Oral History Of Katherine Huff O'Neil

United States District Court Oral History Project

Contents

Session One
(November 3, 2000)

This is Patricia Wlodarczyk, the narrator, and I am sitting here with my subject, Katherine O'Neil, and we're going to take her oral history. So, why don't we start with where you were born and your parents, your parents' names, date of birth.

Family Background:

K: Okay. I was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, September 10, 1938, at Baptist Hospital in New Orleans. I mention Baptist Hospital because I was the first member on either side of my family to be born in a hospital. Prior to that, everybody on both sides of my family was born at home. My mother is Leona Spaht Huff, and she's still alive at 91. She grew up on a farm in Missouri, a dairy farm near King City, Missouri. Her father moved her family to Baton Rouge so that the children could go to college at L.S.U. My father was Daniel William Huff, H U F F, Sr., and he grew up on the family plantation in Wilkinson County, Mississippi. My parents had been living in New Orleans since 1935, when they married.

P: You said your mother's name was Leona Spaht . . .

K: Spaht—S P A H T. Yes, S P A H T, Spaht. Her grandfather came from Germany. That's not the way they spell it in Germany—they use a couple of dots above one of the letters. That's an anglicized version of Spaht.

P: Tell me again the year that—how did your parents, when did your parents move to New Orleans?

K: In 1935.

P: And that was before you were born?

K: Yeah. Three years before I was born they moved to New Orleans. My father had a trucking company, a common carrier, Huff Truck Lines. His family were Royalists from Chester, New Jersey, who moved to Mississippi in 1773 prior to the American Revolution. The leader was a Presbyterian minister, Rev. Samuel Swayze. They stayed on cotton plantations from 1773 until the boll weevil came through in the early 1920's. The boll weevil ate several crops of cotton, the cotton bolls to be precise. My father, his parents and sister left the cotton plantation, Spanish Hill, between Woodville and Centreville. My father who would have just followed in the footsteps of I don't know how many generations you get from 1773 until 1920's—he would have run the plantations but he left the plantation and went into the trucking business as a young man.

P: And your parents moved together to New Orleans?

K: Yes, yes. And my mother had been—she graduated from LSU in Baton Rouge in 1933. She was working as a, started out working as a high school English teacher, didn't like teaching high schoolers. Then she worked for the welfare department certifying families for welfare.

P: And she went to college after they moved to—

K: No, I'm sorry. She completed college in 1933.

P: And she moved back to Mississippi?

K: No. Let's see. Uh, my father and mother met when they were both living in Baton Rouge, and that's where he had his trucking company. And then she, and they knew each other for—I think my father said he courted my mother for five years, and then they got married in Baton Rouge in 1935. When they got married they moved from Baton Rouge to New Orleans. So she was already working. She had been out of college and working for several years when they got married.

P: So, now tell me about your brothers and sisters.

K: I have one sibling. He is four years younger than I am. He is D. W. Huff, Jr., and he graduated from LSU. The family lived in New Orleans until 1959, then my father sold his trucking company and then returned to Baton Rouge. My brother was still in high school, so he graduated from Baton Rouge High, then from LSU. He was in business with my father in Baton Rouge. In Baton Rouge my father had a utility company—Suburban Utilities—which supplied natural gas to part of Baton Rouge. My brother worked with him. When our father died in 1980, we sold the utility company and my brother worked for an insurance company that the family had—Union National Life Insurance, which was founded by my father's father, Holloway Percy Huff. My brother worked there until the family sold the insurance company around 1989, and then he retired to Florida. He's four years younger than I am, he was born in New Orleans in 1942.

P: So, just to clarify—what were the years that your mother went to college, and when were you born—was she then in college when you were. . .

K: No, my mother graduated from LSU in 1933, and then I was born in 1938.

P: Was that an unusual thing, back in 1933, for a woman to graduate from LSU?

K: For a woman . . . I don't think there were that many women in college in the US then. I think it was predominantly male. It certainly would have been predominantly male for people to graduate, because women—my impression is they married and they left college. But she graduated from college. She had two sisters, both of whom went to LSU for a little while and then got married, but she graduated.

P: What was her major?

K: On her mother's advice she majored in home ec. However, she took physics for sport because she enjoyed it. She thought physics and chemistry were very interesting. She had one brother who was a chemical engineer and certainly she had the aptitude to be a chemical engineer, so—but she majored in home ec because her mother wanted her to major in something useful, and I guess in fact she couldn't have gotten a job as a chemist—they wouldn't have hired her if she had a chemical degree because she was a woman. But with a degree in home ec she could teach.

P: And is that what she did?

K: And that's what she did. She taught for a few years.

P: Did she have a long career or . . .?

K; She, let's see, she married my father in 1935. I think she taught for one year, then she worked for the welfare department for a few years, first in Baton Rouge and then New Orleans, and then she worked with my father. She started working with my father around the time I was born, I think. So she worked for my father in the trucking business from 1938 to 1959 when he sold the trucking business. She always handled the finances for my father, the investments and kept track of the investments, kept track of the insurance policies, and my father owned various pieces of property around New Orleans and Baton Rouge, so she would keep track of —is the rent being paid on the warehouse? So she put her—I guess it's mathematical—aptitude to work that way. In her last years, she commented that if she could have gone into banking, she would have. She would have been a great banker. She was a wizard with money.

P: So let's focus in a little bit on your very early years. Your mother—did your mother go to work?

K: Yes, she was always at work.

P: And she was working in your father's business?

K: Yes.

Childhood In New Orleans:

P: What were your early childhood memories, of being a youngster in New Orleans?

K: In New Orleans? Well, my oldest memories would be during World War II, which was very, very scary, being in the Port of New Orleans because we had blackouts. My earliest memories are of the blackouts in New Orleans. And other early

memories are of—since New Orleans was a port of embarkation I had, let's see, I had four uncles who were in the war. My mother's three brothers, Carlos, Froman, Homer, and Bill Slack, my mother's brother-in-law, four uncles who were in the war. They left through the Port of New Orleans. All of the extended family members who were leaving through the port of New Orleans would be staying at the house with their families before they shipped out, so the war was very real and very scary. And also during the war I had an aunt, my mother's sister Lorene, whose husband was off fighting, and my mother's father, Gustave Spaht, were living with us. My parents were working extremely long hours. My father's trucking company was one of two common carriers of ethyl which was added to airplane fuel for the allies, for American airplanes and for the allies, from the Exxon plant in Baton Rouge down to the port of New Orleans. My father's was the truck line that had that business, and then the Texas and Pacific Railroad had part of it. They were running trucks 24 hours a day, so my father's business was running 24 hours a day, and he often just slept at the warehouse because they drafted so many people. He was very busy with a skeleton crew.

P: Did he actually drive the truck, or did he . . .

K: I don't know that he ever, he may have, but you know, he was supervising all these dozens and dozens of runs, just hundreds of runs up and down from the Exxon plant in New Orleans to the port of New Orleans. I guess it was Standard Oil or Esso in those days.

P: So what years, this would be from. . .

K: From my earliest—1941, I guess it heated up before that because we were supplying the allies before Pearl Harbor, and then to VE Day and VJ Day, which was in '46, was that when they signed the peace agreements?

P: So that's when you were about eight years old. So why didn't your father go into the war—was it the business?

K: He was exempt. By chance, Huff Truck Line was a critical industry. The draft cards would come in on a regular basis, and you would get reclassified. He finally had the classification and would have been called next if Japan hadn't surrendered. So I don't know who they thought was going to run Huff Truck Lines.

P: Your mother!

K: My mother, I guess.

P: So just to—tell me again, in a very few sentences, exactly what your father—took the oil from Baton Rouge to—where did the oil come from, how did it get to him . . .

K: It was a chemical compound rather than oil. It's an additive to airplane fuel, and it was compounded only at Standard Oil in Baton Rouge. That's the only place in the world where it was compounded. Why, I don't know. I guess because America wasn't ready to go into the war. So his trucks—there wasn't even a decent highway between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, it was still a third-world country. So we ran mostly down River Road. There's a railroad line, and the River Road, and right now I don't know why it was that my father got that business, probably because he was sharp. He had the business taking the ethyl from the Esso plant to the Port of New Orleans, and then it was shipped to wherever they shipped it. And we were also worried about sabotage because that would be a good thing to sabotage! From New Orleans, plus New Orleans is kind of a creepy place, anyway.

P: So this is after you were around eight years old, were you in school in those years?

K: Yes, yes.

Grade School:

P: What kind of school did you start in and what . . .

K: Started kindergarten at McDonough #10, a great Victorian brick hulk. There were no public schools in New Orleans until a Scotsman named John McDonough endowed some schools, so they named all the schools that he paid to have built after him. And McDonough #10 was my elementary school.

P: It was a public school?

K: It was a public school, so I went over there. Not with any degree of regularity because my mother was at work and my father was at work, and the maids just as soon I be at home. And I had, at one point I had one—this is a real digression, but it's kind of fun. I had a maid whose husband had ulcers and he was supposed to eat jello. Almost all foods were rationed during the war and you had ration coupons. There were grocery stores where she would not have been welcome, but if she brought a white child along with her, she'd be welcomed in the grocery store. So as an alternative to my going to school we would go out and look for jello [which was certainly more entertaining to me]!

P: So tell me a little bit more about your maids.

K: We had one for most of the time I was growing up named Lily May Bowles, and she was a very, very intelligent black woman from the country, and she was a good cook—my mother taught her how to cook. She was there the whole time I was growing up except for during the war she was able to get a better job in a laundry so she quit for a while during the war, then after the war was over she was with us until we left New Orleans. Very intelligent woman. I think she was the same age as my mother.

P: Did she live in the house?

K: No, she came about 7 in the morning and left around 4 in the afternoon.

P: She had her own family and . . .

K: Yes, yes. A husband named Jessie and one daughter. They lived there across the river in Algiers.

P: What kind of house did you live in, and in what part of town?

K: We lived in the Garden District, which was built, it was built, the different sections in New Orleans were built by different nationalities and at the time I was a child still lived in by the nationalities. The Garden District was built up just before and just after the Civil War, so there are great big frame mansions, and our house I think was built just before the Civil War. So it was one of these great, big, old antebellum mansions, but a little more tailored than that, built out of cypress. Cypress was cheap in those days.

P: Big front porch?

K: Big front porch below—the circular front porch below, circular porch in front up above it, and it was in the Garden District which was an English-speaking area, and just behind us was the Irish Channel, which was a very, very rough area inhabited by Irish people. People in New Orleans don't—families live in the same houses generation after generation. Irish Channel was rough but it was stable. And there were some housing projects, which were black, adjacent to that. So the neighborhood was safe during the day, but after 6 o'clock at night you had to come in and the doors were locked. Triple locked, in fact. You couldn't be outside without an adult after 6 o'clock at night.

P: From your earliest childhood memories?

K: Yeah, yeah. People would steal shrubs out of the front yard at night—very annoying!

P: Where did Lily May live?

K: Algiers. She would take the bus to one of the ferries, and then take the ferry across the river to Algiers. And then another bus to a stop a block from our house.

P: The Mississippi River.

K: Yes.

P: But you did go to school some?

K: I did go to school some! (Laughter)

P: What did you like at school?

K: What did I like at school—let's see, what did I like at school? In the early years I was just pretty bored. I did socializing. I would rather have just stayed home and read. The public schools weren't very good, so I didn't do too much in school. Just went out buying jello and enjoying my life! But somebody, I think a teacher, finally got hold of my mother, caught my mother somewhere. When the teachers would call the house, they would, the maids would just, you know, stonewall them because they didn't want to be bothered. They thought I ought to be home helping them. So the maids would stonewall them, but somebody finally caught my mother and she decided we really needed to get organized about this and go to school.

P: Was this after the war had ended?

K: No, it was, I think I was obliged to be a better attender in the second grade.

P: Talk to me a little bit about the end of the war and what you remember of that.

K: It was a great relief because none of my uncles had died in the war, and they were being shot at. And I remember their coming home. And you know, we would lose track, they would go off for four or five or six years, and they didn't come back like people did from Viet Nam, and so all you had was letters from them. And so they all came back alive and settled back into their routine, except one uncle did not. He and my Aunt Lorene got divorced, but they didn't have any children, so I remember that.

P: Did they live in New Orleans, most of them?

K: In Baton Rouge. All my mother's siblings stayed in Baton Rouge except my Aunt Lorene who lived with us.

P: Did it affect your father's business when the war ended?

K: Well, after the war the South boomed, so there wasn't any decline at all.

P: You were eight years old . . .

K: Uh-huh.

P: And about to really go to school . . .

K: Yes . . .

P: What happened in second and third grade, and then . . .

K: Well, uh . . .

P: . . . stay in the same school?

K: I stayed through fourth grade. My mother wanted me to go to a private girls school. Miss McGehee's was just across the street from my house. We lived at 2308 Prytania Street. P R Y T A N I A. Then across the street at 2343 was Miss McGehee's in an ante-bellum mansion which was built in the 1830's when the entire Garden District was a plantation. Anyway, a lovely girls school right across the street. So in order to get me geared up to go to Miss McGehee's I went to Holy Name of Jesus uptown for one year in fifth grade, and that was quite a shock because the nuns found that I really hadn't been paying attention for the prior four years. I remember my mother coaching to get me through fifth grade. I passed the entrance exam to Miss McGehee's, and then I was at McGehee's sixth grade through graduation. McGehee's obligated me to work very hard.

P: Before we leave the early years, was your brother born during the war then?

K: He was born in 1942.

P: So it was the little girl, and there was a baby in the house, too.

K: Yes.

P: And Lily May, she wasn't there during the war, because she was off at another job.

K: Yeah.

P: All right. So, we're at Miss McGehee's, sixth grade. What was your favorite thing about Miss McGehee's.

K: Let's see. I loved—once I finally got into a real strict academic setting, I loved English and Social Studies. I really enjoyed that. But right up there was athletics. My father told me that I could go to McGehee's and get good grades or he would take me out of school and put me to work at his offices. I didn't realize that there was a law that said you couldn't be ten years old working full-time, so I thought it was a real threat. I knew that if I went to work at my father's office I would be unable to play volleyball for four hours every day, so I took school very seriously.

P: So volleyball was your favorite sport.

K: Yeah.

P: Did you play other sports, or just volleyball?

K: Yeah, I played whatever was in season, but we played volleyball for hour after hour after hour year round after school.

P: This was in a girls school.

K: All girls school.

P: And there was an inter-school-type competition, or did they have girls' sports back then?

K: Uh, there were — a few of the other private schools had sports for girls, but that was a great advantage to going to a girls school, you could play sports.

P: So this was about—you went to Miss McGehee's in what year?

K: Let's see, sixth grade and in sixth grade you're eleven, so it would have been 1949.

P: Do you still enjoy sports?

K: I love sports.

P: What kind of sports do you like to do now?

K: Sea kayaking and white-water rafting, hiking. If my knees were better—I still belong to the Mazamas, but I don't climb with the Mazamas any more because of my knees.

P: So let's just say if we mentioned all of the many sports you were enjoying throughout your career . . .

K: Yeah.

P: So we're in sixth grade. How long did you stay at Miss McGehee's?

K: Through graduation. I graduated from McGehee's in '56.

P: Through high school, then.

K: Through high school, yes.

P: Did you wear a uniform?

K: They wear uniforms now. We didn't have uniforms then. It would have been a doggone good thing if we had had uniforms because all the competition over

dressing is foolishness. You know, we were wearing cashmere sweaters to school. We were wearing cashmere sweaters and after school we were out there playing volleyball for three or four hours. That's foolishness.

P: So, what memories do you have of your parents in your early years, like, for example, what kind of difficulties did you feel that your parents faced, and were they home very much and did they talk about their problems?

K: Well, I would see my father only on the weekends because he went to work so early and then come back from work so late, but during the week I usually wouldn't see him. The first time I would see him would be Friday night or Saturday morning, and then my mother left for work before I got up, but then she usually came home in time for—the maids would cook dinner, but she would put dinner on the table, so I would see her at the end of the day.

P: She would be around for the evening?

K: She would be around for the evening.

P: To help you with your homework?

K: Yes, yes, she would help me with my homework, thank God.

P: So how did you feel about math?

K: Um, I do not have my mother's math ability, so I was greatly inconvenienced by math because, whereas languages came easily—language, social studies, English came easily, I had to work for math, and so felt inconvenienced.

P: Frustrated your mother, do you think?

K: I'm sure it was, because she used to just not understand why it was I didn't get this.

P: Did you have that experience with any of your children later, that they were not—they were good at math but not—

K: My son Charles is just like my mother. My son Charles went to Oregon State and took all the genetics courses available because he thought it was interesting and he didn't want to be bored. He also ran through the entire physics series and was number one or two in each of his classes, so he has that aptitude.

P: Skipped a generation?

K: Apparently so, in my case. It certainly did.

P: So, what kind of things did your father talk to you about, what kind of influence was your father on you?

K: Uh, my father always said that he didn't want my brother or me to be a stranger to work, that he thought the work ethic was very important. And we had the rule in the house that neither my brother nor I could sit down if there was an adult standing and doing any kind of work. We had to go help where the adult was—do the work, which we did. We also talked about—and it's absolutely invaluable—he and my mother talked business all the time, and he would have his meetings of his—I guess now we would say—advisors. He'd have his lawyers and accountants and tax people come to the house at I guess 7 in the morning and sit around the dining room table and talk over whatever business matter it was. And my father always insisted that my brother and I sit through these sessions so you'd come and sit there and you'd learn corporate law. So, a very, very valuable experience.

P: So do you remember public figures in your early years that influenced your family? What political persuasion were you?

K: Well, everybody in Louisiana was a Democrat until Eisenhower, and then my mother's older brother Carlos Spaht was a candidate for governor of the state of Louisiana in 1952 on the Long family ticket, and came within a hair's breadth of winning. And then, that fall—I don't know how—our back door neighbor was John Minor Wisdom, who was the state campaign chair for Eisenhower in Louisiana, and then my Uncle Carlos was the finance director—so my whole family was involved with the Republican Party in Louisiana . . .

P: Even though they were Democrats.

K: Yeah. There weren't any Republicans in the state.

P: And they supported Eisenhower?

K: Yeah, and I think Eisenhower carried Louisiana.

<u>Family Travel</u>:

P: How about family vacations and travel? You did do some traveling?

K: During the war years we couldn't travel, of course. We couldn't get gasoline and my father couldn't get away from work. But after the war years were over my father's policy was never to spend the month of August in New Orleans. There was no air conditioning during the years we lived in New Orleans, so we would get in the automobile which was a great big Packard and we would just head north and go to New England or Colorado or Northern California and get away from the heat.

P: Shall we go to Side 2 now?

We were talking about travel, so let's talk about your trips a little bit more. What was your best memory of the trips, where did you like to go?

K: Well, just anywhere, because being with my father was an adventure. He was a very entertaining individual with a sense of adventure; he had a—wherever we went, he enjoyed it. This was in the days before the interstate highways, so when we went traveling we really saw America. We could be on some country road and he'd see a baseball game and he'd stop, and we'd watch the baseball game. Or we could be traveling around and we'd get to some factory and we would say, "I wonder what they make in there." We'd stop and we'd go see if we could have a factory tour. So wherever we went it was interesting, and we hit all the museums and just sort of classic America on the road, seeing the country. He talked to everybody. If he saw someone doing something interesting, he'd walk right up to them and start talking to them. It was a grand adventure wherever we went, but I loved Boston and Cape Cod because that was so different from New Orleans. I loved San Francisco, and that was the reason I went to Stanford because it was close to San Francisco. I loved the Rockies, loved horseback riding in the Rockies. We went to a dude ranch in Colorado—I remember that.

P: Did you tent, or did you stay in hotels?

K: Stayed in hotels. We had—in those days there weren't AAA guides, but there were Duncan Hines directories of hotels and restaurants. The cake mix company started out as a guide to restaurants and hotels in America, so we had that. We stayed in some pretty basic places. 'Course this was after World War II. There hadn't been a—there was a depression before W.W.II, and people weren't traveling even the way they were in the late 50's. So accommodations were still kind of—the only good hotels were the downtown hotels that catered to people who came on the railroads. So if you were away from the big cities you stayed in some pretty basic accommodations.

P: You mean the motel type of thing with the little rooms?

K: Yeah, the little rooms and the garage attached, with the attached garage.

P: How did your parents get along and relate to you during this period?

K: I don't remember the fussing about "when will we get there?" although I'm sure that must have been the case. We were also talking about my brother and me, the compliant children of the '40's and into the '50's who were the quiet generation. And there was also, and my brother and I saw so little of our parents that this was a great adventure—being in the same place as our parents. And both of my parents were good story-tellers, so they would entertain us. And, of course the restaurants were so—so, really most of the food available in America those days wasn't very good. My mother always packed a wonderful lunch, and then we'd pick up stuff

along the way. It was quite a good adventure. And the car then—I haven't been in a Packard since the 1940's or '50's, and somehow now those Packards seem like they were the size of this conference room.

P: So you sat in the back with your brother?

K: I'd sit in the back with my brother. I guess there were occasional fights because I remember that every now and then one of us would be sitting in the front.

P: Did you read back there? You were ten when you started taking these trips.

K: Uh, I think I may have read as well. We also didn't go that far in those days—the roads weren't that good.

P: In one day.

K: In one day, yeah, so we wouldn't be—and we always stayed at a motel with a swimming pool which was a big deal in the days before air conditioning.

P: It must have taken quite a while to drive from New Orleans to Boston! Over a week?

K: Yeah, it would take you a week to get to Boston from New Orleans. The U.S. used to be so distinct culturally. South Louisiana—New Orleans was a nation unto itself. The area around New Orleans was a completely different culture. When you'd get further north, central Louisiana was a different culture. Northern Louisiana was a different culture. It was that way all the way from—so it was like traveling in Europe. It was that distinct although everyone spoke English. Well, the people in South Louisiana in those days spoke French.

P: Did you visit New York City?

K: Yes. Went to New York City and loved it, and was so glad that I didn't have to live there.

P: Some things don't change.

K: Right!

<u>Religion</u>:

P: So, let's talk about religion. What was the importance of religion in your early childhood, in your early years?

K: Very important. My mother's family were all Presbyterians, and my father's family was Presbyterian, too, but not as devout as my mother's family. We went to the

Prytania Street Presbyterian Church, which was—we could walk there—it was about two blocks away from the house. We were there every Sunday morning for Sunday School and church and every Sunday evening at the end of the day for some kind of a fellowship for the children, and then often during the week as well, for Wednesday night programs. Lot of time at the church. It was a nice place, a very nice place, nice people, the families being Presbyterian.

P: So when your parents weren't at work, they were going to church?

K: My mother; my father didn't go. I don't know why my father didn't go to church, but he thought it was very important that we go to church and he also—one of the things he had me do was to read the Bible to him. I read insurance policies, the Wall Street Journal, and the Bible to my father. He thought it was a good way for me to practice my reading. I must say he could read the King James Version out loud so that it was comprehensible.

P: Did he stay home while you all went to church, or did he go to work?

K: Usually he didn't work on Sunday.

P: You and your brother were attending church?

K: Yeah, yeah.

Extended Family:

P: Did you have any immediate relatives in the New Orleans area?

K: My Aunt Lorene and my grandfather, Gustave Spaht, continued to live with us for—let's see, during the time I was in grade school they were both living with us.

P: Your mother or your father's?

K: My mother's younger sister who divorced her husband when he came back from WW II. She lived with us until probably I was eight or nine, and then she got an apartment with one of her girlfriends. My grandfather continued to live with us. Then he moved up to Baton Rouge. So we had . . .

P: So you had . . .

K: Yes, my mother's father, Gus Spaht.

P: Where were your father's parents?

K: They were in Baton Rouge.

P: You mentioned to me that your—was it your grandfather who had an insurance company?

K: Yes. H. P. Huff. Holloway Percy Huff.

P: Your father's father?

K: Yes. He organized Union National Life Insurance Company with a couple of his buddies. When he left the plantation he moved the family to Bogalusa, Louisiana, and he sold insurance for Life and Casualty of Nashville. And then, I think Life and Casualty moved him to Baton Rouge, and he started Union National Life Insurance Company with a couple of his fellow insurance agents, J.C. Greer and Fred Greer.

P: I think I had a little confusion in the beginning because I think I misinterpreted that it was your father who moved—it was your grandfather who moved from Mississippi and the plantation.

K: Yes.

P: So he stayed living in Baton Rouge and was an insurance executive.

K: Yep, yep. That's right.

P: Did you stay with him very often when you were at Baton Rouge?

K: A brief while when I was an infant, but his wife, Mary Sharpe Swayze Huff lived, was alive until I was about, I think about fourth grade, sixth grade, around there, and we would be up there. My father was in business with his sister, Mary Belle Huff. His sister lived with their mother until she died, and so when we, often we would go to Baton Rouge on business, the trucking business, and so we would see her then, and then in the summertime I would go up there and stay with her and be spoiled by my grandmother and her maid Mary. My grandmother used to keep her Christmas tree up until into July because I liked it. A small tree in a tin base filled with some chemical.

P: Did she have a lot of grandchildren?

K: Let's see. There was me and my brother, and then her daughter married very late the second time and no children by the first marriage, and then the second time she married she was quite a bit older, so I think her children were both infants when my grandmother died.

P: So while you were growing up, it was just you and your brother and your grandmother there.

K: Right, correct. And the maid. The maid ran the show. And for some reason I don't remember my brother visiting with her at all. I think it was just me and my grandmother, the maid and Cousin Lena who lived around the block. We just kind of hung out together, the four of us girls. We played a lot of cards on the front porch and drank lemonade.

P: During this period we are probably talking about your life between eight years old and high school?

K: Well. Preschool into early grades.

P: What did you—did you think about what you were going to be when you grew up?

K: Oh, no. Not at all. Didn't give it a thought. Having a good time.

P: Who do you think was the most influential person in your life during that period?

K: Well, I guess it would have to be my mother because she was around the most. Other people had a great influence. My father's sister, Mary Belle Huff, Aunt Mary Belle, gave me a subscription to Book of the Month for children, and that really had a great impact on me because I loved reading. I just read all the time, and she encouraged me to read, and that was very important. My grandmother spoiled me, and of course you're always up for being spoiled. She taught me how to count so I could play cards.

P: Did you feel like your mother had any expectations for what you'd be when you grew up?

K: No.

P: Was there any talk of going to college during this period?

K: I think it was always assumed that I would go to college because my father dropped out of school in ninth grade because he was so concerned with family finances. He didn't finish high school. And he decided that that was a mistake. He wanted to be sure my brother and I got a college degree.

P: And your mother was a college graduate.

K: My mother was a college graduate.

P: Were English and Social Studies—did they continue to be your favorite subjects?

K: Yes.

Books:

P: Just for a second let's go back to the Book of the Month Club. What kind of books would come in the mail—were they children's? This was the children's Book of the Month?

K: Yes. So the books I got evolved as I got older. And the ones that I remember were adventures—the kinds of things a kid would get—they would be adventures of a child in Norway, adventures of a little girl growing up in China.

P: Did you rush in and read them and then was that an exciting thing when the books came?

K: Yes, I loved when—I used to spend—my favorite place in the world to be was the children's department of the New Orleans Public Library on St. Charles Avenue at Lee Circle. I used to spend a lot of time there. It was cool to be there in the basement—it was all marble.

P: Who took you there?

K: I took myself there. I think when I was a little kid the maid took me there. But my mother must have taken me there the first time so I could get a library card, but then when I was still a little kid the maid would take me up there. And then when I was a little older I found out about the streetcar and just took myself. You wouldn't think of letting a child ride the streetcar alone now.

Race Relations:

P: Let's talk about racial tensions during this period. Did you have any racial tensions in your immediate life?

K: No. There weren't. My mother told me recently that she had decided that she would—like within the last year or so—I don't know how this came up, I guess I was talking about Mercedes Deiz and a friend of mine and I had some photos of me and Mercedes Deiz, and my mother realized that Mercedes was a black person, and so my mother just commented that when I was growing up she was just determined that she would not want me to grow up with any racist ideas. And so that was—so there wasn't anything of that in the home. And my father had a black man who was running his warehouse in Baton Rouge—very unusual to have a black man supervising white men. And my father had an integrated crew at the warehouses. He didn't make white men work with black men on an individual truck if they didn't want to. But everybody was paid the same, got the same equal pay for equal work. Another thing he did is insist that everybody who worked with him be able to read and write. However, you could start working for him if you didn't know how to read and write. But to keep on working for him you had to learn how to read and write, and the way that you learned how to read and write was he would put a person

who was illiterate with somebody who was literate, and make that person teach the other person how to read and write by reading billboards, reading bills of lading, reading whatever was printed on boxes. So he was a stickler for equal opportunity employment and literacy. It had been the same on the plantation for generations. School for the black children was when the white children took their naps.

P: How did you become aware of these facts, like do you remember discussions about blacks and whites when you were growing up, at the dinner table, or how did you feel like that type of information was imparted to you?

K: Well, I remember, for example, white folks were always paranoid about how close the black people would be living to them. My father used to always when this would come up in a conversation—my father would always say to whoever was bringing it up, "If that Negro has got enough money to move into your neighborhood, he's as white as you are." A lot of people didn't care to hear that. But it was absolutely true.

P: So there were people in your early life that had racist—

K: Oh, absolutely.

P: Any family members—does anyone come to mind? How about your extended family—your grandparents?

K: Let's see. On my mother's side all her people came from Missouri, so that you wouldn't find racists there because they came from an all-white society—they didn't have that ingrained deep South racism. I don't remember—I don't think so.

P: How about your grandmother?

K: My grandmother? I think my grandmother grew up on a plantation and she grew up on the plantation that her ancestors had come to in 1773, and she was used to the—she loved the colored people, and loving the colored people as she did I think she saw that they were part of a society that made life very comfortable for her. She wouldn't have any racial hostility. My family said they were Presbyterians, but really their religion was capitalism, and a tenet of capitalism is that everybody has an equal opportunity. I think my father thought that racism—he didn't articulate that racism is inefficient, but what he did articulate was that everybody who wants to work has the right to work. One of the things he had me do was take the black people that worked for him that weren't registered to vote, I took them to register to vote, and he had me do this for years. In those days a black person couldn't sit next to a white person, so when I started taking them all up, and I had to take them to vote— otherwise they wouldn't let them register. The reason I could take them was I was Will Huff's daughter. So, in this big Packard—before I could drive I was sitting in the back seat. There would be six black men sitting in the front seat of this Packard to go to the courthouse to register. Then when I was able to drive, I'd be

sitting in the front seat, six black men sitting in the back seat going to the courthouse.

P: Were you only taking the men because only men worked in—

K: Yeah. We had a biracial warehouse crew of men only and then the people in the office were—the crew in the office was all white, not all native speakers or all fully able workers. We had a very mixed crew in the office. My father also employed handicapped people. It was known at the agencies that tried to place handicapped that my father would take any handicapped person that could do the job, and he also took people who were not native speakers. But they were all white people in the office, and the crew was black and white that was on the warehouse floor. We did have a rule in the office that one native speaker had to be available to answer the phones.

P: Where do you think your father learned this forward-thinking attitude?

K: I don't know.

P: Was it a philosophy with him, do you think, or was it just happenstance?

