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ORAL HISTORY OF HOUSTON PROJECT

Priscilla Hunt
University of Houston Oral History Project

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PH: My sister, I never heard of Polly Cowan I didn't know any of those New Jersey people at all. Of course I knew Ruth Batson here but most of the people I didn't. I did know Gerry Kohlenberg because all our kids went to Shady Hill where she taught. But somebody must have dropped out of the New Jersey group, so my sister called who was going, Helen Meyner, you know. So I said, "Yeah I'd really like to go down," but I could not get to the meeting beforehand, which was really too bad. I didn't really know what the whole thing was about. I thought of it more as learning rather than helping the family that we stayed with. And I never got that in my head because we were talking with the family that night until about 2:00 in the morning, and I forgot her name, Levin . . . Harriet was it?

DH: Hannah.

PH: Hannah Levin and I just thought, "She's got to let these poor people go to sleep. He has to get up and work in the morning." I mean I sort of missed that whole thing that this is once in a lifetime. Wanted to find out everything we could about them and they wanted to know what we could do to help and we understood and all those things that you write up so well, and I was really not up on all of that. Of course I stayed up and listened and talked to them. But I really wasn't, the more I read now I realize that I

missed a lot by not going to the pre-trip meeting down in New Jersey. I forget why I couldn't do it. It was the last minute that I guess I joined or something. Anyway I did go down for the one after. I don't remember too much about that. Isn't that strange?

DH: The debriefing.

PH: The debriefing, I don't.

DH: I actually have a . . .

PH: I know you did write me.

DH: A copy of the transcript from that.

PH: But I don't think I need that.

DH: No, you don't need it. I just had offered it in case it was of interest to you.

PH: As talking about the motivation I would do anything like that because my mother was very involved with civil rights. My father was president of Oberlin (which I was telling you was very had a big history). It was a very lucky thing actually. Because well first of all Oberlin was the first country to give . . . the first college to give the same degree to men and women. Because they were training way back in the 30's, 1830's or late 20's and 30's a missionaries basically that's what they were doing, and then they decided the trustees, or whatever,, realized that you can't send some poor guy out to China for goodness sake, alone. So he should have a wife and she should be educated. I mean you don't want to talk to somebody that doesn't know what you are talking about. So that's why they gave the same degree. Now other places in the South, and I forgot their names will say, "Oh no we gave women degrees a lot earlier than that" but it was not the same as the men's degree. I don't know it was, "she came here for four years" or whatever it said but it wasn't a real degree. So my mother was very involved, very

interested in Civil rights and always had been. I don't know whether it was because she was overseas during the war or what. But she was very involved in Oberlin. She had me work for every Saturday for Phillis Wheatley group of kids and because Oberlin was not as good as it sounds. I mean lost after all of that. Then it became very, a lot of black people came because there was a lot of trouble down somewhere, some theological place in the South, my memory is gone. So it said that they would take all the faculty, the faculty down in this place said, "No we can't have any black people." So Oberlin suggested that they all come up (I think it was a very theological group because Oberlin was very involved in the missionaries as you know). So eventually they all came and Oberlin had troubles. There were a lot of faculty who were not interested in a whole lot of black people (professors or students) coming up but they came and so and had a very good history. But then my mother sort of felt that it wasn't keeping up, so she got very involved. I don't think the roads were paved in that part of Oberlin where she used to go and pick up people who would help her because she had big parties for the students and the faculty you know she did a lot of entertaining. Anyway so that's . . . and she went down actually now that I think of it. I couldn't see the date, she went down with a group of students to Columbus to sit in at a lunch counter at a 10 cents store (whatever Franklin, whatever . . .) and she drove because there were no cars, you weren't allowed to have a car so she drove a whole lot of students down and they sat in at this lunch counter. And things like that so I was always interested in what she was doing and I had this little group of black kids Phillis Wheatley a little club kids on Saturdays and what not. So there was no problem for me as soon as my sister mentioned it. I never heard of it of course. I said, "Yeah sure I'd love to come." Also, because I was the younger sister but I

always had to do things first. She was a little timid. If there was a big high diving board, she wouldn't think of going off of it unless she saw that I lived through it. And when she got married (after me) I said, "I always had to do everything first" and I'm so glad she finally caught on and got married. But anyway there was no question, and I had no misgivings, and my husband was supportive and all that. So that was a long time ago. I had no idea until really I read your piece that it was quite as dangerous as all that, and that you shouldn't be riding in interracial cars (which we did when we went to Hattiesburg). I don't know quite what happened between . . . we were the 7th of course trip right?

DH: Yes. I'm going to move this a little. I'm going to move this one closer to you.

PH: Oh okay.

DH: Yes that didn't happen until the later trips. In fact one of my questions for Susie [Goodwillie Stedman] is because at first they had debated and decided that, "No that was too dangerous" but then later it did change and that's going to be one of my questions for her is how and why they made that choice to change.

