and have kids and do all that. It's just kind of the order of things that most Americans want, you know.

VIC: I remember when we came to look here for the first time, I told my husband, "We're, now we're just going to look", Steve Sheff lives out here, you know him, and he was saying "Come out! Come out! The houses are so great", he bought a 2,500 square foot for a hundred and thirty-two (\$132,000), and we were just like "A hundred and thirty-two!" (with surprise) So, we'll just come and take a look, so we came out.....but the drive up, I remember telling my husband "Just don't get any bright ideas 'cause we're not moving to the desert, I just want you to know I won't live in the desert"and we came out and that day, we saw all these houses and it was like (pause, laugh) every house we thought this is the one..

HAR: (sneezes) No! You! You!....Me and Marino were....

VIC: Okay, every house I saw....."We're going to buy this one, we're going to buy this one, okay, this is it, **this is it!** You know, because they were so big and so pretty and, and.....just like "Wow, this is everything!" It was past what we thought we could ever get, this was past, beyond, this was five houses down the line, really, in space and uh...decor, or whatever, so that's why we ended up moving out here.

DIR: Slow down I want to get the billboards.

KEL: That's the Antelope Valley, isn't it.....that's what the Antelope Valley looks like to me. If you look at this picture, the first thing I see is that **great big**.....aircraft hanger

KAU: umm hmmm

KEL: and the runways.....and the man-made lake.....and the aqueduct....

KAU: the man-made aqueduct

KEL: that takes the Colorado River water and Inyo-Kerns water.....from? (to Kaury) Do you remember the name of the lake that's been dried up and the birds died? Because of the saline content, 'cause there's no water for them anymore?.....Up near Bishop.....Mono Lake?

KAU: Never heard of it.

KEL: That water's been diverted and here's the aqueduct. Some people fish in the aqueduct now, for catfish.

DIR: Really?!

KEL: umm hmm. My mother used to catch **huge** catfish and put them in her bathtub, this big (gestures with hands)...from that aqueduct and they still fish there,..... **big cats!**

KAU: Why did she put them in the bathtub?

KEL: To keep them alive and fresh until she could kill them and fillet them (all three laugh).

DIR: I didn't know catfish got that big, that shows how ignorant I am.

KEL: Big.....big.....now I know, this isn't hyperbole though, I'm not exag.....I usually exaggerate, but this is the truth, those catfish were this big (holds out her arms).

KAU: I believe you, I've gone up to those reserves or something, I've seen catfish and fish.....

KEL: Huge!

KAU: You couldn't even fit them in a pan.

DIR: What else do you see there?

KEL: Oh.....I see um.....I see that this isn't accurate anymore.....it doesn't say what year, do you see what year Jen?

DIR: No.

KEL: Because this,....all through.....it was on your left coming into town, on the freeway, did you see **all** the new construction and the Auto Mall and the housing development there? This isn't here anymore, uh, it's not land anymore, it's uh, housing and.....uh.....shopping centers.

KEL: and I think the other change I've seen, are the commuters. We have thousands and thousands of people who flood out of the Valley and uh.... it looks like a huge florescent caterpillar in the morning before light, before daylight, if you look at the freeway, a crawling caterpillar with neon lights on its feet, inching up over the mountain in to L.A., to work. Thousands of people....that leave the Valley to work and then return home around seven.

HAR: That's the thing I like about being here in Lancaster is the air is cleaner. When I go down below [Los Angeles] I feel a stickiness on my skin and I mean.....I don't know, I mean it's.....down below it is different and everything, but I don't know,.....the air is gross, that's probably the thing that I don't like about down below the most is the air and.....I mean up here when you're driving over, when you're driving over the mountain all you see is this stuff and you're like "God, I'm breathing this and it's really gross" and when you're coming over.....back over.....you don't notice when it's clean again, you only notice when it gets gross, you know.

