

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Women's Herstory Project

Personal Experiences

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PATRICIA HALE

Interviewed

by

Mary Hulme

on

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YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

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INTERVIEWEE: PATRICIA HALE

INTERVIEWER: Mary Hulme

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HU: This is an interview with Patricia Hale for the Youngstown State University Women's Resource Center in conjunction with the Oral History Program on Women's History, by Mary Hulme, on February 1, 1988.

Patricia, could you tell me something about your family?

HA: I was born in Youngstown in April of 1950. My father's name was Michael Bozick and my mother's name was Veronica Cerian. I have one older brother named Larry who is still my best friend in the whole world. I love him. He is very wonderful. My childhood was normal.

HU: What did your dad do for a living?

HA: My father was a millworker and my mother stayed at home. When I look back on my childhood my family was normal, I guess, but not what I want my family to be. In other words, there was a lack of showing our feelings. My mother was a very strict Catholic. My father was born and raised as a very poor child who thought that marrying my mother was a step up for him. He pretty much let her run the home and control things even though she was often times really wrong about her decisions. He took a back seat where he didn't have to. She ran the show.

HU: Did you go to Catholic school?

HA: Yes, for thirteen years.

HU: What schools were those?

HA: St. John's and Ursuline.

HALE

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HU: So your mother did not work at all, ever?

HA: No.

HU: Did your father talk much about working in the mill?

HA: He was a welder. He talked about joking around with the guys more than he did the drudgery of the work. He came home with the stories that got him through the days. He didn't bring any of the pain home or the boring part of it home either. We didn't see it. He was always tired.

HU: What was your first job?

HA: Baby-sitting. I was the neighborhood baby-sitter.

HU: Do you remember what you used to make an hour?

HA: Fifty cents an hour.

HU: Do you remember any of the stories from those days of baby-sitting?

HA: I remember one weekend job that I had for a family of four children that were totally undisciplined children. I was left with all household duties. I remember thinking--if this is what it is like to be a wife and mother, I'll never do it. Other than that, no. I used to read stories and play games.

HU: This was a job that you regularly did?

HA: It was a baby-sitting job.

HU: You would stay there all weekend?

HA: Yes.

HU: When you were in high school then you must have just done baby-sitting jobs?

HA: I did baby-sitting and I had neighbors who were caterers, and on weekends when they had really big wedding receptions I would go and help cater. I used to serve potato salad. It was fun. I would get into all kinds of conversations standing behind a potato salad bowl. I did an overview on social behavior at weddings.

HU: Then you graduated from high school and what happened?

HA: The day after I graduated from high school I got on a airplane and flew to California and spent a month and a half in San Francisco and in L.A.

HU: How did you happen to do that?

HA: My brother was living there. I went to visit him.

HU: Just to visit him? You weren't thinking of moving there?

HA: I was thinking of it once I got there, but at the time I wasn't working and didn't know how I would afford it. I decided to come back home. It was a good month after thirteen years of Campbell and Catholic school; going to Haight Ashbury in 1969 was a rude awakening.

HU: What do you remember about that?

HA: I remember thinking that to be sophisticated on the airplane I should smoke cigarettes, and I never smoked before that. I remember lighting a Benson & Hedges and getting very sick on the airplane. I remember not liking flying at all. Once I got to California, just the massiveness of it, all the people, and how different everyone looked . . . here in Youngstown everyone is so ethnic looking, and out there is wasn't that way at all. Everybody kind of looked alike and there were so many people. It was strange. I went into cultural shock.

HU: What do you mean everyone looked alike?

HA: Blonde and suntanned.

HU: You thought about staying there, but you didn't have a job so you came back to Youngstown. Then what happened?

HA: I went to school. I went to the university and I was majoring in English.

HU: What were your intentions?

HA: I was going to teach. Then I had hoped eventually to get into library science. Then my dad died.

HU: How did that affect your life?

HA: Everything changed. I quit school and got a job. I wanted to move out of the house and get my own apartment and when my dad died I felt compelled to stay with my mother and care for her. I got married to leave home.

HU: Do you think that is why you got married?

HA: I know that is why I got married. I think I knew that and just didn't face it.

HU: Who is the person you married?

HA: Joe Menelle.

HU: How long had you known him?

HA: Maybe four months, five months. He made me laugh at a really bad time. I mistook the feeling for love.

HU: So you got married in a traditional wedding?