K: No, because he truly believed—he was a very patriotic American. He was a very patriotic American, and he truly believed that the strength of the country was giving everybody an opportunity and that any time you denied opportunity for anybody for any reason, you are undermining the strength of the country. He also felt that the South was terribly backward and that everybody suffered, and that it was unnecessary for anybody to suffer because of this stupid idea of white superiority.

P: And did his travel influence this?

K: I don't know. Well, no, because he got out of the South a few times as a young man but I don't know why he was like that, and his sister was like that, too. Their father was born—they were both born on the plantation. His sister had a law degree from LSU. Plus everybody on my father's side of the family was a college graduate, and in fact his great grandfather had a medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania. So they were multi-generations who had been raised with college-educated people and people who got their education in the East, so maybe that was it.

P: Did you say your father's sister had a law degree from LSU?

K: Yeah.

P: So then was she practicing law?

K: She tried, but couldn't make a living because she was a woman.

P: Your father's family came from Mississippi. But they were very well educated, except for your father.

K: Yes. He was an exception.

P: Was there something in the time period that he was young and had to quit school that made him unique, or . . .

K: Yeah, because when they moved off the plantation they were terribly poor because what they had done was—you had the system—the system was that the people who worked for you, you would give them what they called furnishings, and that was food to eat, fertilizer, everything they needed to help bring in the crop, gave that to them in advance against what the harvest would be. So my father's family gave out the advance two years in a row and there was no harvest, and therefore there wasn't any cash money. My father and his family left the plantation. They didn't make anybody move off the plantation. Everybody just stayed where they were. And in fact I was in my early teens when some of those people were still living on the plantation where they had been left the prior fifty years. My parents brought them great burlap sacks of rice and beans and tins of coffee.

P: Does you family still own the property?

K: No. It's gone out of the family.

P: I'm sorry, I'm sure you said this, but there was no harvest because . . .

K: . . .the boll weevil. Anyway, they were desperately poor, and my father could not stand to see there not being enough money in the family. So he just quit school and went out to work. He was very enterprising and started making money immediately.

P: So when you traveled, did you travel—did you stay in places with "Whites Only" signs?

K: Oh, absolutely, if you were in the South you couldn't stay anywhere else.

P: But when you went into the North you didn't.

K: No.

P: Did you notice that? Was that something that . . .

K: Oh, yes.

<u>High School</u>:

P: So, let's go to your, let's go to high school. And before we go to high school, let me ask you this. Were there public figures that your parents greatly admired, that they talked about?

K: Eisenhower, for sure . . .

P: What period of your life do you remember Eisenhower and talk about Eisenhower, was that in high school years?

K: Well, he ran for President the first time in '52. The generals in the war we were talking about—Patton, Eisenhower, and Omar Bradley. Albert Schweitzer, and then there were missionary figures in the Presbyterian Church. Then there were people within New Orleans—it's corrupt now, but it was terribly corrupt then. There was always reform politics in Louisiana and my parents were always working in the reform party. Corrupt politics in Louisiana goes on forever so there's always an opportunity to work for reform. They worked hard for DeLessups S. Morrison, Chep Morrison, who became a reform mayor of New Orleans in the late '40's.

P: So 19--, right around 1952, you would have been in high school.

K: Yes. In 1952 I started high school.

P: And that was the year Eisenhower first ran . . .

K: And won.

P: What are your most memorable high school experiences?

K: Had a fabulous English teacher sophomore year, name was Little, Gail Little, who taught me how to write, which was a good thing. The course was supposed to be American Literature, and she decided none of us knew how to write so what she taught us instead was English composition. As a result I never studied American literature, but it is so important to learn how to write. Um, the critical experiences are all the wonderful ladies who taught us. There was Madame Davis who taught French who was from an aristocratic French family that settled in New Orleans and came upon hard times, and so she was obliged to teach school. She was kind of our mystery teacher, faded aristocracy and all. Miss Reinecke, who was on her way to becoming a spinster, who also taught us French.

P: Were they all women?

K: Yes, they were all women. And. . .

P: What was the name of your school again?

K: McGehee's, Louise S. McGehee's.

P: She was the headmaster?

K: Yes, she started the school in 1913. Then we had Mrs. Yancey, Janet Yancey, who was the headmistress at the time I was there, and then a niece of Miss McGehee's—also a Miss McGehee—Elise McGehee, another eccentric, accomplished spinster.

P: So, how big was the school?

K: We had, each class had about 33 girls in it.

P: So it was very close to your house.

K: Yes, so when the first bell rang I'd walk across the street.

P: Who were your friends?

K: I had a group of about four or five of us that hung out together all four years of high school. Three of us lived in the neighborhood and two of us lived uptown a little on the streetcar line.

P: And what happened to them?

K: Well, let's see. Kathy Moore became, she was secretary of the Democratic National Committee—I saw her on TV. She married a radical Democrat and she always lived in New Orleans, lived in a great big antebellum house in New Orleans. Now she's widowed.

My friend Susan Seibert married into an old New Orleans family, much to her mother's relief, and inherited a lot of very nice furniture from his family. Unfortunately she died early of breast cancer.

My friend Nancy Salassi did not marry well, had five children and she died early of cervical cancer.

My friend, Pat Hayes, married an actor who went into public relations, and she lives in Houston, no, she lives in Austin now, but they will move back to New Orleans.

My friend Patty Hanley married a couple of times and has one son and returned to New Orleans to take care of elderly parents.

P: Katherine, we were discussing whether your friends from high school went to college.

K: Yes, let's see. Patty Hanley graduated with a French degree from Newcomb and a masters from Wisconsin. Susan Siebert graduated with a French degree from

Newcomb, which is the girl's part of Tulane. Pat Hays got a degree in drama from the University of Maryland. Kathy Moore got a degree in political science from Wellesley. Nancy Salassi had a full scholarship to go to Wellesley, declined it because her mother wanted her to go to Newcomb so she could join a sorority because, as her mother said, "You're only in college for four years, but you're in a sorority forever." So Nancy dropped out, I think, in the middle of the sophomore year at Newcomb to get married. She had five children. Her husband left her after #5 was born.

P: So they did all go to college. Did all the girls from Miss McGehee's go to college?

K: I think one or two got married right away, but then they returned to college, 'cause you had to be fairly smart to get into McGehee's. Some delayed going to college. Some did another thing for a little while, and then went to college.

P: What do you remember doing after school?

K: Playing volleyball!

P: Did you get into any trouble, so to speak? Teenage trouble?

K: No, I was usually on report at McGehee's for talking back, but I didn't get into any real trouble. I got a couple of traffic tickets, and my father told me that if I got one more traffic ticket I couldn't drive any more, and that was the end of the traffic tickets.

P: You wouldn't have to drive to school.

K: No, I didn't have to drive to school. Of course, I had to drive on Friday or Saturday.

P: Where were you going?

K: To the movies. We had a pact, now these six girls that hung out together. Whoever didn't have a date on Friday or Saturday night, we would all do something together—most likely go to a movie—and then spend the night at one of our homes.

P: There weren't any boys at your school. Where did you have to go for boys?

K: They usually came to us. There were some all-boys schools around. Jesuit, Rugby, DeLaSalle.

P: Did you have a—did you work after school?

K: Sometimes if they needed more secretarial help at the office I'd go help at the office, and then in the summertime I'd work in my father's office.

Looking at Colleges:

P: So then let's talk about the years during high school when you're thinking about what you're going to do next. Your expectations of college, what kind of thoughts did you have of your future . . .

K: Well, the expectation was that I would go to college and so I went. . ., I remember one August we went to New England and I looked at Wellesley and Radcliffe, and I just really favored the Boston area. I don't think I had ever seen Stanford, but when it came time to apply, I think I applied to Radcliffe, Wellesley, Bryn Mawr, Stanford, Duke. I got into all of them, and I went to Stanford just 'cause I wanted to get out of the South.

P: I thought the area you said you liked was Boston—as a city?

K: Yes.

P: But what was it about Wellesley and Radcliffe that you didn't like?

K: Just—Cambridge is so congested. And it's really ratty around there. Boston was an interesting city, if you've got money and can live in a nice part of it. But Cambridge then—I think Cambridge is better than it was—now we're talking forty years ago, and it was pretty run down. I also don't like Yankees, and there's a snobbish, yeah, people around Harvard are real snobbish Yankees and it was the end of the era when those Ivy Leaguers thought they had all the answers. I was pretty sure they didn't.

P: That would have been about 1956?

K: Yes.

P: Do you think it was Miss McGehee's that helped to pave the way to be accepted in all the colleges . . .

K: I'm sure, I had an excellent education at McGehee's. It was very good. But, my parents put me there, and my parents could afford to pay the tuition. The tuition at McGehee's was exactly the same as the tuition at Stanford. It was an expensive place to go.

P: Do you remember how much that . . .?

K: It was about, I think, $900 a year, but of course that was in 1956.

P: What do you remember about the college application process?

K: It wasn't as horrendous then as it is now. It was fairly straightforward, just a few pages. I think I was entirely self-directed on this project because we didn't have any advisors, any college advisors, and my parents didn't—I think they said I could go wherever I wanted.

P: Did you have to mail away for the application?

K: Yeah, I remember sending off for the application, how crisp and nice-smelling they were when the packet came, and these were the days before photocopies, you know, so it was very traumatic filling in those blanks in ink, you didn't get to practice.

P: When did you first remember hearing the word "Stanford?"

K: One of the—, the best student in the class before me, Eleanor Reed, had gone there, as had Judge Wisdom's son, John Minor Wisdom went there, and so John Jr. had gone there, and then Eleanor Reed had gone there, so I thought, well, that must be a pretty good place if they both went there, so that's how I ended up at Stanford. That, and I didn't go to Duke because I wanted to get out of the South, and I didn't go to Radcliffe or Bryn Mawr or Wellesley because I thought about Yankee winters with snobbish Yankees and couldn't face that.

P: So is Bryn Mawr East Coast?

K: Philadelphia, close to Philadelphia.

P: So what did your parents say about the whole thing?

K: They just said wherever I wanted to go was fine with them. It was —I'm sure they would have rather I'd just stay in town so I would have been around, but I wasn't going to go up to do that. I don't know if the same is true now, but then 18-year-olds—that generation of 18-year-olds just wanted to get the hell out of Dodge!

P: Were you involved in a romantic relationship then? A boyfriend in high school?

K: Yeah, off and on, but I wasn't going to stay down South for one of them. Not a chance!

P: So, what was your intention, did they ask you in your college application what you wanted to study?

K: No, uh-uh, no.

P: Did you have an intention or an expectation what you were going to study?

K: I just thought I would study something business-related so I could come back and assist in my father's business, but I hadn't thought it through clearly.

Family Lawyers:

P: Did you think about being a lawyer then?

K: No, no, not at all.

P: Did you know any lawyers when you were growing up?

K: My aunt, Mary Belle, my father's sister, and then my mother's older brother, Carlos Spaht, were lawyers.

P: Where was he ...?

K: In Baton Rouge, yeah. He was in Baton Rouge.

P: What did you know about him, what did you . . .?

K: Well, he was sort of a revered, he was sort of the de facto head of the family—my mother's family. He was the oldest surviving sibling. All my aunts and uncles looked up to him, and my father also valued his advice.

P: What did you think of lawyers when you were growing up?

K: Well, they seemed to be—, well, my father had a couple of lawyers that he used in New Orleans, and then there were other lawyers around, and then there was Judge Wisdom, who was on the Fifth Circuit who died within the last couple of years. And they were around, and they were revered characters. They were all men, of course, with the exception of my aunt.

P: Your aunt didn't really work as a lawyer, but you knew she was a lawyer.

K: Yeah, and a member of the bar, yeah.

P: What was the connection between Judge Wisdom and your family?

K: Oh, they worked together during the Eisenhower campaign in 1952, and then they were back door neighbors. His daughter, Kit Wisdom, was one of my friends at McGehee's. She was a year behind me.

More About High School:

P: So how would you compare your high school years with the current, or your kids' years? How would you. . .

K: Uh, it was certainly a simpler time. Much more rigorous academically because we didn't do anything but get up, go to school, then we'd play volleyball after school, go home, do your homework, go back to school. We would maybe go to the Red Cross—the Red Cross headquarters was close, it was between my house and the church. We would go do some volunteer work at the Red Cross. Maybe we'd have a church activity Wednesday night. We led a very circumscribed life.

P: Did you have dancing?

K: On the weekend, yeah, but we didn't do anything on school night except maybe go to church.

P: How did World War II play out through those years?

K: There was a tremendous amount of catch-up, and the South was booming economically. People were . . .I think the event that had the greatest psychological impact on my generation was the Great Depression, because our parents came through it, and even though I wasn't alive during the Great Depression I have the depression mentality, and all my generation does. We saw the boom but we knew in the back of our minds that it could all turn to dust. We all had people living in the country. You know my relatives were still living in the country then. They were poor. They were dirt poor. They had no cash money. They were living in these magnificent ante-bellum houses with the servants and tenant farmers and didn't have a nickel of cash money. So . . .

P: But your family was, in fact, pretty wealthy.

K: Yep, yep. 'Cause they had enough gumption to get up and out.

P: So finances—did you feel like finances had an impact on you in your high school years and then your, you know, deciding college, or you were pretty protected. . .

K: Yeah, pretty much could do what I wanted. Yeah, no place is going to be more expensive than McGehee's.

<u>Going to College</u>:

P: So let's go on. Let's talk about going to college.

K: Okay.

P: It's 1956. . .

K: Yes. . .

P: And Eisenhower is still the president?

K: Yes.

P: Good year. And you're accepted at Stanford. Was there any controversy with the parents about going to California?

K: No, not at all. They thought that was fine if that's where I wanted to go. It was the fact that Judge Wisdom's son had gone there and Eleanor Reed had gone there, that was fine with them. They thought San Francisco was a fine place for them to visit, so have at it.

P: So, how did you get there?

K: Flew.

P: By yourself?

K: Oh, yeah. What I decided was, I didn't buy any college clothes ahead of time because I didn't know what people would be wearing on campus, never having been there. And in the 1950's being correctly dressed was a very big deal and we took it seriously, so I shipped some clothes out in a trunk, and then I got on the plane. I flew from New Orleans to—short hop—New Orleans to Dallas, changed at planes at Love Field, Dallas to Los Angeles, changed planes in Los Angeles, Los Angeles to San Francisco. I don't know how long it took me, but it must have been—it was overnight. It was overnight, because I remember having breakfast on the plane in between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

P: You got to San Francisco and picked up your trunk, and . . .?

K: The trunk was delivered, and just by chance there was a—to show you just how things have changed, there were so few planes coming in to San Francisco then that Stanford—there was a welcoming crew of upper classmen—they would just send cars to the airport and see if anybody's coming in who is headed for Stanford, because all the freshmen were supposed to arrive on a certain day. So I just found a car filled with upperclassmen and got a ride over to Stanford.

P: Was this your first plane trip?

K: Oh, no. I'd flown before.

P: And to what other places had you flown? Was it common for 18-year-olds to be flying?

K: No. I'm sure it was unusual because it was expensive to fly and there weren't a lot of 18-year-olds flying around by themselves, so you'd have been a bit unusual, but it wasn't unusual for me because flying with my parents—my mother and her sisters

loved to go to New York City in the spring and shop, and so I had gone on one of those expeditions with them.

P: Well, was it your first plane trip alone?

K: Oh, yeah, sure. First plane trip alone.

P: Were you pretty excited about it? Afraid?

K: Oh, no. Didn't have enough sense to be afraid.

P: Were you excited about going to college?

K: Yeah, I thought it would be a good adventure. By chance I had met my Stanford roommate that summer. A girl who transferred into McGehee's from California had invited one of her good friends from California who was going to Stanford in my class to New Orleans the summer before, so I had met her. We wrote to Stanford and said could we be roommates. And so that was my roommate Winnie Tarr Honeywell. So I knew who my roommate would be.

P: So, what were people wearing?

K: Uh, people were very conservative. They were wearing—you had to be nicely dressed on the Quad, so that meant no blue jeans and women had to wear skirts, so they were wearing Pendleton plaid skirts and sweater sets—cashmere sweater sets, and nice cotton blouses, saddle shoes and socks.

P: Knee socks?

K: Not knee socks, bobby socks. So I went shopping at Stanford shopping center and bought clothes that matched what everybody else was wearing.

P: Saddle shoes. That's an interesting thing. Did you wear saddle shoes? Did you get them?

K: No, I didn't get saddle shoes. I thought they looked clunky. I just got penny loafers, which is what we had worn at McGehee's—loafers and bobby socks.

P: The red kind, did you like the red penny loafers? Oxblood?

K: Oxblood, yeah.

P: Did you put a penny in them?

K: Oh, yeah.

Stanford 1956 - 1957:

P: So, what was it like? What was Stanford like, how many women and men were there?

K: It was pretty serene, laid back. Under Senator Stanford's will as enforced and interpreted by his widow, there was, I think, one Stanford woman for each four Stanford men, because she didn't want to waste a college education on a woman. But she also didn't want the Stanford men ranging around the countryside looking for dates. So there was a very limited number of us, and the men, of course, knew that since it was four times as hard for a woman to get into Stanford as men, that probably the woman was smarter than they were. And there were two dorms for freshman women, and I was in Branner in a room that was so. . .I went back for my 40th anniversary, we had a little gathering at Branner, and I was dumfounded how small the room was, that Winnie and I were in.

P: There weren't any men in your dorm?

K: Oh, no.

P: How far away were the men's dorms?

K: Across the street. All the freshman men were across the street at Wilbur Hall.

P: Do you recall how many women were in the class? Were they all living on campus?

K: Oh, yeah. Everybody had to live on campus at Stanford. I have a feeling that the class was 1,500 or so with 300 women?

P: Did you take classes with men?

K: Yeah, yeah. We took classes together.

P: So when you first arrived, you went to your room and relaxed. Tell me about, some more about Winnie.

K: Very nice young woman from Taft, California. Both of her parents were doctors. She was a little over 5' tall, very, very cute, very different background because she spent all of her life in a small California town. I don't think she ever left California before her summer trip to New Orleans. Stanford then was very provincial. It was mostly students from California.

P: And what effect did that have on—provincial—what, tell me what . . .

K: Uh, it was . . .

P: You mean the staff was kind of provincial?

K: No, just very limited. Limited in outlook, and of course this was the heyday, economically, for California then. It really was The Golden State in those years—great economic expansion and some terrific economic opportunity. But I was coming from a conservative society where breeding and manners and calm discourse were valued, which is what Miss McGehee's was, to California, which was—I don't know—just a little too loud and a little too colorful for my tastes. And, of course, coming from a society which is very, very—there was a place for everybody, everyone was in their place and holding appropriately to their place, and nobody in California had a place. It was very open and uninhibited and you can never tell what anyone was going to say!

P: Even in Stanford!

K: Even in Stanford, yeah.

P: So was Winnie—you said she was quiet—

K: Yeah, she was very quiet, and her parents were very conservative Catholics.

P: So she wasn't a typical Californian?

K: No, she wasn't.

P: Did you have wild parties?

K: Oh, no, heavens! (Laughing)

P: Were you allowed to stay out past 10 o'clock, or did you have a curfew?

K: We had a curfew, yeah, and I think the curfew was 10 o'clock.

P: Was that only in the freshman unit . . .

K: No, throughout. You couldn't live off campus.

P: So, it's 1956 and you're a freshman at Stanford. What were your academic interests?

K: Well, the first two years were prescribed. The first year was absolutely prescribed, what you could do the first year. So, you had no. . .the only choices would be whether you were going to take—what language you were going to take, or if, let's see, if you wanted to start in the hard sciences if you were a chem major or if you were pre-med you had to start right away, but if you were just a liberal arts major everybody was taking English, Western civ . . .

P: What language did you take?

K: French.

P: But you took French.

K: You had to take three courses, you could take four courses, and I always took four courses.

P: Was that because of the New Orleans . . .

K: New Orleans, yeah.

P: And you also had a teacher there who was very popular?

K: Yes.

P: Was it her personal popularity, do you think, that . . .

K: I think that was part of it.

P: What was her name again?

K: Madame Davis.

P; So you were taking the prescribed classes, and at this point you were . . . did you talk with your friends and your classmates about what you would be doing in the future?

K: No. Nobody was looking past who their date was for Saturday night.

P: Was Stanford academically rigorous?

K: Not nearly as rigorous as McGehee's. McGehee's was a whole lot more difficult than Stanford. In the days when I went to McGehee's, if you could survive McGehee's you could get through anything. I think all private schools were that way then. I don't think they are now.

P: Did you have any teachers at Stanford that you thought were particularly inspiring?

K: The freshman year I had an excellent Western Civ instructor. I got into what was called Special Western Civ. After the first quarter if you score high enough. His name was Nostratullah Rassekh and he was an excellent teacher. He was from Iran, and by chance after I ended up in Portland he was head of the History Department out at Lewis & Clark. He was an excellent teacher. Then I had a Political Science

teacher, Neil Cotter, who was excellent. After I graduated, in the Nixon campaign in the '60's he happened to be working for the Republican National Committee and he got me a job there. So those were—I had some good French teachers, too. I took enough French courses so that I could have been a French major if I had wanted, but I was just taking it as a sort of sport.

P: What was your major?

K: Political Science.

P: At what point in time did you decide your major was Political Science?

K: Sophomore year, when I took—I guess I must have taken a course from Neil Cotter that was really, I thought that was really exciting. Of course if you grew up in a family that has been in politics forever. . .it was fun to have a theoretical basis for what I had been observing all my life.

P: Were you thinking, "I'm going to be a politician"?

K: Um, no. I had a very short horizon.

P: What was on that short horizon?

K: Well, I wanted to go abroad for my junior year, which I did. I wanted to graduate and then get some kind of interesting job. And that was it because, reminding ourselves that we are in the 1950's, women couldn't get jobs. You could be a teacher, you could be a nurse or you could be a secretary, and that was it.

P: Were you thinking, "I'm going to be a teacher or secretary"?

K" No, I didn't know what I was going to do.

P: Did you not want to be any of those things?

K: I definitely didn't want to be a nurse—no interest in that. I thought I might teach French—I could have gone on and taught French. I ended up being a secretary when I graduated.

P: Being a secretary?

K: Exactly.

P: So, we're in the freshman and sophomore years still, and you're taking core courses and, are you going home regularly?

K: Christmas time. My mother came out the first Thanksgiving because I had asked her to do that because I was a little—didn't know if I could make it all the way through the year without seeing family, and so she came out at Thanksgiving and we had quite a nice time up in San Francisco . Flying then was more expensive, relatively, than it is now, and so you just didn't hop on an airplane. Plus it was an ordeal to get from New Orleans to the West Coast, so nobody went home. If you couldn't drive home, you stayed at school during the holidays.

P: Did you go to your roommate's house? How far was it? Driveable?

K: Oh, yeah. It was a hard day's drive, but it was still in California.

P: So did you go home for the summer?

K: I went home for the summer and I worked in my father's office.

P: As a secretary?

K: Uh, yeah, clerk, typed stuffed, answered the phone.

P: At this point were you thinking of finding a husband and . . .

K: No, I guess I wasn't thinking about anything but having a good time. My father told me when I went to Stanford I could get good grades and I could write my mother. If I didn't think I could get good grades and write my mother I could stay home. So, having had things set out for you, being a compliant child. . .

P: So your father was quite proud of his daughter at Stanford?

K: Yes, he was. That I did well, that I . . .

P: Was your brother going to a private school?

K: Yes, in New Orleans he went to a private school.

P: He went to a boy's . . .

K: He went to Ridgewood, which was boy's school then.

P: Was it as rigorous as Miss McGehee's?

K: No, it wasn't. It was a new school, so it wasn't as rigorous. And he had to go—I just walked across the street, but Ridgewood was out in the suburbs, so he had to carpool out to the suburbs.

P: So you went home and you worked at your father's trucking company. Now what was the year your father sold his trucking company?

K: 1959.

P: So he's still doing well, the trucking company is doing pretty well?

K: Yes.

P: So you went back for your second year at Stanford. Were you excited to go back?

K: Oh, not . . .

Stanford 1957-1958:

P: So after freshman year at Stanford, you came home and you worked with your father. I'm surprised, you know, you could have transferred to a more demanding college.

K: Yes, and I thought about it. Stanford really wasn't rigorous enough academically for me. I thought, "This isn't very hard." But then the second year, the courses got better. They got more demanding, and in those years a lot of people flunked out toward the end of the freshman year. They just expected them to flunk out. In fact, they had—people got admitted to Stanford as what was called Summer Quarter Frosh. They started the course work in the summer before their freshman year because Stanford knew there would be enough people flunking out to admit the Summer Quarter Frosh after Christmas break. So things picked up. And I enjoyed sophomore year more.

P: So your training at Miss McGehee's really seemed to have given you a real head start on . . .

K: Oh, absolutely, absolutely.

P: Friends of yours flunk out?

K: Some of the boys I knew flunked out, yeah. One of them had brought his horse with him. I missed riding with him.

P: Not the girls?

K: I don't think that any girls flunked out that I knew. Some of them quit to get married. They just didn't like it. For them, coming from the California Public Schools, they didn't like to work that hard, so they went and got married.

P: Were a lot of the students at Stanford when you were a freshman—were they from private schools or public schools?

K: My memory is that about one in six or one in eight was from a private school, and all of us who had gone to private school had a much easier time than the ones who had gone to public school.

P: Were they predominantly Californians?

K: The people at Stanford were predominantly from California—the private school people were from—there were a few private school people from California, but —I had a good friend who had gone to Miss Porter's in Boston and then one had gone to Punaho in Honolulu, but most of the private school people weren't from California. There were some Californians who had been sent East.

P: It does sound like Stanford was very much a California school, then.

K: At the time, it was. Very much so.

P: How did you feel about that?

K: I would have liked to have seen more East Coast people than that. The California culture then was convertibles, drive-in movies, running up and down the highway, different people running up and down the highway.

P: Would you say these were wealthy people?

K: Oh, yes, absolutely. Absolutely.

P: How did that wealth manifest itself?

K: They had expensive cars, that was the main way, because we were all equally well dressed, but they had very expensive cars. A lot of people had their horses there at the stables. They brought their horses up to Stanford. I had a horse but I left him in Louisiana.

P: Was there a class at Stanford—horses, or was it just an extra-curricular activity?

K: There were classes. I took riding. I had always ridden, so I took riding and got to know all the people who had brought their horses with them.

P: Was riding a part of Miss McGehee's also?

K: Well, yes. A lot of McGehee girls had horses in the stables at Audubon Park. But for me it was something else. My aunt, my father's sister, had a farm. If you grow up on a plantation, you ride. So you kind of have this notion that you're supposed

to have the horses out back, so my aunt had the horses out back, including mine and my brother's.

University of Geneva 1958-1959:

P: So, junior year abroad! Was that something you were looking forward to?

K: Yes.

P: And the sophomore year was much more rigorous?

K: Yes.

P: So when did you start working toward junior year abroad? Was that something that was offered you the sophomore year?

K: Yes. My mother told me I could do it, so, yes.

P: Where were you planning to go?

K: Uh, Stanford had a program, but I wasn't interested in Stanford's program because it was just moving Stanford's professors to someplace near Stuttgart. Courses would be taught in English, so I went with Smith College, which had at that time the best course because you just enrolled at the University of Geneva, and started Political Science in French at the University of Geneva and a graduate institute of political science near Geneva.

P: So, did you have to be able to speak French in order to enroll in the program?

K: Yeah, because you had to have enough French to be able to take college level courses.

P: So at this point you were fairly fluent?

K: Absolutely.

P: Did your parents speak any French?

K: No.

P: So then it was just Miss McGehee's influence?

K: It was Miss McGehee's.

P: Did anybody else in your family speak any other language?

K: No, well, my grandfather—my mother's father—spoke German because he grew up speaking German. He didn't speak any English until he was an adult.

P: So you spent part of 1958 and part of 1959 at the University of Geneva in Switzerland.

K: Yeah.

P: Studying political science?

K: Yes.

P: What kind of classes did you take, what was that really about?

K: Um, took classes in international relations, Russian foreign policy, international labor law, Spanish colonial policy in Latin America. I took the courses by the quality of the professor because it didn't really matter too much. I didn't know if Stanford was going to give me credit or not. And I did a thesis on French colonial policy in Algeria and it got accepted in the first draft. I was the only person to get her thesis accepted in the first draft, so that freed up my second semester.

P: Did you write it in French?

K: Oh, yeah.

P: So, what did you do over there? Did you travel a lot?

K: Every weekend we'd travel someplace, took weekend trips all over Switzerland, and then one of my friends from McGehee's, Patty Hanley, had a—lived in Paris on Newcomb's junior year abroad, so I'd go to Paris and see her, and anywhere we could range over the weekend, I'd go out ranging.

P: What modes of transportation did you use?

K: Train.

P: So at this point were you thinking maybe I want to be a lawyer?

K: No! (laughing) No, I was just thinking about where I was going to be the next weekend.

P: So, how did you feel about the experience in general?

K: Oh, I loved it. It was a great time to be an American. There were—you could get four deutschmarks for a dollar, four Swiss francs for a dollar. Now a dollar will get

you one deutschmark and one Swiss franc. You could live very well if you had dollars in 1958-59.

P: You didn't come home at all from September through the end of the year—to June?

K: My mother and my Aunt Mary Belle came over for springterm break which lasted a month. We went to Sicily, Italy, Greece and Turkey. My parents came over after school was out—my mother, my father, my brother, and then one of my cousins, Roland Saurage, and we wandered around Europe for a couple of months.

P: What was it like to fly to Europe at that point, could you—?

K: Took a boat.

P: Took a boat!

K: Yeah.

P: How long did that take?

K: A week.

P: Did you enjoy that?

K: It was kind of strange. There was — see if I can remember the name—it was a French line and they ran this kind of crummy small ship every fall at this time and it picked up all the Americans going to spend the year abroad. So it was students from all over the US who were going to do their junior year abroad. My friend Patty Hanley from Newcomb College spent her junior year in Paris. She was on the boat.

P: Was it a party boat?

K: Not my part of it. But other parts of it were a party boat.

P: Boys and girls—

K: Yeah.

P: So you took a boat from New York —

K: —to Paris. Well, to LeHavre. And the "boat train" to Paris.

P: Yes, then how did you get to New York?

K: My parents drove me up there. We had to go shopping for clothes in New York City because, of course, if you have been in New Orleans and San Francisco you

don't have clothes for a Swiss winter. And, fortunately I knew that everybody in Switzerland is shorter and smaller than I am, 'cause in those days I was a tall person— 5' 10" was tall in those days, and so I knew if I didn't get a winter coat and some winter clothes in New York City that I might have trouble getting them in Europe, and I would have.

P: So you arrived in Paris?

K: Well, the group formed on the boat, and so we started traveling as a pack, and we spent six weeks in Paris studying French. Some people needed a little tutoring. I lived with a French family, studied French, and then we met in a pack on a bus to Geneva.

P: Did you all live in a dormitory in Geneva?

K: I believe we had the top floor of a hotel. Half the group went to families, the other half — I was in that half that lived on the top floor of the hotel because there was very little tourism in the wintertime.

P: Was that your preference that you went with that group, or . . .?

K: No, they just assigned us.