PH: Yeah.

DH: So things did sort of get easier the more . . .

DH: The later teams were able to do a few things that the earlier teams could not do. But it's interesting also I guess you read the part where, about the Molotov cocktail that was thrown and I found something in the paperwork that said, "Polly consciously did not tell the next team" which it was the team from Cambridge.

PH: No we never heard, Boston . . .

DH: _____

PH: No we never heard of any Molotov cocktails.

DH: No she didn't say a word because nothing came of it.

PH: It pooped!

DH: So why worry people. But there were multiple occasions where things happened at the Freedom Schools or whatever after teams had left. But I don't think it was related to the teams.

PH: I never heard a word about any problem that might come up at a Freedom School for instance.

DH: No I think it was really just a matter of that was the climate and those things were happening in churches, and Freedom Schools, or whatever. I don't think it happened because a WIMS team had been there.

PH: No. Well I was naive because it never occurred to me that they would want the publicity of blowing up a car with women from the North. I mean you know that wouldn't do them any good on anything. They could lock you up maybe because you broke the law. Like as you said the turning the signs wrong and we knew very well about the fact that the stop signs. If you stopped they knew you were from out of town and if you didn't stop they could easily arrest you for that. That's the only thing I ever remember hearing, and I guess I thought it was maybe we weren't supposed to be . . . as we were separated at the airport, black and white, I don't know why I didn't figure out that we should perhaps . . . maybe because I didn't go to the original meeting before the thing that nobody ever said we should . . . there's only one car what are we going to do we are all going someplace. So that was very interesting reading your piece because that

just didn't come up. And we had already had Schwerner, and Chaney and Goodman because that had happened before hadn't it?

DH: It had. In fact I think their bodies had been found by the time your team was there.

PH: Yeah but we didn't eat with the black did we? I've lost . . . I've forgotten. Did we got to the black part of Jackson and eat? I can't remember I don't know but we certainly didn't mix but we went to that rally at that wonderful black church about that was trying to get all the black families to send their kids to the first grade or kindergarten, first grade and I don't have the feeling that anyone was watching who was going in and out there was so many people, and probably not so many white but we were there. How many were we, six maybe seven but there must have been other whites or I would have noticed that we were so lonely, or alone or whatever. So I just never felt any of the problems. I guess I was lucky. But I was not very helpful with the family that we stayed with I'll have to admit because I didn't realize how important that was at the time. Nobody told me that, and I should have picked it up on my own to give them the support and what could we do and so forth. But I think it's in your piece that she would love to—because I was very involved with the League of Women Voters and the YWCA—she would love to join the League of Women Voters I don't think she did because her husband would lose his job. I felt like saying, "What? It can't be." But that was very typical of course.

DH: They lost . . . The League of Women Voters lost a large part of their membership because of threats to their husband's jobs.

PH: Yeah. You know before I got married, or let's see it was about 1951 I was working in New York for the American Association for the United Nations and I ran the . . .what was it the National Student Contest on the U.N. that was my job. And the education department I got all the, they gave me all the letters that people wrote from all over the country. "Of course we don't know anything about the U.N. It's communist and I've got some . . ." kids writing these letters. Probably, maybe their teachers were telling them what to say I don't know but some horrible things about the U.N. and everything. I just kept them and I don't know why. Finally some . . . I said, "What am I going to do with . . ." oh I switched jobs and I didn't want to . . . the second job had nothing to do with the U.N. So I asked around and they said, "Send them to the Southern Poverty Law Center down in Atlanta" down in Atlanta is it? I forget now I should know. My mind is gone . . . anyway so I have become very interested in that, and I sent all the letters down there and actually I'm hoping very much I could get Lee's, the man who started it to get a Harvard degree. I'm working on that, but I have no say whatsoever. I'm just laying hints here and there because what he's done. Then I sent some money. I was working literally for $50 a week or something, but I sent money down because they needed bail for a lot of these black people that they knew were just locked up for no good reason. So that always interested me that these people really thought these things in the North about the South. So then I thought, "Oh my God what are they thinking?" and "What do they think in the South?" and that's what they think. All over the country I got these letters from people that were . . . because every high school, no there were about 3,000 high schools that signed up for their students to take this test and first prize was a trip to Europe which they all thought was absolutely the most fantastic thing ever. Of course the kids would say,

"Is that all?" nowadays. What else? Aren't you going to give us $50,000 for school admissions?

DH: Really!

PH: Anyway that was a part to me of wanting to see what goes on down there. If all these . . . I can't even remember the letters but you would have been flabbergasted at some of them. But of course that was a long time ago in the 50's.

DH: But they were still saying that in the 60's in the South.

PH: Yeah.

DH: About the U.N.

PH: About the U.N. I know, I know.

DH: They were still saying that.

PH: That's what reminded me of it because of the League of Women Voters. I mean not that they . . .