VIC: For me it's exciting to get out and dig around in the dirt and put, you know, like, I put a rose in and I'm looking forward to the leaves coming and then the rose coming, you know. And that to me, I love, I love that. And it's **my** rose and I can put it where I want to put it and I can put, whatever flowers, whether they live or die, you know it's kind of an experiment isn't it. I read the books, but you never really can tell out here. And it's my first time around with flowers, I know how to do vegetables but....I guess, I don't know, I like that, I like that as far as owning a house. I think you get to have things your own way.

KEL: What I did was just try to integrate the things that I loved into the home. All of my furniture has been purchased at garage sales and I refinished it, kitchen table.....I made.....I didn't want Formica, so I got an old sewing machine treadle, put a beach top on it, built it, and we have stools.....um.....so we can scoot in more closely and Kaury can fiddle with the treadle on the bottom when she eats meals because little kids like to fidget when they eat....um.....all of my furniture really doesn't fit into a modern motif.....it's.....it's old oak....it's re-upholstered couches, it's re-finished round tables.....the things that most replica antiques are fashioned after now.

VIC: I like, I like modern, more modern type, cleaner looking....

HAR: Wood

VIC: I like a lot of wood, it could be dark or bleached, um, but then I like, but then I like very old, also

HAR: You like the antique, she likes, I think she sticks with the antique

VIC: Yeah

HAR: Like that chair right there and stuff and her armoire in the, in the uh, in her bedroom so I think she sticks with

VIC: I like really old like 30s, 40s, 50s, I love the way that the furniture was then. And with my Mom, my Mom is more country, you know, the flowers, the ruffles, the oak, like this kind of stuff, she'd love this, you know. And I bought this a long, long time ago.

HAR: But that's still too modern for her.

VIC: Yeah it is. Yeah, she's more um.....I like stuff that's in the model homes because it's more, it's modern, it's more modern it's um.....and you have some antique stuff splashed in there, too. I mean they don't just stick with the one, they've got it kind of mixed up, but it's cleaner, my Mom's house is very full of stuff. It's more like Harmony, actually, she's got a lot of stuff, my Mom, tons of stuff.

HAR: I uh...

VIC: It's not the same kind of stuff, but it's a **lot** of stuff, and you have a lot of stuff.

HAR: Yeah

VIC: I mean you like your stuff, you don't like Granny's stuff, we;;Granny likes her stuff.

HAR: Granny does not like my stuff.

VIC: No she doesn't, but I'm saying that you guys still have to have tons of stuff, you know, so, the more cluttered, kind of busy, busy look....and I am not, I guess maybe that's why I like the model homes, too, 'cause they are cleaner, you know they are cleaner and not so busy, I don't like really busy stuff, so.... I think that's the difference.....Or is it generational, then it kind of jumped a generation, huh?

HAR: I think that's the way it goes, though, I think it, I mean, maybe my kids will be more and I think also you try to. I think that you take things from your parents and everything, but I think you, you don't want to be like your parents.

KEL: I, I prize security, I prize tradition and permanence, thing that you are proud to talk about in your past, which I don't have a lot of. So, I guess there's no period that I particularly love, I like the Colonial period because even though people had babies in order to have more farm workers and make their lives more prosperous, they still took care of each other and uhwhen they didn't have money their Sundays were around the fire. They spent their time together reading uh....I like that idea, I'm comfortable with that idea. Kaury and I still read every night.....um.....so there's no **period**, but I think these **things**.....these things have become important to me because I feel like I am starting that type of value with Kaury, that she is going to be the first of my line to say "these things are old and my mother saved them and took care of them for **me**, they're a gift.....I think that's why they are important.

DIR: So, in working on them and stripping them

KEL: They're for Kaury.....I really love to do the manual labor....I'm a lumber man's daughter....I was always raised around tools, I'm handy at that and I **love** doing it, that's partly why I choose to buy older furnitureand I also don't.....I don't like chrome and plastic and I love woods, but I think the majority of the reason is because I want to say, "Kaury, remember, this is for you". It's a way of selfishly **me** living on after I'm not.

