

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Women's Herstory Program

Personal Experiences

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MARIE HANDEL

Interviewed

by

Danna Bozick

on

October 13, 1987

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

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INTERVIEWEE: MARIE HANDEL

INTERVIEWER: Danna Bozick

SUBJECT: social work, motherhood, nontraditional student

DATE: October 13, 1987

B: This is an interview with Marie Handel on Women's Herstory for the Women's Resource Center in conjunction with the Youngstown State Oral History Program. This interview is being conducted on Tuesday, October 13, 1987.

Can you tell me a little about your family and how you grew up?

H: I came from a rather large family. I was one of nine children. I was the fifth of nine children. There were three younger than me. I had five sisters and three brothers. I had one brother younger than me and two sisters younger than me. In the family arrangement, I had one sister who was the oldest; I had two brothers; then there were three girls. I was the third of the middle three girls. Then I had a brother just two years younger than me and then two sisters that were much younger. It was almost like being that third daughter in the middle there. I almost didn't belong. My brother did not identify with the older boys at that time. My two older sisters were immediately older than me. They were together.

B: So they paired out.

H: However, when I was in high school they would allow me to borrow all of their clothes.

B: That must have been a busy time. It sounds so busy growing up in a large family with nine children.

H: It was wonderful. I was born in 1930, which was the beginning of the Depression era. I can't remember ever feeling unhappy in our home. We didn't have a lot of things, but we always had enough. We were always a together family.

B: Did you grow up in this area?

H: Yes. I was born in Cincinnati in southern Ohio. My mom and dad moved here. They had lost their home. They came here because my mom's mother was here and they moved in with her. They stayed here after that. We have been here ever since. I was here until I got married. Then I moved out of the area.

B: What did your father do for a living to be able to support nine children?

H: When it came to the point of my realizing what daddy did, he was in business for himself, which was something that he had always wanted to do. Before that he had many and various jobs. By that time he was in the heating and sheet metal business. When he started out he would go out and contact people. He would figure the job and sell it and go out and install it with the help of my two older brothers. Things kept getting better and better. The times before that when I got to the point of trying to look back, I know he was in a lot [of jobs] in order to take care of the family the way he did. He was in a lot of sales jobs.

B: Did your mother ever work outside of the home?

H: No, my mother never worked outside of the home. That was one thing she missed because she had been a professional before she married. She was a bookkeeper. She was also a musician. She had taught piano. She didn't seem to work as much. With the large family she had, she had a full-time job at home. I can remember in later years when my dad was in business for himself. She felt shut out. She knew she was capable. My dad had to be the guy. She was his queen. He provided and she didn't get involved at all with his business. She would have liked to.

B: Did he hire a bookkeeper?

H: Yes.

B: He had an outside person. It didn't seem to be an option to her?

H: No, that was not an option for her. They say everybody has their own way of doing bookkeeping. He did his own for a long time. It wasn't a big amount of business, but it was enough to keep our family. It got larger as my brothers were in it many years. Then they started having their families. The business did grow then. That is when they had outside people come in. My brother had his wife come in.

B: The times have changed perhaps.

H: Times have changed.

B: How did your mother feel about that?

H: I think she resented it. You could tell. She felt left out. That was the time when everybody was getting married and moving away. Everybody was doing their own thing. Most of my brothers and sisters had stayed in the area. At the time, I was the only one that was away. But still they weren't living at home. Here she was with this big, old house. She did not really love cooking and cleaning. She would do it because she had to, but that wasn't her cup of tea.

B: She must have done a lot of that with nine children.

H: She did, but we helped a lot though as you do in a large family. I suppose that is the way I raised my family because I had the same background. We all had our jobs to do.

B: Tell me a little bit about your family.

H: I have fourteen children. I have eight boys and six girls. My oldest is thirty-seven and my youngest is fourteen. I was nineteen when I was married and had my first son. My children are all about twenty-one months apart. The closest I have is one son and daughter who are sixteen months apart. Most of them are all about twenty or twenty-one months apart. They were very close. I had two sons and then three daughters. It was almost as if I had three different families.

B: This was all with the same husband?