DH: Right they had a representative from the U.N. that was going to come and speak. It was a brother or brother-in-law of one of the women that had befriended WIMS.

PH: Oh that was going to come down . . .

DH: Yeah was going to come and speak from the U.N. and caused the big uproar about them being involved with the communist organization.

PH: Yeah. Gosh it's so simplistic isn't it? Just black and white! Communist or whatever else. Well I was . . . that's the only thing I had. I don't know . . . nobody. Was mine was the League of Women Voters group from Boston right? Or was it YWCA? I can't remember.

DH: I think it was . . .

PH: New Jersey . . .

DH: League of Women Voters.

PH: Was New Jersey.

DH: Well often times there was someone from teams that represented multiple organizations, so it could have been the Y or the League of Women Voters. There could have been people from . . .

PH: Both.

DH: Both.

PH: But as I recall there was supposed to be concentrating and the one that I, New Jersey was not the one that I would have chosen because at that time I was more interested as far as civil rights was the . . . the YWCA. The League, I sort of lost it . . . well no I was vice president at that time, but we weren't studying the U.N. at that moment and the YW worried me because after I got back because I guess I wrote to realize that they . . . no I'll tell you what before that and I'd been on the board and I was president for many years of the Travers Aid Family Services in Boston and there's a national Travers Aid in Washington and we had to send not much money, but every branch had to send $150 or something to the national down in Washington Travers Aid. And it wasn't me but a friend of mine . . . that was President just before me went down to the meeting and she came back and I've never forgotten it, and she said, "We have got to secede. They are doing nothing but spending all our money on this big party down in Washington once a year for all the branch people to come; a board person and the executive director." So that's what we did at a lot of the other family services of Travers Aid did the same thing. We started a whole another group. There is another group of all

of us down in Washington now. But that's what gave me the idea, I think, that the YWCA should absolutely secede from . . . [speaking about cat:] oh gosh she's going to be a pain. She'll settle down I promise as soon as she figures you out.

DH: She's fine.

PH: I can't remember if it was before or after. It must have been before that was the Travers Aid because that is what gave me, we were having a meeting at the YWCA and I brought it up I remember, and I'm sure a lot of other Y's felt the same way that you couldn't be a part of an organization that had separate but equal branches. I said, I did not go to the YWCA either black or white one because I think my group was League more than . . . I don't know if the Boston group went to the YWCA in Jackson. I suspect they might have. But we didn't. So I said we didn't go there but I heard about it, and they claim it is just as nice, and they've built it up nicely and blah, blah, blah. But I said, "I think we just can't do that." So our voice was one that got to the national. So then the next two years every single YWCA had to study institutional racism. So I was a big part of that and training, we had training programs on the other Y's. There's only two others in the Boston area. So that was to me very helpful. You know because I had never heard of . . . I didn't know what was going on in Jackson with the YWCA. I had no way of knowing that and all the other southern states must have been just as bad. Jackson may have the nicest black YWCA in all the southern states, for all I know but it's not the same we all know that.

DH: Right just to be separate is not, makes it not the same. But they were . . . they did open a new Y in Jackson I think it was in '65.

PH: Interracial?

DH: At first no.

PH: No?

DH: But then they combined the next year I believe. Dorothy Height became the chair of interracial initiative for the Y.

PH: Yeah, good for her.

DH: In 1965, I think it was, after that things change. Well and the law changed.

PH: Yeah.

DH: You know right at that time so there were a lot of, there were multiple pieces that were starting to fall into place.

PH: Unless the government was sponsoring it and cut off all their money, I mean you could get around the law in so many different ways.

DH: Right.

PH: Couldn't you?

DH: True.

PH: I don't know. Well anyway I hope they are all joining the League of Women Voters. But you know that's kind of sad (at least in Cambridge) because there's just so many other things now. We had to give up our League of Women Voters here.

DH: Really?

PH: Well you know there was some people that started working for Planned Parenthood, and others for maybe civil rights organizations,, I was very interested in homelessness (which we are still doing of course at Travers Aid that's the big thing) so everybody had their other thing and they just, it just petered out and I'm telling you the state League of Women Voters has never, ever forgiven us. They haul us over the coals

about it. But I couldn't put it together. It wasn't only my job of course but a lot of us couldn't. So that was sad. So I couldn't very well find out why they are not having more doing more work with that down in the South because we are having trouble with it here in the North. There was so many things where you could just put full time into. Like Tutoring Plus, a lot of people said, "I can't I'm tutoring down at the high school three days a week" or stuff like that. So I think in a way it was good from that point of view that it stirred people up to do something, but I feel sort of sad about the League because you learn so much. It was a great way to learn about the community. Because that's the first thing I did when we came up here from New York, signed up to find out what was going on. So where are we on the list?

DH: Well we've taken care of three of our questions, but let's get the first one done on the Y. Let's go to . . .

PH: Where did I put it?

DH: Is that it over there?