HA: A big wedding.

HU: Were you working at that time?

HA: Yes, I worked the whole time and paid all the bills. He didn't hold down jobs so I worked and I paid the bills. I got pregnant and had Josh.

HU: How old were you then?

HA: Twenty-three.

HU: Did you continue working after you had your son?

HA: I stopped for about six months and then I went back to my old job.

HU: Which was what?

HA: I was an assistant manager at a finance company. I stuck with that for another year or so.

HU: That was, in a sense, your first real job. Did you have to go through an interview to get this job? Do you remember that?

HA: The interview went well. I presented myself well. I remember feeling nervous about it, but I was hired on the spot. I started the next day.

HU: What were your duties in this job?

HA: When I was hired, I was hired as a cashier. My duties were posting payments, doing credit checks, answering phones, filing, some typing. Then from there when I moved up to assistant manager I pretty much oversaw everyone else.

HU: Did you like this job?

HA: Yes, I liked it a lot.

HU: Why was that?

HA: I liked the man I was working for. There was never any pressure.

HU: Do you remember your first paycheck from that job?

HA: Yes.

HU: What do you remember about it?

HA: That I went and spent the whole thing on clothes.

HU: The whole thing?

HA: The whole thing. (Laughter) Filled up my gas tank, sure.

HU: Was that probably the biggest paycheck you had had?

HA: It was \$208 for two weeks.

HU: Had you had any training for this job?

HA: The only training I had ever had was a summer school course in typing that I took when I was fourteen or fifteen.

HU: You, in a few months, were managing people. How did you adjust to that?

HA: I didn't and still don't like to tell people what to do. I'm not good at it at all.

HU: But you can do it?

HA: Yes, because I think, basically, I'm a leader kind of person. People don't mind listening to me if they think I know what I'm talking about. And I don't usually say something if I don't.

HU: Were most of the employees at this company . . .

HA: They were all males.

HU: And you were managing. How about their ages, were they older or younger?

HA: They were all older.

HU: That is an unusual position to be in.

HA: It was. As a matter of fact, I was the first woman who had ever gotten to that position for this company.

HU: Why do you think they picked you?

HA: Because I think that the man who hired me saw a lot of potential. He took me under his wing right away and just showed me the business.

HU: Did you feel, at that point, that you had a lot of potential?

HA: Yes, I think I did.

HU: So it wasn't a big surprise to you?

HA: It wasn't a big surprise to me. What was a big surprise to me was that that was the field that it was showing up in, because my intentions had been completely different.

HU: Your intentions had been to be a teacher?

HA: Teach.

HU: Your son was how old at that time?

HA: He wasn't born at that time.

HU: That was the job . . .

HA: That was prior to my marriage. That was the job that I then went back to after I had him.

HU: How long did you stay there?

HA: Eight and a half years.

HU: You stayed at the finance company eight and a half years. And then what happened?

HA: I quit and moved to the north side and I didn't work for a few years. I took my son Josh and I had a Volkswagen and we spent one year on the road. We traveled all over the country.

HU: What had happened to your marriage at this point?

HA: I was divorced.

HU: How long were you married?

HA: Five years.

HU: You were married for five years.

HA: I worked for three years before I got married. I worked for three years during the marriage, had Josh, stopped for six months or so, and then went back.

HU: So tell me about this trip around the country. Why did you decide to do it?

HA: I just wanted to; I wanted to leave for awhile.

HU: How old was he then?

HA: He was a baby. He was nine months old, a year old. He was small. No, I take that back. He was about a year and a half. I didn't see any reason why not to. I had always been under someone else's authority, and for the first time in my life I wasn't. I didn't have parents telling me what to do. I didn't have a husband or any household obligations to fulfill and I thought that it was the perfect time for me to do it. I knew I needed a change. I knew I needed to rethink my priorities. I knew that I was changing and in order to do that I didn't want to be here.

HU: So where did you go?

HA: We went everywhere. We went from Florida to California and back, and up and around in the South.

HU: Did you stay in motels as you went along?

HA: No, I took a tent and we camped or slept in the car. We did whatever. There were some cities where I knew people. I had family in California and L.A. that I stayed with.

HU: So mostly this was an attempt to do a lot of thinking.

HA: Yes.

HU: Did it work?