P: How did you get back and forth to school?

K: We'd walk, we lived close to the university.

P: Then the winter called for big boots?

K: Yeah.

P: Was the winter cold?

K: It was so cold. I used to remember, there was a — Lake Geneva comes down and forms the Rhone River, and that's where Geneva, the city, is. And there's a wind that comes out of the Alps to the lake, down the lake, down the river. And crossing that river from the hotel, I still remember how cold that was.

P: Well, did you do some hiking over there?

K: Uh, yes, yeah. We did.

P: Play any volleyball?

K: No, there wasn't any volleyball—hell of a note, no sports at the colleges in Europe.

P: But you did some hiking and with friends on the weekends? You were about 20 at that point?

K: Yeah.

P: Was there any trouble traveling alone or in young groups?

K: Only in Italy. The Italians were strict with their young women then.

P: Was there some problem?

K: Well, the Italian men were always putting their hands on you, and always assuming that you had traveled all the way to Italy just to see them. And you'd sort of have to have a baseball bat to get them to keep their hands off of you.

P: Did you return to Italy in your later life?

K: Yes, and they don't bother women in their middle age. If you're traveling with your teenage sons they don't bother you, but if you're younger and traveling alone they do.

P: So, sounds like you had a pretty good time?

K: It was fabulous. Plus my mother and my aunt Mary Belle came over for spring break so I could see some members of my family.

P: But your whole family traveled over at the end of your school?

K: Yeah.

P: So tell me a little bit more about that—you spent your—your mother, your brother, your father and you spent—

K: And my cousin, Roland Saurage.

P: And your cousin, you spent a month?

K: Three months, actually. My father bought a Mercedes Benz in Munich and so we had all five of us and our luggage, which couldn't have been very much, in this Mercedes and we just went traveling around Europe together. Had a fabulous time.

P: Like your father liked doing in the United States.

K: Yes, exactly.

P: Did he really enjoy this trip, too?

K: He didn't, and I have noticed this in all American male executives. He didn't enjoy it as much as the rest of us did because of the language barriers. In those days you could not find people who spoke English—very hard to find someone who spoke English. So every time he wanted anything, like where's the men's room, he had to ask me to try to find out from somebody, and American business executives, American lawyers—male—are used to being in charge. That was hard for him.

P: This would have been 1959 too, in fact, the summer of 1959. Was he thinking about selling his business then?

K: Yes, they were in the process of, the negotiating stage at the time.

P: Was this a hard time for them, or was it a really positive thing?

K: Oh, I think it was a positive thing—he was tired of working so hard.

P: Did you work at his business between sophomore and—summer of sophomore year?

K: Yeah.

P: And then you went to Europe.

K: Yeah, and then the whole next summer I spent in Europe.

P: Why did your father want to sell his business?

K: Oh, he was nonunion, and the Teamsters came in and there wasn't enough money in the business to make it profitable for him to work that hard. He couldn't pay the Teamsters and make enough money to work that hard, so he just sold it to Gordon Trucking.

P: Which is a line of trucking?

K: Yes. Incidentally, Gordon Trucking or the Teamsters fired all the black drivers, black helpers and black supervisors.

P: Did he retire at that point?

K: No, then he went to Baton Rouge to work with his small natural gas distribution system. That part of Baton Rouge was booming, so that made it a good time for him to develop the business.

P: And your brother, was he in —high school at that point, or . . .?

K: When they moved to Baton Rouge he was a junior, so I think his last two years were at Baton Rouge High, which was still an excellent school then.

P: But he was still a high school student when he came to Europe and traveled around?

K: Yes.

P: And who was your cousin that went with you?

K: Roland, Cousin Roland Saurage.

P: Was he younger than you, or same year, or what?

K: Same age as my brother.

P: You had two young boys with you?

K: Yeah, we had a great time.

P: Well, let's leave your senior year at Stanford for the next session, then we can launch right into your career.

K: Okay! Such as it was!

Session Two
(December 13, 2000)

P: We are with Katherine O'Neil, and we're doing Session 2. It's December 13, 2000, and we ended the last session with her junior year at Stanford, and we're going to start with the summer between junior and senior year.

K: Well, my junior year was in Switzerland and it was with Smith College, because Stanford then just—Stanford that same year happened to start its first foreign study program, but what it did was take Stanford professors and Stanford students to Germany was the first place they went. But all the courses were in English, and so it was just like transplanting Stanford. Very boring. Since I was fluent in French, I qualified to go with Smith College to Geneva, so I had a fabulous year—'58-'59 academic year at the University of Geneva studying courses in French.

P: Well, what was your major at that point?

K: Political science, and so I studied at all the—at the Institute of—I can't remember the name either in French or English, but it was a graduate institute for students of political science who were destined for the foreign service of their various countries, so there were college-age people from all over the world studying there. A lot of people from the French Empire, of course, and a lot of people from the British Empire. And all of the males, of course, had an opportunity to go into the foreign service, and none of the females did, unless they wanted to be a secretary.

P: A rule?

K: Yeah, yeah. Men only. And that pertained in the American foreign service into the early 1980's, late 1970's, early 1980's. So . . .

P: What was the basis for that rule, do you know—I mean it was . . .

K: Same rule, you know, just in a general—women can't do it rule. But that was a fascinating year.

P: Were you aware of that?

K: Oh, yeah, we all knew. We all knew that we were just studying for the pure joy of studying because it would never turn into a job.

P: At that point were you thinking any career?

K: No, I didn't have a thought in my mind, other than having—I loved the academics, and I was just having a great, good time. No, if you know you're not

going to be able to do anything, you just enjoy what you're doing at the time and don't worry about it. If you know all the doors are closed, why worry about it?

P: So that was the year your brother and family came over?

K: Yeah, and so after that junior year my mother, father, brother who was in high school then, and one of our first cousins also in high school came over so that five of us traveled around Europe for, oh, I think three months we were just roaming around Europe. We bought a Mercedes in Munich and just got in the Mercedes which was then a very economical automobile and wandered around Europe that summer. It was great fun, but Deutschmarks then—you could get four Deutschmarks for the dollar. Now you get less than two. So that's why it was a great way to travel. And then I went back to Stanford and was somewhat appalled by the restrictions that—you know, having been totally—the first part of the year we lived on the top floor of the Swiss hotel, and then the second half of the year we went to live with a Swiss family, but nobody was watching us come and go, so we just did what we wanted to do. So when I got back to Stanford and they told me that I couldn't be out past 10:30 on a weeknight, it kind of bridled, and women could not live off-campus, so I just stayed the two quarters I needed to stay to get my credits and so graduated early. Then I went to DC where one of the professors in the political science department was on staff at the Republican National Committee, so I got a job with the Republican National Committee.

P: Let's go back for just a second to—now, you graduated in January then?

K: No, I graduated—the quarter system, so I graduated in March of 1960—with honors, highest honors, Phi Beta Kappa, yeah.

P: In political science.

K: Political science with a minor in French. I actually had enough credits in French I could have taken a French major.

P: And, were you about 20 or so?

K: Yeah, 21.

P: And so you graduated in March and you end up in DC. Tell me a little more about that.

K: Oh, it was a lot of fun because I ended up being—I had a choice of two jobs I could do—be in research for the RNC. These days I'd probably go with the DNC, but then I went to the RNC. I could do research or I could work as a secretary in the Young Republican Division.

P: Was this the connection, again, that got you this job?

K: A professor named Neil Cotter. He was there working and I had gotten to know him. I don't know how I happened to stay in touch with him, but he suggested that I just come to DC. He said that it would be easy to get a job, and it was, for a woman, if you w anted to work as a secretary. So that's what I did, and what I did in effect was ended up running the Young Republican Division because the person who was in charge—a man named Tom Van Sickle—his agenda was his own career rather than what was going on with the Young Republican Division.

P: So that was March, 1959—

K: '60. From March 1960 to November '60. It was Nixon v. Kennedy.

P: So let's talk about the political times—

K: Well, Nixon was much more liberal than people remember him as being, and there really wasn't that much difference between Nixon and Kennedy except in personality. And it was the end of the era of conformity. We were all still members of the Silent Generation. Nixon and Kennedy were, of course, World War II types, that age. It was just the very beginning of the Civil Rights movement. I remember being absolutely appalled by some of the publications that came out of the Democratic National Committee that were circulated in the North which were very strong on Civil Rights and then compared to the publications that were circulated in the South, which were the usual racist publications. And, on my own, I wrote a publication for the Young Republicans to use, pointing out the inconsistency within the DNC, and that was distributed nationwide to the Young Republications because all the Republicans at that time were very strong on Civil Rights.

P: Really!

K: Yeah, and I could do that, of course, because nobody was paying any attention to what I was doing. And, the printing department—the production department of the Republican National Committee was all black, so we had our own little publication system going promoting Civil Rights out of one division of the Republican National Committee, and I don't know if anybody knew what we were doing.

P: Now, when you say the Republicans were strong on Civil Rights, are you talking about the Young Republicans, or —

K: No, all of them. All of them at that time.

P: That must have been pretty exciting to be a staff member at the election time.

K: Oh, yeah, it was. It really was.

P: Close election, too.

K: It was a close election. I often think that if it hadn't rained in Southern Illinois on November 7, 1960, I would have never gone to law school because Nixon would have won. There would have been a higher—the Republican turnout in southern Illinois would have balanced the number of votes manufactured in Chicago by Mayor Daley, and Nixon would have won the White House and I would have gone to work in the White House. But, Nixon did not win, and there were a lot of us Republicans who were unemployed. Well, I could have stayed on with the Young Republicans, but I was sick of being a secretary and decided, I figured out the only way I was going to ever quit being a secretary was if I got a graduate degree of some kind. So, I applied several places to get both a Ph.D. and a law degree, and I was accepted at Harvard in both the Ph.D. program and political science at Harvard for the law degree. I decided on law because it seemed to me that although the political scientists sat around and talked, it was the lawyers who made the changes. There were a lot of changes I thought needed to be made, so that's when I decided to become a lawyer, because I didn't want to be a secretary.

P: So you basically had a year between Stanford and when you were accepted into Harvard?

K; Yes.

P: Did you apply to other schools besides Harvard, or how did you pick Harvard?

K: One of my advisors suggested I just go ahead and go for Harvard.

P: A Stanford advisor?

K: Well, this professor who had gotten me the job just told me to go ahead and go for Harvard. I didn't want to go back to the West Coast because I had had enough of the West Coast, so I thought I'd give New England a try and see how it was.

P: So you had been living in DC during this period . . .

K: . . . and gotten used to being cold, and gotten used to snow. Oh, I lived in Georgetown in the same block as John F. Kennedy, and developed a real strong personal dislike for all the Kennedys because they were such terrible, inconsiderate neighbors.

P: As a president?

K: Yeah, well, when he was a senator, when he was Senator Kennedy he was in the same block, he was right down the street — about four houses down the street from where I lived, and they gave very loud parties, they had women coming, you

know, floozies — arriving at all times of the night, and they would just take up all the parking and have security people around, and . . .

P: And who was it that lived at that house?

K: John F. Kennedy and wife, Jacqueline, and I think they had one young child at the time.

P: You lived on his block . . .

K: Yes.

P: So, did you enjoy your work in Washington then for that year?

K: Oh, I loved it. I loved political work.

P: Did that make you think more about politics, or, it certainly brought you to the law.

K: Yeah, well the only women holding elective office were widows of men elected to those positions, and so I didn't think about running for office.

P: Were you thinking about marriage and family at that point?

K: No, just about having a good time.

P: Sounds like a great job.

K: It was, it was!

P: So in the spring of that year you probably applied at Harvard?

K: Yeah, I applied at Harvard, and I think I applied at Wisconsin, too, because Professor Cotter had a good friend there and he knew that a good political science program was there.

P: Talk about cold!

K: Yes, yes!

P: Well, so then you kept working there, so now you are accepted at Harvard and packing your bags and going from DC to Harvard? Did you return to New Orleans during that period?

K: No, I think I just worked straight through. I worked—what I did after this Prof. Cotter was hired by somebody, I don't know who, to write a report on the

campaign, on the Republican campaign, and so I left my job at the Young Republican Division and for those summer months I worked with him interviewing various people who had worked on the campaign. So that was a lot of fun, and in retrospect I learned a tremendous amount about running campaigns, because I listened to what was done right and what was done wrong.

P: Was that inspiring you to want to be a politician?

K: Uh, no! No, I think my family had been active in politics for generations on generations, and I guess I thought everybody was a politician. We were all growing through our lives being politicians.

P: Well, let's talk about packing up your bags and going off to Harvard. Did that feel intimidating to you at all?

K: No, not at all. Oh, let me tell you one thing that was funny. When I got accepted to the Harvard Law School they sent out a form letter asking for my draft status, which should have been a signal to me that Harvard wasn't ready for women, but it wasn't a signal to me, and I was very surprised when I got to Harvard and found out that of a class—I think there were 500 of us total—that there were only 12 women and two blacks—one black man and one black woman.

P: Did you know all the women?

K: Yes. And the women started leaving almost immediately. Of the twelve of us, I think, because the environment was so hostile, I think a couple left during the first semester, and maybe at the end of the first semester one of them went to Columbia—I remember that for sure. And, I don't know how many actually stayed the course—less than half, I'm sure. [Note: See appendix for accurate details.]

P: So, talk about the beginning, when you got there, you got your classes, and were the classes all big classes?

K: Yes. Well, there were—my memory is that there were three sections, and we all took a prescribed curriculum and there were just huge lecture rooms in Austin Hall and Langdell Hall.

P: So were women divided between the sections?

K: Yes, the women were equally divided, and in each classroom there were four women. And the men had the system that if they weren't prepared for class they would sit in the back two rows because the professors couldn't tell—the classes were so big they didn't know if they looked in—the professors had a seating chart which had each seat and then a photo of the student who was supposed to be in that seat, so that if Mr. Jones wasn't in his seat they looked and saw he wasn't

there, but since everyone was a white male the same age, they could look at the back rows and they couldn't tell if Mr. Jones was there, and in fact they would call out Mr. Jones' name. Even if he was in the back he wouldn't reply if he wasn't prepared because the professor would never figure out who Mr. Jones really was. However, there was no place for the women to go.

P: So where did you live, and what kind of friendships did you run into in that situation?

K: I lived at the home of a professor, Arthur Sutherland. He lived in a wonderful old Victorian house on a street where a lot of the professors lived.

P: Was he a law school professor?

K: A law school professor, yes. His father was on the Supreme Court of New York City. Professor Sutherland used to say, "My father was an ornament for many years on the Supreme Court of New York"—the highest court, whatever it's called. Next door was Roger Fisher who taught Civil Procedure and also started the negotiation program at Harvard. Professor Sutherland was an expert on the UCC.

P: Was it just a room rental type of arrangement?

K: Yeah, I helped a woman named Bonny Atkinson, who later became Bonny Riley and a trustee of Harvard College. She and I had the top floor, and what we did was we got dinner on the table basically, and cleaned up after dinner, and that was about all we had to do. They wanted to have somebody in the house because Prof. Sutherland's mother lived there, a kind of "Granny". And she needed to have somebody in the house at all times, so that's what we did. It was very minimal.

P: But you went out to class during the day?

K: Yeah, it didn't really restrict in any way.

P: Did you enjoy that?

K: Yes, it was interesting. It was really interesting being there.

P: And the other woman, was she a law student?

K: She was at Harvard College. She was getting her master's in English, I think.

P: So, the students and the atmosphere—what, how?

K: It was pretty grim. Did you ever see the movie, "The Paper Chase"? You may not remember the opening scene, but the opening scene is—and I didn't know what

the movie was about—some people said, "Oh, this is really entertaining. Come to the movie." The opening scene is a lecture room in Langdell Hall, and it's actually shot in Langdell Hall. I almost vomited because I hadn't expected it, but that's Harvard Law School to me—it's a horrible experience, so horrible it makes you physically ill.

P: Did you get called on in class? Tell me about some of those experiences.

K: Yeah, well, there was one professor who—there were two professors of I guess of the five professors I would have had, and two of them never called on the women. They had just decided they were not going to deal with it, so if you wanted to speak in class you raised your hand, and since class participation didn't count for anything I never bothered to raise my hand. I'm sure I didn't raise my hand the whole year. Then I had a wonderful Professor Clark Byse, who was discriminated against because he did not graduate from Harvard Law School. All the other professors did, and they looked down on him, and I thought he was a very nice man. He was Contracts professor. And there was Keaton, one of the two Keaton brothers taught Torts. He was really good. I enjoyed—so when called on I responded in Contracts and Torts. I don't think—and Real Property was taught by a Prof. Haas or Hart, I think it was Hart—Charles Harr, H A R R, I think.

P: Did you enjoy the experience? Were you intellectually challenged?

K: Yes, yeah. It was that the atmosphere was so grim, and I think two members of our class committed suicide.

P: Males.

K: Yeah, two males committed suicide. Harvard really didn't want us there. I don't know why they started admitting women, because they didn't want us there. The women had peculiar experiences such as whenever they had some kind of a social event Dean Griswold, Erwin Griswold, would invite all of the women because the women, if they said they would come, would show up nicely dressed, and the women would be polite. So we would have these gatherings at the Dean's home and elsewhere and we would be there, being polite to people, and if you'd look around the room there would be half women and half men. All of the women in the class would be there, and at these events people like Dean Toepfer, who I think he was the Registrar—T O E P F E R—would say things to me and the other women like "You realize you are taking up a place that a man could be having. Why in the world do you want to be doing something like that? Don't you realize how precious a Harvard law education is?" And he would say that in front of whoever these guests were that Dean Griswold was trying to impress. And he was always saying something like that. And none of the male faculty members came to our rescue. There were only male faculty members, so we were just there being tortured, and since we were members of the Silent Generation and women

we had—even if we could have thought of something to say we wouldn't have said it because we were trained to be quiet.

P: Did you talk to each other about the experience, right then?

K: No, no, we didn't. I think we just accepted it, that we just — well, there were those who accepted it, and then there were those who left, and then there were people like me that — it made me mad as hell, and there was nobody to talk to. Another peculiar thing about Harvard Law School in those days is that the clerical staff was predominantly female and young. There were women who had come there to find a Harvard lawyer to marry. So they had all these underpaid, bright young recent female college graduates, and to add to our indignities, if you needed to go pick up some mimeographed piece of paper at the receptionist's, the receptionist would not help you if there was any male around who needed anything. That staff looked upon us as just competitors for potential husbands, so it was a horrible experience.

P: Did you develop any friendships with the other women students?

K: One of them, the black woman, Sheila Rush—she was a close friend. The work load was so heavy that you didn't have much time for socializing. So the people you got to know were the people that you happened to sit next to in class, and so Sheila was the only one I happened to — I think I sat next to her or one person away from her.

P: Did you have an assigned seat?

K: We all had assigned seats, yeah, we all had assigned places in all the classes.

P: So, you studied, and —

K: You studied, and that was about it. That sums it up.

P: It doesn't sound like you were very happy during that period.

K: No, it was —yeah, and I only stayed through the first year because I thought: "This is the profession! These guys are jerks!" And the law students to a very large degree had the same values as the faculty who had—I didn't like the way that the faculty and the other students were treating the two blacks in the class. Of course, there were no Asians whatsoever and no Hispanics. And I didn't like the way they were treating—they way they looked at—they were racists, and I didn't like the way they looked at the blacks and treated the blacks. They weren't kind, and I just didn't like that at all. So I thought, "I don't want to spend the rest of my life with a bunch of jerks like this. I think I want to do something else."

P: Now, was this during the first year, or did you get all the way to the summer before you had time to think about it?

K: I felt like leaving when some of the other women left, but I thought, "Go through the first year. Don't say that you didn't give it a shot." So I did. And my grades were OK, I was right smack in the middle of the class. I didn't study as I had done before. I'm sure I would have done better, but I just—my heart sure wasn't in it.

P: And so here we are, in the summer of 1962.

K: 1962, yeah. The fly in the ointment was that one person I liked a lot there was one of my colleagues, Mike O'Neil, and we got married in the Fall. He had been at Stanford when I was.

P: And he was a student, the first year at Harvard?

K: Yeah, I met him at a Young Republican gathering.

P: In Washington? Where did you meet him initially?

K: At a Harvard Law Young Republican gathering.

P: And you didn't know each other at Stanford?

K: No, because he was a year behind me. So, I stayed, and he didn't like it too much. He didn't like Harvard Law any more than I did, but he decided to stick it out so I stayed there with him, and then we had our children while we were there, since I wasn't doing anything else but running the house. I just didn't want to go back. I couldn't face it.

P: So, when did you—you met him your first year there?

K: Yeah, at the beginning of the first year, and then we got married at the beginning of the first year.

P: Short courtship, then.

K: Yeah, oh yeah.

P: And so now, this is still your first year?

K: I'm married, yeah.

P: And you're married. OK. And then, so now you're deciding not to go back, but you're married and you're—so were you not living at the professor's house any more?

K: No, no.

P: So where were you living then?

K: We had in one of those wonderful houses, old frame houses that are close to every campus in the U.S., divided up into apartments.

P: Was that married student housing then?

K: De facto, yes.

P: So when was your first child born?

K: He was born in September of 1962.

P: Let's go back for just a second and talk about Mike O'Neil. What was it that — what was your connection, what attracted you to him—

K: Very nice person, same values, the Stanford experience—he was —

P: What part of the country is he from?

K: Dayton, Washington, which is above Walla Walla, Washington. He came from Dayton, Washington. His father ran the newspaper there, owned the newspaper there. He was the same kind of Rockefeller Republican and I was very active in the . . .

(several minutes worth of blank tape here)

P: So, we're talking about Mike O'Neil.

K: Yeah. He was very active in the Methodist Church, I was very active in the Presbyterian Church, so we had that moderate Christian background.

P: Did you have a big wedding?

K: No, just a small wedding. My mother wanted a large wedding, but I just—the thought of going back to Louisiana and engaging in an elaborate ritual, so we got married at the end of '61 and I was busy at law school. I didn't want to have a Christmas wedding, so I said "to hell with it."

P: Were you actually a student at this point?

K: Yeah. In December, of 1961, yeah.

P: First-year law student? Hard to find the time then, huh?

K: Right.

P: Well, did your family come up from Louisiana?

K: Yeah, so we had a small wedding with law school friends.

P: And his family came from Washington?

K: Yeah. And my maid of honor was Kit Wisdom, who was Judge Wisdom's daughter, John Minor Wisdom's daughter, because we had been friends. We had gone to McGehee's together and had been on the Republican National Committee together.

P: Where was she living at that time?

K: She was still in DC. She went on to work for Jacob Javits. She worked for Javits for years until his death, being his scheduler.

P: So Mike went back to school after the summer of 1962 . . .

K: Yes, and then Will, our first son, was born at the end of September of '62.

P: And Mike was a second-year law student at this point in the year, with a young son.

K: Yes.

P: And so what was his—what did you, at that point what did you think he and the family was going to be doing? Did he have a goal of, did he want to become a regular lawyer, or?

K: Yes. And we thought we'd go back to, either back to around Walla Walla or up to Seattle and it was a good time since I wasn't doing anything else but taking care of a baby. It was a good time to take care of a baby.

P: Did you like being a young mother?

K: Oh, I loved it, love babies. It was fun. And then I joined the Harvard Law Wives.

P: Wow, tell me about that!

K: . . . which were, of course, they were just as talented as their husbands but had a different, a different position in life. I enjoyed that. I met some really interesting women, and I found the women much more interesting than their husbands, but

then the husbands were so consumed with trying to get through law school—who knows what I could have learned if they hadn't—well, but then, of course, they remained consumed by the law for the rest of their natural lives.

P: Some of those women, did they later have careers that you were aware of?

K: Not that I know of. I kind of lost track of them. The ones I kept track of, like for ten or twelve years after law school, they were still at home being homemakers.

P: Were you involved in any Republican activities, I mean, further —

K: Well, I kind of wanted to be. Diarmuid O'Scannlain who is now on the Ninth Circuit, I met him first when he was doing some volunteer work for the Republican National Committee in DC, and he was a year ahead of us. He was Class of '63 at Harvard. He was very active in the Massachusetts Republican Party, and he provided me with some opportunities, but my husband just didn't like me going off with a bunch of men at odd hours to do political work, and particularly after we had a baby, so I just dropped out of politics to keep the peace.

P: What did you do with yourself during those days?

K: Well, took care of the baby, took care of the house, did cooking, went to the Harvard Wives meetings, read a lot. I would go over to the Harvard bookstore and go through the aisles and determine what books that had been ordered for various classes, and then just buy all the books for whatever the class was, and then teach myself whatever the topic happened to be.

P: So, was Will a good baby?

K: Oh, he was wonderful. He was a sweet boy. He still is.

P: One of those babies who sleep through the night when you bring them home?

K: Uh, no. No, but he was very healthy. He was blessed with good health, and our pediatrician was T. Barry Brazelton, B R A Z E L T O N, who has become one of the leading experts on baby care, raising babies.

P: He has written some books.

K: Yeah, he's written several books and Will was part of his neonatal research, which I didn't realize at the time. I just thought all pediatricians were this superb and this careful, but no, Will was part of his research that turned into a book.

P: Have you remained friends with or acquaintances with Judge O'Scannlain?

K: Oh, yeah.

P: So were you also involved at this point with the church, the Presbyterian Church?

K: We went, when we were at Harvard we went to the Methodist Church because it was the closest one to where we lived. And the Methodist Church also had a phenomenal — it was Harvard Epworth Methodist Church — and they brought amazing speakers in, such as Malcolm X. We spent an evening being with Malcolm X, and it was fascinating, just fascinating. It was a bunch of well-intentioned white people and some Muslims who were very—actually, Muslims from the Middle East who were very concerned that the Islam that was being preached by Malcolm X, he was preaching it exclusively for black people. So we had a wonderful evening, and I came away thinking that Malcolm X was just a very nice person.

P: And Mike was with you then, and that was like a family activity?

K: Yeah, yeah.

P: So, generally during the years when Mike was going to school and you were at home, was that a happy time, and did you have a second child pretty soon.

K: Yeah, in October or '63—Charles.

P: So he was at that point a third-year —

K: Yeah, it was Mike's last year.

P: So he's thinking about going out and getting a job as a lawyer. So what—actually, let's go back for a second and talk about your mother. Is she coming up to visit the babies?

K: Oh, when the boys were born she came up and stayed for a month each time, which was wonderful, of course, so we had an extended visit, and she helped take care of the children. And we went, let's see, over the Christmas break—my parents were then living in Baton Rouge—we went to Baton Rouge for Christmas.

P: So your dad had sold his New Orleans business at that point?

K: Yes, and they were living in Baton Rouge. And the summer between my first and second year—what did we do? We stayed in Boston that first summer, that was before Will was born, and I got a job as secretary again for an import/export firm, which was interesting in itself because I got to meet working-class Bostonians. Mike got a job driving school buses, which was also interesting.

P: This was Boston during the Kennedy years, eh? The Kennedy presidency?

K: Yes, you would have thought the Pope had been elected president. They were so excited about Kennedy.

P: It doesn't sound like you shared the enthusiasm. . .

K: No, I didn't share the enthusiasm, I didn't share their enthusiasm. And then between second and third years Mike went back to—we lived with his parents and he clerked for Minnick & Hayner in Walla Walla, which was interesting for me. It was the first time I had ever lived in a small town and could understand what life in a small town was like.

P: Walla Walla, that's a small town!

K: Well, we lived in Dayton, which was north of Walla Walla, and Dayton had a population then of less than 2,000.

P: Did you work or did you. . .?

K: No, I just stayed home with Will, and I enjoyed it because I like to cook, and Mike's mother never was a cook, and so, of course the whole family was grateful when I showed up and started cooking.

P: Did you live with his family?

K: Yeah.

P: But politically, now, these were very busy and tumultuous years. Were you involved in that?

K: No, no.

P: Even the civil rights emphasis?

K: No. Trying to keep the peace in the family. I just kept a low profile.

P: Well, then, let's talk about the transition years when Mike . . .

K: Yeah, Mike thought he was going to, he had that summer in Walla Walla, and we thought, and he had—one of his first cousins had married a lawyer whose office was in—was it Prescott? It was one of those little bitty towns, and he made a very good living, so we looked closely at what living in that part of Washington would be like, and we just couldn't face it. For example, you might want to have a good meal, you might want to go to the movie, who knows? So, he looked for jobs in Seattle, and just when he was looking for jobs in Seattle, which would have

been—while we went to Seattle he studied the Washington bar, he passed the bar, looking for jobs was a period when Boeing was having a downturn. You know, when Boeing, in those years when Boeing had a downturn the whole Seattle economy was shaken. So, he came down here and got a job with what was then Davies Biggs, which is now Stoel Rives Boley, and so that's how we came to Portland. We came down here in September of 1964 and found a house to rent out in Tigard. So that's how we ended up living in Tigard.

P: So that was right after he just graduated and got an entry job, right, at Stoel Rives, or the original Stoel Rives . . .

K: Yeah, the precursor.

P: Was that a similar experience then, when the first-year associate is expected to work long hours and . . .

K: Yes. They worked. They were expected to work until Saturday around noon and one night a week, and half day on Saturday, if not a full day on Saturday.

P: Your boys at that time were two and what? One and two? Your second child's name is Charles?

K: Yeah, Charlie would have been one.

P: Born in the last year of law school?

K: Yeah, so Charlie was one and Will was two.

P: And did you buy a house in Tigard?

K: No, we rented a house first, found a house to rent out in Tigard at $150 a month.

P: And you were a young mother in the Tigard suburbs?

K: Yes.

P: Let's talk about that a little bit. What was . . .

K: Well, Tigard then was a distinctly separate town. It only took you—Tigard had a population of 1,300 and there were stretches of open space between Tigard and Portland, and it took you 15 minutes to get downtown. You routinely came into Portland for whatever you wanted because it was easy. There was—bus service was being provided by the Blue Line, and there were buses that went in in the morning and buses that came back at the rush hour, and that was it—public transit. I enjoyed it. I joined the county extension and met with the women's county extension group and learned a lot about nutrition and child development

and menu planning, and it was very fortunate that in February of 1965 the Presbyterian Church started construction on what became Calvin Presbyterian Church, and the minister was Jim Cayton and his wife was Lucy Cayton, and I gave my husband a month to get us over to the Methodist Church and then after—he was exhausted, and he just didn't take the initiative, so I said, "OK, we're going to the Presbyterian Church" . .

P: Was that in Tigard?

K: In Tigard, yeah. So Calvin Presbyterian is in Tigard. So I went up to the Presbyterian Church. Since it was just getting started and since I had children that I knew would need church school, I organized the church school and became the de facto director of Christian Education, a position for which I had absolutely no training and taught church school for the next ten years.

P: And you were very involved in the Calvin Presbyterian Church for many, many years.

K: Yes.

P: But not any more?

K: No, because I live in Vancouver. I was elected an Elder and I was Clerk of Session, which is the highest lay position within the—the Clerk of Session is the lay person who, the only lay person who has any authority—the minister and the Clerk of Session. So it was a fabulous association for me, and I really enjoyed it, watching the church grow.

P: Was that later that you became an Elder, or was it—the first years you were the director of Christian . . .

K: Director of Christian Education, yeah. And then became an Elder and I ran their Vacation Bible School.