PH: Oh yes, I thought this was the one to sign or whatever.

DH: Okay let's talk about the question 3, how important was it to the project's success to go as proper ladies?

PH: See I didn't know anything about that.

DH: Do you think that it helped with the people that you met?

PH: I didn't meet as many people as all that, white people, I didn't, except for the people we stayed with, and I'm not a particularly proper lady and I don't think I ever heard that terms, I certainly didn't hear that term as far as the WIMS was concerned I had no idea.

DH: Well I think that was their . . .

PH: Because we had people from all classes and ages and everything.

DH: Well I think it was their goal to have said that.

PH: Of course I didn't know the others from New Jersey you see. That was my problem. I would have known more if I had gone with the Cambridge group or the Boston group. Of course I knew my sister and a few others. I didn't know anybody else at all, I'm wrong. She's the only one I knew. So I just assumed we were a completely interracial, not that interracial, there were a couple black people, women but we were all different classes and religions and interests and that's all I knew, so I can't be very helpful on that one.

DH: Do you think women have an advantage in the effort to bring about change?

PH: Oh yeah. Well your piece sort of helped me with that one. Oh definitely I think women are so important that way. The thing that we ran up against is of course is if your husband is going to lose his job you can't really tell some woman to do something. Well we weren't telling anybody to do anything, but feel that they would get the impression I'm sure from us that we would support anything that they wanted to do, but then if they had a husband who is going to lose his job, I mean . . . let's see what does this say to bring about change . . .oh just showing support and going to the Freedom Schools and all that. That people would come all the way down. I mean a lot of people must have been impressed; all these women packed up and came on down and wanted to see the Freedom Schools and talk to people. And of course the education for their kids and their kids, some of them must have . . . well we didn't see our children of the people that we stayed with (that I remember) but just I mean word had just gotten around. All these people are

coming down. They are interested in talking to people in going to rallies and Freedom Schools, I don't remember we must have but I didn't see it. They were giving books and, notebooks and pens or anything like that. I missed that, but I'm assuming that our group must have done that for Hattiesburg, but I didn't see it. I never saw that. And I was not good about figuring out what I could send personally. I never got involved with that either, if there was any way I could help not Hannah but my . . . (what was her name?) hostess if there was anything . . .

DH: Vockroth.

PH: If there was anything . . .

DH: Vockroths I can't remember her first name, Danelle or something.

PH: I have it in my papers. That I didn't know anything about; if there was any way I could have said, "Is there anything I can do to help you to send any papers?" I was out of all that. So I was a little naughty in a way because I didn't know that we were supposed to see how we could help them if there was any way we could help them. I just figured we'd get back and talk about it when we got home. So did that answer anything? Oh women . . . oh yes women. I don't know in the South if they have so much influence on their husbands but I think everywhere they do. Pillow talks right?

DH: Yes.

PH: The next question . . . [How do you feel your presence was received by the local women you met?] Well our host and hostess I think were very acceptable of us and interested. I can't say that I met so many local people that I could answer that particular question. I never met anybody that said, "What are you doing here?" or anything negative ever. But I didn't meet that many people. The main thing to me was that rally

on Tuesday night at the church. Oh there must have been 8 or 10 speakers, very moving about how "After all the work that has gone in to getting these schools integrated you don't have the . . . you don't have the (what were the words) you don't have the nerve . . ." no that's not the right word. "You cannot not register your children" or whatever. It just came so clear and you thought . . . and you think about your own kids, if it was your kids. You know we had that wonderful, that wonderful picture of that little white girl do you remember, that Norman Rockwell did, did you ever see that? [Rockwell's "The Problem We All Live With," 1963]

DH: I'm not familiar with the one . . .

PH: She's the first little girl that went to a school. I don't think it was kindergarten but I wish I could dig that up for you I might try and show it to you tomorrow. She's the cutest little black girl you ever saw in your life and her little white and pink dress and she's got little pigtails with little pink bows and she's surrounded by these . . . she's about this big and she's surrounded by these great big police man who have been told (by Washington) get that . . . that child is going to go in school and everybody around going . . . looking like they said just the most awful things. And here's this little girl and I just thought, "Oh my God, if I was that mother" . . . you know it's almost too much to ask people. But they, of course, had been through so much and knew that it was right to do it. But you just have to give them a lot of credit. I've never forgotten that. They had to take taxis to register their children for school because otherwise they would be tracked down from their licenses. I mean just the whole thing it's just amazing to me. That was the thing that I got the most out of. I've never forgotten that night listening to those people. Well as far as the Vockroths were concerned, the other thing I really remember I

should have looked at my report and see if there was any (well you had that anyway) was the husband's job. I mean you can't go to meetings and so on and so forth if your husband is going to get fired. I mean pure and simple. And I don't know whether, how that ever changed. Do you know do you have any idea? Any recent in the late 60's or 70's . . . could people white women join The League of Women Voters? I'm sure it wasn't interracial but . . .