HA: It worked until I came back and met another guy here that I started to live with. That relationship was probably the most destructive I've ever had because he was a very, very heavy drinker and I started to drink too much and go out too much. I was pretty irresponsible for a few years. I didn't like myself very much. Looking back on it now, I honestly think that the reason that I did it at all was as some sort of rebellion. The Catholic school and the Catholic upbringing, the strict home life that I had, I think, all just accumulated.

HU: When you came back from the trip, what were your intentions at that point?

HA: I didn't have any.

HU: You just had a free period. How long did this relationship last?

HA: About a year and a half.

HU: And you were not working at this time?

HA: No.

HU: Then what happened?

HA: Then I left. I moved out and moved in with a very good girl friend of mine. I started to put things back together a little.

HU: How old are you at this point?

HA: I'm thirty now. I was twenty-six or twenty-seven.

HU: You quit drinking?

HA: No. I quit drinking as much as I was. I started to look for a job again, and at that point I met Buck and we started to see each other. For about a year I lived alone with my friend and saw him. I kind of hung out. Then we decided to try it together, and we've been together since.

HU: What was your next job?

HA: For the city of Youngstown. I was a cashier in the finance department.

HU: How did you like that?

HA: I hated it. I hated every minute of it. The people who I worked with weren't the type of people who I can very well communicate with.

HU: How would you typify them?

HA: Functionaries, I guess. I didn't fit in there. I wasn't comfortable there. I didn't like the job.

HU: So you quit?

HA: Yes. I didn't even quit; I just left one day and never went back.

HU: Was that a hard thing for you to do?

HA: No.

HU: Did you hear from them after you did it?

HA: No.

HU: I think there is a bit of a rebel in this person.

HA: There is definitely a little bit of a rebel in this person.

HU: Do you think it has always been there?

HA: Absolutely.

HU: Did you ever see any of that in your parents?

HA: I saw it in my father, but he put it so far inside of himself; I think it didn't work out very well for him.

HU: How about your brother?

HA: Not as much. He was always more charming.

HU: What does he do for a living?

HA: He is a landscaper. Larry was always able to charm people into anything he wanted.

HU: So then you walked out of city hall and what happened next?

HA: Buck and I went to Florida.

HU: To do what?

HA: Camp.

HU: Just for a vacation?

HA: Yes. When we got back I was going to start looking around for work again. I had some money in the bank and I was in no big hurry to work anymore. We decided to live together at that point. Shortly after that I got pregnant with Corey and stayed at home for the next eight years.

HU: Was that a hard decision to make?

HA: To stay home? No, not at all. Once I knew that I wanted to have a family again, and wanted to have it with Buck, staying at home was what I wanted to do. When I decided to have more children I decided to commit myself to that because I don't think I had ever fully committed myself to anything up to that point. In part, that is why nothing ever worked out for me.

HU: Ultimately you had three children?

HA: Yes.

HU: You spent ten years, approximately, at home with them?

HA: Yes.

HU: What was good about that for you?

HA: I loved having little children. I really enjoy children. It was all good. The child rearing part of it was fine.

- HU: It wasn't frustrating for you to not be in the work place?
- HA: It was frustrating to not have my own money on occasion. I didn't like that because I always had, from the time I was a young girl. But I didn't feel frustrated or unfulfilled because I wasn't out of the home at all. I still don't. If there wasn't a real financial need I don't think I would be working yet. I'm an avid gardener. I grow an acre garden and I can food. I love to bake and I love to sew and read. I do some writing. I like being home.
- HU: What kinds of things do you write?
- HA: Thoughts mostly.
- HU: In no specific form?
- HA: No. I would like to, but not yet. I would like to develop it to that point.
- HU: Do you foresee what kinds of things you might eventually be writing about at this point?
- HA: No.
- HU: Is that something you regularly do or just when you are moved to?
- HA: Just when I'm moved to. If I am not in the right frame of mind I can't write.
- HU: Do you ever share it with anyone?
- HA: No, not yet.
- HU: After this ten year period at home you decide financially it would be a good idea to get a job. What job did you find?
- HA: I found this job that I'm doing now at Shapes & Surfaces.
- HU: What kind of business is that?
- HA: It's a custom woodworking shop. They design and build furniture for modern offices, homes. I pretty much run the office.
- HU: How long ago did you start this job?
- HA: At the end of August.
- HU: How has that transition been from being at home all of those years to . . . Are you working full-time?
- HA: I'm working five days a week, but only from 8:00 until 1:00

or 1:30. It has been tough. It has been really difficult trying to juggle it all.