H: Yes, all with the same husband. They were all single births, no twins. The first four were born when we lived in Omaha. We had moved out to Omaha because my husband was attending the university. He could not continue because there was no such things as financial aid in those days. He went to work for the department store. He started out in sales and he ended up being a merchandise manager. That took us to Minneapolis. I had three children there. We lived there until 1959. We moved there in 1956. We lived in Nebraska from 1949 until 1956. My husband was young. He then moved us to St. Louis, Missouri. He got out of the retail business because he was a very young buyer. He was the youngest buyer that they have ever had in the business.

B: What was his area?

H: He was a buyer in women's sportswear. Things came so easily for him. Success just came. They didn't even know how young he was at the time. He had to quit college because of all of this. He had thought and had been told all of his life that he was going to be a doctor.

B: This was his ambition?

H: This was his grandmother's ambition for him.

B: Do you think it was because of having the family to support then and without the financial aid that just . . .

H: I don't know if that was his own dream or not. It had always been one that had been given to him. My children all went to Cardinal Mooney High School. They were going to go into medicine. It was just assumed. They all went the academic route. They were all very good students. My oldest son did go to Youngstown State University. Then he graduated and went to the University of North Dakota. He got his Ph. D. there in biochemistry. He applied to medical schools. In the meantime, after he graduated from NDSU, he got married. It was very difficult for him at that time because he had always been told he was going to be a doctor. That was a little difficult to see him go through. The oldest one in the family has it a little bit difficult.

B: Did the dream get transferred there?

H: It got transferred. I'm sure it did. It did work out good for him. There was a Professor Graf that used to teach here at YSU who was up in North Dakota. My husband's brother, who is now a doctor, had known Dr. Graf. My brother-in-law had gone to YSU. There were four in his class that were accepted to medical school that went to St. Louis University Medical School from YSU, which was kind of an honor. They had four from YSU to be accepted into medical school. He was a chemistry major. He knew Dr. Graf. He had Dr. Graf as an instructor. He made that connection for my son Teddy. Teddy went up there and worked with him and got interested in research. It's what he truly loves. He has his own analytical lab today. I am a firm believer that what happened should have happened. I think that this is such a love of his. He taught for awhile at Virginia Tech.

B: You were nineteen when you were married. Did you have a year in between when you graduated from high school and when you got married?

H: Yes.

B: What did you do during your year off?

H: I worked for my father. I was his bookkeeper. I had gone through high school thinking that I was going to be a nurse. I thought that I was going to be a nurse or a teacher. I had all the courses I needed to go into nursing. My senior year I was to take chemistry. I was in chemistry class one day and I dropped it. I said that it was not for me. I switched from chemistry to bookkeeping. I don't know why my parents were not contacted. That was the way it happened.

B: They didn't know?

- H: They did not know. I ended up not going to nursing school. I ended up putting my bookkeeping skills to work for my dad.
- B: Was marrying and having a large family a dream of yours? Once the nursing wasn't . . .
- H: No, not really. I didn't think about having a lot of children. We had never talked about having a large family. I came from a large family. It was very happy for me. I was a very shy person. I think I thought that large families were wonderful, but I didn't think about how many children I was going to have.
- B: Did it just sort of happen?
- H: It just sort of happened. I was lucky because every one of the children were born healthy, which we got by all of the odds. There wasn't one serious problem we have ever had with the children. Healthwise none of them have ever been in trouble. They are all successful. Then have graduated from college. Two are in college right now. Two of them are in high school now. We have never had any of them get into trouble. I always thought it was because the older ones really were so good that the younger ones had a good start. I think the kids learn much more from their siblings than they do from their parents.
- B: I wonder where the older siblings learned it in the first place.
- H: I don't know. I guess that they had to get a little big from . . . The first one grows up a little faster. You expect a lot from them. It was almost like we had three families because I can see how differently we thought of things then. We were out to have the good children that never do anything wrong. Discipline was extremely important. I could see that we mellowed as the years went by. My older son came home and said, "What is going on here?"
- B: Did you work at any point along the way while you were raising your family?
- H: I worked for a very short period of time when we lived in St. Louis We left Minneapolis. My husband decided that he was going to be a writer. He quit his job.
- B: Was he going to be a writer, like a novelist?
- H: He was going to be a writer. He had a lot of talent. He had a lot of ambition. He was going to be a writer. So he quit his job. He had the talent, but he didn't have enough talent. He didn't have enough experience at that.
- B: You had four children already?