DIR: But personally how does it make you feel about yourself?

VIC: That I've that I've worked hard....I feel that I've worked hard and I feel that I work hard here and I think that this is a result of hard work that's how I feel. I feel that that, you know, I don't like to say deserved because I think that's kinda a weird thing, you know what you deserved, because I'd be afraid to get what I deserved.....you know.....I mean, I know that

sounds awful, but it's true..... you know. I don't think I've always been the best person in the world, but I think that it's, there's a truth in it.....my dad taught me when I was growing up, if you work hard, your hard work will be good results and I think that I've worked really, I've worked very hard in my years and.....and.....and I continue to and I think that this is a result of it, so that's how I think it makes me feel.....as my personal, like this is a result of my work....you know an here's my house and isn't it nice....you know and isn't my **work** nice you know and not so anyone else can pat me on the back and say "Oh God, she's just doing so good", but just because I can say and look and say "I'm doing Okay!" "I'm doing good, my hard work does pay off and here's an example of it" for **me**, you know. So I think that's what it, to own a house is about I guess, or to own **this** particular house.

DIR: So you think that....you really seem to have a community here on this block, you know all your neighbors.....

KEL: Really didn't too much until after Christopher left and now I do because uh.....that old pioneer spirit of....I guess, seeing a weepy old woman come out the door or something, you know,everyone seemed to befriend me..... and also, I come from a.....dysfunctional family, but my dad was real traditional. He'd take crates of oranges to his Hispanic workers in the small mining towns of Arizona. He managed 30 lumber yards.....every Christmas Eve we'd fill up the station wagon with crates of oranges and deliver them to the Mexican families, end up staying out all night, eating tamales at each home.....and so my way of giving, and I didn't realize this until I got older, if food, I bake for people, I try to feed people, it's just crazy.....well, my block loves it , I... I bring bread to them.....Oh, my dog severed my cable [to cat as she walks in front of the camera] Excuse me Sissy!.....my dog severed my cable [for cable TV] bit the cable wire through and I couldn't afford to have it repaired, so I brought.....I made two loaves of blueberry bread for Randy.....Precision Electric I'm-in-my-own-business-now guy.....and in payment for that, he fixed my cable. um..... Victor.....I baby-sit Alexis, I call her Miss Madam. I baby-sit Miss Madam and I loan Victor my golf clubs and in return, he does all my home repair.....he helps me set sprinklers each season when the seasons change, because I have, I seem to have a problem doing that with the automatic sprinklers.....and whenever I have car trouble.....he.....like he replaced the water pump on my truck for 30 dollars, three months ago. We have inadvertently developed a barter system, the old barter system and.....he.....he wants a chest of drawers of mine, I trade him a croquet set.....our Christmas presents for the last two years have been home-made gifts. He does woodworking and we prepare food.....or give him a set of home-sewn napkins.....so this small little block does have a barter system.

DIR: Is there a community here that you feel you're a part of?

VIC: umm hmm....absolutely. I feel more, even though I've, you know, the...with this....when that **gang** stuff started happening and we were hearing gun shots nearly every night. Um,.....we got involved withthey were going to build another low income housing across the street **from** this housing that's right down our street and we got involved with all the neighbors all the way around us and **all** of the housing tracts and went down to the,

to the Planning Commission meetings and....and **fought it**...I mean we went in **bulk**, many, many, a few hundreds of us....and we won and they didn't build the project, so I, I **do** feel like...like I'm part of what's going on here in Lancaster, even though I'm not here a lot of hours. I...and I love my neighbors everyone of them I mean they're just all really good people and we....we keep watch with each other and...and...an...especially the ones in the back...they've become very close and so yeah...I do feel like there's a community...at least small here, you know, an....and I do even feel some.....community towards the city itself, you know, I really I really want it to work out I want things to.....to be good for the city and I'd be willing to put time into that so....yeah I do...I feel much more than I did before. Maybe because we own the house and I feel like because of that it's my neighborhood you know I feel like I have a, I get to participate and I have a...a....say...or a...something that belongs to me, it's mine and I want to take care of it.... so yeah I do, I do.....I hear a lot of times I....watched a show on TV. and it was....they called us a bedroom community because we, many, 45,000 or more than that commute, and I think that's true for some people, it's like they don't get to know their neighbors, but I feel real fortunate with our neighborhood that we have been able to.

