

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Women's History

O.H. 1793

Interviewee: JOAN ZRILICH

Interviewer: Beth Burr

Subject: Women's History

Date: March 28, 1996

B: This is an interview with Joan Zrilich for the Youngstown State Oral History Program. The topic is Women's History and how life has changed for women. The interview is being done by Beth Burr at Joan's home in Medina, Ohio. This is the 28th of March 1996. It is 10am.

B: All right we'll just start back as far as you can remember, tell me about your childhood, your background.

Z: I was born in 1931 in a suburb of Pittsburgh. This was the time of the Depression and my parents had a small apartment, which was on the second floor of my aunt and uncle's home. Although I was probably too young to realize it, that was very nice.

One of the things that my aunt loved to do was to sew, and I can't remember mother sewing when I was that little, but I can remember my aunt with her sewing machine. As I became older, I became well not an expert seamstress but I certainly enjoyed sewing. I think that is where it came from.

When I was about three years old my parents moved to Cleveland because my father had a chance of getting a steady job, Depression time remember. He was in the building trades. He contracted out and it wasn't the same as having a regular salary. But we always managed to have enough to eat etc. My mother though, as I told Beth before, I think that it bothered her a lot leaving all of her family who was in that area. It came out in a real concern about financial security. It was partly she missed the emotional support of her family and also I suppose she had good reasons for worrying about finances.

I was an only child. I heard a lot about the Depression in those days, if anybody had asked me back then I would have said well sure we're poor you know. But now that I look back at it, we weren't really because we had things like a telephone and a radio and a car. In those days that was more middle class.

My parents were movie fans. They always took me with them of course. They weren't about to get babysitters; that wasn't, well I never even heard of babysitters back then. One of the things that struck me was no matter what was showing at the movies, no matter how adult it was my parents never seemed to worry that it was going to be detrimental to me. Of course back in those days movies were very bland. In other words, my mother had a very open and easy attitude; I think even when I was very young. She trusted that I had good sense. If I were growing up now, I'm sure she would be more

concerned about what kinds of things I saw in television for instance. So when I learned to read, nobody seemed to care what I read. It was you know, no problem there.

Going to a lot of movies I also saw a lot of newsreels. I became aware of the Japanese and the war in China at a very young age.

My mother wasn't working and she stayed home and cooked and cleaned and she was a very good cook and she seemed to enjoy it a great deal. In the back of my mind there was always a certain amount of concern about the news reels I saw about these Japanese were fighting and especially you would see these pictures of them strafing the fleeing Chinese.

When I was in camp and that had to be in 1939, when my parents picked me up my mother told me that a war has started. World War II has started. I was eight years old. "I said are we going to be bombed?" She said, "We're not in it yet, but we will be." Which I thought was very astute of my parents.

Jobs and things started to pick up and my mother took a job. Again they completely trusted me; there was no worry about my having a babysitter or anything like that.

Back in those days, now I am trying to look at the thirties, when my mother got her job. That was about in 40 or 41 it was a little bit unusual because most women stayed at home. What women did in those days was to cook and clean and take care of children. I knew that because that is what my mother did and her women friends and my aunts and my grandmother did. We visited them quite regularly. It never even occurred to me that there were other things that a woman could do.

Although Eleanor Roosevelt was very much in the newsstand you know I was just too young to put everything together. She was someone completely out of my field. I wasn't even planning my life, I just figured that when I was through with school I would just get married and have children like my mother had done. Then of course the war started in 1941 in December and I think I was eleven then. No I guess I was ten and a half then. I was quite frightened in the beginning because of these Japanese who had just attacked Pearl Harbor. I remember these newsreels that I had seen. Then after a couple of weeks and the Japanese didn't come over and bomb Cleveland I felt more relaxed.

I have to admit that the war for me was very exciting. I don't like to say a lot of fun but things were always happening and it certainly wasn't a sad time. Really in the beginning it should have been because we almost lost the war in the beginning with the Japanese had they taken Midway. But I didn't know that, actually it never even occurred to me that the United States would lose the war. I was sure that we would win.

There was rationing of all kinds of things in the United States, but really it was nothing compared to what the British had to go through. I mean coffee would be rationed, sugar, canned goods, and meats and things like butter but it was really a farce when you think about what other countries were going through.