P: Just for a second, I neglected to ask you about when President Kennedy was killed in '63, you were still at Harvard, is that right?

K: Yes.

P: Do you have any memories of that?

K: Yes. I was—the landlady lived upstairs in the house we lived in—we lived at 36 Myrtle Avenue, which was one of those three-deckers, a Boston three-decker, a family on each level, except that the landlord had the top two levels and we had the bottom level. The landlady came down and she was extremely upset. She said, "Kennedy's been shot," and so I remember turning on the TV and holding Charlie

who was fussing, and the first thing I thought is, "Oh, no, Lyndon Johnson is President." I didn't think there would be any unrest with the passing and the fascination with the president, that this would come and go. But having Johnson as president, I thought that this was going to be terrible, because he's an evil man, and we got the Viet Nam war. I didn't know that would be the evil we got, but that was the evil we got.

P: Was that a—did you think that before, or where do you think that comes from?

K: My knowing, oh, from knowing him. Knowing him—I didn't know him personally, but certainly everybody in politics in Louisiana knew what a—we knew that he had stolen his first election. We knew that he was corrupt. He was a very, very wealthy man. As soon as he got into politics he started accumulating wealth and none of it through his salary as an elected official. He had all kinds of kickbacks, payoffs decade after decade. We knew he was just an out-and-out Texas crook! Political crook.

P: And it was well known in Louisiana.

K: Yeah. I think it was well known by anybody who knew anything about politics. He was no good, and to have a nogoodnik like that be President of the United States I knew it would be bad for the country.

P: Was Mike in the—did he have a draft problem?

K: If Will hadn't—if we hadn't had Will he would have been gone, and several of our friends at Harvard Law School did get drafted out during — let's see, none left during the first year but several left during the second year and even more left during the third year. They were drafted out of class.

P: There wasn't a lottery draft at that point, was it?

K: No, it was your draft board, your draft board. And Mike's draft board was in Dayton, Washington, and of course they thought it was wonderful that a local boy could get to Harvard Law School. So they weren't going to send him anyway, anywhere. And then when he got married they had a reason and then when he had a child they had another reason not to send him anywhere.

P: Was that okay with him?

K: He didn't want to go fight a war.

P: Those were hard times.

K: Yeah, it was terrible.

P: Okay, so you came to Oregon and you were in Tigard, enjoying your children, and we're talking now about 1964 to —you went to work in '67, was that about right?

K: Yeah, another important thing in there was that we bought a house on Fern Street, at 13585 S.W. Fern Street on the north slope of Bull Mountain, and the people who moved in across the street—oh, gosh, I've forgotten their names—the woman of the house was very active in the League of Women Voters and she went up and down the neighborhood and organized all the housewives that were susceptible into joining the League of Women Voters. And I thoroughly enjoyed that experience because we researched all kinds of issues pertinent to the development of Washington County, so I very much enjoyed that experience.

P: How did the organization work at that point in time?

K: There was a chapter—we were in the Tigard chapter, and each chapter could choose something to study, and then the countywide organization chose something to study. So we would get very well informed on civic issues that pertained to our little geographic issue, and then go tell the City Council what we thought about it, which was a good thing to do, since the City Council was generally ill-informed, a bunch of amateurs. So that was fascinating, watching Washington County grow and being informed on the issues that were determining the kind of growth it would have.

P: This was prior to Tom McCall and, what's the word I'm looking for—help me—zoning.

K: It was zoning, it was highest use. It was zoning but it was very inept.

P: And it would be Tigard that would be in charge of . . .

K: Yes.

P: Now, what kind of house did you buy, and where was it? Was it in the suburbs, a development, or a . . .

K: No, it was out on Fern Street, which was just a road that came off of Walnut, Walnut Street, and there was a dairy farm at the bottom of the hill on one side and Hashimoto's strawberry fields on the other side, and this was just a country road up on the hill, and the houses were built individually. Our house was built by one of the Boeing engineers who had been laid off in '64 and decided he would go into home building.

P: Did you have a little land up there?

K: Half an acre, we had half an acre and a lot of fir trees. We bought it for the fir trees. I love the sound of the wind going through the fir trees.

P: Did you feel isolated out there?

K: Um, no, hm-um. I liked it, and across the street and all the way to the top of Bull Mountain was undeveloped, and that was a wonderful playground for the kids because they could just go up in the woods. I was delighted to be out there, because when I was a child I was always getting on the streetcar and going all over New Orleans, and some of the places I went I thought, "Hm, probably better that these two boys are just corralled up in the woods."

P: Your husband was going to work pretty regularly? At what point did you decide you wanted to go back to work?

K: Well, even with all I was doing I had a lot of excess energy and the Community Press had an ad in it looking for what they call stringers or correspondents, and so even though I had never had a class in journalism I looked at the quality of their writing and I said, "I can do this." I knew all about local government from the League of Women Voters, so I called up and said, "I'd like to give this job a try," and they said, "Fine, you can go to this City Council meeting." So I did and they wrote it up, and they hired me. So I worked for them for a few years covering Washington County, and then I made the transition to The Oregonian.

P: Now, the boys are getting on the bus and going to school during the day?

K: Yes, that was it, yes. If they hadn't started school—they started school and I had extra time.

P: Council meetings and political—is that an evening activity?

K: Yes, they're in the evening. Some of the stuff I covered was during the day. If they wanted me to go out and research something, that was during the day. So, one or two nights a week I'd be off covering stories, which was really not good but I was bored to death. It would have been better if I had had a day job during the time the kids were in school.

P: What kind of law was Mike practicing?

K: He stayed at Davies Biggs for two years and he didn't like it. The six associates who started when he started—only one lasted long enough to be a partner. Five of them peeled off. He didn't like it, so he came out to Tigard and opened his own practice, and he did estate planning and probate, which is what he is still doing today.

P: So he's a sole practitioner then?

K: Yeah.

P: Did you help him at all in his office?

K: Yes, when he first opened up I was the secretary. He started his own office with Chuck McClure, who was an associate at Davis Biggs, and then I ran the office for them and did secretarial stuff.

P: Were you thinking then to be a lawyer?

K: No, no. I just thought, "This is fine, this is nice," doing this variety of things that I was doing.

P: But you were involved with Community Press then.

K: Yes, so I was also writing for them.

P: Well, now we're going to talk about the transition to The Oregonian.

K: Yes. The Oregonian—I'm trying to remember how I got the job with The Oregonian. I can't remember what prompted me, but I remember just going downtown to The Oregonian. Maybe they had something in the paper about they were looking for Washington County stringers, so I went down to the newsroom at The Oregonian and walked in and was interviewed by a man named Jim Magmer. I had a little packet of my clippings, but he had read my clippings and he knew who I was, because The Oregonian then wanted to expand their coverage of Washington County. And, much to my amusement I later found out that the stories that I wrote for the Community Press covering Washington County, they had several newspapers that were distributed all over the Portland metro area. Because the stuff I was writing was better than the stuff they were getting elsewhere. So I was much more widely known than I thought. I thought nobody knew who I was, so I went to The Oregonian and they knew who I was, they said, "OK, you can be a stringer for us."

P: By distributed, do you mean in The Oregonian? They were re-publishing what you had written?

K: No, the Community Press was. The Community Press had a newspaper in Sherwood and Tigard, in Beaverton and Gresham and Troutdale.

P: So The Oregonian knew all about you?

K: Yes, The Oregonian knew all about me and they were happy I came in, so I—they offered more money, so I covered the same beat plus some expanded—they had me go to things like the Washington County Forum and write up those stories and

do research for them. They would call me up and say, "Please go out to Hillsboro and ask the highway engineer this series of questions." So, I'd go out to Hillsboro and ask the questions. Another thing I did for them which was fun, was if somebody went on—by now my kids are late grades, 8-10, and they don't care if they ever see their mother again so long as dinner is on the table—was if somebody went on vacation, then I would go in and sit at their desk for the period of vacation, or if somebody was out sick or something, then I'd go in and work a day. I would go in, and then—it was fun in those days. People who were working there in those days say it's not fun the way it used to be. But you would be at what they would call a desk. What it was in effect was the editor was there and then other people's desks were butted up against his so that from where he was he could hand you a piece of paper. So you would go in in the morning and sit at your electric typewriter and he would hand you a sheet of paper. At the top it would say something like "Extension or Improvement of Highway 26" and then it would have a couple of names. He wouldn't say anything, and so you would start calling and find out what this was all about and then you would write up the story and then you would give it back to him, and then he would put it up to the city editor, so you would just do this all day long. And we would just stay in the office at our desks writing all day long . . .

P: Talking to people on the telephone?

K: Talking to people on the telephone. Or the one I always loved was, when we ran out of stories you would call up the zoo or something, and there was a guy whose specialty was to talk to the animals at the zoo, but if he wasn't there I loved being able to call the animals at the zoo and get their opinions about various things.

P: Were you involved in any political stories?

K: Yes, and I was very well informed about Oregon politics in those days.

P: We're talking about early 1970's.

K: Yes.

P: . . .for this session and we were talking about politics in the '70's and your involvement with *The Oregonian*, and politics in general.

K: Well, I covered politics. I wasn't active in politics. It was an exciting time because these were the Tom McCall years, and I think I have the impression that until Tom McCall, Oregon was sort of asleep. Oregon started growing and people became alarmed because you could no longer see Mt. Hood from Portland as often as you used to be able to see Mt. Hood from Portland—the air was getting

dirty, the rivers were dirty, people were building houses and factories in lovely, scenic spots. People woke up to the fact that the environment was being degraded and Tom McCall was a charismatic governor and fortunately at that time there were very progressive people in the Oregon Legislature. So laws were being passed and there was great popular support for the laws. I remember when I first started with the League of Women Voters we were studying about the need for environmental legislation, and then within a few years here comes Tom McCall and here comes the environmental legislation, and then as the litigation started the judges supported the environmental legislation. So those were the stories in The Oregonian. The other story was school finance. Oregon in those days didn't have any kindergarten and had absolutely no provisions for any but normal students—any students were mentally retarded, had any kind of handicap. Their parents kept them at home, put them in Fairview.

P: Is Fairview the mental institution in Salem?

K: Yes. Or they left the state. I knew people who left the state because they had handicapped children. Or they started—and I have friends who started a school program, a county school program for their children who were mentally retarded, and then developed a facility, a work facility for mentally retarded adults. So it was strictly do-it-yourself if you had children who weren't standard.

P: Were your boys in public school?

K: They started preschool at what was then St. Helens Hall, which is now Oregon Episcopal School. And I had planned on keeping them there but I got active in the parents' group and the parents were so snobby, and the administration was so snobby I couldn't take it. It would have been one thing if it was just a private school and they were snobs, but the fact that they were Christians and snobs, I thought, was a fatal flaw. So I took them out of OES and put them in the Beaverton Public Schools, which was good for their character but not good for their education.

P: Oh, yes. How long did they go to OES before you took them out?

K: They finished the preschool. They both went through kindergarten and then they went to first grade at McKay Elementary.

P: Did you have to drive them over there every day? That's quite a . . .

K: OES is in Raleigh Hills. And they had a bus. The bus would pick them up.

P: All right. From politics in the '70's, environmental—there was public support for environmental laws?

K: Yes, absolutely.

P: Was there dissent?

K: Not much, not much really, because in those days businesses in Oregon were owned by families who lived in Oregon, so you could have an influence on them, on the people, because you saw them. They were here in the community and they wanted to breathe the air, too. That's no longer the case. Businesses in Oregon are now owned by multinationals who don't breathe the same air we do.

P: Where did Tom McCall come from, so to speak? He just appeared . . .?

K: He was a newscaster. So we had seen him for years as a newscaster, and then he ran for governor. He was a big handsome man, very charismatic.

P: And in the '70's, the politics on the national scene was, was that—now, Reagan was in the '80's.

K: Reagan was 1980, before Reagan was—

P: Johnson was out and—

K: After Johnson was, is that when Nixon was elected?

P: Right.

K: Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan.

P: Now, Tom McCall—was he, he was a Republican.

K: Yeah, he was Republican.

P: And a very forward-thinking Republican.

K: Absolutely. He was my kind of Republican. I was very enthusiastic about Tom McCall.

P: But you didn't work on his campaign or anything, but you reported it. And the boys are in school, and your husband is doing his private practice, and you're happy at the paper?

K: Uh-huh (yes).

Return to Law School:

P: But, somehow in 1974—

K: Back to law school. Well, I was trying to decide—you know, it was clear to me that the kids were getting to the point where they didn't need to have their mother around, and then what was I going to do all day long. And if I stayed, in those days—I looked around the newsroom and I thought, "Huh, the leadership positions around here—there are already men on the tracks for those, and there are no women in any positions here." The women had what's now called the living section but then was the women's section, and it was pretty boring, what they got to do.

P: Were you involved in the women's section at all?

K: I occasionally wrote travel pieces, and when I wrote a travel piece it would run in the women's section.

P: But, really, you were involved in the other sections.

K: Yeah, so—and the women were their own ghetto. The women were their own ghetto. They even had — they weren't on the newsroom floor, they had a separate spot. And if you worked as a reporter you never got off rotating shifts, and you can't be having any family at all and be on rotating shifts. That's just too destructive.

P: Was that what you were doing through those —

K: No, when I was working part-time I just came in days.

P: So you couldn't really advance into full time doing what you were doing, and the boys are pretty much—pretty close to teenagers now.

K: Right, right. So I figured that there really wasn't a career there, so I thought, "Well, maybe I'll go back to law school." Because the practice of law out here was significantly different from what I had anticipated the practice of law to be from being at Harvard. So I applied at Northwestern since it was local.

P: Did you go to the night school or full time days?

K: Full time days.

P: At that point were you one of the older students?

K: Yes. Not the oldest. There was a great range of students at Northwestern then. There was a group of us who were about the same age, and there were — there was even one wonderful lady who was in her early '60's who retired as a school teacher, teaching school in New York City.

P: Wow, that's great.

K: Yeah.

P: So you were about 38 or 40?

K: 38.

P: When you returned to law school?

K: Let's see. In 1974 when I went I would have been 36. But there were others of us in our 30's. And then some, of course, straight out of college.

P: So how did you like Northwestern?

K: Loved it. Great law school.

P: So did you start as a first-year student?

K: Yeah, and because I didn't get credit—the credits lapsed. And it was just as well because, for example, when I studied the UCC, only Pennsylvania had adopted the UCC, and it was just as well to have started over again.

P: Fourteen years is just—

K: Yeah, the law had changed quite a bit in the preceding fourteen years.

P: And now, the boys, when you went back to law school, the boys are —

K: Eleven and twelve, yeah.

P: And your husband is doing fine in his solo practice.

K: Yes.

P: How did you balance the family and law school?

K: It wasn't too hard the first year because the classes were all scheduled in the morning, and so I'd just go to class, come home, do what I needed to do, and then study in the evening.

P: And you weren't doing any paper then, you quit?

K: I did. Occasionally they would call me and say, "Would you follow up on. . .?" and I'd go out and follow up on it, or I would occasionally see a story that—these were the days when there were women entering professions, entering jobs, mostly jobs where they had never been before. I remember one of my friends at the law

school had a friend that had just gotten a job as a lineman for the telephone company, and she was the first lineman that—I don't know what the phone company would have been called then—US West was one of the successors, so I knew nobody else was going to bother to go out and write a story about a woman who was out being a lineman, so I said, "Can I do this story?" and they said, "Sure." But mostly I wasn't writing.

P: So, what were your favorite classes, and what were your—what kind of legal interests did you feel like you were developing at that point?

K: Well, the man who taught Contracts and later UCC was Doug Newell. He is still out there. He was an excellent professor. I really enjoyed Contracts. And since I came from a family of business people I had always assumed I'd do business law, and so I took those courses. At that time Lewis & Clark—Northwestern didn't have as fully developed a curriculum as it has now. It had only been accredited—I think it got accredited in like '72 or '73.

P: Actually, I went a little too fast over the return to law school. Did you think of any other—at that point you were looking for a career? And were there any other options that came to you, or—

K: No, I just thought about working at the newspaper, which I rejected, and couldn't think of anything else to do.

P: Did you want to be a writer?

K: No, I just wanted to have something to do.

P: Did you think you might work with your husband in law?

K: No, I hadn't even thought about that. Talk about an un-reflective life!

P: So maybe you just decided to apply.

K: And I was accepted.

P: Did you apply at any place else?

K: No, 'cause I didn't want to leave town.

P: So you liked Portland. At that point you were happier.

K: Yes, yeah.

P: Well, let's go back to Lewis & Clark then, for a little bit. Who were your —who did you hang around with and what was the atmosphere at Lewis & Clark?

K: Well, the atmosphere was so supportive. It was just a shocking contrast to Harvard Law. They wanted—the faculty wanted you to succeed. The faculty was very happy that you were there.

P: This was even before the new building. Where was it at that point?

K: It was still out there. It was out by Lewis & Clark. I think they had moved out there like '73, and I started in the fall of '74, 1974, so they were out there. They didn't have the building that the faculty is in now. They had the library and the faculty offices were in that building that the library is in, and then they had the classrooms which we referred to as the bunkers, and then the student lounge was what we referred to as the fishbowl. So those were the three buildings that were there. And the first year I was there they had thirty black students that they had recruited from everywhere but Portland, I think, and they all—they had just given them no preparation, and they all flunked out. Each and every one of them flunked out after the first semester, which was the most startling and appalling thing, because I didn't realize what was going—I think they didn't realize what was going on, and I was kind of acquaintances with them, but I didn't know any of them very well.

P: Men?

K: Men, women, men and women.

P: Every one of them flunked out?

K: Each and every one of them. Not a one of them survived. It was — to follow up on that, one of the members of my class was Peggy Nagae, who had a full scholarship to Wellesley who grew up on a berry farm in East Multnomah County, and she was as appalled as I was, and she got the law school to fund and she organized a program the very next summer — an orientation program for minority students. I think somebody also told the faculty that you need to be more realistic and selective in your admissions process. I don't know what made them admit those 30 students, but it wasn't very thoughtful. It provided a horrible experience all around and a waste of resources. So after the first year, after the first semester we lost all those wonderful minorities that I really enjoyed. Poof, they were gone. But, there were—instead of having five percent women or two percent women, there were probably 30 or 40 percent women, which really changed the quality of the legal education. There were wonderful radical people who came because they were interested in environmental law, and I just loved them. They were going to shake up the world, and in fact some of them have.

P: So, Lewis & Clark was already involved in environmental law at that point?

K: Yes. It was trying to make its name as an environmental law school.

P: Did you take any environmental law classes?

K: No.

P: You were pretty much involved in business?

K: Yes.

P: Peggy Nagae, she went on to be a teacher at the U of O, didn't she?

K: Yes, was down at the U of O, she was assistant dean at the U of O. She's had an excellent career. She was on the ABA Commission on Minorities.

P: I was a student there when she was assistant dean. So, did you participate in any other activities at law school?

K: All kinds of things. There wasn't any organized student government or anything, but I remember participating in course evaluations for several years. I guess, all three years I helped with the course evaluation procedure. I was always in some kind of conflict. The man who was the dean then was Fred Fagg III, and after he left the law school he became director of the Rocky Mountain Institute. I don't know if you know that name, but that is a very right-wing anti-environmental establishment in Colorado. So, you can imagine that his sentiments and my sentiments didn't coincide, and I don't know if he was—I think he was an inept administrator.

P: And he was in an environmental law school.

K: Right, right. But the law school was not being properly run, and the needs of students were not being met on a variety of grounds, and since I was older and didn't mind getting into confrontations it seemed like whatever came up, I was in it, and I was in the dean's office on one thing or another. I was in the head librarian's office wondering about why we have this policy, or I was in fighting with the college about why can't the law students have more hours in the pool. So, yeah, I was involved.

P: And so you were the de facto head of the law students?

K: Yeah, one of them, for sure. I was de facto government.

P: Were there other law students who had teenagers and families?

K: There were, let's see, there must have been, but right now I don't remember. There were several with small children, and I remember we tried to get some child care organized but there weren't enough of them with small children to get

anything done. The numbers just weren't there to make it economically feasible, and there wasn't any place to put it, either at the law school or at the college.

P: Do you still meet some of those people in your practice?

K: Oh, yes. That's one of the great joys of going to law school in the same town where you practice law—you have friends that you now met 26 years ago.

P: Memorable legal friendships?

K: Yes.

P: And, did you think about a political career at any time?

K: No, I never did. I never did.

P: Any other activities come to mind in law school, or shall we just talk about the bar exam?

K: Let's see.

P: By this time, the boys are almost fifteen when you got out of law school.

K: Well, I got divorced in February of '75 and in the middle of law school, and so it was just me and the two kids. The beginning of second year I had a friend in my class named Lee Ann Ward who came over and lived at the house, and so Will and Charlie met a lot of law students, and I just wrapped Will and Charlie into the activities—I would do things like organize volleyball games on Friday nights for law students who wanted to come out to Tigard. I'd rent a gym, so Will and Charlie would be playing volleyball with the law students, and I organized skating parties for the law students, so it was a strange combination of activities since I wanted to have something for my sons to do, so it was activities that two teenage males and law students would like to do on a Friday night. I think the law students were very desperate for entertainment. We'd have a lot of people over at the house to feed, so I continued to cook for people, and that was fun.

P: Did the going back to law school have any impact on your getting divorced?

K: Oh, yes, I'm sure it did. There are so many people who get divorced during law school.

P: What was your husband's—did he not want you to go back to law school?

K: He was very reluctant. He was very reluctant to have me go back. He thought things were fine. He tried to be supportive, but it was just sort of the straw that broke the camel's back.

P; And he did not want you to work full time?

K: I'm sure he would not have wanted me to work full time. A man from the '50's. . .

P: And a Harvard Law School graduate.

K: Right, right. Some people evolve, and some people don't.

P: Was it an amicable divorce?

K: Yes. And there was never any problem about the kids visiting. In fact, I stayed in the same house so it would be easy for him to have access to the kids.

P: And did he live close?

K: Yeah.

P: And he still practiced in Tigard?

K: Yes.

Graduation:

P: So, then you were going to graduate. At this point, were you thinking about a career?

K: Finally, I'm thinking about a career in law, yeah. There was a wonderful placement director named Ann Kendrick. In those years, the first Lewis & Clark graduate to get a job with a major Portland law firm was Velma Jeremiah who had been a legal secretary at Stoel Rives and went to law school then came back and got a job as an associate, and then the second was Karen Creason, also at Stoel Rives. The third was Christie Helmer, who graduated from Northwestern in '74, I think, and she went to Miller. So those were the first people that got over the barricade and got a job at an established Portland firm.

P: Women!

K: Women, yeah. I think the women were there ahead of the men. I don't think there were any men . . .

P: . . .from Lewis & Clark. . .

K: . . .from Lewis & Clark who got into the major firms, so it was Ann Kendrick who placed all of those people, and then she found a job for me at what was then

Bullivant Wright Leedy Johnson & Pendergrast, so I was the first woman at the Bullivant offices.

P: Did you graduate—what were your grades like?

K: I was at the top of the class. I was in the top dozen. I can't remember what I was, but it was right at the top. I was on law review, and I was a Cornelius Scholar.

P: Did you write a law review article, or were you an editor?

K: I wrote an article with a good friend of mine named Steve Sady, who's in the federal defender's office. We wrote an article about unions in the nuclear industry, which is fascinating.

P: So, you had a good resume, right?

K: Yes.

P: And she got you—did you have an interview at Bullivant?

First Job:

K: Yeah, I had an interview at Bullivant. I interviewed all around town, and I had several offers. I can't remember all of them now, but Bullivant was—she really encouraged me to go to Bullivant, because she had good friends there who were supportive, who had been supportive of Lewis & Clark going from being a night downtown school to establishing itself out, so she thought this would be a supportive environment for me. She guessed wrong on that one!

P: Did they—just, in general, what kind of pay did they give you at that time? Did they give you the pay of a man?

K: Yes. I started the year after Al Menashe. He was the first Jew to be hired by Bullivant, and we both got the same pay, and right now I can't remember what it was. I can't remember.

P: And, did you have a boss?

K: Well, Walter Pendergrast was supposed to be my mentor. They had a system of having a mentor, and unfortunately his father, V. V. Pendergrast, got very ill. Walter hardly knew I was there, which might have been all right except the senior partners at Bullivant didn't want to hire a woman and they didn't want to hire a Jew, and they were talked into it by some of their younger fellows. So the seniors were really looking, they were just waiting with the long knives. In fact, Rupert Bullivant didn't realize that I was—he noticed me around—there were only thirteen lawyers at that time. He noticed me around but assumed that I was just

one of the legal secretaries. And he said one day to, I think, Frank Hunsaker, "Didn't we say we were going to hire a woman?" and they said, "Yeah, we did six months ago." So that's how I met Rupert Bullivant. Frank Hunsaker introduced us.

P: So what kind of experiences did you have in that first year? Also, were you basically a business lawyer?

K: Yeah, I thought that's where I was headed. They had a program then which is an unheard-of luxury now. Each associate worked in all the different areas so that you would get a broad background. And so I was going to court arguing motions, being second chair in trials, drafting wills, reviewing leases, doing everything, doing commercial collections, doing all of that.

P: Did you have a lawyer you were working with on each project?

K: Yeah, different lawyers.

P: How did they treat you?

K: Well, some of them treated me just fine. Others were hostile. My two good friends there were Charles Wright and Bob Leedy. Charles Wright died at 93 a year ago, but anyway Charles Wright and Bob Leedy and I, and then Anna Brown, had a birthday club together, and so we met for lunch at least four times a year, and we still are. So, two of them became close friends. So those two were very good to me, but some of the younger guys were hostile. I think some of the younger guys realized that I was considerably smarter and better educated than they were, and they didn't care for that.

P: Was Anna Brown an associate?

K: No, she came on, she joined there several years after I left. I remember when — she was in law school when I was an associate there.

P: At Northwestern?

K: Yes.

P: So how was it going into court?

K: They had the most amazing fossils on the Multnomah County bench in those days, really retrograde. They made it uncomfortable for women, there weren't any minorities in the courthouse, but they made it uncomfortable for women and they would comment on women's dress, call women by their first names, listen only to what the men argued, it was pretty damned uncomfortable.

P: Did they let you argue?

K: Well, Bullivant sent me over there to do the argument.

P: With men or alone?

K: No, they would just send me over there alone. They were very busy so they sent me over there alone.

P: Were you arguing motions?

K: Yeah, motions.

P: Did you do any trials?

K: Only as second chair, but there were huge cases . . .

P: . . . your Bullivant bosses and partners—what were some of the—do you remember any specific experiences where you felt wanted or not wanted?

K: Um, well, I got into—I've never been able just to keep my head down and shut up when I get—it's very difficult, but I remember one day walking through the lobby and one of the young partners was sharing a joke which was written down on a piece of paper to the receptionist, so I walked by and just looked at it, and he showed it to me, and it was, and I'm quoting exactly, "a nigger job application". It was written out as though this black man was living in his car. I was so appalled I could hardly speak. It was so cruel, so cruel. And I literally could hardly speak — that he should be — we came to the office to work, it's ten o'clock in the morning. Why is he doing something like this at ten o'clock in the morning? Why does he think this is appropriate? Why is he foisting this off on the staff, when she's got to laugh at it because she is a receptionist and she is a single mom. Why is he going around seeking approval for this? So I wouldn't give him my approval, and so I literally did not say anything—I just walked out. This same man was also meeting — he was married with kids — meeting the copy girl over at a bar called "The Wreck of the Hesperus." The copy girl just graduated from high school, and he's meeting her for drinks over at a bar. I happened to be standing there while he's talking to her about meeting over there, and I did the same thing—I just walked away. He came by my office, I think the next day, saying, "You know, I didn't mean anything about that, it was just a joke. I really do like black people." I think I said something along the lines that "Well, it certainly isn't the conclusion one would draw from your behavior." Mistake! I

mean it was accurate what—my statement was accurate, but he was out after me then, and things got less comfortable for me there.

P: How long had you been there when this . . .

K: About four months, it was just great, just great, so you know, what I should have been doing is looking for a job right then, but, you know, I had this stupid notion that if—and it really is a stupid notion—if you work hard and are productive that merit will out. Not so! The law then—and it was a fraternity, and that law firm was a fraternity, and if you didn't think the fraternity jokes and the fraternity activities were appropriate, well, too bad.

P: So there were no other women there at the time?

K: No, no. Never had been.

P: Do you think the fact that you were divorced was also something that they all knew about or paid any attention to?

K: They didn't care. It just freed me up to work more.

P: Well, what kind of hours were you working?

K: Um, I would be in there around eight, and I would leave, I would get on the 6:15 bus and then I'd come in on Sunday, and so I'd stay—my husband had the boys on Sundays, and so I'd be with them on Saturdays, and occasionally I'd work a night, but I'd try not to work nights because I needed to be home to see that the kids did their homework.

P: So, four months at Bullivant, you were already a . . .

K: Already a marked person.

P: So what kind of cases were you working on at that point? Did you do any pro bono work? Did they do pro bono work?

K: No, they didn't do any pro bono, and I didn't do any pro bono either. There just wasn't time.

P: You did business, primarily business?

K: Business, yeah. One of the highlights of those years was Ruth Spetter who was with the City Attorney's office, has been since she graduated, organized all the women from our law school class and would get us together for a lunch to share our experiences, so about once a month we would get together for lunch.

P: Was the Queen's Bench going on then?

K: Yeah, Queen's Bench was going on, and I would go to Queen's Bench occasionally. Queen's Bench then was — and a wonderful woman, Helen Althaus — who is now in her 90's and retired down to Ashland, she was the first woman associate at Miller, so she would have been the first person—she graduated from Northwest, so she was the first woman to be hired by Miller, and that would have been right after World War II, but they never made her partner. Anyway, she founded Queen's Bench. She invited me to go to Queen's Bench, and I didn't get real active then because all of the women were over 65 who were there.

P: Were there very many of them?

K: Oh, there were maybe 10. It was a pretty moribund organization at that time.

Second Job:

P: What where the years that you spent at Bullivant?

K: '77, and then I left at the end of '79. I was standing in a chocolate chip cookie store in downtown, and one of my classmates asked me, "How is it going?" and I said, "Oh, I am so miserable." I thought that was a remark in passing. He told another of our classmates at Schwabe that I might consider moving, and so Betsy Reeve called me and asked if I'd like to work in the appellate section. I said, "Well, I have no interest in appellate law, but I would love to have lunch with you." So we had lunch, and I found out that if I moved to Schwabe they'd pay me 50 percent more than Bullivant, so I developed an acute interest in appellate law over the lunch hour!

P: Fifty percent more! Wow!

K: And, not only that, there was also a bonus at Christmas time, and the first two years I was at Schwabe that bonus was fifty percent of our salary. So I was so happy! So that's how—oh, it was—so I would have developed an interest in just about anything for 50 percent more!

P: It's become a career, too!

K: Right, exactly, so that's how I got into the appellate business. So I went over to Schwabe.

P: Did you have any other run-ins with people at Bullivant, or was it just the general atmosphere?