DH: I don't know so much about Jackson. I know in Atlanta it changed but they actually had . . . the reason I know about Atlanta is because I sat on a panel with a woman who wrote about the Atlanta League, and they actually had people leaving the League because they wanted to make the meetings interracial. Then . . . officially it became their position to be interracial, and I think it was just a matter of over time people adjusted to that idea.

PH: What would happen to the first person to join and then her husband got fired? I supposed that was just his tough luck and it didn't happen again.

DH: I honestly don't know that people did get fired.

PH: No.

DH: As much as the threat of being fired.

PH: Because they . . .

DH: There were people and I don't know that it was about the League necessarily, but Polly Cowan told a story about someone who was in the insurance business and he basically spoke out saying, "You know this is the law of the land now and we should be supportive" and he lost his job.

PH: Oh he did yeah.

DH: And there were other instances of things like that. I don't . . . I'm not saying it didn't happen with the League I'm just saying . . .

PH: No.

DH: I haven't come across a specific thing.

PH: No I understand. I'm sure there have been a lot of firings, there must have been a lot of firings on the first part of it, women and men and so forth. But I guess, you sort of, maybe it just kind of wears out after a while and people say . . . "No we need him. We can't fire him." So he's there and somebody else says, "Well they kept Jim over there." I hope that's the way it happened, and that people didn't get hurt or anything.

DH: And I think gradually probably it became less and less of an issue as other things, took precedence, other issues moved to the forefront.

PH: Well think of when Polly went down there how secretive she had to be as she was setting the whole thing up. Then the beginning I saw that the women was from your book, or of your piece that the women had to stay, the white women had to stay in hotels and then that . . . then that changed. So it was amazing in just one summer. Because my sister was supposed to . . . what was that in your piece . . . my sister was supposed to stay with a Presbyterian minister or something.

DH: Right.

PH: And then he said, "No couldn't do that." My sister was not religious I had to get a little bit of a laugh.

DH: It's okay.

PH: My daughter is married to a bishop

DH: Oh boy.

PH: So we have to be careful what we say at our family. An Episcopal bishop of Ohio so now we are very careful about what we say. But we're not . . . my husband is more church going than I am. I was interested that she couldn't stay with that minister, that he didn't dare, although he apologized right or something from your?

DH: Right, the wife did. And your sister actually had a, I'm almost positive this is her piece, was in the newspaper about the power of prayer. What she . . . I guess something she observed in the South, the power of prayer to bring different people together as a unifying . . .

PH: Mechanism.

DH: Element.

PH: Yeah. Well that's the truth it does all right, hopefully. It certainly separates people right now, gosh. Tribal, it's not working tribally, religiously is it in the Middle East?

DH: No it isn't.

PH: Okay, [reading: You and Hannah Levin stayed at the home of the Vockroths who were very progressive. What do you remember about them or the challenges they faced being pro-civil rights in Mississippi at that time?]

DH: We talked about the Vockroths . . .

PH: I should remember more about them isn't that awful? Then the next one [In one of your reports you commented about Jackson that if the people don't like their church, they change the minister rather than themselves. Do you recall what gave you that impression?] That I don't understand. I don't think I ever said that.

DH: No?

PH: No. I never heard that.

DH: Maybe.

PH: Maybe the Vockroths said that but I forgotten.

DH: Maybe. I just finished reading a book called, *The Agony of Galloway* and actually it seems to have been true. I've come across now multiple places like in Hattiesburg and that may have been where it came up that in Hattiesburg they had let their Rabbi go because he was too liberal for them, and they had no Rabbi in Hattiesburg after that. So you might have come across . . .

PH: Something like that.

DH: Also in the Galloway Methodist Church, which was a huge Methodist church there in Jackson, they . . . their minister who had been there for 18 years and everybody loved him just walked out because they were turning away blacks at the door. Then the person who came in to replace him is the one who wrote this book and (again) they . . . they basically ran him out. Then a month after he said, "Okay, fine, I'll leave when the next appointments come up in June" (this was in December) and then in January they agreed to open the doors.

PH: They did?

DH: But he had been going to the jails on Monday finding out that there were people that had been arrested in front of his church, the ushers had turned them away, and then they were arrested and he would try to get them dismissed, and the city police would say, "No they are here on a city charge you can't do that." So it was a very tumultuous time in multiple churches. And that did happen. That's why I was curious if you recalled the specific incident.

PH: No I don't. But the thing that always amazed me was why there wasn't any kind of disruption the night we went to that rally. Of course it was a black church, but why there wasn't somebody outside, you know, yelling or screaming or saying, "We don't want blacks in our schools" because it was specifically to get people to register I think that following week or something, no it would have been the fall. But I just never understood that. When you think of those bombs that killed those little girls in the church [in Birmingham]. But I don't remember. They must have known something was going on if a group of . . . well there were only 6 of us or something because of them were black but maybe we slipped in unnoticed but I don't think so. If somebody had been there watching and trying to stir up trouble they would have seen us but nothing, absolutely nothing happened.