HAR: my friends basically, Mall, go to the Mall, talk on the phone, go out, go play tennis on the weekends or whatever um.....the movies, like that's a real big thing.....that a **real**, like...I don't know, that's basically, we basically go and hang out at the movies and stuff and it's like there's not that much to do, there's not very many, like down below there's more teenager all-age clubs and stuff and here it's like, I don't know, it's like.....it's like um.....what was I saying, Oh (laughs).....I don't know there's just there's less to do and more and more all the time there's more to do and once I get a car there'll be a lot more to do because that's....that's the thing is that things are more spread out, you know, here. It's like, if you want to, if I want to go to the movies they're six miles away, you know I can't get on my bike and go, I mean I could but, it'd take forever and then I'd be all gross by the time I got there and you go to see **guys** so that'd be pretty gross.....I don't know....it's....there's not.....there's, there's **as** much stuff to do probably, there's not as much I mean you can't go to the beach you can't you know, but there's stuff to do, it's just a matter of getting there.....the street races on Friday and Saturday, but you can't go if you don't have a car, you know.....

DIR: Where do you hang out at the movies?

HAR: Out in front, over at.....over in the movie theaters, over atlike.....**Subway** over there at **MOVIES 12**..... soand the **Mall**, a lot of people hang out at the mall.... it just depends, the football games, like, like, that's like....down below it wasn't such a social thing because there was more stuff to do and here it's like there's...I mean a lot more people go to the football games, I mean the stoners and stuff like that really don't go but **a lot** more people go to football games, it's kind of amazing to go an a lot more people have school spirit and stuff.....because there's nothing to do so you just better have school spirit!!! (laughs)

DIR: When you came out to look at this development here, did you see your home in a

model home?

VIC: um hmmm

DIR: Decorated up?

VIC: Yes, yes all fixed up.

DIR: And how was it decorated then?

VIC: Oh.....there was a lot of **green** that's real popular in a lot of them, but it was really pretty and they had all the furniture was.....**made** for the size of the rooms, so you don't really realize how small, especially this room here that we're sitting in is fairly small. We didn't realize it because the furniture was made for that size and everything looked just perfect, you know, like a dream.....like a dream house.

VIC: You know when you go in it just feels like so **easy**, you know like, this is so easy, you could have this so easily, you know.....I don't know.... Yeah, I think that they were selling. And I think that, that many of them use the same mode. But that's what we should actually do, one of these days you should bring, not think big honking thing, but get a smaller one, and we'll just go through, we'll go through the model homes and you'll see that many of them are the same. I'd say all of them, I mean, I didn't see any that were spectacularly different.

HAR: They just have different things in them.

VIC: Different things, but the same mode. Yeah, yeah.....nothing..... kind of rich, kind of the um...

HAR: and there's the boy's room and the girl's

VIC: Yeah, selling to the family

HAR: and the baby's room

VIC: Yeah, selling to the family a lot of the, decorated in **boy's** stuff, you know, dinosaurs, tennis-shoe prints on the wall, girl's room "fru-fru" you know, flowery, pretty, pinky and then the baby's room, you know, with the rocking chair and the...so it's a family, you know here, "Come on family, come on and move in, look at this house is all ready to go!"

DIR: What kind of people live in this neighborhood?