K: It was the general atmosphere, and there are several of the people over there who get—they're sadistic, and they haze associates, and I caught a lot of that, and

because I didn't know enough about litigation I didn't realize that what they were complaining of—that I had failed to do or I had done—was something, was a problem that they had set up, and if they had done what they were supposed to have done earlier on I wouldn't have fallen into the problem, and because I remembered thinking, "Boy, if I ever get another case I'm not going to do this!" As I got more experienced I realized you don't get into those problems if you take care of things at the beginning.

P: So you aren't very happy and you decided to move over to Schwabe and became independently wealthy—

K: Yes, from my perspective I became independently wealthy.

P: You have to allow that with a couple of teenagers who are bound to go to college—

Sons at Jesuit High School:

K: And tuition at Jesuit, yeah! And to pay tuition at Jesuit.

P: So your boys, did they move over to Jesuit when they were freshmen?

K: Yeah, yeah.

P: How did that happen?

K: Well, they had this attitude, not uncommon in the American male, that they were only going to do enough work to get by. Yes, something we see often, so I talked to my friends at The Oregonian, one of whom—Jim Magmer, who had hired me at The Oregonian—I was telling him I can't get the kids to do their work. He said, "Well, why don't you send them to Jesuit. Maybe the Jesuits can get them to do their work." So I enrolled them in Jesuit, and they did, when they first got there I would work all day long, come home, and the priest would call me on the phone at night and say, "Will didn't turn in this" or "Charlie wasn't paying attention." You can imagine how pleased I was having been working with these jerk attorneys downtown all day to come home and have to listen to this. I threatened the kids with grievous bodily harm, so they did exactly enough work—it was carefully, carefully calibrated—they did exactly enough work so that the priests didn't call me at night. They didn't excel, but the priest quit calling. You know, if they'd gone on to Beaverton High, they would have coasted along, but they had to coast along at a distinctively higher level at Jesuit.

P: So when you started at Bullivant and Will was 15?

K: Will was 15 and then Charlie was 14, yeah.

P: So they were just about the same time. Were those stressful years?

K: Stressful years. They did high school and I did being an associate in major Portland law firms. Very stressful. We didn't have a choice. I had to work, so—

P: Did you feel good about what you did as a lawyer at Bullivant, and then Schwabe, and well, let's just say Bullivant, maybe, to differentiate—

K: Well, uh, at Bullivant I was very frustrated because the partners were so busy that they just didn't have time to give me the instruction I needed, and I got most of my assistance from my friends, other friends in the legal community, you know, I'd call up my friends and say, "Have you ever done one of these? Do you know how to do this?" So that was frustrating because it was so hard to find out how to do the job, and at Schwabe we had a huge volume practice, and I know we did good work but I was never completely sure I had finished all the research because we had such a volume of work we turned out.

More About Second Job:

P: All appellate?

K: All appellate, yeah.

P: Mostly Oregon Court of Appeals?

K: Oregon Court of Appeals and Ninth Circuit, and then every now and then a Supreme Court case.

P: Were you involved in the Bar at this point?

K: Yeah, I went to—I think I was on my first Bar committee at Schwabe. Schwabe had a policy then that you were going to be active in the Oregon State Bar. I think one of the partners signed me up for a Bar committee, and I was just so dumfounded I got this notice of a meeting of a bar committee and thought, "How can this be?" So one of them had signed me up and just told somebody out at the Bar that I'd be showing up for this committee. So I just started being active. I did some things with Chamber Music Northwest in those years, but the 2000 billable hour requirement and your kids, it's very difficult. The people who practice in one of those big firms and do the Bar aren't paying any attention to their family, because they wouldn't have much time.

P: So were you generally happy during those years at Schwabe?

K: Yeah, I enjoyed it.

P: And is that where you met your husband?

K: I met him there. He came to work at Schwabe in 1982. So that was one of the best parts about Schwabe when Toby showed up.

P: So you went there in '79, so you had a few years— And was Schwabe similar in atmosphere to Bullivant?

K: No, it was different because they didn't care if you were male, female—well, the seniors did, some of the seniors. There was—what was that guy's name? Gordon Moore thought a woman should definitely not be in the courtroom. It was Schwabe, Williamson, Wyatt, Moore and Roberts. Moore thought women should not be in the courtroom, but the rest of them didn't care so long as you got the work out. There wasn't a woman partner when I arrived there, and I was the fourth woman hired. Let's see—there was Neva Campbell, Betsy Reeves, Ruth Hooper, and then I was the fourth, and then there were 52 attorneys there when I joined. The thing that I found difficult to adjust to—then you could get along real well at Schwabe if you had been in the Marines, because of all the named senior partners had been in the Marines except Ken Roberts who had been in the Air Force—the South African Air Force. The office manager was an ex-Marine, and his assistant was an ex-Marine, so if you had been in the Marines you could understand the culture.

P: So you were working long hours.

K: Very long hours.

P: Did you do arguments in front of the Court of Appeals?

K: Yeah, absolutely. If you wrote the brief, you argued the case.

P: Tell me about your memories of that.

K: Oh, I loved it. I loved going down to the Court of Appeals and doing oral argument. It was just a lot of fun figuring out what the issues are and —

P: How did the judges' react toward you?

K: Very well, indeed. Betty Roberts was on the Court of Appeals when I started, so occasionally I'd get a panel with a woman on it. She was the only woman on the court, and then she got to be on the Supreme Court during the time I was working at Schwabe.

P: Were your cases all business cases?

K: Um, I ended up doing all the admiralty cases. I ended up doing all the cases that involved punitive damages. I ended up doing all the products liability cases. You would learn the law in one area so they would give you all of those.

P: Were they all Schwabe cases, or did they take cases in from other—

K: Just occasionally, so like eight out of ten would be a Schwabe case. Schwabe in those days had a huge stable of litigators, and they really churned them out. They also had a huge comp department in those years, and so we would do the comp board briefs, which were a drag.

P: And a lot of work.

K: Yes, and a lot of work. But, I learned a lot about medicine.

P: The admiralty, punitive damages, product liability cases that—was that a particular interest you had, or just—

K: Just happenstance.

P: Were they mostly trials? Probably some of everything. Did you have to read the trial transcript?

K: Oh, you always have to read the trial transcript, yeah.

P: You were probably pretty busy then. Did you have any notable cases that you remember?

K: Well, the law of punitive damages in Oregon as it developed, developed through the briefs that I wrote. Let's see.

P: Now the legislature has certainly gotten itself involved in that issue.

K: Right, and the legislature decided it was time for the private practitioners and the Court of Appeals to quit doing this, and so they interceded, for a little more certainty.

P: Were you primarily defendant?

K: Yeah, yeah.

P: So, were you appealing cases when the jury had awarded punitive damages against your defendant?

K: It was both. We were both appealing and responding.

P: That is an interesting area of law.

K: It was really interesting. And then the other thing that I did exclusively when I was at Schwabe was job-relatedness of — mental injury on the job and emotional damages, infliction of mental distress on the job and whether or it was compensable, and I remember becoming an expert on heart attacks. If you have the heart attack on the job while you're operating a machine, it's compensable. If you get upset at work and you go home and have your heart attack, whether or not it's compensable is a question. The legislature rewrote the comp laws on that as well.

P: So how do you feel about what the legislature has done with punitive damages?

K: I think it's too restrictive. I think what the court was doing was too ad hoc, but what the legislature has done—the Oregon legislature has really gotten to be retrograde. The thing about—

P: From a defense point of view.

K: No, from just a citizen point of view I think it's too restrictive. What they've done with punitive damages — tort reform was a hoax. It was not reform, it's wholesale revision.

P: Now, did they do that before you left Schwabe?

K: It was after I left Schwabe.

P: But you still practice in that area.

K: No, I don't know that much about it except for sitting around shooting the breeze with other lawyers.

P: Well, the Schwabe years— what year did you leave Schwabe?

K: Uh, let's see. I left Schwabe — Yeah, look at my resume and see when I allege that I left Schwabe. It was December of '79 I showed up. I think I was there '81, 82', I think at the beginning of '83 I went over to the Wood office—Wood Tatum.

P: And then you went to Wood Tatum in '83-ish.

K: Yeah.

P: And in those '79 through '83 years were you involved in politics at all? Just keeping pretty busy?

K: Just keeping pretty busy. I had a friend who was on the board of Chamber Music Northwest and he got me to work on some committees for Chamber Music Northwest. I can't remember exactly when I went on the board of Chamber Music Northwest, might have been after the Schwabe years, because I was so busy at Schwabe. I went on in '81, so I was a board member during the time I was at Schwabe, but I didn't participate to the extent I wanted to.

P: And you were at Wood Tatum until you went out on your own in private practice?

K: Yeah. Doing all of these admiralty appeals for the Schwabe office—the admiralty bar in Portland is very small, and the Wood office is almost exclusively—then for sure it was almost exclusively admiralty, so I got to know the attorneys over at Wood, and they needed somebody to help with some large cases that had come in, and so they offered me a job at a little bit more money and less hours, so I went over to work at Wood, and I was the second woman associate that they had hired.

P: Were you pretty happy at Schwabe?

K: Yeah, I was pretty happy. I got tired of doing the workers compensation board briefs. It was very frustrating because the trial jocks never talked to the appellate specialists, so we would get trial transcripts and losses that couldn't be salvaged, but if they had just taken a half an hour and talked to us before they went to trial we would have told them, "Be sure you put in this piece of evidence, and then if it all goes down the tubes then we've got a chance of a reversal." So that was frustrating because the trial jocks never talked to the appellate section. And then doing the workers compensation board briefs—that was frustrating, a low level of work when I had to do them, and it also — I thought they should pay a lot of those people, and so it went against the grain.

P: And you were representing which side?

K: The employers, we were representing the employers.

P: So what was the general atmosphere, the personal atmosphere at Schwabe—you were there for about four years, and then . . .

K: It was a combination of a fraternity house and the Marine Corps. I didn't know about the Marine Corps until one of my fellow associates—her husband joined the Marines, and after he—they had moved back east and after he'd been in the Marines for a while she told me, "You know, Katherine, if either one of us had been in the Marines we would have gotten along at Schwabe a whole lot better."

P: Did you have any run-ins with partners in particular, or was it just the general atmosphere?

K: [Yes]

[REDACTED}

P: Do you think that was over cases, or . . .?

K: It was over the use of using appellate attorneys on the board briefs, because I thought that that was putting too much expense on these cases, and I thought that we ought to develop a system of using clerks to do the board briefs, and he took offense at that notion.

P: They probably did that shortly after that, right?

K: Yeah, because the law was changed, and they dismantled the comp department because the money wasn't there. But I told them we were loading up the expenses, and this whole system's going to fall on top of itself. And it did.

P: But you were involved in the appeal part. Did they have hearings prior to . . .?

K: Yeah, then you had a hearing before the workers compensation board, and then—wait a minute—you had a hearing before a hearings examiner, and that's where the transcript was made. Then it was appealed from the hearings examiner to the workers compensation board. We were writing those briefs as well as the briefs from the workers compensation board to the Court of Appeals. That was too much review for the issues, and it was just too expensive, and that's why under Neil Goldschmidt's administration the comp laws were completely rewritten and droves of comp attorneys lost their livelihood.

P: Well, let's find an ending point here, because I will definitely want to start the next session, actually I think we should start it at Wood Tatum, because we're getting close to the end and I don't have another tape. Have to go back to Radio Shack! So if you think of any other stories or issues from this period—we're up to 1983, and yes, Toby did arrive in 1982—maybe that's where we'll start.

K: OK. Oh, I can tell you a Schwabe story. Schwabe then, I don't know if they still do now, had an annual retreat at Kah Nee Ta, which was what you would expect—the quality of that retreat was what you would expect if a fraternity went on a retreat to Kah Nee Ta. And Neva Campbell refused to go, and they hired buses because they didn't want people being drunk driving back from Kah Nee Ta, so they had Greyhound buses. So Neva Campbell had refused to go to these things. Betsy Reeves had refused to go to these things. So Ruth Hooper and I decided, "All right, women have got to start going to these things or we will never change the quality of them." So we—I think that was the spring retreat; anyway Ruth Hooper and I went and we were both very mild mannered, one-glass-of-white-wine-type of people, and so what we would do is mostly hide in our rooms and then we would appear at meals briefly and then disappear again because they got so rowdy at these events. And the same was true of the—the Spring retreat

was at Warm Springs and the Fall retreat was at Lake Creek Lodge up by Camp Sherman, and the one at Warm Springs was only the attorneys, no wives. The one at Lake Creek Lodge was with wives, so I decided to try that because I thought that might be less raucous. However, it was equally raucous, and I remember one of the associates throwing a partner out the window at Lake Creek Lodge, and I thought "This is too bizarre!" But that was really the nature of the practice of law.

P: It wasn't a business conference, I think.

K: No, it wasn't a business conference. We had no CLE credit.

P: But you didn't have your requirement.

K: There was no requirement for CLE's. I assume that Schwabe has evolved past then, but that was the quality of the practice of law in those days.

P: I have a friend over there. I'll check into that.

K: Okay!

Session Three
(March 9, 2001)

P: This is Katherine O'Neil's oral history. We left off in 1979 at Schwabe, and let's start with a little summary of what kind of legal work you were doing at that time, and then the transition into the Wood Tatum firm in 1983.

Second Law Job (more):

K: Well, I was in the appellate section at Schwabe and Dick Foley was the head of the appellate section. Dick Foley had been there ever since he graduated from the University of Oregon, and I think he's about a year older than I am. Then they added Betsy Reeves who was in my class at Lewis & Clark Law School, and Betsy recruited me. So there were three of us, and at that time Schwabe had a large litigation section—like 25 litigators—and they decided that the appellate section should take on all the appeals in workers comp because their workers comp work was really ballooning. Then they added Toby, they hired Toby in 1982, then they had a paralegal, Elizabeth Duncan, who was also doing appeals. I was filing an appellate brief in civil cases at least one a week, and then doing all these civil board briefs and the workers comp appellate briefs as well every week. We really churned the stuff out.

P: This was a major career choice here, to go into appellate work, or what—how did that all happen?

K: It was just a fluke because I was standing in a cookie shop—there used to be cookie shops around, they used to be very trendy like coffee houses are trendy now—and I was grousing about how unhappy I was at the Bullivant firm, and one of the housemates of Betsy Reeves—I was talking to him about it—Betsy called me and asked me if I would be interested in coming over, and I said, "Oh, no, I have no interest in appellate work." So she said, "Well, would you have lunch?" I said, "Sure." So I had lunch with her and found out that I would make twice as much as I was making at Bullivant, and so I all of a sudden became intensely interested in doing appellate work.

P: Had you done any appellate work at Bullivant?

K: No, not a bit. I never thought about it. So that's why I changed, and I liked the money a lot. The money was wonderful. And in the years that I was there the bonuses were 50 percent, so it was just super.

P: Of your salary?

K: Yeah. 50 percent of the salary. The first two years I was there and I think the last year I was there it was something like 30 percent of the salary. They paid

tremendous bonuses in those years. We were working hard, but not any harder than I was working at Bullivant. It was 2000 billable hours, and that wasn't very much above what I was doing at Bullivant for half the money.

P: So did you do 9th Circuit appeals?

K: Ninth Circuit and State Court of Appeals, Supreme Court, 9th Circuit and the U.S. Supreme Court as well.

P: Can you think of any cases that stand out in your mind from those years?

K: Well, I ended up doing all of the admiralty work because I did one admiralty case, and the admiralty section was pleased with my work and pretty soon I was doing all the admiralty work for them, because it is so specialized. Once you learn that section of the law it is most efficient to have one person do it. I ended up doing all of the punitive damages work because there was an evolution during those years in the law of punitive damages. The courts were expanding and expanding and expanding that, and the legislature tried to cut it back ineffectively, and so I did all of that work. Then I did all of the work in the evolution of — this is such a narrow little area of law — when the worker has a heart attack off the job trying to get that heart attack related to on the job stress. Actually, what I was doing was on behalf of the employers trying to fight back the expansions in comp law, but the courts were creating expanding coverage under comp.

P: So you were representing the employer.

K: Yeah, yeah, Schwabe was all employer. A lot of it I didn't like at all. In fact a lot of it really, really upset me because you'd read the transcripts of these workers, and my instinct was, "Well, pay them. The man gave his life to the company. Pay them. You took his life and just because he had a heart attack when he got home rather than when he was at the mill—" so my sentiments were not in sync with the workers comp department, but I was doing the work.

P: How did you feel about that, how did that affect your practice of law?

K: Well, I didn't think — it didn't affect it all, the quality was there, but I thought we shouldn't be using the brains that they had in the appellate section and the skills that they had in the appellate section to be working on workers compensation board briefs. I thought that what they should be doing with the lawyers in the appellate section was having them consult with the litigators in these big ticket cases—what they saw could be going to punitive damages, they should have been called in the appellate section and having them write the questions, jury instructions, having them draft the questions on cross so that when we got the appeal, then the record would have been made, but the trial jocks didn't see it that way. They just handed us a mess from time to time.

P: Well, did you decide you liked appellate work?

K: I enjoyed it. We did it so often that you'd become friends with the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court. I got to know all of those men, all men with the exception of Betty Roberts—I got to know all the men. Nice guys.

P: I had a question earlier. When did you first meet Betty Roberts?

K: At a hearing in front of her! In 1979.

P: So, at this point in time you are working at Schwabe. How about —how were the kids doing?

K: They were teenagers, and they were at Jesuit. And it was really, really hard to be an adequate parent to teenage boys.

P: Did you like the school, though?

K: Oh, Jesuit was fabulous. It was a fabulous school. They got the best education they were willing to accept. They were not scholars.

P: Were you co-parenting still with your ex-husband, was he working around here?

K: Yeah, he was living in Tigard, and let's see. Charlie lived with his father during high school, and Will lived with me.

P: How did that come about?

K: Well, I just couldn't get Charlie to do his homework at all, and so he went to live with his father, and his father had marginal success with him.

P: Now Charlie was the younger boy.

K: Yeah, the younger boy. He had the talent, but he didn't choose to exercise it. I don't know how mothers do it—well, they don't do it very well and work 2000 billable hours unless they have a fabulous dad and they have family support in raising the children.

P: Did you have to leave to go pick him up at the school?

K: No, because they had the car. The boys did—I was on the bus. They met me on the bus, took me to the bus in the morning, picked me up from the bus in the evening.

P: How did the firm deal knowing you had the kids?

K: At Schwabe, if you had a family it had absolutely no impact on what the law firm did. And the pattern was that everybody went downstairs to —there was a restaurant down at Standard Plaza, and all the litigators — everybody in the litigation section and some of the business lawyers as well went downstairs to Ryan's after work, like 5:30 or 6 p.m. to have a beer, and it was like a firm meeting almost. You were expected to be down there, and sometimes everybody would go from Ryan's — go out to dinner, and be out all evening just with the boys, and so about every six weeks I had to go with them because — you know, there's a great deal of pressure— "I didn't see you down at Ryan's" — "Well, no, because I had to get home" — but there was no acknowledgment whatsoever that anybody had a life outside the firm.

P: Were there other women at the firm at that point in time? Betsy Reeves—

K: While I was there Schwabe had its first woman partner, and that was Neva Campbell, and then the other women there were Betsy Reeves, Ruth Hooper and me, so there were four of us. When I went there, there were 52 attorneys, so there were four out of 52.

P: Was it in the Standard Plaza?

K: Yes, it was in the Standard Plaza. We had two floors in the Standard Plaza.

P: So Toby came to the appellate division in '82, and you left in '83?

K: Uh-huh.

P: Was there a significant overlap there?

K: We were there about a year and a half. That's where we got together when we were both working at the same place.

Third Law Job:

P: How did the Wood Tatum change come about?

K: Well, the size of the admiralty bar in those years (now it's even smaller), the admiralty bar in those years was about 25 attorneys, and most of the attorneys who did admiralty law did nothing but admiralty law, and so I got to know all of the attorneys at Wood Tatum because I was working on their cases…

[REDACTED]

K: Oh, they were looking for an appellate attorney and somebody to assist with the trial of the Protector Alpha, a ship that had been totaled.

P: Did they advertise it, or did you just hear about it?

K: I was standing around grousing—

P: Was that at the cookie shop?

K: Oh, I was in the hall holding my cup of coffee, talking to the admiralty paralegal whose names was —

P: The admiralty paralegal for Tatum?

K: No, for Schwabe, at the Schwabe office—nice guy, Bud Barnum, and he said that he had heard from colleagues at the Wood office that they were looking for somebody. So I said, "Well, what do you think they pay?" and so I found out that they paid the same, so I just called up over there and talked to one of the attorneys, and they just about snatched me out of my office because they needed somebody.

P: So who were the main admiralty attorneys at Wood Tatum at that time?

K: There was John Brooke. Let's see at that time it was Wood Tatum Mosser Brooke and Holden. The Wood was Erskine Wood who was a third generation Erskine Wood, attorneys. The firm was founded by Charles Erskine Scott Wood. He founded the firm. His son, Erskine "Woody" Wood, followed him, and then his grandson, Erskine Biddle Wood, succeeded in the firm, so it was Wood Tatum Mosser Brook & Holden. Wood was still trying cases into his late 70's or early 80's, and then there was John Brooke who tried only admiralty cases and then there were some admiralty attorneys my age—Paul Wonacott, who's deceased now, Craig Murphy and Bob — his name escapes me — but there were about five of them over there who did exclusively admiralty. And there were two big cases—the Protector Alpha which was John Brooke's case, and I just got absorbed in that one for — it took about half of my time for about three years.

P: Starting in 1983?

K: Yeah.

P: Describe the case.

K: There was a ship called the Protector Alpha owned by a Greek syndicate and grain was being loaded on it at the grain docks in Kalama, and you probably wouldn't remember this, but around this time there were some catastrophic explosions and fires at grain elevators in the Midwest because of dust. You move grain, there's a lot of dust generated, and if any sparks are set off by machinery which moves the grain. Those sparks will ignite the dust and cause explosions and fires. So what happened is that the people who owned the grain elevator put in this emergency procedure for what to do in case of a fire, and one thing they were told to do is if you had one of these grain fires starting, you cast the ship off. Well, what had happened on a Sunday evening — a fire had started down in the engine room of the Protector Alpha. It wasn't a grain fire, it was just a fire that could have started in somebody's house. The fire department had been called, the Coast Guard had been called, they were down there putting out the fire. The employees of the grain elevator heard that there was a fire on the ship. One of them, half drunk and never too competent anyway, went down to the dock and cast the ship off. They couldn't fight the fire—the ship was in the middle of the Columbia, drifting out to sea. There was no water to put on the fire. It was the middle of the night—not that that made any difference. A fireboat was sent from Portland, but before the fireboat could get there the ship was consumed in fire. It was a total loss.

P: So what do you mean by "cast the ship off", you mean they went around taking the ropes off?

K: Yep, cast the ship off.

P: Were there any people on the ship?

K: Yep, there were several dozen people on the ship fighting the fire. There wasn't any loss of life, but they lost the whole darn ship.

P: Sounds like it was lucky there wasn't any loss of life.

K: Exactly.

P: So you represented the ship owners.

K: Yes, the Wood office always represented the ship owners. The Pozzi office always represented the longshoremen, and the Schwabe office always represented the owner of the cargo. So there was sort of this little repertory company of lawyers every time there was some kind of disaster. Oh, and the Bullivant office in later years represented the insurers on collision damage.

P: Were they all involved in this particular case?

K: There wasn't any collision damage.

P: Were there longshoremen?

K: No, so Pozzi didn't make any money off of this, just Schwabe and the Wood office made money off of this.

P: And the cargo owner? Who represented the grain?

K: Uh, the — I don't remember, because that was settled out.

P: Okay, it would be better put this way: Who was on the other side?

K: Oh, the other side was a man—I'm sure he's retired by now—called the Admiral, and he was with the Schwabe office and he's Ken Roberts, Sr.

P: And they represented—

K: They represented the insurance carrier who was covering the loss of the ship.

P: Or who denied coverage—

K: As the case may be, yeah. And it was the carrier they represented was the carrier that the dock owners had, the liability carrier for the dock owners.

P: And what was your job in this?

K: Well, John Brooke was a great big picture type of guy, but he is not a detail person, so I was in charge — he was in charge of strategy, and I was in charge totally of working up the case, of getting the expert witnesses prepared, and it was a fabulous experience because we tried it in front of Judge Solomon. He had a system, and I don't understand why it isn't uniformly used—all direct testimony had to be submitted in writing in advance, and so I was the one who got all the direct testimony prepared and written up, and interviewed everybody that we were going to put on.

P: For the court trial—Judge Solomon was the judge? Well, before we get into Judge Solomon, were you doing appeals at the same time?

K: Yes, I was doing whatever appeals they had.

P: Pretty busy, then.

K: Yeah, I was very busy.

P: So, when did it go to trial?

K: Oh, let's see, I left in '86—I think it was tried in '85, or maybe the end of '84, because then it went up on appeal. It went to the 9th Circuit, and I don't know if they bothered taking it to the US Supreme Court or not.

P: Let's go back to the trial. What was your experience in Judge Solomon's court? Did you have any exposure to Judge Solomon before?

K: Oh, yeah, because I did all the motions on the case, so I was always over there arguing motions before him. And I liked him immensely. There was a woman who was a member of the Wood family, and she was a Congressperson, and she was the one who —she was critical in getting Solomon appointed to the bench—Nan Wood Honeyman—I believe, so he always felt very favorably when anybody from the Wood firm showed up. So when I showed up with my motions, he was very gracious towards me, and it was the damnedest thing—often we would sit around his chambers and argue these motions—without the benefit of a court reporter, which made me nervous. And he would make suggestions to me about how my argument could be better stated, and I could see opposing counsel passing out over here. The Schwabe office didn't much like Judge Solomon when they were against the Wood office. It didn't affect the substance of it, it really didn't, but he drove people crazy. I liked the man.

P: He would have been a senior judge by then?

K: Yeah, but he snagged the cases he liked.

P: And he was trying the court trials at that point? So what was the outcome?

K: We won—we put on a very good trial. They put on a very good trial, and by the time it got back from the Ninth Circuit the recovery was $12 million.

P: So the insurers had to pay $12 million to the ship owner—

K: To the Greek syndicate. And the fee on that for the Wood office was $1 million, and my bonus was $4,000, but they couldn't have tried the case without me.

P: So was this all after you had left?

K: No—

P: So that was while you were still there?

K: Yeah.

P: So when the case went up to the 9th Circuit, did you continue to work on it, or were you just doing appeals?

K: I did the appeal, yeah.

P: So, in your three years at Wood Tatum, you spent 50 percent of your time on that one thing.

K: Yeah, I would think so. It took a lot of time.

P: What other kind of cases were you doing then? Mostly admiralty, or —

K: Let's see, I'm trying to think if I did anything that wasn't admiralty. Oh, I would do something if they needed somebody to argue motions or, you know, I'd just pitch in if they needed —it was a smaller firm, I think there were twelve attorneys there, so if they needed something done I would even draft a will for them, a simple will—if something like that needed to be done and noboby else was around, I'd do it, which isn't unusual being in a small firm.

P: What was the general culture of the Wood firm, in contrast with the Schwabe—

K: Well, Schwabe was like being in the Marines. I probably told you that you would understand the culture of Schwabe a whole lot better if you had been a Marine because literally all the key players including the office manager and the guy who did finances and accounting, had all been Marines. And Wood Tatum was very blue-stocking, West Hills elite, racquet club, Waverly Country Club type. Very different, very different, old Portland family.

P: Did you like it?

K: I was crazy about Erskine Wood, who is still a good friend of mine who is now 89, and we still are in touch with him. I was crazy about Lofton Tatum, who has passed away. I liked Craig Murphy. We used to go white water rafting with him. But they were resting on their laurels and in fact the firm started disintegrating, which is why I left. Oh, and I also was picking up a lot of cases for the Professional Liability Fund. I had a dandy book of business with the Professional Liability Fund, and —

P: How did that come about, that you started this?

K: Let's see, how did I get that? Oh, Les Rawls, who organized the Professional Liability Fund, was an old back-door neighbor of mine from the '60's, and I had, of course, seen him at bar meetings and such, and had always been cordial, and I liked him a lot. I had the greatest respect for Les Rawls. I don't know how I got my first case, but it would have been through him. At that time, I think the PLF had a staff of about three—counting one secretary, one investigator and Les, and I just happened to know them all from just being at bar meetings, being on bar committees, going out to the bar office and just visiting with people that I liked. So I had a good book of business from the PLF as well. So I was quite busy.

P: So talk about your connection with the bar during these early years.

K: Well, let's see, I can't even remember the earliest bar committees. The first committee I was put on was at Schwabe, and in those days the process was very informal. The senior partners got their friends on the Board of Governors to appoint associates to committees.

P: . . .through the early years?

Bar Committees:

K: Yeah, in those years whether or not you could get on a bar committee depended entirely on your connections with the Board of Governors. It was very sought after to be on the Board of Governors. There was no egalitarian aspect of committee appointments at all. And somebody at the Schwabe office had just gotten me appointed to a committee, and I got this notice that I was on the joint committee with chiropractors, or something. I thought, "Oh, my God!" so I went to the meetings just to see what being on a bar committee was like. And then, I think the next one was OK, you know, they weren't getting very much done. And

the next one I was on was — the wife of a friend of mine, Joyce Gordon, worked out at the Bar office and she was on the committee that does tel-law, produces those tapes, if a layperson has a legal question they call into the Bar office and then they can hear a recording that explains that aspect of law, and she said that it was, that they had had a lot of fun, and so I said, "Well, that sounds good." So she got me on that committee, and that was a lot of fun. They were a very creative bunch of people. And then I got myself onto the Dispute Resolution Committee in 1985, and that was really interesting because I had just been in China for three weeks with a delegation of women lawyers led by Mary Schroeder from the 9th Circuit. We met other women lawyers around China and learned about the Chinese legal system. They use a lot of dispute resolution and mediation in China. I had a real interest in that, and this was 1985. The trial bench was very, very suspicious of mediation. Very suspicious of it, and didn't think that the bar should have anything to do with it. I enjoyed that. And now everybody that gets past 55 wants to be a mediator.

China Trips:

P: So how about the China trip? How did that come about?

K: Somebody got my name, and I got a letter. It was run by People to People in Spokane. They're still planning trips for lawyers. I had been to China, I guess it was 1983 I went with Mary Schroeder to China—I'm sorry, '83 I went to China with my mother, and then in '85 I went to China with Mary Schroeder and her group, and my roommate was Joyce Green who is a district court judge in Washington, DC. Through Lewis & Clark Law School I had met the niece of the first woman on the Chinese Supreme Court. The niece was studying law out at the law school, and when she first came over here she stayed in our house. So I had gotten to know her—a lovely woman, still good friends with her. So when I went over there I was entertained by her family and one evening her aunt from the Supreme Court of China came over. So I got a unique introduction to the Chinese legal system.

P: So was it a large group of women?

K: There were about 30 of us, and we split into two groups. We had the same itinerary but in different order.

P: What was Mary Schroeder's connection with this? Just that she went on this trip?

K: Yeah, she was nominally the person in charge of it.

P: Where was your mother living at this time?

K: In Baton Rouge.

P: Your trip to China with your mother—was that just because your mother wanted to go to China?

