

WALLY VALENTINI

- o Ass't Manager of Safeway,
3427 Connecticut Avenue
- o At that store since 1963
- o 52 years old

I used to live in Cleveland Park, so I'm no stranger to it. It has changed. Twenty years ago there were predominantly older people up and down Connecticut Avenue. You didn't see so many children as you see today. There were a few, but not like today. I've noticed that the older people are moving out and younger people are moving in.

When President Kennedy was inaugurated, many of his top people lived in this neighborhood. In those days they were always having parties up around here.

Safeway used to be in the next block north, next to the old Woodley Market. It was Woodley Market, Safeway, People's Hardware, Dart Drug, a liquor store, and a nice gas station. We had Giant; we had Safeway; we had Woodley Market. We had three grocery stores, and now we're down to one. Without this store, a lot of the older people would really be in a bind.

I remember a lot of special people, because to us, most of the people who come in here are special. I've been here so long, I know so many people. They are friendly here....a real neighborhood.