HU: How so?

HA: I'm tired all of the time.

HU: Even though you are working half time?

HA: Even though I am working half time, because this house is so big and because I have so many things that I do other than just normal housework. I am so busy all of the time. I'm tired. I'm finding now though that the initial adjustment has been made. It is evening out. I seem to even be getting to the point where I'm getting more done at home because I have to fit it in to less time I guess.

HU: How have your children adjusted?

HA: They don't notice any difference. I am here when they are home.

HU: How about personally, has there been any satisfaction to going back to work?

HA: Yes, it has been okay that way. I like having my own money. As far as personal satisfaction, not really because I always knew that I could do what I'm doing. It isn't like I'm learning anything about myself in that respect.

HU: Just what do you do at work?

HA: I manage the whole office. I do all the books, taxes.

HU: Have you had to learn any new things?

HA: I've had to learn how to do taxes.

HU: Did you teach that to yourself?

HA: Yes, pretty much.

HU: Just by reading?

HA: And making a lot of mistakes and having the IRS call on the phone. But it has been okay; it's been an education of sorts.

HU: What is your husband's attitude towards you working?

HA: My husband's attitude about me doing whatever I need to do has always been supportive. I think he feels a little threatened by it though.

HU: Why is that?

HA: Because I think he liked having . . . He is older than I; he is twelve years older than I am. The 1950's and 1960's people and the different attitudes surface pretty often in our relationship. We've had to work through a lot of different feelings. I think he would like to have me at home all of the time.

HU: Do you talk about that?

HA: Sure we do. We yell about it a lot too. See, our situation is this, Mary, I don't know if you are aware of this but up until a year ago my husband was in prison. He was gone. For two years I was here alone with the kids. If I have ever learned anything about myself that is when I did it. Jobs and everything else I've done were things that I know I can do, and I can do no matter what I have . . . I do what I have to do, but having him be here one day and gone the next, and having to be supportive of him being away, and being left here with three children . . . My two youngest were very small at the time; they weren't even in school yet so that I couldn't go to work and I didn't know how I was going to support us . . . This big house is really demanding. I had to go up and fix our roof. I had to learn to fix my own car. I had to do everything that two people would normally do. That is where I learned a lot about myself. That is where I've gained all the confidence in myself that I have now.

HU: So you think this is more of a recent thing because of this experience?

HA: Absolutely.

HU: You didn't feel you had . . . not that you didn't have it . . .

HA: Not like I do now.

HU: You weren't using it?

HA: Right.

HU: Is there anything else you could share with us about that experience as far as its effect on you? Did you work during that time?

HA: No.

HU: How did you support the family?

HA: I went on Aid to Dependent Children. I couldn't work. I had two small children. Living out here there were no baby-sitters available. If I would have hired a sitter to get a job at the wages I would have been able to make, I couldn't have

done it. I also felt that being that their father was away, if I had gotten up and left too, the damages to them would have been serious. They needed me here. I had to be here.

HU: So the main effect of this two year period, you feel, is in your confidence and ability to take care of business at home. So you got this job then after he came home?

HA: Yes.

HU: Do you foresee yourself keeping the job you are at?

HA: For awhile. I think I will probably eventually look for something that I'm more suited to, though I don't know yet what that will be. This is a good starting point. It is pretty flexible. I'm here when my kids are here. The two youngest are still young enough that I do want to be here when they get home from school. Come spring when the garden--I do an acre--starts to need me again, then I can be home in the afternoons to do that. I don't want to give up the things that I enjoy.

HU: In the course of these years of working, have you encountered any discrimination?

HA: I don't think so, and I don't think I have because I don't allow it.

HU: How do you not allow it?

HA: I don't know. Maybe I'm lucky, or maybe people know that I am going to demand to just be treated . . . There have been times that I have been patronized and condescended, but I do it right back. And if they don't like the way it feels, they don't do it to me again; if they're intelligent enough to see it that way, then it's okay.

HU: Do you ever think about retirement? You haven't had one job through these years. Do you ever worry about that?

HA: Yes, I do. The older I get, the more I think about it. I hope that my health holds out.

HU: But you do foresee a change in jobs that will maybe provide for that.

HA: Sure.

HU: Do you have a support system that helps you with your children?