VIC: All different kinds, all different kinds. We have a guy that lives next door to us right now, if you saw him you'd think that he was a stoned biker, just completely not at all, you

know, the "Jones family next door", you know, we have black we have Oriental, we have Filipino, we have Mexican we have white, we have a very big variety of people that live in **our** housing tract and then of course we have the low income housing right there, so we have people that are.....are....doing the American Dream and we have also a group of people that.....haven't realized it yet.

HAR: the people, I mean if you look around you'd think the people were the same, you know, and the people **are** the same I mean there's the same type people, you find the stoners, the heshers, the, you know, the housers, the rappers.....the....you know you find everybody but racially like.....racial tension is a lot more I mean **my god**.....I've never experienced so much racial tension, I've never been called "honky" so many times in my life or never heard the word "nigger" so many times. I mean it's just, oh, it's just outrageous, I mean you walk down the hall.....it's not as bad this year as it was last year, but last year, oh "nigger nigger, honky.....B-I-T-C-H" Oh it was horrible! I don't know, but it's definitely different and I don't know why there's more racial tension, my mom thinks it's because when black people first started moving out here, there was, it was just hicks [country-people] and black people because before this was basically a farming community and stuff.....and so....I mean.... and so when they moved out here they felt pressure.....and so.....now more and more are moving out here and so....the ones who were here before felt tension because **they** felt tension from the white people and now the white people are all down from down below and all the black people, but the black people and the white people too, it's like you feel, **you feed off the people around you**. And so, if the people around you knew the people that were here before, they fed off of them and you feed off of them.....and there's just.....it's not as bad as it was last year, I mean I have a lot of.....I don't have a lot.....not as many as I did down below, but I have black friends and stuff but it's not like it is down below.....down below my friends were, I mean I had housers.....I had surf-bunnies, I had all different kinds of friends and up here it's like basically one color group.

DIR: What would you say that home ownership means or signifies, or what's the importance of home ownership?

KEL: To me, or to the population in Lancaster?.....I think that to the population in Lancaster it means a place to...drive your car into....turn you porch light on, make a meal and wait until it's time to go to work again the next day.

DIR: What comes to mind when you hear the words Antelope Valley?

VIC: Home.....now.....home.....

DIR: Anything else?

VIC: Kind of **dread** in a way, it's like, do I have to be here forever? I don't want to be here forever, this is kind of a.....(clears throat) It's a home for, for now, but not forever, you know, it's not roots, but it's home.

HAR: When people do speeches and stuff in class, and you know, and the teachers are always saying "Oh what are your goals" and everyone is like "**I got to get out of the Antelope Valley..... got to get out of here, gonna leave, you know, "my main goal is just to get out of here!"**". I mean everyone, everyone hates it, at least people my age, I mean, I don't know anyone who wants to stay here for the rest of their life. It's like, it's kind of like a moving place.....like.....you move here.... like it's like a.....it's like when you're on a road and it's just a stop along the road.....that's how I feel about it.

DIR: So tell me what comes to mind when you here the words Antelope Valley?

KEL: ...a place to move from.....a place to plan to leave.....since the day I got here I have always.....before I went to bed at 17 years old, after I took care of my mother, got home from work and took care of my mother and laid down in my bed, I would think about ways to **someday** move away from the Antelope Valley.

KEL: There are parents who work twelve hours a day and **then** stop and go traffic, for two hours on the freeway, coming from LA after dark, knowing that their wife is going to want something when they come home, listening to negative news on the radio to keep themselves awake. And what happens when they get to the door, their kids jump up, crawling over them like pups, banging their glasses, trying to get a kiss, what happens, I mean, you know (sighs) It's a rough, rough time.

DIR: Is it worse here like in the Antelope Valley than in L.A.?

KEL: Because of the commuter population.....it is higher.....statistics in Lancaster, now you might want to call the emergency room at the hospital before you go today, but statistics in Lancaster are higher.....they are the highest in L.A. County, we're just on the fringe of L.A. County, 10 miles north is Kern County and we have the highest incidence of child abuse hereit's not domestic violence, you understand, it's child abuse, which means there are two parents working, otherwise they would take it out on Mom.