So as I was saying, my mother was working. And we would go and visit her family in Pennsylvania which we did a couple of times a year on the train and at other times for holidays like Labor Day and Easter and the Fourth of July. We would drive down, Dad would drive us down and we would have big family get-togethers.

Well mother was working so I would take the train and I was only what nine or ten years old. I took the train and spent several weeks maybe even a month and a half or so visiting my mother's sisters and brothers and their families and my grandmother.

My Aunt Ellen was my age; she was my grandmother's last daughter and my mother's baby sister. There was 25 days difference in age. She would come to Cleveland, and we would do things like going to the movies and the zoo, things like that. Now that I think about it, where did we get the money for that? Neither one of us were working but we always seemed to have money. Of course things were cheaper back then. I think it was a mind set that you were poor. Of course during the war prosperity came for so many people. So as I said I had a great time. It was a lot of fun and it was exciting.

As I got older I can remember that when the first year the war ended there were still a lot of soldiers and sailors around, they hadn't been demobilized yet. And I remember on a train trip on a Sunday when I went to the dining car, I was what fourteen. The conductor or waiter or whatever he was he seated me at a table with these three sailors. I was very shy and I was going to a girl's school and I wasn't used to that. A woman, I went to a girl's school after catholic elementary school, and there was a certain way that girls acted. There was a certain things that girls did, that women did. My school expected academic excellence. They made sure that you got a good grounding in all of the sciences and the math's etc. But there wasn't a whole lot of concentration on women having careers. The highest thing you could do really was enter the convent. After that the next highest thing was to be a good catholic wife and mother. It didn't occur to me that there were a lot of options.

Remember we are still talking about the time when movies were very much centered on family life, if they were about everyday relations. Incidentally that was another thing about movies. I always felt left out when they had a typical American family because the husband always wore a suit and went to the office. My father was in the contracting business and he wore you know work pants and things like that. I know it sounds funny but you know that really influenced me. I felt that we weren't quite the right kind of people. If we were the right kind of people my father would be working in an office. I never mentioned this to anybody, I didn't feel that I had to; it was just the way that things were.

After high school instead of going to college, I had aspirations; I did want to go to college because I was interested in psychology but I was engaged. We were very much in love. I worked to support Leonard to put him through college, which was what many people did, many women did. The thing was that after he graduated then I would go to college; of course by then we had children so forget about it.

Back in the days of the thirties and forties one of the things were that there were very few of the conveniences that we have now. So you see a woman really did have a lot of things to do. Frozen foods were really not in yet. If you made a cake, you made it from scratch. You didn't have easy care clothing, you had to iron everything. The washing machines were not automatic so washday was really a big problem. Everybody used to do spring-cleaning. Now I don't think that anybody does spring cleaning now. The reason that I see that they did spring cleaning was because most people heated with coal or oil or something that caused a lot of dirt in the house. Since then I have found that if

you heat with coal or oil now you do not have the mess because these things are refined, because electricity is very clean. But women then had to do a lot of cleaning.

The cooking was very much from scratch etc. that sort of thing. Then I found myself a married woman, working for a while.

Then we had the children. We had two children and we were living back in Cleveland after my husband graduated. I was bored to death. This was the fifties; this was the time when I think McCalls had the family that plays together stays together, meaning family orientation. There was also the family who prays together stays together. Well my husband as a pharmacist, worked irregular hours, many nights and a lot of holidays and weekends. Little children are definitely not companionable, I was really very starved for adult conversation and that sort of thing and I was really bored. We moved to Medina County and we had another child. I had more women roughly my own age around me because it was a suburban area. Most of those women were not very companionable not anymore so than my children. Sometimes I thought my children were more companionable. In other words they were not interested in the same things. So I did throw myself into cooking and cleaning and sewing. Had I but known that antagonized a few of my neighbors; I found out much later. Their husbands used to point me out to them and say, "You say you work, why can't you be more like Joan." I'd be cleaning or working in the garden and I was only doing that because I was bored. So we became subtler, this was the time of the fifties, and really it was a very dull period, at least from my perspective. We lived in the suburbs and there was just nothing exciting going on. Then I think it was in about '58, Betty Ferdan came out with her *Feminine Mystique*, around that time. When I read it I realized that there wasn't anything wrong with me. I

had thought that there was something wrong with me. I wasn't happy and contented on being a housewife and doing housewife things. I wanted something else; I wanted stimulation, intelligent stimulation. Also in the fifties you had a lot more help with your housework, automatic washers and dryers, frozen foods were becoming more prevalent, meats of all kinds, polyester clothing, where you didn't have to spend all of the time ironing. I can remember I did have a basket of things that did need to be ironed. They were the old fashioned things; it stood there, in the laundry room and it stood there. I could never bring myself to sprinkle the darn things and iron them. I can remember Lisa saying to me, "Does anybody ever wear those clothes." So we would actually have more time.