- H: We already had seven children. He quit his job. He tried. We moved to St. Louis. He was selling insurance. There were some trying times. I decided that I would get a job. I worked in a drugstore. It was like a combination drugstore-hardware store. Back then they didn't have as many combination everythings like they do now. This drugstore had a hardware department. I thought--Hardware, oaky. I know nothing about [hardware]. I am lucky to know a nut from a bolt. I still worked.
- B: Did you learn about it?
- H: I did. It was good, too, because up until that time, I had been totally devoted to my family. This gave me a little bit more of a larger perspective about the world and what was going on. I was bringing home a paycheck. It was nice. It was good for me.
- B: I bet it felt good to get that first paycheck.
- H: It did.
- B: How did you manage with seven children to get out and go to work?
- H: I did that because my husband was in insurance. He was home with them somewhat. By that time, my kids were older and they were responsible. They did well.
- B: The older ones took care of the younger ones. You sort of had built-in baby-sitters.
- H: Yes.
- B: Did you work full-time?
- H: No, I didn't work forty hours a week. It was probably twenty hours a week, no more than that ever. It was only a block and a half away.
- B: So you were able to walk.
- H: Yes.
- B: I didn't come from a large family. A couple of times I have been involved with large groups where we would cook. It takes quite a bit of effort to prepare meals for that many people. Did you find that?
- H: It took effort. When the family grows one at a time you don't realize that you are increasing. When I would prepare, the amounts got larger. When you start cooking five pounds of potatoes and those aren't enough--you know when they get to be older and there are boys. They were all in sports and the whole bit. It would end up that you would peel ten pounds of potatoes.

Everybody had their job. Somebody peeled the potatoes. I was very old-fashioned in the way that I thought the girls' jobs were in the home. The boys had the outside chores to do. The girls did the cooking. The boys didn't help with cooking. In 1970 my daughter graduated from Cardinal Mooney. She went to Radcliffe. She came home. The boys were always used to me cooking. They weren't obnoxious or anything. It was just something that I have always done. I heard her say, "If you want a hamburger, you go cook it." It was the girls that introduced this into the home and to me.

B: And to you, that is interesting. Did you find your ideas changing along the way?

H: I did. It was kind of neat, but it was difficult for me. I was all wrapped up in being a mother. That was my whole image of myself at that point. I was mom. I had to do everything. I had to be supermom. I had to be everything for everybody almost. It was like a foreign idea coming in at first. At that time, in the early 1970's, that was when the exchange really moved in. I could remember that my daughter would not allow any man to open a car door for her or carry her luggage or anything like that. I thought that was kind of dumb. I said, "That is nice. If a guy wants to open the door, let him." I thought that it was really nice. She wouldn't have any part of that. She went to the other extreme today. She is up in Alaska today. I could remember when she first went up. It was when she just graduated from Radcliffe. They chopped down the trees to build a log cabin. Today she is married and has a son. Her son has everything. They have a beautiful home. When she first went up there, she lived without electricity; she lived without plumbing and things like that while they built the log cabin. She experienced Alaska and all of its beauty and roughness.

B: How did the boys take to these new ideas that she was bringing back after being raised very traditionally?

H: They were in college too. Ted was the oldest one. As he grew up I was still there. I can remember that he was an assistant to Dr. Mettee in the chemistry department. If he would get home late, I would be there waiting to cook his dinner. They didn't have microwaves at that time. His dinner was there for him no matter what time it was. I was a good mom. You learn a lot when the kids start coming back after they have been away. They all start talking together. They are old enough not to be afraid to say anything that went on. I have heard so much that I didn't know was going on. It was difficult for Ted when he first went up to North Dakota state because this was his first time being away. He was already twenty-two. That was a little more difficult for him. The others went away right out of high school. They were dealing with the idea. I don't think that it was too foreign to them. They knew that it was coming. They were patriarchal

in their own ways. It was always the macho image. They were always in football. I suppose they cared about what went on. But interestingly enough, it doesn't go on in the house today.

B: How do you think that came about?