K: Yes. She had wanted to go to China for years and years and years, and China was closed, then it opened when Nixon opened China in I think '78, and then by 1982 Lindblad was running good tours. My mother and one of her girlfriends joined a Lindblad tour. They had a wonderful time. She said that I just must go to China. So she and I went in '83, I think we went on the Lindblad tour, and it was an adventure because China was not quite ready. We were riding on military planes. They put seats—strap seats in a military cargo plane and put tourists on it. Then they'd take the seats out and do whatever to transport cargo in the military planes.

P: Wow, that's an adventure!

K: Oh, it was! There weren't— in many places there were not hotels so for example in Beijing we didn't stay in a hotel, we stayed in guest quarters where Nixon stayed when he came to Beijing, which was just phenomenal, just phenomenal! We must have had a 1200 square foot room, my mother and I, with balconies, because they didn't have any place else to put us.

P: Were you afraid, so to speak?

K: Oh, no.

P: So what was the environment like over there?

K: It was — at that time there were two currency systems. There was the currency that the Chinese used and the currency that the visitors used. So a dollar for us, take a penny from our tourist dollar, that penny would be worth a full dollar in the local money. There was that much difference. So when we traveled we were charged New York City prices, which was like a thousand times more than the value of what it was. They had walls in front of all the hotels—brick walls or stone walls in front of them, and a guard at the gate. Locals could not go inside the hotels. Everyone was wearing Mao jackets, everyone was in a blue Mao pants and top with a little hat—male and female. Let's see, the food was absolutely dreadful, just dreadful, poor quality food, because it was all controlled by the state. There was very, very little private enterprise. They were just starting to have a few free markets. Poor quality food, and they gave us vast amounts of it, and they gave us things that just about made us faint, like stuff that was crawling off the plate. And I remember one evening we had a great big bowl of soup. You get soup in the middle of a banquet in China and soup at the end of the banquet in China. A great big tureen of soup, and floating in the soup was this item, and the woman next to me—

P: Did you say "item"?

K: Item, yes. The woman next to me says, "Oh, look, they got a turkey breast." And I said, "I'm thinking that's not a turkey breast. I admit that it looks like a turkey breast." So we asked later what it was, and it was boa constrictor. They had a section of a boa constrictor floating in their soup, or some similar snake. So, they were not quite ready for us! They did the very best with what they had and they were going hungry. You'd see the laborers being carried back to their villages in trucks at the end of the day, and they were just exhausted because they didn't have enough calories. So my mother and I thought, "Why don't we just have a little bit at dinner and give all this other stuff to these people?"

P: So what kinds of places did you visit?

K: We went all over China, we were in Beijing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Suzhou, Guilin, Guangzhou, Xian, Hangzhou, the sites around Beijing, up to the Great Wall.

P: So you did go to the Great Wall?

K: Oh, yeah.

P: What did you see? Did they let you see the places where people lived?

K: It was very closely controlled. Very closely controlled. The only house in China that I've ever been in is the home of, well, the home of friends whose daughter was at Lewis & Clark. Went there and then we, while I was with the People to People tour another Lewis & Clark graduate was the first secretary of the U.S. Embassy, and so Joyce Green, my roommate, and I met his wife and spent a day with her, and I was in her apartment—one of the apartments where they put the diplomats.

P: What were the homes like there, were they mostly apartments?

K: Yes. High-rise apartments. It was a country of such rapid change, and I'm sure now it would be unrecognizable.

P: Did you go again?

K: No, I've just been twice—well, I went a third time, I went in—coming back from Thailand in 1990, I stopped off at Hong Kong and took a train up to Guangjou to visit a law professor who had been out at Lewis & Clark.

Third Law Job (more):

P: So, we're back in Oregon at Wood Tatum, and you've been working on your big case, you indicated that firm was falling apart?

K: Yes. Well, what had happened is that they had been around for a hundred years, in fact, over a hundred years. They had the benefits of Charles Erskine Scott Wood organizing the Port of Portland. They had the Port of Portland contract which included the Portland Airport contract. He had been a fine admiralty attorney and represented shipowners. He and his son and his grandson had represented shipowners very well, so they had all but one syndicate, I believe. The shipowners banded together in leagues, so that the league—I can't remember the names of them, but you'd have these different plaques on the wall which represented the different shipowners leagues, like there'd be one for Norway, one for Denmark, one for Scotland, one for Greece—several for Greece—anyway, so they had been representing those for literally the three generations. Those were solid, the Port of Portland was solid, they had a bank—Pacific Far West, they had—anyway, they had a lot of solid clients and they weren't hustling. Not accustomed to hustling, and hadn't hustled, and weren't about to. So they didn't understand why they were losing business. Lofton Tatum told me one time, and I was very concerned about this, that the problem was that they had hired, my generation that they had hired were people that they had always intended to keep in the back room, and son of a gun! That first older generation was getting older and leaving the practice to people who didn't have the skills to keep those clients.

P: So they were losing their really big clients?

K: Yep, yeah, they lost the bank. They lost some of the shipowners, they lost the Portland Airport—that was after I left.

P: Why do you think that happened?

K: Well, I know they lost the airport because the attorney assigned to it, a man named Bill Buran, was gay, and they found out he was gay. I don't know whether they fired him or he just left. He went over to Lindsay Hart and took the Portland Airport with him. So they just weren't minding their business, that's what happened.

P: So what did the shipowners do?

K: They lost some of the shipowners. They had Lloyds, too. I know they lost Lloyds, because Lloyds is now at Lane Powell.

P: Do you think that was a personality thing?

K: They just weren't serving their clients. The law is so competitive now. The law used to be a white gentlemen's profession, and there were enough lawyers to make a good living. Now, it's the reverse, which is a fine thing, but all the lawyers that are around now can't make a good living.

P: So this was a period when that transition was happening?

K: Yes. They weren't making it, and they didn't adapt. They didn't have the ability to adapt.

P: So, you were involved with Toby at this point, and how did Graff & O'Neil come about?

K: Well, they had this big idea, when I was in law school the dean was Fred Fagg III, and he was hired away from law school to go work for the Rocky Mountain Legal Defense Fund, which was—who was Reagan's chair of the Department of Interior? Yes, for James Watt. And he stayed up there long enough to lose his tenure at the law school but then he lost his job at Rocky Mountain. He was looking for a job in Portland, so these partners decided what they needed to do was hire Fred Fagg to market for them.

P: The Wood partners?

K: Yeah, the Wood partners. The other thing that happened was—and I knew that that was going to be a fiasco, because he didn't have the, he had never been a practicing attorney. I guess he practiced two years after law school, and he just wasn't well known and he didn't have from the perspective of the students, he didn't have that happy a tenure at the law school.

P: When you were a student?

K: I had a real good idea about how it was going to work out. I told them how it was going to work out, and then they also took on Landis—Dave Landis, Landis, Bailey and Mercer, just a three-person firm, and they merged with Wood Tatum. The straw that broke the camel's back was—they hadn't made me a partner yet, and I had been practicing for—that was ridiculous, and I brought them that million-dollar fee, so they brought Landis, Bailey and Mercer over and assigned all of my PLF files to Joe Bailey for his partnership credit. That was it. Adios. I took my files and left.

P: What do you think was going on then. Why weren't they giving you a—did you discuss partnership with them, and what was—?

K: Well, when I was hired, I was hired by Mosser. John Mosser hired me, and I thought I had a clear understanding with him. But then nothing happened, and . . .

P: What did you think your understanding was?

K: I thought that —he said that I wouldn't be taken on as a partner, but certainly within a year I'd be a partner.

P: Wouldn't it mean a raise or something like that?

K: It might have. You see, I was so unhappy at Schwabe that I didn't have—you know, another thing that was going on in those years was I didn't have any colleagues at the same level as I was in the practice. Now women attorneys have people to talk to. People like me, lots of people now, like me, who have been through all of this who can tell you: this is what you ought to do to transition.

P: Were there any other women at Wood Tatum?

K: No. I'm sorry, Doreen Margolin was there, and we overlapped one year, and then she left.

P: So you thought you were going to make partner after a year, and it was three years later—

K: I still hadn't been made partner and they were assigning this nice book of business that I had developed to somebody who was coming in from the outside. It was chauvinism. That's what it was. But since then they have split in about six different ways. Wood Tatum paid Fred Fagg about $150,000 for one year of work. The only piece of business he had was one piece of business — he was in tight with the conservative politicians in Oregon, one of those is Jim Castles, former general counsel to Tektronix. Jim Castles or his son had some kind of salmon-growing project on the Oregon coast, and that piece of business came to the Wood office. That was the only piece of business that Fagg ever produced. He was there one year or two years and never made his salary.

P: Were you gone by the time he came to the firm?

K: I think we overlapped just a very few months.

P: So, describe how it all fell apart there.

K: Well, the two partnerships merged. The two sets of partners found out that neither partnership really had the business they implied they had.

P: Then your cases were going to Joe Bailey. Well, didn't Joe Bailey end up in another firm? Is it the same Joe Bailey who ran for judge?

K: Yes. He's retired now. He doesn't work at all in law, but his wife is at Miller. Christie Helmer. John Mercer is still there, but Dave Landis went off on his own. Joe Bailey went off on his own for a while. Peter Voorhees who was the partner who had the bank was disbarred. The firm sued Peter Voorhees over a fee and that was a big scandal. Then John Brooke left and I think there was a suit between John Brooke and the remaining partners. They lost the airport when Bill Buran went over to Lindsay Hart. Then Lofton Tatum died, and I think they lost the rest

of the Port of Portland, too. I think they only kept the Port of Portland when Lofton was alive. So the business just went in all different ways.

P: So let's go back to 1985 approximately when you found out that Joe Bailey was taking over your PLF cases and describe what happened at that point.

K: He didn't take them over. The files were just renumbered and put in his column for revenue. He was listed as the lead attorney on each file, so that would up in his partnership account. I did all the work. He just got the revenue off of them. It would count towards his partnership revenue.

P: An interesting idea; how did that come about?

K: I assume it was his idea. It was not done with the knowledge or consent of the PLF or with my prior knowledge or consent.

P: Okay, so you find out about that.

K: And so I decided I'd just go somewhere else. Plus it was so uncomfortable there. This is typical for when a law firm comes apart. I would arrive there in the morning and my goal was to get from the elevator to my office, close the door and start doing my work before somebody could snag me. And I thought, "Whoa! I don't need this!" So Toby and I just found some space over at Meyer & Wise, which at that time was in the Standard Insurance Center, also known as the GP Building. So we found some space over there.

P: Isn't that where Wood Tatum was?

K: Wood was in the Oregon Bank Building, the 13th floor of the Oregon Bank Building, and I don't know what it's called now. Schwabe was in the Standard Plaza. Wood Tatum was in the Oregon Bank Building. Meyer & Wyse were in the GP Building, also known as the Standard Insurance Center.

P: The building right next to the Pacwest, there?

K: Uh, yeah, exactly.

P: Oh, the older one, across the street from the courthouse.

K: Yes.

P: Well, was Toby unhappy at Schwabe?

K: Yes, he was.

Graff & O'Neil:

P: He was still doing appeals? You were both doing appeals. So at this point in time when you are starting Graff & O'Neil, describe what your practice of law was at this point.

K: I was doing regular work for the Professional Liability Fund, and then I was getting appeals on referral from other people, and Toby was doing exclusively appeals.

P: Any subject matter or . . .

K: Anything, any civil appeal. And then other odds and ends and things. Small firms and solos always align with other firms when they get ready to try a big case. If they are smart, they do. So we had a lot of work from solo practitioners who needed somebody to help them with their legal research and prepare motions. That was mostly what it was, and the PLF cases.

P: On the PLF cases, you were representing the lawyers who were being sued for malpractice. Any stand out in your mind or were more interesting than others?

K: Yeah, let's see. A lot of them were pathetic. One I will never forget. It was a woman lawyer and she was a graduate—I think it was Yale Law School. She must have had a marginal personality because she couldn't get a job with a firm. She was practicing on her own. She was making minor mistakes that if she had just had access to any lawyer that she could talk to about her cases, she would have not made the mistakes. The thing that was particularly sad was she didn't understand the magnitude of the mistakes. I got a call from the PLF that there was this crisis at this woman's office. I called her up and said, "I will come out and see you on this day. Get all your files in order. Write out where in the process you think these cases are." I talked to her like on a Wednesday and I was going to be there on maybe Friday morning. On Thursday I get a call from the attorney at the PLF that says she's left practice. She's left the state. She dropped the keys to her office by. We'll go get the files and bring them to you. It was so sad because most of the work in those cases consisted of my looking and saying, "Okay, she missed the deadline to reply to this motion," calling the opposing counsel and calling the judge and straightening it out. She was, and I never met her and I can't remember her name, but she was one of the motivators for me getting active in Oregon Women Lawyers because I thought what a waste of human potential! If she just had had some place to go to talk to a more experienced colleague, she could still be practicing law today. Maybe. At least she would have a chance, because in those days the men lawyers knew, and I may have said this, that if you went to the Standard Plaza Cafeteria on the third floor of the Standard Plaza, judges who would be taking breaks over there. Anybody could go sit down with the judges and just talk to them about anything you wanted to, and other lawyers were sitting there. But I know she was too timid, too timid really even to meet with me.

P: Judges from Multnomah County would go over to this – describe that again.

K: Well, it had to be the worst cafeteria in Portland, because it was run at a substantial loss by Standard Insurance for its employees. It reminded me of a little company town—they got little slips of paper that they paid for their meals with. The rest of us paid full price, which was still dirt cheap, which was certainly what the food was worth. It took up the whole third floor and had a view out to the courthouse and across the street to what is now the Michael Graves Building. The judges were there in the morning before—I think there were ten or twelve judges who were on that circuit that would come there for coffee with their buddies, other judges and the old-timey lawyers, and then they'd meet . . .

P: Was this one of your Pozzi. . . .?

K: Yes, the Pozzi office was there. And, Frank Pozzi had his "boys" down there talking with those judges. That was part of their associate training, was to get down there and talk with the judges about your cases.

P: Did you go?

K: No, I never hung out with them because it was really a closed shop. The lawyers and judges saw the women attorneys coming into the cafeteria. They might say "hello" to you, but they'd never ask you to sit down.

P: This is Tape 2, actually Tape 3, of Katherine O'Neil. We were talking about the judge meeting on the third floor. Were there any women there at all?

K: No. At that time the women on the trial bench in Multnomah County were Jean Lewis and Mercedes Deiz. That would have been it, and then as now I don't know what's going on now, but in previous years the male judges didn't pal around with the female judges.

P: Well, one of my main questions in getting into the years of 1987 and the Oregon Women Lawyers—what was your inspiration? So, in 1986 Graff & O'Neil starts and at that point in time describe the politics in your life and what was going on in your life. At what point did you start thinking about the Oregon Women Lawyers?

<u>Children—High School/College/Beyond</u>:

K: Well, my kids graduated from Jesuit High School in 1981, so they were in college, so I didn't have that strain, didn't absolutely have to get home right after work and cook dinner. So there was some more freedom there.

P: Tell me where they went to college.

K: Well, Will went to Southern Oregon, which he loved because it was smaller. Charlie went to Oregon State because he was interested in science. And he got two degrees at Oregon State—one in zoology and one in biology, and what he really studied was genetics because he thought he wanted to be a doctor. Then he went off from Oregon State to Notre Dame and got a master's in finance because he was looking at what was happening—of course, he heard it at the dinner table from Toby and me about doctors and insurance companies and such, because Toby had some doctor clients. He represented a lot of doctors and their negotiations with the insurance companies. This was the period of time when preferred providers, managed care was coming in, and Toby had some doctor clients he represented—alliances of doctors. So Charlie got an MBA in Finance from Notre Dame.

P: Well, what did Toby say was going on with doctors that discouraged him?

K: Oh, that the major critical decisions in the type of care that you gave patients and the amount of care that you gave patients were beginning to be made by clerks in insurance offices, removing the critical decisions about patient care from the doctors.

P: A re-occurring theme now!

K: Right, but it was just beginning there, and . . .

P: So by '87 the boys were out of college, or by '86 . . .

K: Well, they could have been out of college, yeah.

P: Or attending graduate school—did they move away?

K: Well, Will lives in Vancouver very close to me, and Charlie lives in Dallas, Texas. He graduated from Notre Dame in '88, and Oregon was having a slump. He got a job in EDS, a very good job. He was thinking he'd come back, but he loves his job, loves living in Dallas.

P: It must be sad for you.

K: Well, it is, because he has the four grandchildren right down there! Will graduated with a degree in Business from Portland State. He was down at Southern Oregon for two years and he loved it, took every interesting course he could find, every course taught by an excellent professor, and then he took all of those and moved up to Portland State and graduated. Worked for a while—one of my clients at the Schwabe office was part owner of the dog track, and so Will would work at the dog track for six months, and then he would also work in the

hop harvest at Judge Leavy's, Judge Leavy's hop farm. So I couldn't actually tell you when Will finally graduated from college.

P: How did he get involved with Judge Leavy?

K: Judge Leavy's son Paul was in the same class at Jesuit High School as Will and Charlie, and the crew out there—in fact, it was a wonderful crew, the crew out there was kids from Jesuit High School. Both Will and Charlie worked in the hop harvest when they went to high school. Wonderful experience!

P: Okay, so it's '86 and you're starting Graff & O'Neil. Did you have this experience with the women lawyer before '86?

Women Lawyers:

K: Yeah, it was while I was still at Wood Tatum. And I also noticed that. I noticed that women, new women attorneys were seeking me out because there weren't that many of us to seek out, and asking questions about practice and firms, and I would talk to the summer clerks at the Wood office and summer clerks from other offices, so I sure could see that there was a need for a network for women to talk to each other.

P: So who were your women lawyer friends at this point?

K: Let's see. There was an excellent woman from my law school class named Ruth Spetter who went to work at the City Attorney's office after she graduated and is still there. She kept a group of us women attorneys together for several years. We met every month — every other month, and that group of women attorneys plus some others founded Oregon Women's Political Caucus.

P: So this was right from the time you got out of law school?

K: Yeah. So Ruth would be critical, and then a woman now, she's remarried, she's now known as Kathryn Root, and she had been a clerk at the Wood Tatum office, very bright woman. Sue Porter who was also a clerk at the Wood Tatum office and now runs US A&M—US Arbitration and Mediation. Let's see—did I have other women attorney friends? Susan Hammer, who has been a partner at Stoel Rives, Velma Jeremiah, who was the first partner at Stoel Rives, Karen Creason, who was the second woman partner at Stoel Rives. What women did I hang out with? Not that many, because my peers in the practice were predominantly men. For a while, about all the Portland women lawyers fielded a basketball team. We barely had enough players.

P: Let's go back for a minute to Ruth Spetter and the monthly meetings. Was it informal, was it a potluck type of a thing, or what did you talk about, who was invited?

K: Well, it was just every woman who was in our class that we could think of and could get hold of, and we met for lunch at the cafeteria in the PGE building, and we'd just sit around and talk about how practice was going. I also kept track with the woman who was my housemate during law school—Lee Ann Ward, she was working for Legal Aid out in Hillsboro. Karen Fink, who I think, Karen was working for a Legal Aid office. So it was a predominantly liberal group of women.

P: Now you said this first group became the Oregon Women's Political Caucus?

K: Part of them did, part of them did. There was Eleanor Baxendale, who was also in my class, and Eleanor and one of the early judges — women judges in the Multnomah County Circuit Court from New York City, a single woman, very dramatic—her name will come to me after a while. Kim Frankel. They formed, I believe, in an effort to get her appointed to Multnomah County Circuit Court. I think she was the third woman on the bench after Jean Lewis and Mercedes Deiz.

P: So was this a group of women lawyers, the Oregon Women's Political Caucus?

K: Yeah. The women lawyers got it organized and then it spread out from there. I lost track of them because I just got so busy in my practice that I couldn't go to the meetings.

P: And this was prior to 1987.

K: Yeah.

P: So, let me ask a couple of questions here that just interest me. Did you consider yourself to be a feminist at this point in time?

K: You know, I hadn't given it a thought. My thought was "survival". "We're going to survive." That was it. I hadn't thought about being a feminist at all.

P: So did you read, you know, all the feminist type literature and all that kind of thing?

K: Yeah, I read it all, but I didn't know where I fit in. Coming from such a conservative background, very conservative background. For one thing, some of the things they said were rude, and if there was one thing that I was taught it was never to be rude, never seek confrontation. Always be polite. And actually, you don't get anywhere being polite.

P: Did you belong to any groups at this point—you know, the National Organization of Women, or any groups like that?

K: No.

P: You were obviously in the Bar. The Bar had no formative women's group at this point.

K: I went to meetings of Queen's Bench from time to time, but they were a pretty moribund group.

P: So what's your first memory of thinking, "Gee, we need an organization like . . .?

MBA Committee on the Status of Women:

K: Well, Kathryn Root, Susan Hammer became the first woman president of the Multnomah Bar Association. The year that she was that, and I don't remember what year it would have been, it would have been '86, '87, somewhere in there—she decided that the MBA needed a committee on the status of women in the profession.

P: 1987. So you were the chair?

K: So it would have been like '86, because I was on the committee the year before. And the woman Susan Hammer made her partner—whose name I can't remember—chair, but the partner was so busy in her practice she couldn't do it, so I became chair. That's when I realized that there was a critical mass and a very dedicated critical mass of women and very dedicated core of women who believed that we needed a women's bar association. Just talking to them, finding out that my concerns over the Yale graduate who vaporized from her practice were not unique to me. There were systemic problems which could only be addressed by an organizational effort.

P: Well, let's talk about those words. Women's bar association—what were they meaning at that point in time? Were they thinking of a branch of the Oregon Bar, or what where they thinking about? What was the discussion?

Eugene Annual Meeting 1987:

K: Well, I had always assumed because of the administrative details that go with running an organization of more than twelve people, say, you couldn't be a lawyer and running something like that. So I had assumed that we would just be part of the Oregon State Bar, and Celene Greene who was the executive director of the Oregon State Bar then had assumed that, too. We had, well, let me back up a little bit. The MBA Committee on Women—I was chair of that for a couple of years, and from that we decided to have a breakfast meeting down at the state annual meeting down in Eugene to see if anybody beyond the number of us who were on this committee thought that a bar organization was a good idea. And we had a huge crowd of women! There were 150 women who came to this meeting!

Just about every woman who was at the meeting showed up! Everybody decided we needed a women's bar association.

P: This was in approximately 1987, and you were in Eugene.

K: Yeah, the annual meeting in Eugene. And, so we had a meeting out at the Bar offices to kind of get focused, like a month or so later, and Celene Greene made a pitch to just have it be a committee of the Oregon State Bar, and I was enthused, it was a pretty good idea. Let's get some of this secretarial work out of my office!

P: Let's go back a little bit to the Eugene meeting. Describe the meeting a little more.

K: Oh, well, it was a lot of fun. Betty Roberts and Mercedes Deiz spoke and gave some historic perspective about Queen's Bench, which at one time had been a statewide organization. Some of the wonderful old dolls were there like Helen Althaus, who was the first woman associate at the Miller firm who was then in her early '80's, was there. Betty and Mercedes spoke and told about their vision and said that they didn't know—and then I spoke and said that I wouldn't know if this vision was limited to the people who organized this breakfast or what would other people say. Women that I had never seen in my life started standing up all over the room, saying why we needed a statewide women's bar organization, and there was sort of this plaintive tone in their voice like, "Here's the dream, here it's been articulated, and let's don't let it slip away." And nobody was going to leave that room until we set the next meeting. And one of the things that I did was, I passed out envelopes and anybody who wanted to know when the next meeting was, put their address on it. So if I passed out 200 envelopes, I got 200 envelopes back, which I thought was a show of interest. So, it was a very exciting morning.

P: Who put the meeting together?

K: Diane Polscer.

P: Was she a Bar person?

K: No, she was a member of the committee. She was then an associate with the Bullivant office, but she had been very active in Washington Women Lawyers and she was dumfounded to get down to Oregon and find out that Oregon didn't have a women's law association.

P: And so what was Betty Roberts' vision? Was the emphasis here the statewide aspect?

K: Yes, statewide. We could get Multnomah County organized and we had revitalized Queen's Bench. And an aside—Queen's Bench had been revitalized by a woman named Janice Kramer.

P: And Susan Hammer's interest in the committee on the status of women, was that a lot of the impetus for getting the whole subject going?

K: Yes, yes, absolutely.

P: And Betty Roberts was a judge at that point.

K: Yes, she was by then on the Supreme Court. And Mercedes Deiz was a sitting judge. And Mercedes had — she is a lovely, lovely person. She had always had a dream of a statewide women's bar association and she always used to tell me that she knew someday I'd come along. She said, "Somebody will come along. You will have a critical mass of women, and someday a leader will come along." So, I thought, "Oh!" And she kept saying that was me.

P: So describe what they identified as the initial need. Was it a political organization or—

K: No, definitely not political. There was a group who thought, for whom choice was the defining issue for any woman, and who wanted this to be pro-choice. Well, that would have cut out all the Catholics and the few Mormon attorneys, women Mormon attorneys—if there are any, but it just cut the Mormons out as well. So we decided not to do that. We didn't want to get on any political divide that started steering women away, that it would be a professional emphasis. And the motto we came up with, the goal was for the advancement of women and minorities in the profession. It was strictly professional growth and development.

P: What was the focus of the committee on the status of women in Multnomah County? What was —

MBA Committee on Status of Women (more):

K: Well, we were trying to find out literally what was the status—how many women attorneys there were in town, where they were practicing, what were their barriers to advancement. In those years the law firms treated women just like men, namely that you don't have a life outside of the practice, and if you even indicated that you wanted—you know, a man can say, "I'm going off to play golf this afternoon," — fine. But a woman could not say, "I'm going to go take my child to the doctor," because, well, you don't have a commitment to the profession. You don't want to leave your work for something like that, so you—and there were no parental leave policies and there was no parental leave law in the Oregon legislature. So those were the kinds of barriers we were identifying. Nobody had thought about it. The individual women had thought about it. They were suffering. They had thought about it.

P: Did the committee send out surveys?

K: We sent out surveys and one of the surveys we sent out was one that Ed Peterson asked me to send out on gender bias in the profession, because he was concerned about it. We sent out surveys. We made phone calls to people in firms to find out how many women were practicing in various firms. We asked the bar for a list of all the women in practice, but the bar didn't keep those stats. The bar had no idea how many women belonged to the bar. They didn't know how many blacks they had. They didn't know the identity of anybody, and the assumption was that they were all white males.

P: They didn't have a list that —

K: They didn't have a list. I badgered them mercilessly. I think to keep me from calling, or maybe I had Ed Peterson call them, they sent me a list of people who had names that sounded like women. So people with names like Shirley and Lynn got survey forms from us.

P: Was the first question "Are you a woman?"

K: Yes, something along those lines.

P: So how did you announce the breakfast meeting in 1987, was it on the —

K: It was in the annual meeting material, it just showed up.

P: And Betty Roberts and Mercedes Deiz gave a speech and —

K: Yes, it was historic. It's too bad it wasn't filmed. You never know when history is going to be.

P: Okay, so that's in 1987 and in Eugene, and then the follow-up meeting?

K: It was that fall. I hope it was '87, maybe it was '88.

P: '87 is the year that you were the chair—'87-'88 that you were the chair of the interim board.

<u>OWLS Meeting at OSB Late Fall 1987</u>:

K: Okay, so that sounds like it was '87, so it was '87, but the annual meeting is always in September, so like late October, early November we had a meeting out at the Bar office. There were between 150-200 women at the bar office. We were just packed, crammed and jammed into the room. We talked about what our goals would be and how we were going to get from where were to there. And when you—you know, sitting in this perspective thirteen years later you can see that that's exactly where it's gone, to provide things like information on jobs,

mentoring—mentoring, I think is the most important, professional training, training for little nitty-gritty things like client interviews or your job interview or making a presentation in court, letting these law firms know how valuable you are. It was a thing that if you sat down, nobody before had sat down before and thought about it, but I guess I can't say that if you sat down you could figure it out. In hindsight that makes it a whole lot simpler.

P: How did it actually—where did it go in October when you had this meeting? Did you talk about incorporating this?

Monthly OWLS Meetings:

K: Yes, it is incorporated. Agnes Sowle was a new associate at Meyer and Wyse, and so I invited her to Queen's Bench, and then I got her on the Committee on Women. Agnes is a business attorney and had a specialty in nonprofits, so she did the bylaws. We started having monthly—Toby and I lived by Lewis & Clark then, and we had monthly meetings on Saturday mornings in my living room, and everybody brought food for breakfast and for lunch, and we sat around and did things like bylaws, strategize, and the first board had members from all over the state who came there.

P: So people were traveling from other parts of Oregon to come to your Saturday meetings?

K: Yes, we had a good time.

P: Were there any men involved?

K: Let's see, the first board was Steve Moore whom I met when he was an associate at the Bullivant office just before I was. He used to be a Methodist minister—a wonderful man—he was on the first board.

P: Who else was on the first board? Do you remember —

K: No, but I could go get the list and read it to you if you want. A key person was Vernellia Randall who was an associate at the Bullivant Wright office,she is an African American woman, an RN, and she was the one who insisted that we have "for the advancement of women and minorities in the legal profession." The "and minorities" is from Vernellia because she rightfully said that there are so few minorities in Oregon that they can't be effective and that this should be part of the goal of OWLS, and so it is.

P: So who do you remember was the founding group? [Note: See listing of members of OWLS founding board in appendix.]

K: Well, Ruth Spetter was certainly there, Cindy Barrett was the first treasurer, very critical, and then Cindy was succeeded as treasurer by Corky Lai, and Corky Lai has a very sound business sense, Vernellia Randall and Karen Saul got the membership list together; Diane Polscer worked very closely with her paralegal. We hired her paralegal, Kristin—I can't remember her last name—and Diane's paralegal did the secretarial work for us. Sandy Hansberger, Nell Bonaparte who had been very active in DC Women Lawyers and moved out here with her husband, who was also a lawyer. Nell organized Working Parents Forum which was desperately needed in those days for lawyers who had young children. They needed emotional support as well as tactics for finding child care.

OWLS Spring Conference:

K: Vernellia Randall organized our first spring conference. It was in that motel that's just across the street from the Coliseum. We had a packed house, including many, many judges from the appellate court and from the state courts as well, including Don Londer who was very supportive, and I remember I chaired a panel on "What do you do when you encounter gender, racial and ethnic bias in the legal system?" and we talked about what we can do as a practical matter when we encounter it. On that panel was Gary Kahn who was then president of the state bar, Judge Jean Lewis, Roosevelt Robinson, and who else was on there? I chaired it, and that was phenomenal—I don't think anybody in Oregon had ever talked about bias within the legal profession. Ellen Rosenblum chaired a panel on parental leave policies, and one of the things that came out of this is the —we got the Oregon State Bar to set up a committee on family issues, balancing career and family. What other panels did we have—those are the ones that I remember. We were talking about a lot of things that are now taken over by the OAAP, issues that the bar wasn't touching at all.

P: OAAP?

K: Oregon Attorney Assistance Program of the PLF.

P: So what was the attitude of the Bar?