Although I sewed and gardened and things like that, I wasn't in to crafts yet. I considered that basket weaving, which was very wrong. I think I considered it basket weaving because back in those days if people did embroidery or what have you, it was very dull. It was a dull sort of thing there was no pizzazz. I couldn't feel pleasure out of knitting a gray sweater. I mean that is so boring why would I want to do that? Then Kennedy was elected and things didn't change right away. Jackie Kennedy was a different kind of thing than the previous first lady. Although looking back Eleanor Roosevelt was still the most concerned and the woman who did the most good, but other women, other president's wives since that time have had other things that they have had to concentrate on. This was a media thing and it didn't happen until I think Mrs. Nixon got in, oh no I guess it was Lady Bird Johnson. Lady Bird said that her mission was beautification, and I know the joke was: "Now what do you think of Lady Bird's plans for beautification?" And the answer was "Anything you think she can do to help herself

would be great.” Pat Nixon said that her special plan would be volunteerism. This is probably just stuff that their press assistants have told them to do.

Back with Kennedy there was certainly a different type of mood. There was a jubilant mood. The media, not the owners but most of the workers in the media tended to be more liberal. So there was, well the Kennedy’s could do nothing wrong. I understand that a lot of things were very detrimental to the Kennedy’s that were known at that time but it was kind of an agreement not to mention it. The assassination was an absolutely horrible shock. I always feel like things started to go downhill after that. Maybe in a way there was a psychological thing that affected the American people after that.

Before Kennedy was killed we were involved with Vietnam, very minorly but we were involved. I can remember hearing about the hippies in the summer of 1963 in Washington. So that wasn’t something that came in only after his assassination. Probably actually the involvement in the Vietnam War is what caused so much concern in this country. Poor President Johnson, in a way I felt so sorry for him because he had to go against the president who had been martyred and was very popular with the whole Kennedy family and Mrs. Kennedy and the children were being just gushed over something. He had a rough way to go. In the beginning I feel he was tenuous and perhaps he was tenuous because he wanted people to feel that things were going to go on as before. He seemed to think that since Kennedy had a fight involvement in Vietnam, it should continue. In a way it was almost like he didn’t have any permission to pull out of Vietnam, no matter what he felt. I don’t know but this is what I’m guessing.

Women in the sixties, something happened, something happened, women at least the younger women were becoming, well there were more choices open to them. In 1964

there was in memory of President Kennedy, the Civil Rights Act passed. Of course the idea of that was to protect minorities. Well someone, I think it was a woman senator who said well race, religion, age, I don't know if age was in there, and gender, we ought to put in there gender. Oh sure they put in gender thinking oh the little old girls, what do they know. But it wasn't long before the women's movement started and here it was in black and white and I think that a lot of things happened at that time, which let women expand and compete for a lot more things.

You know you have to remember that a lot of women in my generation could care less in fact if anything they thought it was terrible. Certainly a lot of older women, but I don't like to stereotype people because with some of them it was different. They were happy for the opportunities that were open to women. Of course we didn't know how many opportunities were open, I mean that was thirty years ago. Since then we've come a long way, but not all of it has been good I don't think. I started thinking about going to college. My mother said to me, "What do you want to do that for?" Now mom knows best so I put it off, or I didn't put it off I put it out of my mind. Then we moved to Hinckley where we had some land. My husband, when he was in college read a book called *Five Acres and Independence*. That was where you could raise all of your own food and you could have a couple of goats and you didn't have to buy anything. I didn't read it but anyhow, who took care of the goats and the land? It was me. I mean it was interesting, and I'm glad I went through it but that wasn't my bag. Goats are not companionable; they were less companionable than small children.