HA: I have got one good friend up the road, and I've got Danna. The people who I am close to, I have always been close to, and they are not that far away.

HU: So you do have women friends who will help you with your children?

HA: Absolutely.

HU: At the moment, you feel that you have worked out your conflicts about working versus staying at home. There is nothing outstanding that is bothering you about that now because you have been able to get home in time?

HA: It's been okay, so far.

HU: How do you feel that your working contributes to your family, other than financially, or does it?

HA: I think it does just in how it affects me. If I am feeling good about myself, no matter what I'm doing, it is going to rub off on the family. Before I started working, there were a few months when money was tight, and I knew I should be doing something, but hadn't worked up the confidence to go out there and try it yet. As a result, I was depressed. I was impatient with the children, and everybody was feeling the effects of it. This was right before I started my most recent job.

HU: How did you feel when he called you and told you that you had the job?

HA: He didn't even call me to tell me I had a job. He called me and offered me the job, which was really nice because I didn't even have to look for it. He called and asked me if I wanted to go to work.

HU: How did you feel that first morning as you were going back to work after ten years of child care?

HA: Pretty apprehensive. I was scared.

HU: You worked with all men, correct?

HA: Yes.

HU: How many people worked there?

HA: Seven.

HU: Is there much interaction with the men you work with?

HA: All day.

HU: You don't just do books in an office?

HA: No, we talk. The guys are great. All the guys in the shop are really nice. There's no problem there. The first few

weeks were difficult, just getting to know people. The apprehensions all sneak in.

HU: How old is this house?

HA: This house is 150 years old. It's pre-Civil War. It was an underground railroad station during the Civil War. It has ten sides, and is called a decagon. This was the last stop that the slaves made on their way to Canada. This house was originally built by a man from New England, who built it on 150 acres. It had a turret on the flat part of the roof, where it was used as a watchtower.

HU: How did you get all this information about this house?

HA: Through the Historical Society.

HU: You must be really proud of it.

HA: Not really. (Laughter) It's just our house. Actually, all I see it as is a lot of work at this point. We are trying to get some major renovations that are long overdue done, and it's just a lot of work.

HU: Do your boys help you with . . .

HA: My oldest son is my biggest help. He is my right arm.

HU: What kind of things does he do?

HA: He does everything, just about everything. He does dishes. He helps with laundry. He helps with cooking. He baby-sits if I need help. Josh, when his dad was away for two years, pretty much took over as head male of the house. He was twelve, and the other boys were three and four at the onset of the whole thing. So to them, he became their father figure.

HU: You must be really proud of him.

HA: Oh yes! He's a good kid.

HU: Do you think that the way he grew up with you in and out of different relationships affected him?

HA: Absolutely. Most of his memories are positive, with the exception of the one relationship that was bad. He saw the pain there; as a result, he experienced it too. That was negative for him; however, Josh and I have always talked and we always do, and I just tell it to him the way it is. If he doesn't understand, at least he knows that I am honest and he will understand some day, and I think he'll be okay.

I was discriminated against in Catholic school. Not being

a rich kid and how I was treated by nuns affected the way I felt about myself until I was thirty years old. Then finally, finally, all of a sudden it dawned on me, "Wait a minute, those things they told me about myself weren't true. Why did I listen to that?" I had some really negative experiences in Catholic school.

HU: Could you tell me about some of them?

HA: Yes, when I was in the fifth or sixth grade, I started to develop. I was always the tallest girl in the class. I was the height I am now when I was twelve years old. On one occasion, a little, tiny, short boy that sat across from me was looking at my chest, and the nun who was our teacher took the little boy and me out into the hallway and made him measure my chest. That was one. Another one was a day where we didn't have to wear uniforms; we were allowed to wear our own clothes. I had a white knit suit that I was particularly fond of, and I was sent home because I was told that it was "too sexy."

HU: Was it at all?

HA: It was a white, straight skirt and a jacket. I didn't think so. I thought it was really pretty.

HU: And you were the only person who was sent home?

HA: Yes.

HU: And you felt that that was because you weren't one of the rich kids?

HA: No, that was in grade school. At Ursuline, though, I did. I didn't fit into the mainstream there.

HU: And you felt that it was because of financial differences?

HA: Absolutely.

HU: But you didn't put these pieces together until you were much older?

HA: No.

HU: How did you feel then?