K: Well, by then I don't know if Ellen Rosenblum—Christie Helmer was elected to the Board of Governors, and then she was never active thereafter in the Oregon State Bar, so she kind of came and then went. I can't remember the year she was elected—it was in the '70's—first woman. And then maybe by then Ellen Rosenblum had been elected to the Board of Governors, and then after Ellen was off Ruth Spetter came on. Aside from the lone woman on the Board of Governors, no one was interested in these issues. The BOG was an obstacle, and they were just indifferent to them. Some people wondered "Why are we bothering with this" because it was a different concept. You know the old saying, "Law is a jealous mistress" because it was just assumed that you graduated from law school, you went to work as a lawyer, and then you reappeared to your family thirty-five years

later if you were still alive. So that was the mindset of people, so having women come forth and say, "Hey there is more to life than the practice of law" was revolutionary. The OSB wasn't ready.

P: Did you experience any hostility from any male lawyers?

K: A little, but most of the hostility came from women because . . .

P: Women lawyers?

K: Women lawyers. They had the "queen bee" mentality, women who had made it to partner and made it on men's terms. They did it without any help from other women. So, by God, they weren't going to help any women. They were the queen bees around town. There were the newer women lawyers who thought that by having a group out here suggesting that there was more to life than practicing law, that this would discredit the entire gender, and they were having enough trouble getting respect from their colleagues and were trying to convince their colleagues that they could do it like a man and they didn't want somebody else suggesting alternatives to them.

P: How did they—did they call you up and . . .

K: I did get some calls, and when I encountered them at the bar meetings they told me what they thought, or if I called them up and asked them to participate they'd shun me, told me what they thought.

<u>OWLS Organizes</u>:

P: So how did the organization go about getting members?

K: We had a great flood in the beginning, so probably we instantly had two or three hundred members.

P: And did you charge dues?

K: Yes, we charged dues. It was about $25 or something like that. And so we also started almost immediately a newsletter and we were so lucky because we hired Carolyn Buan as editor, and she continues to be the editor.

P: So you had some paid staff from the very first.

K: Yes.

P: A secretary person, newsletter editor.

K: Yes.

P: If you paid them too much . . .

K: No, we didn't pay them too much because we didn't have too much. We had a couple of — we had one cash crunch and I had to step to the plate with a couple of thousand dollars which I got repaid six weeks down the line.

P: So did you have any money other than from dues?

K: No, that was it. That was it. And then fairly shortly, I think I was the interim president and then I was president the first year, and then Agnes Sowle became president, and during the time that Agnes Sowle was president Diane Rynerson and her husband moved up to Portland and Diane became executive director, and that was critical to our success—the fact that we had a very dedicated woman as executive director. So she had at that time, she had one toddler, then while she was executive director she had another child, and what she wanted to do was put her primary emphasis on the children.

P: And her name was —

K: Diane Rynerson.

P: And is she a lawyer?

K: Yes. She is a graduate of Santa Clara.

P: And was she practicing law while working as executive director?

K: She was taking a few cases for a while, and she decided that really what she was most interested in was bar administration.

P: Were you paying her to be executive director?

K: A nominal amount, I think it went all the way up to $1,000 a month.

P: From dues?

K: From dues. And we made a little money when they had the spring conferences, they would have exhibitors and people would —you know, just like they have at the annual meeting, the bar annual meeting, the exhibitors would pay for a space, and we sold ads in the newsletter and made a little bit of money on CLE's. It was very much hand to mouth.

P: So for the first two years while you were the board president, you did CLE's . . .

K: Yeah, we started the CLE's right up in the spring conference.

P: And you had monthly meetings?

K: Yeah, monthly meetings of the board . .

P: Just the board had monthly meetings?

K: Yeah, because, and then we organized the chapters. That was critical because OWLS is statewide, and then there's Lane County Women Lawyers, there's Mary Leonard Society in Salem, there's Rogue Women Lawyers down in Medford . . .

P: Were those existing groups?

K: Lane County Women Lawyers was existing. Queen's Bench was existing, but then we helped Rogue Women Lawyers get organized. I think the Bar had a meeting down in Medford that year, and so a group of us from the OWLS Board met with the women and encouraged them to become more organized and become a chapter. Then from there, there have been chapters from various places from time to time depending on the — if there are enough women there who are interested in doing it. For a while there was one in Grants Pass, one in Pendleton, there's one over on the coast, there's an active one in Bend—Deschutes County Women Lawyers. What OWLS does is, OWLS collects dues from all the women and then sends part of the dues back to the chapter for whatever the chapter wants to do, but that was really critical to the success to have it be a statewide organization to be able to speak with one voice. Because one of the things that went for quite a while, Barrie Herbold in Portland ran a judicial screening committee and the fact that, which was operated just exactly the way the other bars operated their judicial screening committees, and the fact that we spoke with one voice, a unified statewide voice helped us greatly.

<u>OWLS Judicial Screening Committee</u>:

P: She operated a judicial screening committee for OWLS?

K: Yep.

P: And you made the recommendations . . .

K: For the Court of Appeals, Supreme Court, and Multnomah County for sure, and I think we did it for other counties as well.

P: So at what point do you remember the judicial issue becoming the focus, was that a subject of discussion from the beginning?

K: That was something we wanted to do right from the beginning because we were very frustrated by the fact that there were so few women judges. At that time Kim

Frankel—that was the woman the Oregon Women's Political Caucus got organized around. Kim Frankel was a judge, Jean Lewis was still alive, Mercedes Deiz, so there were three, those were the only three women judges. And Joan Dietz down in Roseburg, so there were four women on the trial bench in Oregon. Betty Roberts on the appellate bench and Helen Frye on the federal bench, and that was all the women judges we had. So we were very frustrated at the lack of women judges. Another thing we were very frustrated with was men were being appointed to the bench who were sexist, who came out of firms who had never had a woman associate, who mistreated their secretaries. That's not appropriate. That kind of attitude is not appropriate for on the bench when you have diverse people appearing in your courtroom. If you're not fair at your law firm you're not going to be fair in your administration of justice. So we wanted to make the governor aware that there were issues here, and we also wanted to make these judicial candidates aware that there wasn't going to be a free ride. If we found out that they had never had a woman associate, they might not get an OWLS endorsement.

P: So Edwin Peterson, was he the chief judge at that point?

K: Yes, he was.

P: How did he get involved?

K: Uh, let's see. I think Betty Roberts told me to call him and ask him to join, and ask him to participate—I think that's how he got involved.

P: And he was an OWLS member?

K: Yes, we had a huge number of members from the judiciary.

P: So there were a lot of male members, right, from the beginning?

K: Yeah, absolutely.

P: They provided a lot of the dues.

K: Yes, the dues and clout. And the clout!. It's going to be hard to bad-mouth the OWLS at a judicial conference when Ed Peterson is there.

P: That's a good strategy!

K: Yeah, it wasn't trendy to bad-mouth OWLS.

P: And there was never any discussion about whether males would be in the group, it was just assumed that they would be . . .

K: Absolutely.

Early OWLS Accomplishments:

P: So this was the first two years, the board met. You were the president and then you became a board member, and what did you see at that point in time, what did you see as the major accomplishments for OWLS in the early years?

K: Providing a structure for women to have peers, to have mentoring, to have CLE's to help them in their professional growth, things like public speaking, marketing, client development—and to bring issues up that nobody else was addressing like balancing family and career.

P: So what was your role? Did you have a role in the mentoring program?

K: We established the mentoring program at the law schools, and that was set up by Elizabeth Harchenko. It was a fabulous program at all three law schools. I spoke at all the law schools to women students, but I was not actually a mentor at any of the law schools.

P: So the OWLS mentoring program was run through the law schools?

K: Yes. It identified the women coming out. And in fact the program—the OWLS didn't limit the mentors to women students, they let any men be in that they wanted, and that certainly embarrassed the Marion County Bar, so now the Marion County Bar could join in on that program at Willamette. But as I told them when they asked me if I wanted to mentor that I had so many women coming to my door that I didn't need to organize—it seemed like everybody knew where I was, and so I didn't think I ought to take on any more mentees at that time.

P: Didn't this interfere with your practice of law?

K: I can't tell you how many different lunches I had with these young women, and I was happy to do it. They are practicing all over Oregon now, and I'm very happy to have helped.

P: How did that happen—they just called you up and "can we go to lunch?"

K: "Can I talk to you?" and I never said "no."

P: And at this point what was your law practice—what were you doing in your law practice?

K: PLF, about the same, continued on.

P: Did your work at the PLF ever intersect with what you were doing with OWLS?

Learning the Ropes:

K: Yeah, because I went on the board of the PLF and one of the things that I encouraged was Barbara Fishleder and developing the Oregon Attorney Assistance Program. I'm trying to think of who was on the committee that set that up. Another thing I started that was taken over by the PLF was Harl Haas, judge in Multnomah County, called me up and said he was very concerned about the quality of the work of the new attorneys. So what did I think could be done about this? I don't know why in the world he called me—I guess he called me because he figured I might do something about it. So I talked to Joan Johnson who was Les Rawls' assistant, and Joan and I decided to set up a "learning the ropes" program and so she and I put on the first "learning the ropes" seminar for new attorneys, and then when I was on the board of the PLF I saw that that was institutionalized. That has evolved into the practical skills requirement for new attorneys.

Gender Bias 1988:

P: How about the Chief Justice's Committee on Gender Bias in the Oregon Courts in 1988?

K: Well, Ed Peterson called me, and that committee was Joan Dietz, Ed Peterson, somebody from the Miller firm—Cliff Carlson, I think, and a young attorney from Marion County whose name I can't remember. Anyway, we sent out questionnaires and got some responses and found out there were some pretty terrible things going on. Things like trial judges addressing women by their first name and men as Mr.

P: So we were talking about the Chief Justice's Committee on Gender Bias. So what about the example of addressing women by their first names and . . .

K: . . .commenting on women's clothing. The most hostility towards women lawyers in the courtrooms was from the court staff, particularly women in the court staff. They didn't like this change. They liked being the only women in the courtroom, and they resented the women lawyers, and I think some of it was—some of the women court personnel that I knew—they saw an opportunity that they wish they had had, felt some bitterness about what had happened to them. I remember a young woman attorney goes out to St. Helens to argue a motion. The male attorney is not there, so instead of defaulting out on the motion, the judge picks up the phone and calls the male attorney back in Portland and says, "You didn't show up." So he appears by telephone. She appears in person in St. Helens. I know what the judge was trying to do. The judge was trying to keep the case moving, but the fact that the judge called him up and called the Portland attorney by his first name makes

the woman attorney feel like "I don't have a chance here. This is a kangaroo court." And the judge shouldn't have done that, but that kind of thing was going on.

Pro Tem Judge:

P: And you were working as a pro-tem judge?

K: Yeah.

P: Right around the same time?

K: Yeah.

P: Where was that?

K: Well, what happened was that Judge Londer, who was a wonderful, wonderful man—I had a big complicated, knock-down-drag-out case in front of him in Multnomah County Circuit Court, and after the case was over he gave me a call and said, "Can we have coffee or lunch?" So I said, "Sure." It's not like I'm going to tell a presiding judge, "No, I'm really not available." So we had lunch. He said that he and some of the other judges had sat down and talked about the fact that women judges were coming and that it would be good to encourage the talented women lawyers to become judges, and so he wanted me to become a pro-tem judge and think about becoming a judge. So I had never in my life thought about being a judge. So I was a pro-tem judge for a while, and I really enjoyed it. But the thought of — it was too confining. It would have meant showing up every day and being in one room and not being able to move around—I just couldn't see it.

P: What kinds of cases did you hear?

K: Civil. It was just—in those days they didn't let the pro-tem try cases, and—they did for a while and then they decided not to, but I heard a lot of complicated summary judgment motions—really heavy-duty summary judgment motions.

P: And wrote opinions?

K: And wrote opinions, yeah. And some were appealed, and in each and every instance I was upheld.

P: All right! There certainly aren't very many judges who can say that! So going back to Ed Peterson, what came of the committee? Did you do a report and . . .

K: Yeah, we did a short report but nothing came of it because we didn't have—there wasn't any funding for this like the survey was printed in the MBA newsletter and the results were tabulated by a Portland State . . .

P: So was it only in Multnomah County?

K: Was it only in Multnomah County or was it statewide? We must have sent it out statewide, and they were tabulated at Portland State. The flaw was that— what happened was I knew that I didn't know how to design a survey, and so I sent it back to Lynn Hecht Shafran at the NOW Legal Defense Fund, whatever it is, and asked her to review it, and she didn't do anything about it for about three or four months, so we went ahead and sent it out, and then she called and said, "Your questions are flawed," and yeah, they were flawed, and so my questions were not good and the statistician couldn't draw any kind of conclusions, so it really was— we raised consciousness but we couldn't move the ball down the court. Which was unfortunate. But the main value in it was the anecdotes that came out of it and those we'd run in the OWLS newsletter and they were talked about. I talked about them once in a Multnomah Bar Association meeting.

P: Was the Oregon Bar showing any more interest in these issues at this point in time? Well, the PLF Board at this time was generally separate.

OWLS On The BOG:

K: Yes. No, things did not really change. One of the things we did early on was we looked at the upcoming elections for the Board of Governors, where the positions were, and we got a woman to run for each position. Once we got—there was not a woman president of the Oregon State Bar until a majority of the people on the Board of Governors were women, and that's when Julie Frantz was elected.

P: And that wasn't too long ago, was that —mid-'90?

K: Right. So when there was a majority of women on the Board of Governors things started to change, but not until then.

P: So was Ellen Rosenblum . . .

K: . . .was on one term all by herself, and then Ruth Spetter was on all by herself, and then as Ruth went off we started getting several women at a time elected to the Board of Governors.

P: And that's when things took off a little better?

K: Yes, they started changing.

P: We're coming to the end of the tape here; we're going to have to turn it off for now.

Session Four
(May 9, 2001)

P: This Session 4 of Katherine O'Neil's oral history, and we're going to start at the 1990's, and we'll talk about the practice of law in the 1990's. Why don't we talk about starting your practice with Toby and the types of cases that you had been working on.

Graff & O'Neil (more):

K: Well, in the '80's I was still trying cases, and we did a lot of work for the Professional Liability Fund. I don't know how many cases I tried for them—lots. About half of them, I guess all of the ones I tried were jury trials, so that was always thrilling, of course. Those were state courts. What was memorable about them, I guess, was the — and then most of the cases did not go to trial. What was memorable about them to me was the heartache of the lawyer defendants and the shame that they felt about having screwed up or even having been accused of screwing up, which made me acutely aware of the need for support groups for professionals. I think in each and every case it was because—well, can't say in each and every case, because I haven't gone back and looked at them, but in so many cases they were solo practitioners who if they could have just gone down the hall and asked someone or talked to a judge informally and just tried the case out on someone that they would have gotten some better advice than what they figured out in their head. That's what those cases were memorable for.

P: Before we leave that, why did those go to trial—the ones that went to trial, talk about the jury process too, and how you had to prepare yourself.

K: I think the jury did rough justice, sort of like making a decision with a sledgehammer. It was more or less right on the equities. I often got very irritated because I couldn't get out of a case on the law on summary judgment motions. I couldn't get some allegations struck or removed from the jury, but the jury was—I never thought that the jury was wrong. They were just generally right and maybe I thought that they were too angry in their punitive damages. It wasn't outrageous and I may have thought that they miscalculated the general damages when they were off by $10,000 or $15,000, but it wasn't that much.

P: I had written down here I was going to ask you about punitive damages against some of them.

K: Yeah, they did punitives against some of the attorneys.

P: Was that with PLF insurance, or were they actual attorneys on . . .

K: No, the PLF was on the hook for it. And then I tried cases for other carriers. Most of them settled, of course. And then I had mostly an appellate load in the state courts and every now and then a couple of federal cases every year. Those were just a wide range of cases that were referred to me from attorneys from around the state.

P: Did you think that their mistakes were substantive mistakes or procedural mistakes, and just following up on that idea that if they had more help they would have been able to resolve their problem.

K: There were . . .

P: Can you think of any examples?

K: Well, I had a bunch of — this was payoff time for the go-go '80's, and there were a lot of attorneys who were giving business advice to clients and the plaintiff's attorney would find a way to treat it in terms of legal malpractice. What they were really after was just faulty business advice. Those were the ones that really stand out in my mind. There were a lot of procedural mistakes. That was also the time of the transition from code pleading into the ORCP, and a lot of attorneys never bothered to read the ORCP and they just continued with their code pleading tradition and fell into mistakes.

P: And all these types of cases settled?

K: Yeah, most of them settled. They just figured out what was — part of it was in any case when you are dealing with an individual who has trusted an attorney that they have to ventilate long enough about how their trust was betrayed, and then when you get through that you can get a settlement figure. We had one case in which an attorney brilliantly represented a tugboat firm in a federal maritime case, got a recovery of $1.2 million and then advised the three sisters who owned the tugboat company on how to invest that money. The investment was a sham. So those people were plenty mad because this attorney had been their father's attorney, and they relied on him. That was a mess on many levels.

P: Were they mostly men or women, or . . . ?

K: You know, I don't think I ever represented a woman. I never represented a woman. They were all men. I had several where they missed the deadline for filing or they didn't get something filed in court, missed a statute of limitations, missed a deadline for filing, say, a cost bill in a medical malpractice case.

P: Were those mostly settled?

K: Yep, they settled. It was just a matter of sorting out the damages and get everyone to cool off.

P: Did the colorful cases go to trial? How did you sort out what goes to trial?

K: What goes to trial is the plaintiff is unrealistic, usually. Sometimes the plaintiff's attorney is unrealistic because he's got his ego invested and sometimes they've got too much cost invested in it, so he needs to go to trial.

P: Have you done any employment law in your practice?

K: Yes. It's been a long time. Well, I have this little subspecialty of getting women attorneys out of law partnerships, and that's a kind of species of employment case.

P: Can you give examples?

K: Well, let's see. A woman attorney that I knew was getting out. She was an associate at the Pozzi firm when there was the Pozzi firm. She was one of their casualties, one of a long line of women casualties, and she knew that I was friends with all the partners and so she just needed help. She was so emotionally disabled she couldn't figure out what to do. She came to me because she had met me and had seen me with the Pozzi partners. I helped her extricate herself from there, and then I've done that a dozen times in smaller firms and then helped with partners in some of the major firms get out as well.

P: Would you be interested in saying any more about what you thought about the Pozzi firm, and not necessarily just about that firm but were their problems a lot like those of other law firms?

K: Pozzi was strictly, it was kind of a perpetual boot camp fraternity, and they — well, I'm not telling tales out of school because they are proud of the fact that the language they used inside that firm would make a sailor blush. Pozzi was a longshoreman, and that was the sort of the flavor of that firm. They worked terrible hours. People could have tantrums, screaming fits and they weren't reprimanded. No one said that that was inappropriate. Just like a sergeant in the military can ream out privates, that's the way the partners treated the associates at the Pozzi firm.

P: Do you think that's why the women were leaving there?

K: Yeah, I think so, in part. Women just aren't used to that kind of vile treatment. And the men, even if they weren't used to it, they took it because if you are a real man you take that.

P: So how did you get into the arbitration area?

K: Well, I started out in mediation, and in 1983 and 1985 when I went to China I saw how extensively they used mediation. And I thought, "This is a whole lot quicker and more efficient and better for the parties." I was thinking about the plaintiffs in some of those PLF cases who were so emotionally wounded, and I thought this might be a better way to go. It was just coincidental that about that time the OSB established its — that committee was started, the alternative dispute resolution, and so I got on that committee, and from there I developed a mediation practice. Then Sue Porter who is a friend of mine who runs US Arbitration and Mediation asked me to come on their panel. Instead of my hustling a little business, she hustled the business over time. Much to my annoyance I found out that sometimes people just don't want to settle, and that's why I like arbitration better now. I let them say everything they want to say and I decide. And that seems to make people equally, I mean usually both people are angry at me, so that's what I do now.

P: And you do that right now, in your practice? How often do you arbitrate?

K: I probably have one every week.

P: So, are they usually . . .

K: I really enjoy them, because it is sort of like solving a puzzle. It's just like being a judge. You get the pleadings in advance and you read through them and you kind of imagine what really happened. I always wonder what <u>really</u> happened. Then the people get in here and start telling their story, and sometimes I guessed right and sometimes I guessed wrong. The human dynamic is very interesting.

P: Does this involve any writing?

K: Yes, I always do it in writing because after the people have gone through what they've gone through, and paying me, it seems like they ought to have a piece of paper. Maybe they're mad at me when the attorney says, "Well, we didn't get everything" or the attorney says, "Well, we lost," they'll be mad, but maybe six months from now they'll pick up the piece of paper and read it and they might have a little closure or a little clarification when they read why I decided the way I did.

P: So when did you start arbitrating?

K: Oh, I've been doing it for several years, so I don't know if I can pinpoint it. Basically, it developed from mediating. I do arbitrations for NASD, National Association of Securities Dealers Arbitration What the stock market has just done has given me a couple of interesting ones. We get started. We have our scheduling and discovery hearing. We're looking forward to the next date, and they often settle. I was supposed to have one last week and this week about a trio of brokers who jumped from Merrill Lynch to Solomon Smith Barney and it involved

millions of dollars. I thought, "This is really going to be interesting!" There were attorneys from Philadelphia and Los Angeles. The brokers were here in Portland. We had a summary judgment motion on it, and I wanted to grant it in part but I couldn't get the rest of the panel to go with me, so I was really looking forward to that, and then they settled!

P: So, a panel, is that through . . .?

K: Through NASD.

P: You have a panel hearing these?

K: Yeah, on the big cases.

P: You're in appellate court.

K: Yeah.

P: That's real interesting.

K: Yeah, they are.

P: So you really did get involved in the judiciary.

K: Yeah, in a rather bizarre way! But I don't have to go to the courthouse and take cases assigned by someone else.

P: So, you actually slowed down in your practice, then?

K: Yeah, definitely.

P: When did you start this?

K: Just this year, just this year. If I hadn't had my obligations with my mother in Florida, I would have been going gung-ho developing my arbitration and mediation practice. Toby is three years older than I am. We are going to keep the office open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and keep involved enough in the practice that we don't lose track of our friends and our profession. I know we can't do that forever—it doesn't make economic sense. But it makes sense for the next few years.

P: Just you and Toby and —

K: Ardis. Ardis Schroeder.

P: So what do you want to do when you retire?

K: Well, I would like to spend more time with the grandchildren while the grandchildren are really interested in grandmother, because that's not going to pertain for real long. When they get to be about the age of your son, they're going to lose interest.

P: What are their ages?

K: The youngest one will be one next month, and the oldest one will be ten this summer. So I've got about four more years when the oldest one will think Grandma is worthwhile spending time with, and I don't want to miss that window of opportunity.

P: Where do they live?

K: Dallas. All four of them are in Dallas. I want to do that, and there's one thing I want to get done at the ABA. The American Bar Association is this vast repository of information on how to be a crackerjack lawyer and also on how to run bar associations. The entities that really need that information are the women and minority bars. The division of the ABA that has that information, which sends field representatives out is called Bar Services. I'm on their Committee for Bar Services. The Bar Services staff is interested in doing this if I will help broker it, namely, start serving the women and minority bars. The women and minority bars need to support their members and they don't know how to do it. It's not rocket science, but if you've never done it before it doesn't matter if it's not rocket science, you just don't know. . . .

P: You mean, they work on a survey?

K: They have field service people who will come out and visit you in your city and analyze your newsletter, analyze your operating procedures, analyze your membership campaigns, and give you materials to use in place of what you've got or help you rewrite things, look over your meeting programs and give you suggestions on how to improve them. We're just to the point now where the minority bars—the local ones, not the National Bar Association—it's in good shape—but the local ones like the Oregon Chapter of the National Bar Association, they're getting enough members and they're realizing that they need to hang together and quit knocking on the doors of the majority bars—they are to the point where they could really benefit from Bar Services from ABA coming out.

P: You're talking about nationwide?

K: Yep.

P: You're getting involved in doing it nationwide.

K: Yeah. So that would be a good thing for somebody to do, and since that's a hobby horse of mine—strengthening specialty bars—I'd like to get that done. I think I can get that done because the staff wants to do it. They want to be relevant as the American bar becomes increasingly diverse.

P: Since we first discussed the ABA, let's talk about your —how you got involved in the ABA and what you're involved with, and was that first in 1990?

American Bar Association: House of Delegates:

K: Yeah, let's see, when was I first elected to the ABA House of Delegates? American Bar Association—1992. Well, what happened was when Ed Peterson asked me to do a survey, to help him in a survey for determining gender bias, yeah, 1988—Ed Peterson asked me to work on doing this survey on gender bias in the Oregon courts. I tried to get some help from the ABA and I was so offended at the reception I got I decided to become active and see if I could change what's going on. My good friend, Ellen Rosenblum, had run the previous year. I ran to be Oregon State Bar Association delegate, defeated the incumbent Keith Burns, who had been there for some time, and got elected to the House. It was a good time to go in because the first year I was there, the first two years I was in the House of Delegates they changed directors, they changed ABA directors, executive directors, so the ABA was changing just as I came in to start pushing for more change. So Ellen and I were in the House of Delegates together, just Ellen and me and John Ryan was state delegate. There was somebody from Multnomah Bar Association, so there were four of us. So that's how I got involved, and then I didn't—most people get elected to the House of Delegates and they're there for a couple of years or more, and they never figure out what's going on in the ABA. I got elected to the House and then a friend of mine got elected President of the ABA, and he put me on the Commission on Women. Then I started seeing what was going on in the ABA. Jerry Shestack from Philadelphia, very fine man. He appointed me to the Commission on Women, and then, of course, if you hang around long enough you build up a network.

P: When did you get on the Commission on Women?

K: 1997.

P: So before that you had been a delegate—

K: —to the House of Delegates, yeah.

P: And that involves going to the national meetings—

K: Yeah, the midyear and the annual meetings. But I just showed up and voted, you know, and discussed the issues. John Ryan was state delegate. He term limited

out. Then Ellen Rosenblum became state delegate. Being state delegate means you are on the Nominating Committee. Although there are 400,000 members of the ABA there's only about 60 who vote for the officers. Those are the state delegates. There's one from each state, plus there's a few sections, like the litigation section which always has a member of the Nominating Committee. So Ellen was state delegate, then she went on the Board of Governors, and I became State Delegate. I'm still State Delegate. If you're state delegate you can vote for President, Treasurer and Secretary, so people want to know you. So you really get to meet people! And I am still state delegate. I've been appointed to committees in the house, and right now Karen Mathis appointed me to be chair of the Technology Committee of the House of Delegates. The woman who was running the Technology Committee, Harriet Miers, is now running all the staff in the White House for George Bush. I was very much enjoying being a member of the Technology Committee and would have loved to have continued as a member, but I'm now chair! It's an awesome responsibility, particularly for someone who doesn't know a thing about technology! Toby had a good laugh when he found out I was chair of Technology! But as Karen Mathis said, I don't need to know anything—all I need to know is how to run a meeting.

P: And you know that!

K: And I know that!

P: Well, go back to appointment to the Commission on Women. What was the function of that commission and what was your role?

K: I chaired the committee that published the—the editorial committee of *Perspectives,* which is the newsletter. So I just carried on the same kind of work I had done for ten years with the OWLS *Advance Sheet*, only on the national level. We had an editor and we paid our writers, and that was fun.

P: Did the committee pick out things for the writers?

K: Yeah, oh, yes. We planned each issue. My term was extended for one more year beyond my three-year term on the Commission. I was on it for three years. They were three-year terms. Then I got an additional term, an additional one year to finish up with the ed board and try to find somebody to hand it on to.

P: So that would have been very recent.

K: Yes. Yeah, I'm doing my last issue right now. I was also chair of Publications and Publications does things like collate employment policies for — women-friendly employment policies for law firms like maternity leave, flex time, and it also takes surveys of participation of women in the various ABA entities. The main thing it did, one of the main things we did was the annual luncheon—Margaret Brent Awards Luncheon at the ABA Annual Meeting. Margaret Brent was the first woman attorney in the US, so an award is given to about five outstanding women every year, people like Sandra Day O'Connor, Janet Reno, various judicial and legal luminaries.

P: So has Janet Reno received this—is this how you knew Janet Reno?

K: Yeah, I interviewed her for the newsletter.

P: Let's talk about Janet Reno for a while.

K: Oh, she's fun. She and I were born in the same year. We were both born in 1938. She grew up in Miami in a house on the edge of the Everglades, and if I hadn't taken a year out between Stanford and Harvard Law we would have been in the same class at Harvard Law. And in sharp contrast to me, she did not get crosswise of anybody at Harvard Law. I got crosswise with everybody at Harvard Law School! So we had an entirely different experience. She was more adaptive, adapted, you know, somebody who kind of gets along and doesn't make waves. So she had a generally good experience at Harvard Law School. Well, at least she said she did.

P: So you both started in '61?

K: I started in '61. If I had stayed I would have been in the Class of '64. She was in the Class of '63, and then she couldn't get a job when she got out of law school either. She found one person who hired her, but anyway she had the same kind of discrimination that Sandra Day O'Connor had, that all women had in those years. She made her career largely in government, never married, totally devoted to the law. The law is her life.

P: And her mother.

K: And her mother—that's right. I'll give you a copy of the interview, since you asked. I'll run a photocopy of it for you.

P: So, have you gotten to interview other famous people through your ABA connections?

K: I've had several conversations with Sandra Day O'Connor, because she comes to the events, the Margaret Brent events, and she got a Margaret Brent, and then I got to know her a little bit through being a lawyer rep to the 9th Circuit lawyer reps.

P: I was going to ask you if you go to the judicial conferences.

K: I did when I was a lawyer rep. She's such a nice person, and she's a Stanford grad, too, so we have that in common.

P: We were discussing the ABA, and I was going to ask you to talk about how your work at the ABA comes back into Oregon. Does that come through the Oregon State Bar?

K: Yeah, through the Oregon State Bar and the Oregon Law Foundation and through OWLS, as well, because the programs I learn about there I bring home, and I also — in prior years the state delegates, the ones who can influence committee appointments didn't even bother to involve people from Oregon in the ABA, and every year I have actively recruited Oregonians to get appointed to committees, so I've got probably a dozen people who wouldn't have gotten appointed to committees appointed to committees. My emphasis has been women and minorities.

<u>OWLS Foundation</u>:

P: Let's talk about the OWLS Foundation. What is the OWLS Foundation?

K: It's a 501(c)(3) organization so that people who want to contribute and get a tax write-off, who want to contribute to the work of Oregon Women Lawyers can do

that. We're building an endowment fund and it's to achieve the advancement of women and minorities in the legal profession. We're building up our endowment and we have something like $30,000 in it. We're spinning off little grants like scholarships to women who could not afford to attend OWLS CLE's. We underwrite speakers for OWLS events like the spring conference which was just on Friday. We paid to have speakers on the program on breast cancer advocacy appear. The person who did that is from Seattle but I got to know him through the Commission on Women in the Profession, so that's what the Foundation does.

P: The breast cancer advocacy program originated with the Commission of Women in the Profession?

K: The ABA Commission, yeah, that commission. So we paid for that. We pay for child care for any single parent—usually a mother— studying for the bar who cannot afford child care. We pay for that. We do it for one from each of the three law schools. We have a little bit of money. We gave the Oregon Minority Lawyers a grant, but I can't remember what we gave them the grant for. But anyway, right now we've got a little bit of money, and we're getting more money together so that OWLS has some money to operate with.