H: I think it came about probably because the people that they married really are totally different. None of them are the same. After having fourteen children I can tell you that there are no two alike. Everybody looks at my children and they can tell that they are all Handels. They all look alike. I don't see the similarities. As far as individuals, they are very unique, each one of them. They pick up things from one another, things that they like and things that they don't like. Other than that, they are their own person. I had to laugh because my daughter Christine, who is the youngest girl, she is third from the bottom, just started college. She goes to Kenyon College. She just came home for October break. Because she was the eighth one to go to Kenyon, they asked her to carry the freshman banner. I guess they took a picture of her. She thought it was wonderful. She just came home. She said, "Mom, you are going to see me in the Kenyon Alumni Newsletter." I said, "How is that?" She said, "They interviewed me because I was the youngest and because there had been eight brothers and sisters at Kenyon. I had to think about it, but to me what seems so neat is that each of us were so different and yet that one school was able to satisfy the needs of each one of us because they are all successful." She is in a totally different field than any of them. She is interested in drama. I thought that it was really neat that she could see that.

B: It sounds like you really loved being a mother. Did it ever get to the point that there were a lot of pressures involved with being a mother and handling all of the things that you had to handle? I don't hear that from you.

H: I did love being a mother. I just accepted it as my role. I didn't think about it. I think what made me realize was when I came back to school. The things had gotten to the point with me where I felt that I might have to take care of myself some day. I was not prepared. I realized that I did not have any skills except in the home. That is just bills. If I ever had to go out and get a job I was prepared to do nothing, but make good pies or do anything in the home quite well. That was not what I would want to go out and do, baby-sit or be a housekeeper. I decided to come back to the university. That was after I had been out of school for thirty-five years.

B: How old were you when you started back to school?

H: I was fifty-four.

B: How far along now are you in your degree?

H: I am a junior now.

B: What are you studying?

H: I am studying social work. It all falls right in, doesn't it? I always have taken care of people and so it would fall in. I had no desire really to go into business. I really do enjoy working with people. I do like people.

B: Do you think that your children kindle this interest in going back to school?

H: Yes, they did. They encouraged me every step of the way. They never stopped. They still do.

B: Are they proud to have a mother that is going to college?

H: Yes. I have always been somebody else's somebody. I had never thought about Marie as myself. It wasn't until I came here. I thought--What am I doing here? A lot of kids are younger than my own children or the same age as my children. I don't belong here. I'm totally out of sync. I think that was one of the reasons that I was in on the ground floor of starting in the nontraditional student organization because I had to have that support. I had the support from my family, but still I needed more up here to feel like I was not alone.

B: Were you afraid of taking tests? Did you wonder about still being able to learn?

H: I had to learn how to learn all over again. I used to fall asleep reading a book. I don't think I can remember finishing a book. This was before school. It was a totally different type of learning that I had to do. That is why I said I had to learn how to learn again. I could learn anything gradually. You know how you pick up your skills, by doing it. But to sit down and just learn differently from the books, from history, was different and was intimidating. It was very intimidating for me. Test taking was extremely traumatic for me at first.

B: Do you think that having a support group like the nontraditional students organization is helpful in making people feel comfortable with coming back to school after they have been out?

H: Extremely. I happen to have a sister-in-law who had come back after many years. She was already a sophomore or going into her junior year at the time. She really encouraged me to come back. She made it possible for me to see what was best to take and all of that. She was here for me. Otherwise, I don't know if I would have been able to find a reason that was strong enough to carry me through at that point. When I first came back I thought that I was going to go into nursing. I went over to CAST for my advisement. The courses they put me in were

chemistry, sociology, and psychology. It was so much reading. Chemistry I had dropped in high school and to go right into that. . .

B: Have you taken chemistry yet now?

H: Yes. I took that my first quarter. I had chemistry, psychology, and sociology.

B: You went ahead and started out in the nursing? You took those courses?

H: Yes. With all of that reading plus feeling very guilty about being here because I still had children at home who needed me, this was just something more that was added to my life. I didn't move anything over or adjust it very much.

B: You were home still cooking and cleaning and doing the laundry?

H: The same thing. I was still expecting an awful lot of myself. I had not done too much adjusting in my life in that way.

B: Have you since then made some adjustments?

H: Oh, very much so.

B: What kind of things have helped to make it work?

H: I think what I have done was to set priorities. I could take a good look and see what was important to me and put it into its proper perspective. I can recall saying that same thing to my kids, especially my youngest son. He wanted to start all of these different things. I said, "Mark, you have to realize and you have to know that if you are going to take on something else, what you have to do is look at what you already have in your life. See if you can adjust some of those things to add something else. You can't just forget that you have things to do. You are going to really have to take a look at it." I had not done that myself. I just kept adding more. I was expecting a lot from myself. I think this is why it was so extremely difficult.