HA: Pretty resentful. I resented the intrusion that religion made in my life. I still feel that a lot of my brain space was taken up with catechism questions that don't have anything to do with reality. I wasted so much of my childhood with guilt and indoctrination that my resentments are there, still.

HU: How did you work your way out of these attitudes and feelings?

HA: I faced them and stopped blaming people who didn't have anything to do with it.

HU: For instance?

HA: My mother. I spent a long time rebelling and trying to hurt my mother, because I thought she was responsible for any pain that I felt.

HU: And that just became institutionalized--it was the Catholic religion and its schools and the people who worked there?

HA: Yes.

HU: In what place of priority do you put work in your life?

HA: That's a tough one. I don't know. I guess I judge the quality of my life by how I feel day-to-day. If I get through one whole month where I can look back on and say, "Gee, that month was a really pleasant one," then I'll look at what I did that month. If I got a lot of pleasure from my job, then for that month, my job was top priority. If it was something else, then I gave that top priority. So I think that it changes. It has to. I can't always let my children be first, and I can't always let my job be first. I have to arrange it, or I won't enjoy any of it.

HU: You are just always responding to what's coming in and going out of your life?

HA: Pretty much. And being responsible for it by not putting any responsibility on anyone else. I determine how my life goes.

HU: What are the main things that have happened in your life that have caused you to grow, to face things, et cetera? How do you come to your realizations?

HA: The death of my father. I was devastated. He died when I needed him the most. I was a young woman of nineteen. I was just coming into my own self-awareness. I think I needed him as my role model of men. After he died, my relationships with men, for years, were terrible.

HU: You think that might have been because he wasn't . . .

HA: Yes, I do. I got married because he died. I wouldn't have entered into that relationship at all. I think losing him so young, I wanted a man in my life. My brother was in the service and in Vietnam. After my dad, he was the next closest, and they were both gone. My mother and I were never close. We just didn't see eye-to-eye. I wasn't the daughter that she

wanted me to be. So, I got married. After that didn't work, I guess I still thought I needed a man in my life to be fulfilled, and I entered into another terrible relationship.

HU: One of the recent researches is finding that women don't expect men to be there for them because their fathers weren't there for them. Now, you said that you felt that there was a lot of rebel in your father, but it did not come out, and you said that you feel that some of your natural rebelliousness came from him. Is that correct?

HA: Absolutely, from that side of the gene pool.

HU: Also, this same line of research shows that our identity, as women, is attached to our mothers. We don't have to separate from our mothers, so we don't have to separate from ourselves.

HA: Don't you think, then, that that is part of the reason that men and women have so much trouble communicating? I think that it is really important that, as a daughter, we get a good part of our sense of who we are from our fathers, especially if we want to enter into a long-term relationship with a man. I had my mother telling me what was required of me to become a successful woman, and yet she didn't have a successful relationship with a man. She had a husband. He fathered her children. He paid her bills. But there was no passion. There was no sharing. They didn't talk.

HU: So you had to grope your way through this in your twenties . . .

HA: Sure I had to grope my way through it because I knew, from watching them and observing their life, that I didn't want that, but I didn't know how to go about getting what I did want. Because my father died when he did, I didn't know how to approach a man.

HU: So, it was more like trial and error, realizing what you had been doing in those relationships?

HA: Sure.

HU: Also, on the same line of thinking about how our self-esteem, as women, is based on connection--that connected feeling we feel with our mothers--whereas a male self-esteem is based on separateness, he has to separate himself from that primary care giver. Then as he grows older, strength, to him, is separateness. The women who are studying these things now are starting to feel that boys who have been raised by their fathers don't have to repudiate feminism, femininity, when they grow older because they have gone to men for their primary needs, not just to women. It is not something that they have to separate from to "be a man." You're raising three boys. Do you feel that that is going to be a different task from raising daughters?

HA: For me personally, no. I don't judge people by their sex. If I had daughters, I would deal with them the same way I deal with my sons. I am completely honest with my sons about everything, and I would be with daughters. Just because I had daughters, they wouldn't get dance lessons where the boys would get sports or karate lessons. They could do whatever they wanted to do, express themselves however they saw fit. That's why I always wanted a daughter. I would have liked to have a shot at rearing a girl that way, because in my home, there were clear-cut lines. As a daughter, I fit into "this" set of rules, and as the son, Larry fit into "those." As a result, we both had disastrous relationships, because we've tried to categorize our mates that way and it didn't work.