So when my son went off to college and when Lisa went to college, I went and took classes at Cuyahoga Community. There were a lot of women in my age group who

were also. It was actually a fad for women to go back to college. I didn't realize it but I was actually a statistic. I thought that I was the original and I was just a statistic. Again I was very interested in psychology and I enjoyed college a great deal. It proved something to me and it gave me a feeling of improvement and that I could do things. All around me I could see women doing things. This was the seventies and it still wasn't how it is today.

I was going to go and get a degree and go on to graduate school for psychology, but Leonard had a heart attack. Again I went back to my youth because a woman stayed home and took care of her family and her husband, husbands first and this is what I did. Again he was seriously ill, he had cerebral aneurisms, he wasn't able to work after that, we were lucky that he lived through it. There just wasn't any time for me to go back to college or to get a career or anything of that sort. After he died I wasn't old enough for social security, there was some money, you know, but I knew it wouldn't last. I had to get a job and here I was in my fifties and I really just had a few years of college. It was very difficult. By then the recessions had come and it was very difficult to get a job. I got a job with the Medina County Office for Older Adults part time. A new program was instigated and I was in charge of it but after two years, the funding was gone so I went back to part time work but I enjoyed it immensely.

I don't really regret the fact that I had a lot of, how should I say this, missed opportunities, because at the time I didn't know that I had any opportunities. Maybe there weren't any, maybe there weren't any opportunities, the way there are today. Now of course I'm on my own. I direct my own life. I won't get married again. I loved my husband very much but he was used to me being what I had been taught I should be,

submissive. After he had a cerebral aneurysm I had to take over the running of the family because he wasn't able to. He had memory loss and problems with his reasoning. He was rather child-like. I mean he could talk and walk but his mental processes were affected. Even before he died I had been running the family and making the decisions. That is one reason why I would not get married again. I like male companionship, especially that certain male but I wouldn't get married because the men that I would be interested in, or the men that I am interested in are my generation and no matter what they say men are very much conformists. They are really conservative, they really are. I know that he would expect me to behave in a certain way. I don't need that.

So now the things that have influenced me, the women who have influenced me are my mothers, and when we had that other taping I didn't realize how much my mother had influenced me. My Aunt Jule, she had influenced me a lot. Of course Eleanor Roosevelt, although as I grew older I didn't feel that. I read a lot about her she really had a lot of problems. I thought she handled them very well. Another person who influenced me was the mother of one of my best friends. Their last name was Pasanski. Barbara went to college, we were the same age and she went to college. She got a Masters Degree and she went out to California, where she married. But her mother and I and her father, her family, we remained friends. I would see a lot of Mrs. P., as I would call her. She was exactly twenty-five years older than I was. My children were little. She would tell me that she regretted so much that when her children were little that she was so anxious about having the house clean and meals on time at supper. She really didn't feel as if she had the time to enjoy them and them to enjoy her. She gave me a lot of other insights from a woman of her generation.

One of the things I was thinking about last night was that Mrs. P. was born, let's see I was born in 1931, so she was born in 1905, 6, something like that. She was saying that maybe there were not a lot of conveniences for women, housework etc. but the standards were different. She said that she could remember her mother, when her mother wanted to clean the stove; all she did was take a jar of blackings and put it over it. Where as today, now I know that we have the stoves that more or less clean themselves automatically, yet have a higher standard of cleanliness, I believe. Which is another reason why we don't have spring-cleaning. So anyway, Mrs. Pasanski in many ways influenced me and I admired her a great deal.

The changes, well certainly in the thirties and the forties. The thirties in particular, the thirties was a time of depression. Maybe not personally but the man was the one who took care of the financial part, he's the one who worked. During the war we had those four or so years where women showed that they could do all of these things. But almost as soon as the war was over, it was like back to the family and people had large families back then, at that time. That was considered the thing to do. Like I said that was considered a dull period. I couldn't see any advances at all for women. It was well first of all the Civil Rights act of '64, and the Vietnam involvement and the hippie involvement, which I think, is all tied together in a way. It was all the same kind of influence. A feeling with you know the whole "hell no we won't go!"

Youngsters were expressing themselves more so that changed things. Things were opened up. We have women astronauts that could get killed up there too. One thing that I feel is bad for women is, now the divorce laws, I think tend to be certainly not in favor of women. It's almost as if they are saying, ok you want equality; we'll give you

equality. Now, a woman who has not been educated for a decent job, and has been spending time taking care of the house, even if she has been working, she doesn't have a career and they suffer financially. I think that a lot of men, even young men are very angry at the women's movement. In a way they take it out on their girlfriends and their significant others. Women are not treated anymore as if there is something special about them. Well really there isn't anything special. So did you have any questions that you wanted to bring out?