B: Since then have any family members picked up and helped to carry some of the home burdens to make it a little easier for you?

H: No, not really. When my children graduated, with the exception of Teddy, none of them stayed here. They all went out of town. They went to Kenyon. I had two that went to Yale. I had one who went to Radcliffe. The rest all went to Kenyon. When they graduated, they moved out of the area because the job opportunities were there.

B: Do you only have the one at home?

- H: No. I have two sons at home right now that are at Cardinal Mooney. I have two at Kenyon. I have a freshman and a senior. They were very supportive long distance to me. The way the older ones did help was by telling the younger ones at home, "It's important to help Mom."
- B: That is what I was wondering, if you see the younger ones doing more of the household chores than your older children may have done.
- H: When I allowed them to. When I first started back, I wouldn't allow them to. I still had to be the same person that had been there for them as I had been for everybody else. Then I started sorting it out and realized that there was something that was allowed to sink a little bit. It was my thinking. The others picked up on it too. They could see the pressures I was putting on myself. In their own sweet ways they were trying to not tell mom that she had to straighten out her thinking. They would talk to the kids, "Mom comes home and she finds it real nice if you can maybe start dinner or make sure that everything is straightened up and things like that." They listened to the kids.
- B: Did I hear you say before that you had some guilt to start with too? It sounds like maybe you dealt with some of your guilt about not always being there.
- H: Yes. I felt like I was doing something for me. That was a new feeling. It was a brand new feeling for me. It has always been somebody else that I was doing everything for. It extends far back to a lot of things that I didn't know about myself at that time. That is why coming back to school has been a real learning experience for me. It has been the greatest thing that could have happened because I think that I became well in the way of discovering myself, which I had never had a reason to do before.
- B: It sounds like you have done a lot of personal growth since you have come back to school.
- H: I think I have grown. It's funny, but a lot of courses that I took I would find myself putting myself in the situation and trying to see how that fit into my life. It made it a little more difficult because I couldn't just learn it out of a book. I had to apply it and see where I fit. It was difficult.
- B: Do you see yourself now as having been sort of isolated when you were spending all of those years raising children and just being at home with the family?
- H: Yes, I was. My family was everything to me. That was all I needed. We had been out of town for so many years that even though I had my own family that I had come from, most of them were all here. Since that time, I had two sisters that did move out to California. Most of them are all here. We used to come

back and visit them. I just didn't really feel like I was a part anymore until we had been back awhile. Then I would start getting closer to people. This was another thing, coming to school and doing something for myself helped me to feel alive. It helped me to sort out things like that, why didn't I feel like I wasn't a part of things then.

B: I would like to ask you a few more questions about your own career goals in the program. What you are studying now, how do you see that working into a career for you? What sort of job are you interested in?

H: I am a social work major. I think that I am interested in going into the field of gerontology. I had been introduced to a lot of gerontologists through taking care of my mom. She was dying and she passed away last November. My dad had passed away in 1976. She was living very close to me. At that time her brother, who was a bachelor, had lived with her for awhile. He was also very old. He was almost ninety when he died. I had been around them a lot. I had seen the needs that had to be met and that could go unseen. Then when my uncle died and my mom was alone, I saw how things just go along with old people. I felt that I was comfortable even though it was my mother and it is a little bit different with your mother than it is when you go out and work in general. I was still comfortable with it. I think that I would like to work in the medical profession, as a medical or social worker. I was influenced not only because I know that there are job opportunities there, but when my mom was in the hospital the last year of her life, she was in and out a lot. It was the most wonderful feeling that I have had knowing that there was somebody there that really cared about my mom and was like the interceder almost between the medical profession and the patient of the family. She was the one who could tie things together and smooth it over and make it okay, solve the problems, tell us the things that we were afraid about, what we should know about, and the whole bit. It just seemed like that was such a wonderful thing to have, a person that knew enough about the ropes and still cared enough and could be personal with the people and compassionate enough and still be professional. That seemed fantastic.