SALESWOMAN: Are you looking for a new home?

CUSTOMER: Yes, what you got?

SALESWOMAN: What we do is we find out what's in your price range and what size home you want and the area that you want to look. We give you all the brochures and.....

[their conversation fades in to the background]

HAR: Racism.....I mean that's kind of sad, but that is what I think of, that's the thing that has impacted me more that anything when moved here once I started going to school my **biggest** fear was becoming prejudiced, I mean, I don't know, it's overwhelming to me(cries).....I'm like my mom, I cry real easily and stuff.....

but.....racism.....

DIR: Why does that upset you.....

HAR: Because people shouldn't hate each other.....I don't know, I mean I,you'd think it...I mean I never.....I've never lived in L.A., but where I lived there wasn't racism. I mean my best friend was Mexican, and I mean, I had black friends and white friends and I have black friends and I have Mexican friends, but it's like the majority, it's like **basically** you hang out with your color, basically. I mean, there are the groups and the people that, you know, spread out and stuff, but basically, it's your color and "Oh my God you want.....you like that white da da da da da. Oh my God! oooh....how could you date her? How could you date him?" you know. It's it's not the same.....but.....racism.....and heat (laughs)

KEL: It's not the age of things, I guess, it's the values that they remind me of that I like.

DIR: And those values are?

KEL: Permanence, tradition, things you can rely on that worked a generation ago.....that you can carry over with pride, that are not **disposable**..... marriages today are as disposable as diapers.

DIR: Do you see that a lot, aside from your own divorce, do you see that going on around...

KEL: Yes.....all the time.....I see when I work in Kaury's classroom and I speak to the children.....that.....blended families, that's a wonderful name for them

DIR: Blended families?

KEL: **Blended families**, step-mother, step-father, step-brothers, step-sisters, blended families are as much a rule today as nuclear families that have not experienced divorce. It is no longer a shame to come from a divorced home, it's a norm.....and I don't think that our society's dealing with that either, but.....I see a lot of it.....it's very prevalent.

DIR: What if any are the negative aspects, the negative ways your life has changed?

VIC: I think that it's eaten away at my relationship with my husband andI feel like I'm going to cry and I don't want to cry..... I think it's been really hard for **her**.....and I think that's...because I'm not **here** you know because she's home at 3 and I'm home at 6.30 and I'm not **here** (cries). So that's really hard.....I don't want to cry.....but I think just the time, the time you put into the drive and the time you put in to the work, and the things that, I maybe push myself too hard, but I just feel like, like I already said, hard work and I think.....because I own the house that I have to keep working hard so that things stay nice.....I don't, I don't think that nice things stay nice, if