DH: Do you remember at that meeting if a woman named Jean Fairfax who was a Quaker was a speaker? She would have been involved in Mississippians for Public Education.

PH: Let's see I'll tell you the woman that was there. Reverend Webb, Mrs. Scott, John Pratt, Charles Evers, Saunders, Jean Fairfax is that what you said?

DH: That's it.

PH: She's from the American Friends Service Committee. No don't remember any of it. I couldn't tell you a single person. I can read this, of course it was how many years ago? "Historically Negro rights are spelled out in the Constitution." No she didn't say that. Of course, historically "Negro rights are spelled out in the Constitution. Then came the Supreme Court decision . . ." I don't get that.

DH: I think that's talking about *Brown*, the *Brown* decision.

PH: But historically it wasn't . . . "all men are created equal" is that what she means? I guess yeah. Then she talked about Bob Coles' study of the Negro children New Orleans and what it did to them. Do you remember? We knew Bob Coles because my husband was teaching at Harvard and he did some work with him. Oh no I'm wrong. Not so bad. "In his book, Bob Coles' study of Negro children in New Orleans who had suffered a horrible registration experience." I don't know if that happened, if it was that bad in Jackson. I don't know after we left. "And yet were found to be unhurt by it all emotionally" this is a psychiatrist. So I don't know what . . . I think what he was saying is, "Just do it. It will be hard but my study showed that it wasn't going to hurt your kids emotionally." I can't believe that though. Some little kids . . . I'm sure that he could have told some terrible studies but it would have been terrible to do that that night (just like you say) they want to scare us all riding us in a car together. But what else did your friend say? About that, "it was at this," oh no. "She then" that's your friend Jean, "She then reminded them that Mississippians for the Public Schools were white women working for the schools." Mississippians for the Public Schools were white women in that time? I don't get that.

DH: Well there were, yes there were a number of women who were very active. Patt Derian was one who later worked in the Carter administration. Some of the other women that WIMS worked with, I think, the next year Elaine Crystal was one.

PH: See I don't know all these people.

DH: She was involved with Mississippians for Public Education. I think Jane Schutt was probably involved in at least she . . .

PH: It's amazing what some of these people did. Well Jean Fairfax is black right?

DH: She's black. Then there was another woman who was not from the South, Constance Curry who worked very closely with Jean Fairfax, and Constance Curry has written a couple of books, and she has had pieces and chapters of books about her experiences working in the South.

PH: I'll see if she said anything else you'd be interested. There's something that is relevant about my feelings. Oh . . .

DH: Your feelings are relevant.

PH: Not terribly at the moment. "Mississippi for the Public . . . white women working for the schools that the mayor had promised protection and that the school board had said that it will not give any other names . . .he would not give out any of the names of those who registered" and Jean promised, begged them to make up their minds about this decision as soon as possible. Let the A.M.E. Church know so that they could help you and if there is any trouble to call the police, FBI or the NAACP. She did warn them to take taxis to school." We already talked about that. Then the next one was Father Jones who was a black and . . . no that's it. No, wait a minute. Now here's the Vockroths. I don't remember I hadn't read this late in it's . . . what is it oh this I wanted to ask you about this. I took some notes because it was so interesting. I'm sure you've seen it. PBS did the Freedom Riders. Wasn't that fantastic?

DH: Yes it was very good.

PH: Oh God!

DH: Very well done.

PH: I saw that what? I put 19 . . . oh no it was this year right? It looks like 1977 I think . . .

DH: No it's 11, it was this year. It was in May.

PH: I wrote 7 for 1 or 1's for 7's. Oh I just wrote some things to talk, well we'll go through your list first. Let's see; because we have to watch the time right?

DH: Okay, well I guess we're down to do you believe WIMS was able to open lines of communication in Mississippi?

PH: Oh I think so, yeah. If just the host and hostesses. I mean we didn't . . . I didn't but maybe the others. I mean a lot of the other groups did tours. I mean groups did. Tours what do you call them? Groups? Not groups.

DH: Tour groups?

PH: No what were the groups called that went down?

DH: Oh the teams!