B: Well you know one thing that I am curious about is that your mother didn't want you going to school, what did she think about her granddaughters going to college?

Z: She was very proud of it.

B: Because did you go to school while your daughters were in school?

Z: Yes, when they were in college.

B: So you were going to college with them, while Leonard was still alive?

Z: She was proud of the granddaughters but she thought that it was silly for me to do so. Ok she did admire the fact that I did work to put Leonard through college. She admired that. But she felt, well you have a husband now, who has a profession and he's making good money. You know she just didn't see any, she didn't see that I needed the

intellectual stimulation. That didn't even occur to her. It was more that she was thinking that I could get a good job or a career or something. Which of course both goals were there in the back of my mind. The intellectual stimulation was very important too; she just thought it was silly. But she's proud of the girls, yes.

B: I was curious about that, because you said that Lisa had gone to school but you didn't.

Z: Yeah, but you know I went, but there was no use in even telling her that I had a 4.0 average. And that was another thing about the women in my age group. We were all out to prove something. We all worked very hard. I think a lot of us became nervous wrecks to keep that 4.0 average. The women who I went to college with, I don't think that any of them have what you would call careers. Now there was a question over recession and all that this came on in the eighties. So any other questions?

B: Politics, women having a voice and the right to vote. I know we talked before about campaigning.

Z: All right, well politics. Okay well we were democrats. Probably because all of the people in our income bracket who were urban dwellers anyhow would be democrats because it was Roosevelt who saved this country, and I really think that he and his wife did marvelous things and they had a lot of programs. So we were democrats, but at that

time mostly everyone was a democrat, and when I was in high school I was quite interested in politics.

There was an organization called, I don't know, it was a citywide and a suburb wide thing where young people got together to understand better how the government works. Junior Council of World Affairs, that's right. We would have mock UN meetings and things like that, where you were supposed to be a delegate of a certain country. Leonard was in college, incidentally, that gave me a lot of status, because I had a boyfriend in college and I was only in high school. He and I enjoyed it and we got together with some of the more intellectual kids that we met, or that I met. We had meetings under the auspices of the Junior Council rules. It was just informal debates and things. So we were very interested in politics.

I'm trying to think of women actually as candidates. There were women; there had been Margaret Chase and there had been other women in politics, but there weren't a whole lot of them and it was the kind of thing where it was something different, and you were aware of it. Actually I never thought myself of going into politics.

Anyhow we were liberals and that was another thing about the fifties, when the McCarthy thing came out, Leonard and I, we were married by then, we couldn't believe that anybody would take McCarthy seriously. We had no idea about the damage that was being done to people. I didn't realize that until much later. However in the late forties I was still in high school, that was when I developed my life long hatred for Richard Nixon because Time said that he had won against Jerry Voorhees, and then Helen Gahagan Douglas by using nasty tricks. In other words accusing them of being communists and

that sort of thing. Of course I never knew how far this man would rise but I certainly developed a hatred for anybody that was so despicable.

I'm looking back you know, Nixon actually was a pretty good president. All right I know there was Watergate and all of that and at the time, the media remember they were out to get him anyhow. But you know if that had been John Kennedy that would have all been blown over. Nixon even though he probably used dirty tricks, he did have a certain kind of integrity, which some of the presidents we have had since then have not had. They don't have any of it.

Anyhow so politics okay, well we voted for Stevenson, we voted against Eisenhower and of course we voted for Kennedy and that was a very happy thing. We voted for Lyndon Johnson because Goldwater was running against him and anybody but him. The war was heating up and I could remember, it was when the gulf of Tonkin came in and that was I think in the summer of 1964. I was talking to this neighbor and I said that means war. She says well Dennis my son is in the religious life and my son Harry is too old. And I didn't say anything; I had a fourteen-year-old son. But this made me think the Vietnamese War was stupid. I became much more involved and I did do some volunteering for the Friends and we did things like marches and we had Russian visitors, Soviet visitors and taking them around the east part of Ohio. I was really quite active.