HU: What role has your husband taken in raising your children?

HA: I think that the way my husband is with our kids is the thing I love about him the most. He isn't the typical man with sons. He doesn't care much for sports. They don't go out and throw balls around or wrestle. It is more tender. They talk a lot. They build with wood. They work outside. We all garden together, which I think is going to be one of the most valuable memories that my sons will have as adults. I think that when all five of us are outside in the spring, clearing the land so that we can grow our food and working together that way, they get a feeling of cohesiveness and security that will make their whole lives a breeze. They will know how they want to feel, and they will know how to get it. I'm not giving my children a false sense of values. I'm not cluttering their minds up with religion. That's going to have to be personal; that's going to have to be up to them. We read and listen to music. We dance to classical music together. We do yoga together. We cook together. We play together. That is my top priority, not bookkeeping, not my job. My job is where I go to do the things that are most important to me. I love my family. If it were up to me and I didn't have to work, I'd be here all the time.

Feminism, to me, isn't something that I just had to learn or just found out about. It's been the way I felt since I was a little girl. There was always a part of me that would say, "I don't agree. That's not the way it should be." That's why I said, earlier in the interview, that I never allowed anyone to discriminate against me. I just won't tolerate it. I've always been that way. I feel that as a mother with boys I can let them see that I can be liberal; I can be feminist; I can believe in human rights and all our equality and show it to them and still be here for them, not having to go out to fight people who don't really matter to me, for my beliefs.

HU: So your political is at home here.

HA: Well, sure. These are the people that will take it out where it will matter. I don't care about Joe Schmuck walking down

the street and what he feels about my role as a woman. I care about what my children are going to take out of this home and how they are going to treat the women in their lives. Be it women as employees, or as mates, or as friends, or whatever, they are going to take what I've given them out of here. That's where the benefits will show.

HU: Have you seen any instances, examples of it yet? Do you ever notice?

HA: I am starting to notice it in my oldest boy. He relates well to women. In school, the girls are all his friends. He doesn't care much for having to date or having a girl friend. He likes just being around women. He likes talking to women.

HU: He doesn't feel separate from them?

HA: No, not at all.

HU: You feel that part of that is because of examples he has had from you as his mother?

HA: Absolutely. What good am I going to do the world if I go out into the street and start spouting feminist logic to people that I have never seen before. I'm going to give it to my children, let them take it out and use it in their lives. I don't have to fight them. We can talk about it.

I wouldn't allow myself to be browbeaten. I couldn't handle it. I've always known who I was. I've never allowed myself to be abused. I've been stupid, but I've been responsible for my stupidity, not them. Why should I blame them for anything that's happened in my life? I've made my own decisions.

HU: So it wasn't that you picked the wrong men, it was just that . . .

HA: I made the wrong decisions. I think picking any man at the points in my life that I did where it failed, is why it failed. The timing was terrible.

HU: Just timing?

HA: Sure.

HU: What part does humor play in your life? What are the things that lighten up your day, your life?

HA: Humor is right up there on top. I'll make a joke out of just about anything. Sometimes it will be to cover up pain, but I'll turn most things into a joke.

HU: So the pain in your life, at this point, seems to be lessening, and you've come to a good spot with your marriage, your

children, and with your job?

HA: Yes. Buck and I were just talking last night. I was telling him that even if we don't make it as a couple, because we're such good friends, it won't matter. We'll always be friends. I guess, because our relationship is now eleven years old, it's the friendship that we're depending on. Fortunately, it's there. Things are starting to look pretty good. We've had a rough year, and we've come through it together. We've listened to each other's pain. We've listened to each other's complaints. We've yelled a lot; we've cried a lot, and we've stayed up all night drinking coffee to sort through a lot of things, but we've come to a good point. I think it's going to be alright. I don't want this one to fail. He is a good man. He really is.

HU: You're not real pleased with this interview, and the reason you're not pleased with it is because you feel, once again, that work is just what you do?

HA: The reason I wasn't pleased with the interview up until about fifteen minutes ago is because I don't like any kind of regimen. If I'm going to be asked the same set of questions that other women are going to be asked, I can't be totally honest, because the questions aren't honest, not really, not if you don't know me.

HU: So you only feel comfortable dealing with things individually.

Thank you very much, Tricia.

HA: You're welcome, Mary.

END OF INTERVIEW