you don't take good care of them and I...I think that about physical things, your body or your health, I think that about your home and I think that about relationships and I think when you're tired all the time, and you're on the road all the time and you're doing **work**.....or not doing work, I think that my husband's idea of owning a house was real different than mine. Mine was "Oh great we've got this, now let's really work on it and keep it good" His was, "Now I've got the house, isn't it nice" and he doesn't want to do the work he wants to come home and hang out so I think.....um.....that **that** partis really hard because.....when I'm doing the work, I'm saying "Come on, Come on, Come on" and he doesn't want to and I think that kind of rips at us because he's tired and he says "I'm tired!" and I say "So do I", but you still have to stay busy you can't stop, you know you got to, life goes on even though you're living in the Antelope Valley. You have to keep doing stuff, you can't just stop, you know I think it gets **messy**...or.....**falls apart if you don't keep working on it** and I think that it really has deteriorated, I think that that's one of the reasons that I wouldn't do this again, because I think that **all** relationships have problems, but I think when you don't have **time** to work **on** the relationshipor....both parties or one party is very tired and doesn't want to do the work that it ends up with nothing and nothing to work on.....and I think that the result has been very, very devastating on our marriage and it's sad. It's very sad to me, you know, I don't know what the outcome is going to be. I don't know and with **her** it's like, I feel she's going through her 16 year old trauma and I'm not here. I can't help her, if she calls me on the phone, it's going to take me an hour and 45 minutes to get to her, if she needs me an.....and right now I think that she needs guidance.....not...not freedom, you know, she's demanding freedom verbally, but I think emotionally she's demanding..... **me**. She needs **me** right now and she needs for me to be here and I can't. Those are the worst things that have happened...you know....because it hurts relationships when you don't have time, I think it really hurts a lot and when you're tired or, you know, and it gets real confusing, it gets really..... overwhelming, you know, what's right, what are you going to do.....where am I going to find the time.....So....those...those are the things....That's the worst thing that has happened since....and that's a lot, I think to own a house that's a high price.....too high.....So, I wouldn't do it again. I wouldn't move out here again. I mean, I love my house, butnot enough to repeat what I've got.....cause it's hard.

KEL: But, another sign of the times, I wrote a letter home to all the children's parents, saying I need home-room money for parties. Three dollars a child will give me ninety dollars for the year, we can have five parties with that**six** envelopes came back, out of thirty children, so I turned around and wrote a letter to the children. If you bring three dollars from your parents, you can chew bubble gum in class all day. I bought 5 rolls of bubble gum and gave it to the teacher, cleared it with the school, sent the ditto home. I got 20 more envelopes the next week. This says to me that children are having to be more autonomous, that there is less **integration** under the roof of whatever house people live in now, that it's a business, that it's a schedule, before it's a nucleus. They approach their parent and say "I need this". The parent says "Here you are". The parent doesn't sit down at dinnertime and say "Show me what you did today. Do you have any letters from the home-room parent, anything from the school that I should be reading?" It is now the child's responsibility. They are their own autonomous **unit**.....of something that functions

under a roof!

KEL: There are neighbors two doors down that are being tried for child abuse and neglect right now because the father.....didn't have a steady job, the child that I worked with at her grade school a couple of years back has behavioral problems, she's hyperactive and on Ritalin...and just the **combination** of a father coming home exasperated and frustrated at not being able to support his family in the way he'd like, a mother resentful because she's not getting the grocery money and having to deal with the new baby, and a daughter who's eight and hyperactive and demands a lotThe family exploded, they hurt their children badly and were removed from the home. So, there again, you know.....It's just they way different people react but I think a lot of this is evident

DIR: Yeah, you know

KEL: On one block, **one little** block in Lancaster all of this happens. Me!..... you know, a six and a half year marriage and, my husband wanted to pursue his career and.....didn't have time and, or the inclination, to put up with my constant griping at "Please can we sit down for a meal together. Can we go on a.....**one** picnic?.....Can you take Kaury to a movie?".....He was getting pressured at work constantly because he's real high up in an aerospace company.....and I was getting frustrated because I saw my family breaking apart due to a work obsessed husband who wanted to succeed and I was feeling like a failure because I couldn't put it all together and it blew up in my face and he left. As a result, all I can do is tell Kaury that two people are a family, no where is it written that you have to be three. You can be a family, but it's very difficult today to do that.....and to say that what we want is all right. It's not wrong Kaury to be angry at no movies, it's all right, you aren't selfish, you're a child who wants these things. It's okay. It's hard to define what's okay now.....what expectations you have a right to put on another person..... I feel a lot of guilt over that.....because I expected too much.....the wrong things.....the paycheck is what Christopher felt he was providing.....it's not what I wanted, but those are things he felt he needed to give me.....So, it's a very complicated society now.....and on one block.....Boy, Jen, you could have one heck of a movie.....these are all real fine people that have been affected in so many different ways.

[Fade to black. End credits roll]