Of course nationally I was a liberal. I campaigned for McGovern both in the primary and in the general election. I mean that was hard because it was four maybe five weeks before the election. We had a lot of college kids from all over this section of the Midwest who came to help us. We were talking to one of the girls and we acknowledged

that McGovern with all of the polls, he didn't stand a chance. She said what if we went out there and we killed Nixon. I said, no that wouldn't work because then Agnew would get in because of the sympathy vote. Then she said what if we killed McGovern. I said, "You want Sgt. Shriver to be president?" Needless to say we didn't kill either one of them. It was half serious; we would have done almost anything but not that.

Yes, I was very emotionally involved and the day of the election it was raining and I was outside of one of the polling places, and this young man. The mayor of Brunswick had lent me an umbrella because I didn't have one. It was raining and he comes and he was going to vote and he comes out and he had voted he started ragging on me and, he said, ha ha your man, and I took the umbrella and I hit him over the head and broke the umbrella and I kicked him. I was frightened and I got into my car and I went back to headquarters and I said to John Looney, he was a member of the Friend's Service Committee, I said, "John I have just assaulted a man." He knew I had a sense of humor and he says "Joan don't joke like that". I said, "No John I assaulted a man." Well obviously nothing happened except that well I could never face the mayor's wife and I put the umbrella up under the front steps.

As for women in politics, you know that actually that was a step up; women would be working in a campaign and in charge of the campaign. Maybe, even though it was a grass route level. I didn't realize it at the time that a couple of us were kind of pioneers in this. Although this was '72. But anyhow I didn't think anything of it because women were doing more and more things and then of course one of the women who had been working with me, Helen West, we were co- directors and we had these store front headquarters and it had two rooms and I was in the outer room at the desk and Helen was

in the inner room where we had our coffee and things like that. This woman came in and she was a republican and she was the sister of Vanmeter, he was no longer around but he was running for Ohio State Senator. And she was a republican. She came in and of course Helen couldn't hear her or anything but this woman was trying to give me brochures and she started ragging me, You know, "your candidate," this and that. Then Helen heard me, I stood up and I said, "You get out, before I throw you out." She looked quite startled and she left and Helen came out and says, "Joan what have you done, what's happening?" Well Helen then ran for mayor of Brunswick after McGovern lost and she was mayor for three or four terms. I helped her and I became active for a while in the Women's Democratic Club. Actually the women who were in the club were kind of nostalgic old Ward bosses, only they were female. Really it was boring, we would have things like teas and cocktail parties. I met Glenn and Metzemaum and I became close enough with Metzemaum so that he remembered me and his wife remembered me. Whenever I had a problem I could call his office and usually his girl would be able to get us some help. That was very worthwhile. I met Glen too but at that time Glen and Metzemaum were running against each other. I know that at one of those cocktail parties they were both there and Metzemaum said, "you know that is what makes me so mad, he is famous all he has to do is walk into the room and everybody walks toward him, nobody even knows who I am." So I am sure that Glen was an okay guy but I never became close with him.

All right now I lost my train of thought. Okay working in campaigns, oh yes the democratic women were boring actually, they were boring. Really when you get right down to it I think that I am, maybe there are a lot of things about me that are

unconventional, and if I had lived in a different milew, then god knows what would have happened to me. The only thing that I think kept me focused on the usual sort of thing is the fact that convention told me that I had to do so. So I really don't know if I were born at your, say in your time, how liberated I would have been or what I would have done. Of course my religion would have a big effect on me but you know religion has changed a lot for women too. Women are doing a lot of things in all kinds of churches. I think the Episcopalians and other denominations, but I think the Episcopalian have women priests now. At least I'm not going to go to some wild party, like I mean I don't know what but when you get right down to it today the democrats and the republicans they are not that different. I think that most politicians, whether they are male or female, most not all are really more out to exploit the situation, it really gratifies them whether it be money or power or what have you. Along the way if they can, they'll give you. When I was in college I did an interview of Mary Rose Ockar and she had taught at the girls school where I had gone although not me, this was later, and she impressed me very much at that time and she said that a woman can do anything, and she said if I can get elected then any woman can do so.