I also liked working in contact with people. At this point I am not interested in administration. I realize that somewhere down the line I might be because I hear that you can be frustrated very quickly. I had one daughter who worked in social work. She worked for Knox County Children Services. It was extremely hard for her to keep going. She was with them two years, which was long. She said the system was what caused the burnout. You would get so frustrated. You worked so hard at trying to change this and that and then because of red tape everything goes right to the wind. She worked with abused and neglected children. It was very difficult to take a child out of a home, for example, an alcoholic home. The judge would come in after she had prepared

for a real long time. She would get this case all prepared and take it to court and the whole bit. The judge's reading would come the first time that morning. It was like there wasn't anybody here. The children would go back into the same situations again. It just got so frustrating. After my daughter started having a family she just didn't go back to the agency to work. She had all of that experience. It was a shame to waste all of that because you build on that. She didn't want it. I feel that in social work that I might run into the same thing with the system. I know that you can't change anything on your own. You have to change within the system. The only way you could do that is by getting into the administration and changing policies. So somewhere down the line I might find that necessary, but right now I love the contact with people. I enjoy old people. I enjoy sitting and listening. I enjoy talking with them and just being with them. Sometimes that is all they need, somebody to listen to them. Unlike kids, they could relate a little bit.

B: Are you excited about embarking on a career?

H: I am excited, but I am a little scared too. I had somebody just tell me the other day, "It is so great to get out there. It is so much fun." I said that it was frightening for me to think about it and to actually have the responsibility. When I take some of the courses that I have now, the real neat classes, I think--You are learning all of these theories; these people are going to come in, and they are going to have problems and which theory are you going to use and are you going to know the right thing to say and do. It gets a little bit overwhelming. You take it all in. I have to help these people. I put a lot of pressure on myself sometimes, but she said, "No, it isn't that way at all. You get out there and there is always somebody that has been there before you. It is all laid out."

B: It sounds like you have had lots and lots of experience at care giving. You are just taking your care giving . . .

H: In another direction.

B: Is there anything else that you can think of that we haven't covered, either about school or what your experiences have been like?

H: I just feel for myself for whatever reasons I am here today, I am extremely grateful. I have learned a lot from my kids. I have been able to apply that even to school. I feel like my going back to school has helped those that are still at home to understand and learn. They see my studying. They study right along with me. They see the fact that I have to be organized to get things done. I think this is all very helpful. They are proud of me too. I should be graduating in 1989. My son will be graduating from Mooney and my other son will be

graduating from Kenyon. Sometimes I wonder if I want to graduate at the same time because I would like it to be their own time.

B: Well, how about being your own time too?

H: Well, yes. I know that the older kids are going to be so thrilled and I don't want to take them out of the limelight. They worked hard for it too. I have worked hard for it too. Maybe we will just have one, big party.

B: That was really nice that you were able to let the tables turn and learn from your children. I think some people cannot do that. Some people cannot take themselves out of the parental role and allow themselves to learn from their children.

H: When my youngest daughter went to college, it was before the fall quarter started here; I had some time and I was home. It was different with little Chrissy. We had been very close. She was the youngest girl in the whole bit. I still had two boys at home, but they were in school. I dropped them off in the morning. When I got home, I really felt an emptiness. I sat there and I was going to write her a letter. A neighbor came over and told me that he had talked to Chrissy on the phone the other day. He went to show me that she was doing good and that she was homesick. I started crying. All of a sudden I thought--I have to talk to somebody. Well, who do you talk to that is going to understand all of this? I have sent so many kids away to school already and for awhile there I felt like they had all gone away and weren't coming back because it was me. They were rejecting me. They didn't want to come back. I took it very personally. It wasn't until I really took that apart and examined it that I could see. I called my daughter who lives in Massachusetts who has two little ones. I said, "I am feeling so blue. I just don't know what to do. I had to call you." That was a new thing for me in the first place to call one of my kids. I had always been mom. They had always been the kids. That was one of the things that had changed in me after I went back to school. I began to change my ideas. She was able to say, "Mom, I know exactly what you are feeling." Eric was her oldest son. He just started school full-time in the day. Little Katie was half days. She said, "I know just what you mean. This is the first time that I am alone too. My nest is empty." It was good to be able to share that with her. I thought--It is just another adjustment. There have been so many adjustments and this was just another one. My son that graduated from Yale last May stayed in New Haven and worked in the summer. He came home for a few days. When they come home, it is like they have never been away. Then you have to watch them go again. It is just as hard.

B: It sounds like you have managed to keep your lines of communication open and have even strengthened them as you have been learning about yourself.