Sarah Wright

Dr. Karnatz

Music 222

November 19, 2015

Interview Paper

1. Mrs. Turner was born in Danville, Virginia as part of a middle class family. Her father was in the military, so she moved around the country during her childhood. Her favorite place to live was on the west coast, which is where she lived during most of her teenage years. Mrs. Turner was a teenager during the 1970s. She excelled in academics as well as sports, which is also how she defined a mainstream teenager. She was a star field hockey player, a skill Mrs. Turner used to make friends at each new school. She wanted to fit in as much as possible since she changed schools almost every year throughout her grade school career. Her parents pressured her to fit in with the other children her age in each new town.
2. Mrs. Turner’s parents listened to mainly country and western music. Johnny Cash, Hank Williams, and Loretta Lynn were her parents’ favorite artists. Hank Williams is mentioned in the text on page 17. The music is described as honky-tonk music, meaning it was a hard edge style of country that was popular after World War II. Loretta Lynn is featured in the text on page 144. Lynn sang “The Pill”, which was a part of the sexual revolution of the 1960s. The family would play the albums in the living room, since nobody in the Turner family created their own music. Mrs. Turner enjoyed listening to country music with her parents until she discovered Top 40 radio. Today, she does not enjoy listening to country music.
3. John Denver was mutually liked by everyone in the Turner household. The family went to Denver’s concerts in 1974, 1975, and 1976. Her parents did not listen to a majority of the music that she listened to; however, they did not limit what she could listen to. They encouraged her to listen to her own music when she expressed interest in music that her parents did not listen to.
4. A radio was given to Mrs. Turner for her birthday one year, so she would listen to music on it in her room every night. The family would listen to a juke box whenever one was around. Her dad’s favorite part of going out to eat on Saturday mornings was playing a song on a juke box at their local diner. She did not go to very many concerts when she was a teenager, besides John Denver. According to Mrs. Turner, there was not a stylistic distinction between mediums. To her, country was country, rock was rock, pop was pop, and rhythm and blues was rhythm and blues.
5. Country music was the only genre Mrs. Turner listened to until she was nine, when she was given a radio for her room. After she got her radio she listened to music of many different genres. According to Mrs. Turner, Top 40 radio, rock, and pop music were the same thing. Her definition is similar to the definition in the text and what we have discussed in class. Top 40 radio consisted of songs that were popular and at the center of pop culture. Music that is at the center of popular culture is pop music. Therefore, Top 40 radio was pop music. Rock, by Mrs. Turner’s definition, was also at the center of popular culture, so therefore rock was also pop music.
6. Mrs. Turner listened to John Denver, Billy Joel, and the Eagles. John Denver and Billy Joel are not listed in our text. The Eagles are mentioned on pages 212 and 213. The text suggests that the Eagles were country rock that moved to the center of popular culture, making the music pop music. I was confused as to why Mrs. Turner liked the Eagles, because she claims to not like boy bands or music that was too much in the center of popular culture. The Eagles were popular in the 1970s when Mrs. Turner was a teenager, so the music was part of her generation. John Denver and Billy Joel were not as close to her generation as the Eagles.
7. My subject, Mrs. Turner, did not listen to country and western music on her own. Her parents did listen to country and western music throughout their entire lives. She did not like the music, because she was forced to listen to that genre when she was younger whenever she was with her parents. Mrs. Turner did not listen to rap or boy bands either. She claims that rap and boy bands were not quality music. African Americans listened to what Mrs. Turner defined as rap music. Boy bands moved to the center of pop culture quickly. Many teenager girls listened to boy bands, such as The Beatles and The Beach Boys. Many of Mrs. Tuner’s friends listened to boy bands and would even go to their concerts.
8. Mrs. Turner still listens to music that she liked in the 1970s and the 1980s. Sarah, Mrs. Turner’s daughter, LOVES music from the Beatles. Mrs. Turner did not show Sarah the music, since she did not listen to it during her teenage years. Mr. Turner did listen to the Beatles and had old albums in the attic of the house. Sarah found the albums, played the music, and fell in love with all of the Beatles. Paul McCartney went on a solo tour and had a show in Virginia. Mrs. Turner took her daughter as a birthday present. Since Mrs. Turner was forced to listen to the music all day everyday she became accustomed to the songs and started to enjoy the experience herself. She said that she thinks when she was a teenager that she avoided the music, since it was in the middle of pop culture. Mrs. Turner wanted to fit in, but she did not want to be an exact copy of every single girl in her school. She wishes that she had given the music more of a chance. Some of her friends were fans of the Beatles and traveled to one of their concerts one weekend. Mrs. Turner was not invited, since she was not a huge follower of the band. At the Turner household they still have a record player, since Sarah listens to her dad’s LPs that she found in the attic. Mrs. Turner still listens to her LPs as well, but she recently bought an iPod that she downloaded her favorite songs onto. She only listens to older songs and believes that music is produced today is made to solely sell albums and make a profit instead of take the listener through a musical experience as a form of expression.
9. I learned a lot of information from Mrs. Turner through interviewing her. We look at popular music in different ways. One of the major factors in our differing viewpoints is the time period that we were teenagers. I am currently a teenager in the 2010s while Mrs. Turner was a teenager in the 1970s. I did not know music in the sense that you would stay up all night listening to the radio hoping to hear your favorite song or you had to spend money on buying the album in the song. I grew up in a world with iTunes, YouTube, and the internet. I have never had to pay for a song or go far out of my way to hear music that I want to listen to. I have always had the ability to open my laptop and have all of the music in the world at my fingertips. Mrs. Turner was forced to listen to music that was at the center of pop culture, because that was the music that was played on the radio in the car and in public spaces. At her house she could put on albums of her choosing, but only when she was not with her parents. I also have always had the ability to put earbuds in and take my music with me anywhere I go. If I am in the car with my parents they can listen to their music through the car speakers while my siblings and I are each listening to our own music on personal devices. Mrs. Turner never had the same ability as me and was forced to listen to her parents’ country and western music during every car ride. I believe that my attitude is more positive towards popular music than Mrs. Turner’s view. I have the ability to easily find other music, but she did not have the same luxury. When she was in the car with her friends they would listen to the popular music that was on the radio and in Mrs. Turner’s opinion overplayed. My friends and I can plug our phones into our car speakers and play practically any song in seconds. My ability to escape popular music easily makes me view the music in a more positive way than Mrs. Turner. Overall, the interview experience was a great way for me to feel connected with the material we learned in class.

Word Count: 1,513 words