PH: Teams! Many of the other teams maybe met more white people than I did. But I don't remember meeting anybody except the COFO or whatever and the Freedom Schools, but those were young students mostly, and mostly men or boys, men I guess. So I honest to God, I hope so. I think so. The word must have gotten around. But personally I didn't see too much of that except with the Vockroths. Bad, bad . . . [How important was this kind of witnessing to changing how others, inside and outside the South, responded to the needs of African Americans?] How was this kind of witnessing changing . . . oh I think every little bit helps. It's amazing. I remember once I've never forgotten it. We had, we were out . . . my parents lived out in Aspen, Colorado, for a while. There was a woman there that wanted to go so much to Europe, and we were coming to England. Rick was doing some work at the library there in, I forget, which library, because we also lived in Germany. But she wanted to come so

badly, and she did not like the people she was working for. And so I said, "Why don't I'll organize it if you can get fired or leave your job you can come with us and help us take care of the twins (I had twin daughters at that time who were and a younger son) and you can help us with that. So that all worked out very well so I learned a lot from her and she said that one of the kids that she was taking care of in Aspen just was terrible. I mean he didn't listen to anything she said. But she said, I did learn slowly that you can say things over and over and over again, and you never could believe that he heard a word of it or would ever do anything about that, but then once in a while she realized that word had gotten through. I've never forgotten that. Because I had my grandchildren they will say, "Oh she won't listen or this or that." I say, "If you say it often enough and if you don't say it in an angry way you'll be surprised. You know in the long run, it's in there. It might come out at a time when they need it." I always thought . . . so I think that's what we did in Mississippi. Even if you think, "Well what was that all about? Why did they spend their money coming down here? So they learned something about us; but how is that going to help us or whatever? But I think that word got around. I'm sure after seven teams it must have made a big dent and then the next year, two years they had other things, workshops and things of that kind. So, yes I'd say definitely yes. I don't know how big it was.

DH: Well every little bit helps doesn't it?

PH: Every little bit helps yeah I think so.

DH: So what do you think would have been the most significant accomplishment for WIMS?

PH: Well I just, I think that the people that we met realized that the North is not that different. I mean we wanted to share how we felt and support them and they learned about us and we learned about them. And I don't think they could possibly have thought that the people in the North would care that much to send seven teams of women down. I mean I think that would really make quite an impression I would think. Not all together. I mean it's not like, because it was sort of underground and that is what was good. Nobody knew, is that Team 1, 2, 3 or whatever, but they saw (if they were lucky enough I should say maybe) to have had a chance to meet some of the people that came from the North, that they maybe even heard of it. They may have heard of Ruth Batson, and a few other people, and Dorothy Height, but those people they might have expected but the other people, I mean they wouldn't have. I don't know how much publicity it got in the South though I had no idea. Do you?

DH: It was in . . .

PH: I mean they didn't want publicity that was the thing.

DH: It was in . . . they didn't want publicity beforehand.

PH: So therefore we really don't know what kind of an effect it had you just hope right?

DH: Right. Well it had some publicity later.

PH: Later.

DH: You know after the teams were out.

PH: See we never got any of that.

DH: But . . .

PH: I never saw anything. I saw it up here but not down there.

DH: Well it appeared in the paper there.

PH: They should have sent that out it'd have been interesting.

DH: Well it was pretty much the same story, the AP or the UP story that had been released. But it was interesting in the files, in all the WIMS files that are in Washington, they have some angry letters that people wrote to the editor about the women that came down and who did they think they were and you know, "Since when do our white women in the South need northern women to tell them how to talk to blacks?" Which, of course, they are meaning a completely different kind of communication. They are talking about . . .

PH: That's not . . .

DH: They are talking about talking to the help.

PH: I don't think anybody . . . oh yes you're right. I don't think anybody went down there to tell them how to take care of blacks. Gosh!

DH: Anyway but I think that, I think the accomplishments came more from the interaction not so much from people hearing about it after the fact is my opinion.

PH: I think you're right. I'm sure you're right.

DH: Okay so on your return did you feel like you had accomplished what you set out to do when you signed on to go?

PH: Well I'm not one of those ones that set out to do anything as you know. That was partly my problem. I didn't go to the pre-meeting. I didn't know. I thought it was a learning experience, and I really did think it was my job to learn as much as I could so I could come back and tell people here. The Vockroths were the only people that I could have possibly had any influence on and I didn't, I mean I don't think I did, that I came

was one thing but I, well no big influence. So I looked at it from a little bit of a different point of view. So I did do a lot of speaking. I guess I should have probably sent you some of those things. Did i?

DH: Right you mailed them to me and I scanned them.

PH: Yeah church groups and the League of Women Voters. We had a big meeting and I wasn't the only one there were three or four of us. Bob Coles was probably one of them because he was very involved and a minister I can't remember (if I sent it to you, you don't need it now) but and just at the meetings that I went to at the League and the YWCA. I think my biggest influence was talking to my YWCA. I don't know if ours was the first to do something about having nothing to do with the national until they shaped up every single Y in the country. I mean obviously I'm exaggerating, but I wasn't the president at that time so I did not write the letter to the national, but I think I had an influence though on getting them to spend two years, (it was a long two years) studying institutional racism which was pretty new at that time. I mean we knew people hated their next door neighbor if she was black or something but a company could not hire blacks, that type of thing I think a lot of people up here just never even thought about it. So Cambridge and Boston well Marshfield we had a Y down in Marshfield and one out in, it's going out of my head, in Burlington and those people. Cambridge is totally liberal as you know, it's embarrassingly liberal. We're the communist state of the union or whatever everybody likes to think, certainly the most liberal. But the Marshfield Y and the Burlington Y, I mean those people were really didn't know much about anything. They probably, Burlington I don't know how many black people they have there but not many in Marshfield. So I think that we had to go there and have, we had (what was it

called?) I forget whatever it is that the Y studies or the League studies as well. I guess it was mostly just courses they could take courses. We gave courses to the children. Each place was different, and we had black students talk to white students and pretend to fight and then realize, what do you call that? Acting, those acting things?