P: The Foundation, now this is separate from the OWLS.

K: Yeah, and so we've got a board which is a lot of fun in part because I have roped a lot of the people into it who were on the original board that founded OWLS. So we get to see old friends from around the state!

P: So, and then, what's been going on with OWLS over the last ten years? We've had the initial grounds it started on, but how do you, what has been your participation in OWLS?

K: Well, not much, because I wanted to get out and not be a shadow, you know, be a member of a shadow board or anything. When my term was up I just stepped back. I continued with the newsletter, ran the newsletter for ten years until they finally let me off of that task.

P: When was that?

K: About two years ago. I just couldn't—I just said there's just gotta be somebody else besides me who can do this! And there was! Terri Kraemer took it over. We had a joint retreat over the weekend, the OWLS board and the OWLS Foundation board. We were out at the Kennedy School. We met for breakfast and we met for lunch, and then we met for a wrap-up session. When the regular OWLS board came into the room where we were meeting I looked at the board and they were all the age of my children. I turned to my good buddy Corky Lai, who is treasurer of the Foundation and was treasurer of the first OWLS board, and I said, "Corky, all these women are the same age as my children" and she said, "Yeah, Katherine,

and they're running the world now!" So that's appropriate! So that's good. They're running it the way, they are emphasizing the programs that are important to them and the activities that are important to them, and so that's just great, because if an organization doesn't grow to serve the needs of the membership, whoever the membership are, it's going to die. So I'm quite content to raise money.

P: So did you—you stayed involved with the Bar—

K: Yes.

Oregon State Bar:

P: —over the past ten years, and what was your involvement with the Bar? And while you're there, think about what, you know, you think about how the bar has evolved and grown in the last ten years.

K: Oh, not as well as OWLS has. The way the Oregon State Bar has grown and evolved is with the growth of the sections. The real action in the Oregon State Bar now is not where it used to be, in the bar committees, but rather in, within family law and litigation and business law. That's where the vitality and the real leaders and the talent are now. So it has changed that way. The remaining structure of the Oregon State Bar itself and the Board of Governors and those committees—the vitality has really gone out of it. The BOG races don't draw the leaders of the leaders. The best lawyers and most civic-minded lawyers in Oregon used to be member of the Board of Governors, and every Board of Governors race was contested. Now they are mostly uncontested. So that's really changed. Ed Harnden, the current leader of the Oregon State Bar, is an outstanding person, but in general you don't have the leadership that you used to have at the BOG.

MCLE:

P: How do you feel about CLE developments over the last ten years?

K: I think it's a darn good idea. When the requirement went into effect, I was a little startled and I thought, "Oh, my God, I'm going to have do something!" but then I realized I'd been accruing 15 or more hours of CLE activity each year of my practice. In fact, every year, every reporting period I have something like 60 or 85 hours instead of the mandatory 45. There was a bunch of us that were keeping ourselves current, but I was just shocked at how many lawyers were not. So I think it's a damn good thing. And I think the requirement, the child abuse reporting requirement is an excellent idea because it makes lawyers alert, at least, to the issue, that there is an issue. Maybe they'll never have it in their practice, but it's consciousness-raising. You know, lawyers are leaders and they ought to have this on the front burner. I also think that there should be a mandatory requirement for diversity training. A lot of people are squawking about that, the ones who are

squawking about it the most are blind to racism and the impact of racism. So I think it's a doggone good thing.

P: Is there any movement to that?

K: Yes. It's being talked about. It's under consideration.

P: Under the bar structure?

K: Yeah, the CLE committee is talking about it.

P: Do you think that MCLE has helped the PLF at all with lawyers' malpractice?

K: I'm sure it has. I'm sure it has.

P: Are you still involved with the PLF?

K: No.

P: At one point you were on a PLF committee, though.

K: Yeah, I was on the board of the PLF, and I was president of the PLF. I was the first woman president of the PLF.

P: Did you follow, what happened to the, now we have a new president now?

K: A new director, Ira Zarov, yeah. Yeah, I followed that. Yep, yep.

P: Let's move to the federal bar, how did you get involved in that?

K: Just going to meetings. That's about all I ever did. I never tried to be an officer in that, I just enjoyed the meetings and the people who were there.

Ninth Circuit Judicial Conferences:

P: And you did go to some of the judicial conferences?

K: Yes, and I got appointed lawyer rep to the LRCC, 9th Circuit LRCC, and that was a lot of fun because you got to meet the federal judges personally and see them other than, you know, they're up there and you're down below in the courtroom.

P: Is that the federal bar association lawyer rep, or the Oregon bar association rep?

K: Oregon bar. It was just a lawyer rep chosen by the federal judges.

P: Did you get to go to the conferences in Hawaii?

K: Yeah, I got to go to one in Maui and then one in Sun Valley, and they had one in Portland—very disappointing.

P: When did they have it in Portland?

K: Oh, gosh, I can't remember the year. It was the last year I was on it. There was a big flap in the newspapers about how much it cost to send all these judges to these exotic climes, and so the year after that flap they came to Portland, so I never got to go to Santa Barbara, which was one of the nicest places.

P: How was Sun Valley?

K: Oh, it was great, great. And those programs—I got appointed to the program committee for the meeting in Sun Valley, and those programs are terrific that are put on! We did one on—I was on the program on arbitration and mediation, and I learned a tremendous amount. Those are great CLE's.

P: Did you meet any of the chief justices such as Sandra Day O'Connor?

K: She's the only one I met — yeah, she's the Ninth Circuit person.

P: Did you have an opinion over the last year or so about the 9th Circuit and/or the Supreme Court that you'd want to share with the public?

K: (Laughing) Oh, let's see. An opinion about the 9th Circuit. I generally like the 9th Circuit because it is generally more liberal and it coincides generally with my political sentiments and my world view.

P: Do you have a view about whether the Ninth Circuit should be split?

K: It makes a whole lot of practical sense to split the 9th Circuit. I hope it never happens because they'll clear-cut the Pacific Northwest and Alaska if the judges in our part of the world were in charge. I don't think it should be split. Of course, if we have enough Republican presidents, it might not make any difference. It might be all conservative. It is fun to see how the courts work. There is a fabulous man—Mark Mendenhall—down in San Francisco. He's the circuit executive. Anyway, he is very intelligent, a very effective person, and he helped Judith Resnik, who was working for the 9th Circuit in some capacity run the gender bias studies in the 9th Circuit, and so I got to know him originally that way. So I helped—Jan Stewart was a person in Oregon assigned to do the gender bias studies for the Oregon District Court, so I got involved with Jan doing that.

P: Was this before she was on the federal bench?

K: No, after she was a federal magistrate. Anyway, I knew him that way, and being on the LRCC, that was one of the great benefits was this terrific staff. We met down at the 9th Circuit. There is nothing like having a lot of money to get good staff!

U.S. District Court Historical Society:

P: Is that how you got involved with the Historical Society, through the federal and that group, or — you were corporate secretary —

K: The District Court Historical Society. That was something else I couldn't get off of. Randall Kester, who is a maritime attorney, he and I had a case together and they needed a secretary for the association. The person who was the secretary before me was Susan Graber, and she got on the Oregon Court of Appeals so she couldn't come to their meetings, so Randall Kester recruited me to be secretary. So I got on and then once I got on Owen Panner wouldn't let me get off until we got the history of the federal court in Oregon published, which was *First Duty*. So I stayed on until we got that book published, and so I ended as president, and that was a good thing to do.

P: It's hard to say "no" to Owen Panner—

K: Yeah. But I've gotten back to him. I've got him on my Legal Heritage Committee for the Oregon State Bar, and I'm not going to let him off until we get the History of the Oregon State Bar published. I'm kidding, of course. He's wonderful to work with.

P: I'm sure that he would love to see that published.

K: Yeah, and he has been very helpful. Oh, what a good idea. Who could say no to that? Remember all those years I didn't say "no" to you?

P: Yeah, and remember all those parties?

K: Yes, they are fabulous. He and Nancy are so generous to have everybody out to the farm.

Campaign for Equal Justice:

P: So let's talk about the Campaign for Equal Justice from 1990 to 1996. Is that through the Bar?

K: No, that's an independent group organized by Lou Savage and Ira Zarov from Legal Aid and Linda Clingan, who's a fundraiser. This was during the time when the federal cutbacks—the federal government was cutting back its support of legal

aid and so Linda Clingan happened to move to Oregon and happened to meet Ira Zarov and Lou Savage. They talked about raising money from the lawyers. They went around and recruited leaders, and I got recruited. I was on the steering committee and then I was chair for three years in a row.

P: Raising money to support legal services?

K: Yes, for legal services.

P: They do try to raise money through the Bar, don't they? It seems like I have seen that in the Bulletin.

K: Yeah, the Oregon Law Foundation. What the Oregon Law Foundation is for is to funnel money from the IOLTA through to Legal Aid, and the other source of money for Legal Aid in Oregon is the filing fee, a part of the filing fee.

P: So, the Campaign for Equal Justice is just a totally separate organization?

K: Yes, totally separate, free-standing, 501(c)(3) and it has an annual campaign to get lawyers to contribute to legal aid. It desperately needs a foundation with an endowment fund so they can put money away, but that hasn't—they're great at raising money every year, but they haven't been able to establish a foundation. I think the foundation is going to have to be within the OLF. The Oregon Law Foundation established an endowment fund. It was one of my hobby horses when I was on the Oregon Law Foundation board that we had to establish an endowment. Now there is an OLF endowment fund, a rainy day fund.

Oregon Law Foundation:

P: We talked about the Oregon Law Foundation board, you served from 1992-1999, —

K: — and I had high hopes that we would —that the Campaign for Equal Justice would work hand in glove with the Oregon Law Foundation in establishing an endowment for Legal Aid, but it's just—it just doesn't sync because of the personalities.

P: How did you get involved in the Oregon Law Foundation? Was it through the Bar?

K: Yeah, how did I get involved in that? Oh, I guess I just volunteered for that, and it's an appointment and I just volunteered and some friends of mine got me appointed to it. There's the Oregon Law Foundation Board. There is a person appointed by the Supreme Court, one appointed by Legal Aid, one appointed by the Board of Governors, and one appointed by the Foundation board itself. I think I was appointed by the Foundation board.

P: What is the purpose of the Oregon Law Foundation?

K: To support Legal Aid. I think 70 percent or 80 percent of the money it gets through IOLTA goes straight, it's just a pass-through to Legal Aid, and the remaining 20 or 30 percent goes to Classroom Law Project and other law-related organizations. There are several other entities in Oregon who serve low income clients like St. Andrews Legal Clinic. There's Oregon Advocacy Center, a clinic in downtown Portland that services the mentally disabled.

P: I think it is called Oregon Advocacy.

K: Yeah, all the names —

P: So, in the 90's, in the second half of the 1990's you were really involved in Legal Aid.

K: Yes, yeah. A very important program which was threatened then, and it seems—well, I was just starting to say things seem stable now, but! With banks consolidating, the decision on the rate of interest to pay on IOLTA accounts is no longer made by some person sitting down in one of those high-rises we see from this window—it's made by somebody in Minneapolis if it's the case of the US Bank, or somebody in Ohio if it the case of KeyBank, and they don't care if everybody in Oregon is mad at them, because they're never going to see anybody in Oregon. The rates have been going down. So there is a significant decrease in revenue this year.

P: So the OLF receives the interest off certain lawyer trust accounts?

K: IOLTA.

P: IOLTA accounts.

K: The rates have been dropping from like 2.5 to 1 percent.

P: Were you involved in setting that up? Did you help in that whole process?

K: No, the IOLTA accounts were set up about 20 years ago. It was a doggone good idea because before that the banks just kept the interest on lawyers' trust accounts.

P: So, how about the Commission on Women. What does that involve?

K: That is the ABA Commission on Women.

P: Oh, okay. We've already talked about that.

K: Yeah, we talked about that.

Woman of Achievement 1999:

P: Did you receive an award for the Woman of Achievement in 1999?

K: In 1999 I did, and it was for my work with Oregon Women Lawyers, and for the work with the Campaign for Equal Justice. I was nominated by some of my friends in Oregon Women Lawyers.

P: Is that one of the ones you were talking about that Janet Reno received?

K: No, that's Margaret Brent, and that comes through the ABA Commission on Women. This is just for Oregon. The other two women honored were Katherine Harris who is chair of the Grand Ronde tribe and a wonderful black senator from North Portland whose name has just —

P: Is it Margaret Carter?

K: There is another one who is just terrific. Anyway, it was a Native American, Katherine Harrison, chief of the Grand Ronde tribe. An African American, Sen. Avel Gordly, and then me. I got it in 1999.

P: That's the State of Oregon.

K: That's the State of Oregon, yeah, through the Oregon Commission on Women.

P: OK, I'm sorry, I guess I thought you said that was through the ABA.

K: No, no. Through Oregon.

Private Practice:

P: Well, before we go to another subject, I wanted to go back for a second. In the very beginning we were talking about the practice of law in the 1990's. We did talk about how you were going to — I wanted to talk a little about what you liked doing and what you haven't liked doing in your practice of law. Now you're a lawyer again. What are some things you have liked about the practice of law, and what is the part you haven't liked?

K: Well, every lawyer in private practice will tell you they don't like keeping timesheets. That's an abomination, having to keep track of time, and billing is a doggone nuisance. Collecting is not a nuisance for us now because we get money in advance, or we deal with another lawyer and the lawyer is going to pay us no matter what happens with the case. So collecting is not a problem, but billing is a nuisance. Keeping track of the time is a nuisance. I don't like the lack of

professionalism from other attorneys on the part of opposing counsel who get their ego involved with that of their client. You know, we're just lawyers. We're trying to get the system to work for other people, and just because I represent someone who has interest opposed to their client does not mean that I am an evil person. It seems like there are more and more jerks in the profession. Maybe they were always there and I just wasn't encountering them.

P: So, are you saying there are people who are personally unpleasant?

K: Yes, yes.

P: You think that that's growing?

K: It seems to be. I don't, but I can't tell whether it's because I'm becoming less tolerant—maybe I just don't like to be bothered with them any more.

P: Are they young people, old people?

K: Mostly young males, and in the last six months I've encountered two women attorneys who must be in their first five years of practice who are rude, just incredible—I just could not believe it! They're taking this aggressive, we're-going-to-do-it-by-the-book type approach instead of just let's figure out how to move this case along in the most expeditious manner.

P: So are these women acting like the men, or are they—

K: Yeah, yeah, just an aggressive male role model. The testosterone approach to the practice of law.

P: Is this in your practice, does this involve the arbitration aspect of your practice?

K: Yeah, these were just attorneys I was trying to get working out—trying to get an arbitration done.

P: So you weren't even an adversary!

K: No! I was the one who was in charge of this! They were going to get me aggravated! I thought this was really stupid! Just because I was suggesting a compromise of their position on scheduling does not mean that I am trying to put their client at a disadvantage, so—

P: So you don't remember that kind of thing 20 years ago?

K: Well, no, because, you know, I don't think, it was so rare to have a woman on the other side of the case, and in those rare instances the women just got along.

P: Well, the lack of professionalism is one thing you do not like.

K: Yeah, I have not liked the lack of professionalism. Let's see, what else have I not liked? Um, I've not liked the hours that it took me away from the house when my kids were younger. I didn't want that at all. I didn't like the stress of being in the big firms and having to deal with stuff that had nothing to do whatsoever with the efficient practice of law, that had to do with egos, I didn't like that at all. It made me sad to see there was a period in the late '80's, early '90's when there were about twice as many lawyers as the market could absorb and that was very sad. I guess I didn't like that—I didn't like to see the overproduction of lawyers.

P: You think that is changing some?

K: The economy—I think it was the baby boomers, the baby boomers were coming through. The baby boomers were coming through the professions and there were too many of them for the professions to absorb, and I think that's changed because the baby boomers are now hitting their 50's, so those who couldn't be absorbed have gone somewhere else.

I haven't liked the racism and sexism I have seen in the practice of law. I haven't liked seeing minorities and women discriminated against in professional advancement and in the courts, as well. That would be about it, that's enough—enough to make you run from the law, perhaps!

P: How about trials, juries?

K: Oh, no, I liked trials and juries, but nobody tries a civil case any more—can't get to trial. Too expensive.

P: Do they make you nervous?

K: No fear. There must be some part of my brain that, you know, says, "You should be nervous about this," but that's not there.

P: Has that been the same with appellate appearances?

K: Yeah.

P: And do you still do that—appeals?

K: Yeah, probably the last appellate case I had to argue was a couple of weeks ago, because I'm not taking any more. With the emergencies I have with my mother I need to just take off and go to Florida, it's just—I can't do the right thing with my clients.

P: So, tell me about that case, what court—

K: Oregon Court of Appeals, and it was a domestic relations case which I usually don't do, and I ended up with it because a very nice woman out in a rural county said, "Would you help me? I just tried this case; it's going to be appealed. Can you help me learn how to do an appeal?" And I said, "Yes, I will help you do that." And after the trial attorney had a falling out with the client, I ended up with the case.

P: So the woman was going to appeal?

K: Yeah, she was going to be the lead, and I was going to edit the brief and give her some ideas, and so they had a falling out and then it was my case.

P: Did they get divorced?

K: Yeah, it was just a spousal support case, very garden-variety, and much to my surprise there I was in a domestic relations case in the Court of Appeals.

P: So you like Court of Appeals work!

K: Oh, yes. We used to—when I was at Schwabe we were down in Salem, we were in court almost every week with a couple of cases. We really ground them out.

P: How do you feel about how the Oregon Court of Appeals has evolved over the last 20 years?

K: I'm very enthusiastic, I'm very high on the Oregon Court of Appeals and the quality. There is a very high quality of judges down there now. There were some real losers on the Court of Appeals. The Supreme Court, on the other hand, seems to have gone to sleep down there. At least some members are asleep. Doggone hard to get an opinion out of the Oregon Supreme Court.

P: But the Court of Appeals has young people—

K: It's got young people and enthusiastic people with a good work ethic.

P: So you like trials and you like writing . . .

K: Yes, I enjoy writing appellate briefs, it's a lot of fun.

P: Are there particular subjects that you like?

K: I loved the admiralty work. I really loved the admiralty work because it was arcane and historic and the cases recited, you know—this principle was established in 1740, and it was not—there was a lot of statutory work if you're in a, doing a tugboat case because work along the coast is closely regulated, but if

you are doing ocean-going ships it's not statutory. It's affected by treaty and common law and contract and so it's a little more free-wheeling—and romantic. And there was also a very small bar. The admiralty bar is very small. There was a nice collegiality, as is the appellate bar. It's very small.

P: So is there anything in your practice of law that you haven't gotten to do that you really wanted to do?

K: Well, every appellate attorney wishes he or she got to argue in the U.S. Supreme Court, and I'm admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court and I have filed petitions in the U.S. Supreme Court—petitions for cert and responded to petitions for cert, but nothing was ever accepted so I've never argued in the U.S. Supreme Court. And I would have liked to have done that. I'd love to go over, and go on to the shrine. I know appellate practitioners, people who practice in front of the U.S. Supreme Court and they are not any more able or nimble than I am.

Senator Packwood:

P: Well, so I wanted you to tell me the story of being involved, getting involved with Bob Packwood.

K: Oh, gosh, yeah, Bob Packwood! I was always a big supporter of his over the years, and I knew, always knew that he was having affairs with various women. In fact, I knew some of the women, but I didn't know he was assaulting women until it came out in the Washington Post, and that was pretty bad. If Bob Packwood had said, "I did it, it was a mistake; I won't do it again," he'd still be a United States Senator. But then he started attacking the women and I thought, "Oh, no!" And then Betty Roberts called me and said, "We've got to do something about this. Will you represent a woman?" And I said, "Well, if I do that it's like hitting the king—you have to kill him." I said, "If I do that and I want to get an appointment to the 9th Circuit, that's the end of that." And so she said, "Well, I'm just offering this to you." You know, she wasn't putting the screws to me, so I decided the principle was more important than—the principle was most important. So Betty found a woman for me to represent.

P: Talk about a difficult decision.

K: Oh, yeah! Well, there were—let's see, how was—oh, it wasn't a case, it was a—the Senate was investigating Packwood, and so the FBI was sent out here to take depositions of women who said that they would go back and testify against Packwood. I attended the deposition of one of these women who related her experiences. And then there were dozens and dozens of women that he had assaulted—just, he was like some kind of dog in the street!

P: What was the public reaction?

K: Well, people found out that — everybody was — we all knew this, but none of us knew that he was assaulting women. Women would say, "He came up behind me and grabbed me and kissed me on my neck, and I was doing nothing but standing there talking to somebody else." And so when it came out that he had done this to one person and then he started attacking the character of that person. Somebody else speaks up and he starts attacking the character of that person. Then everybody is outraged and more and more women come forward. There were women all over the country that had, you know, that had been, they had been a page fifteen years before and then — a Senate page and then had gone home and got married and raised their kids, but they always remembered the horrible experience they had when they were in an elevator with Packwood. So I —

P: So Betty Roberts called you to represent one of them at an interview with the FBI?

K: Yeah, yeah, a deposition with the FBI. And that's what I did. And then I helped Betty raise money and put her in contact with women attorneys, women's bar associations around the country who also helped her raise money and then raise consciousness.

P: And it turned out?

K: And he went away! Which shows he has more shame than Bill Clinton, who did not go away! So that was an interesting process, because I didn't think he would go away.

P: And did you think it ruined your chance to get into the 9th Circuit?

K: No.

P: But this was back in 1995—

K: Yeah, and I hadn't given up. People kept urging me to try to do that, and I hadn't definitively said "no". The thing that was strange is that Elaine Franklin, who is now his wife, and Marcia Ohlemiller, who was his legislative assistant, they are both good friends of mine. I have known them for years, because I had been a Packwood supporter, and so, and Marcia Ohlemiller didn't know about Packwood's pecadillos because she did her job and went home. She wasn't hanging around while he was drinking wine out of a box, so that was an odd contretemps.

P: Then he marries Elaine Franklin and lives in Lake Oswego.

K: Really? Is that where he is?

P: Yes. He lives down by Bishops Palace, there. Well, let's talk just for a couple of minutes, I have a couple of questions about Toby, and then we'll move back to something else. Does Toby practice the same type of law that you do?

K: He does just appeals.

P: And so, you did really—did you work together on cases, or do you just—

K: Yeah, yeah, some of them we would hand off to each other. I'd help on aspects of them and he'd pitch in and do some research for me if I was swamped on something.

P: Are you thinking about retiring and trying to do other things now?

K: Yes.

P: So when you have a day off, what do you like to do?

K: Go down to the beach house in Long Beach, work in the garden.

P: Do you still live in Washington? Still thinking about moving back?

K: Yes. I don't know if we'll get back—darn inertia. You know, inertia.

P: So you have had a beach house all along in Long Beach, and—

K: No, just had it for about the last five years, and we like to kayak. There is some wonderful kayaking available in Willapa Bay between the Long Beach Peninsula and the mainland, and then there's nice kayaking on the lower Columbia as well, so we left our sea kayaks at the beach house.

P: Is he also involved in political-type things, or are you the family representative?

K: No, well, he's on the Oregon Law Foundation Board now, and he was on the Board of Governors for a while, and he goes to the ABA meetings to, he's very concerned about funding for Legal Services, so he goes to the ABA meetings involved with that.

P: I'd think you've made your family contribution to the Bar.

K: Yes, I have.

P: So, I was thinking we could summarize some of your life with some questions.

K: Sure, we can give it a try.

P: Can you talk about some events in your life, your younger life, that led you down the path to the legal profession, and I remember your talking about how you hadn't thought about legal work until quite a bit later.

K: Yeah. I hadn't thought about it at all, and then after I graduated from Stanford and I went to work for the Republican National Committee in DC, and even though I was Phi Beta Kappa, summa cum laude graduate from Stanford and bilingual with training in international relations, the only job I could get was as a secretary. And the critical event in my going to law school was the guy I worked for at the Republican National Committee, Tommy Ray Van Sickle from Kansas, was about half as smart as I was and about half as, had about half the work ethic, and I was running the office, doing the strategy for the Young Republican Division, writing the materials, he was getting paid four times as much, and I was supposed to make the coffee when he showed up. And I realized that I would be a secretary for the rest of my natural life unless I got a professional degree, so that's—and I had a choice. I was accepted into the Ph.D. program at Harvard and the law program. And I—it was a hard choice because the Ph.D. sounded like a whole lot more fun, but then at the Republican National Committee they had some resident eggheads to do research, and so I looked at the resident eggheads and looked at the people who were working up on the Hill getting things done, and I thought, "It's lawyers that get things done, not eggheads. By God, I'm going to get something done with my life. I'm going to be a lawyer." So that's why I went to law school. If I had, I guess if I had a Stanford degree in biology instead of political science, maybe I would have gone to medical school.

P: That was the Ph.D. program at Harvard?

K: Yes.

P: So, one of the people who most profoundly impacted your choice of —

K: Yes, it was that jerk! (Laughing) —who later became Kansas State Treasurer and, yeah. When he took his LSATs he was in the 24th percentile, and then when I took my LSATs I was somewhere in the mid-90th percentile.

P: Was he your age?

K: Yeah, just about exactly my age.

P: And before that had you—

K: No, had no interest whatsoever in becoming a lawyer, just had no—you know, since all the doors are closed, you don't focus on what you're going to do. I just assumed that I would be like my mother and get married and help a man in his career, run a house. I know how to run a house, arrange flowers, get the dinner, you know, do a dinner party.

P: There was somewhere probably in the last twelve hours of material that — how was it that you got the job at the Republican National Committee?

K: One of my professors at Stanford was there and I don't know how I got into conversation with him about what I was going to do after I graduated, but somehow he said, "Well, I'm going to DC; if you want a job in DC, contact me." So I had nothing in mind when I graduated. I would have loved to have gone to the foreign service; I would have really loved that, but I—

P: Did you apply?

K: Women couldn't apply.

P: So you didn't apply?

K: No. I would have loved to have been a missionary for the Presbyterian Church, but women couldn't go. So—

P: How did you feel about the fact that you couldn't even apply?

K: Oh, everybody knew they just didn't accept women, applications from women.

P: And that's changed with the Foreign Service.

K: It has, yeah. There was a huge, huge lawsuit, huge lawsuit, yeah, in the 1980's.

P: So, do you have advice to give to your granddaughter who is trying to decide whether the legal profession is a good career for her? And she might have to decide that.

K: So many people become lawyers because they have a humanities degree undergraduate and they don't know what to do when they go out to get a job. They realize that they need more education and you can go to law school if you—it's easy to get into law school. It's like they fall into the career. They don't learn enough about the different aspects of practice and what it's like every day when a lawyer gets up and goes to work and what a lawyer does during the day. They don't see if there is something there that you think is worthwhile putting your whole life after. Some people do it for the money, but I don't think she'll be motivated to do anything for money. But if it is something she would enjoy and either the work as a lawyer is your passion or your work as a lawyer gives you the skills and the time to do something that's your passion, then do it. There are lots of different ways you can use your law degree.

P: What do you think it takes to be a good lawyer?

K: Intelligence, good work ethic, a fine education, good people skills, ability to focus, and the love of having good colleagues. Yep, that's it.

P: So, if you could go back in time and sit down with that young woman, the Yale graduate who walked away from her career, what do you think you would say to her?

K: If I had been able to get to her in the late '80's I would have, given the resources we had in the late '80's, I would say, "Go get yourself a therapist, establish a community of supporters within the legal profession, specifically go to Queen's Bench and luncheons, go to Queen's Bench social events, and find women who practice in an area that you practice in. Get some emotional and practical support in the way that you practice law. Join the Y and run around the track every day after work. Get a dog, go to church on Sunday or the synagogue on Friday night, or meditate." But now, we have OAAP, Oregon Attorney Assistance Program, which runs many of the programs that were first established by OWLS. So I would tell her, "Call up one of the women counselors at OAAP and tell them you're having a crisis." The OAAP will find somebody to help you sort out your practice. They will physically go into your law office and say, 'Let's sit down and look at these files and see where they are.'" A fabulous resource, and OWLS has mentoring programs, and the Multnomah Bar Association has mentoring programs. You can sign up for the MBA and get a mentor assigned to you in your first year of practice. OWLS has mentoring programs, OWLS has all kinds of social activities, ways you can plug in now. There's also Inns of Court that have been established as well if you're going to stay in litigation, join one of the Inns of Court.

P: And you say you had that kind of support when you began your law practice?

K: No. Absolutely not.

P: How did you get through it?

K: Well, not with a lot of grace. I had — all of the support and mentoring I had is a young lawyer who is — from men. Bob Leedy, who is still a good friend of mine who is 91 or 92, I worked with him a lot when I was at Bullivant, and I also worked with Charles Wright, who died at 93 a couple of years ago. So they taught me lawyering, but they couldn't, because they were very senior then, they couldn't protect me from the ravages of the younger partners. At Schwabe, when I went to Schwabe the people who—oh, and when I started there were some women who helped me, because when I started at Bullivant I met for lunch with some of the women who were in my class at Lewis & Clark Law School and we talked about our cases, so there was that group of women. And then when I went to Schwabe and started doing comp work, I had never seen comp work before. One of the partners, a couple of the partners at the Pozzi firm who actually were opposed to me on many cases, we sat down and talked about comp. So some of

the Pozzi partners were very helpful to me at that stage. And Bob Udziela who was the lead, and Ray Convoy, both of them who were appellate counsel at the Pozzi office, we would sit around and talk about the practice. When I was, and the admiralty boys at Schwabe, the trial section at Schwabe was all male, and they used to be very helpful to me, but there weren't any—when I went to Schwabe there was one woman partner, Neva Campbell, and she was very careful about her position and didn't want to be identified as a woman or hang out with women.

P: So do you think that the practice of law has changed for young women?

K: Oh, absolutely!

P: Is it the support mechanisms, or is it the culture, or—?

K: Well, the support is there now. The profound thing that has changed is that law firms need women. Before they affirmatively did not want to have women around, now they need women to meet the demands of their clients. In order to–because there is an increasing percentage of lawyers in graduating classes are women, so in order to get the women they have to—they can get the women, but in order to keep the women they mentor them and provide, if the women want it, some kind of flexible arrangement so the women who have children—not all law firms do, which is why the women leave in droves. And the reason the law firms want women now in addition to there being an increasing percentage of women graduating is that clients are now, there are now women in positions to give and businesses to give out the work, so the clients say, "Well, I want women associates working on this. I want minority associates working on this case" so you have to have them there. So the economics—instead of being pariahs, women attorneys are now sought after.

P: Well, do you think the men have changed?

K: No, no. The clients have changed. No, the men have not changed. The men have not changed. You know, some men have; the generation that is under 40, those who have kids —another thing that has happened is law students, law students are marrying each other, so that you'll have two lawyers in practice, and then you have a baby and the man who stays in that marriage realizes that you need to have more flexibility in the way the practice of law is run. So they are more humane. Many of those under 40 men want to go home and be with their families, just as women have mostly wanted to do.

P; So you do think the practice has changed some for younger men?

K: Yes. Very much so. Law firm structures have not, in that if you want to be a successful partner you really have to work terrible hours.

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