That was something I remembered and as my girls were growing up even before college or anything I kept telling them that they had to get an education and I didn't say you could do anything, but I said you get an education so that you can support yourself and don't be relying on a man and the reason I said that well it was two fold. I was very conscious of the fact that I was this parasite whom my husband was supporting and I didn't like that feeling and also I probably would not have been so submissive if I had had more financial, I added more financially to the family. So Mary Rose Ocar, she was

helpful and I liked her, but I was very disappointed. With this woman, you know they stay in office a very long time and as they stay in office for a long time, most of them really do things that really seem quite correct. And I was disappointed because she was a woman and a woman has to be so many times better than a man just to get to the same place. So any other questions?

B: I think you've pretty much touched on it all.

Z: Well I was trying to ..

B: What about discrimination?

Z: Against women?

B: Yeah, have you witnessed any of it, I mean because you have been in a lot of different spears. I mean it is probably most prevalent in the church.

Z: Oh yes, discrimination, I don't know that we called it that or knew that, but certainly when I was in school and I was a young married woman and mother. My teachers and priest said women did this, that's it. I remember things that were very strict with in the church before Vatican Two. That's someone else who has influenced me, Pope John the 23rd or at least his ideas have influenced millions of people, I mean a wonderful man. Yeah there was a lot of discrimination in the church but I didn't realize it and I think that's it, you didn't realize that you were being discriminated against. So whether it was in the church or the workplace or anything else, because this is the way that women had always been treated. Now as I read a lot in history and I did major in history and psychology in college and I did a lot of extra reading and you know women's position in the last 100-150 years is relatively new. Women had in many ways a lot more freedom even in medieval times, look at the Wife of Bath, she had what five husbands

and she was able to do all of this traveling. Women back in those days would help you know work in the families business, now of course your peasant woman that was different. Now the peasant man, they were both kind of down trodden. Even though they weren't serfs anymore they were pretty much down traveled. The Victorian time came in actually before the time of Victoria I think and it was probably people were upset by the behavior of the children of George the 3rd. Society and Aristocracy was very unconventional. You know Caroline Lamb when she met Byron said, mad, bad and dangerous to know, but she the poor thing was the one that suffered. Now you are going to say this was the aristocracy and yes it's true but your ordinary people were not as bound by convention as they became during Victorian times and also during Victorian times it probably was not you lower class that became convective, it was your middle class. It was the age of the middle class.

So there was a lot of discrimination in the church although I didn't realize it. Looking back in the work place, well it never even occurred to me that I could do anything other than where you find a lot of women doing things. My first job after high school was with a telephone company as a long distance operator. Actually that was a good experience because it was all women and your superiors that you came into contact with were women and you could get there in time and I'm sure there were men naturally who were calling the shots behind the scenes but I wasn't aware of it, so it was a good experience and I'm trying to think of some of the things since then. I don't think that I have come against much discrimination but I think that my daughters have in the workplace. That is why I say this is not necessarily good for women, because a lot of men are angry about this sort of thing. They treat the females that they have under their

control in the workplace in a way; I mean there's a difference. So it is discriminatory, they seem to be very conscience of the fact that this is a woman. I think that is a problem for in fact the younger women. Well actually I have been with older adults and actually when I was in college those male professors, some of them treated me like oh well she's a woman, isn't she doing well, they were very condescending. That was in the '70's. Well now you have to remember that some things have happened to change me, I mean I'm a lot more aggressive and assertive. I think the reason for that, I really do is because of the medication that I am taking. The medication is a Tamoxaphin and it suppresses my female hormones and I was surprised that I still had any, but I did. Of course so the testosterone took over. The first six weeks after I started going on it I grew a white beard, you know. I used wax and took it off and it hasn't come back since then and I think my body is accustomed to being taken over with testosterone. Okay I mean it is really true, I am much more aggressive and assertive and women do have this biological thing, I think that the estrogen does tend to make us more submissive, I mean it comes out when we are more submissive. Freud said that, "biology is destiny;" well I think that there is a lot to it because there is nothing you can do with your hormones. So now since I am an older adult and I am working at the bakery and I am meeting all kinds of people, quite frankly I wouldn't notice if anybody was discriminating, because I would give it right back to them. It is because I feel that I have a lot of strengths. So I don't think that I have had a lot of discrimination except as you said in the church, but now it is quite different, thank god. Anything else?

B: No, I don't think so. You covered everything that I needed.

Z: Well I wanted to cover all of the points.

B: Do you want to add anything else?

Z: No it's okay.

[