DH: Role playing.

PH: Role playing and things of that kind of both Y's. So I think it was a good thing, a very good thing. Of course it's nothing to do with WIMS except for . . . I got involved with it through WIMS. I think that was a very important and it was very ironic for me because I was always 100% against putting up with two other Y's in Marshfield and Burlington. We didn't have the energy, we didn't have the money, we didn't have the time to go there. I mean it takes an hour to go down to Marshfield in the evening and then you're back at midnight. I just said, "I just don't think we are going to do it." But that was before this institutional racism came up they had already been established, and I said, "No it's the inner city to me that was the most important to do the work that we were doing." But anyway we did get a chance to make an impression on think on those Y's about the institutional racism thing so that was good.

DH: Did you meet Barbara Barns who was the director of the Y?

PH: I do know her, I do.

DH: The white Y in Jackson.

PH: No see I didn't meet anybody no. But you know it's interesting, Y's are so different. Each one is very, very different, and the YMCA (for instance) is just nothing but sports and swimming and stuff like that but this, the Cambridge Y is very, very good at the programs that they gave in interracial part of it, swimming and square dancing and

I don't know that much about other Y's I don't but I had no connection down in Jackson and never did. Because I think our group is literally more League . . .

DH: League.

PH: I'm not sure about that.

DH: And then more focused on what was going with the Mississippians for Public Education also because you went to the rally.

PH: Yeah. Public education no not really except for the rally.

DH: The public school thing.

PH: Well I was working at that time for the National Commission for the Public Schools in New York but I was mostly working only in New York to get schools to join, you know, confederate or whatever and so but I don't think I had anything to do with that down there, no.

DH: Just another question that's not on the list but something you said reminded me. When you were at the Freedom Schools . . .

PH: Yeah.

DH: Do you remember anything about the lessons that were being taught?

PH: Nothing was going on. At that time most of them were after school, I think, or later in the evenings, and we went in the morning. It's funny I don't remember much about it. I think I just described, it but I don't think I left an impression. Isn't that awful?

DH: Well some of the, and I'm not sure about your team, some of the teams when they got there, there weren't any classes going on . . .

PH: No.

DH: . . . so they just saw what the facility was.

PH: We talked to the CORE, people was it CORE? Or no it was the other one.

DH: COFO.

PH: COFO I mean. We talked to some of the teachers and or the kids that came from the South, I mean from the North that were teaching down there. I don't have that much of, I can't remember. We certainly didn't sit in on any workshops or anything of that kind I know that. So I don't know whether that was worth (frankly I don't think it was worth going to Hattiesburg) I think that there was more that we could have done but maybe there wasn't anything safe to do more in Jackson I don't know.

DH: Sometimes they had a hard time arranging things because it either wasn't safe or people wouldn't agree.

PH: Yeah. The logistics of the whole thing was very complicated. And I was glad to see that they, that the schools were there and we brought the materials I know that. I don't know who gave it to them. But I don't know just to go to Hattiesburg for not much frankly because it was an hour there and an hour back I didn't think it was worth it. But I liked driving through the, you know, seeing a little bit more of Mississippi. Anyway that was my overall impression now whether I was supposed to learn in the meeting beforehand what to do there I don't know, I don't know.

DH: Well I think you were with the group. I mean you were with the group if there was something else you should have been doing you would have known.

PH: Yeah I guess that's true.

DH: At the time.

PH: Because we weren't in pairs or anything like that no. Let's see . . .

DH: Okay number twelve, [You and your sister Helen both spoke out on behalf of civil rights; did you ever join forces on any other civil rights work?]

PH: No we didn't no. We never did anything together.

DH: You never did anything?

PH: No.

DH: And what about your work with WIMS did it in any way impact your family or that's just the . . . not just WIMS but other things that you do impact your family's activism?

PH: Yeah I think so. Certainly my, daughter the doctor who lives in Cambridge. I mean she is just involved in everything you can think of. I don't know where she gets the time. She has 2,500 patients, no 3,000 . . .

DH: Oh my goodness.

PH: They only get 30 minutes each. But . . . we like to tease her about that but she's very, very involved, but see my family, my husband's not father but grandfather set up the Hunt foundation in Pittsburgh and that's very, very involved in all kinds of civic things and gives money . . . well there's 13 of my children's generation, my husband's the only one left of his generation (he had four brothers . . . three brothers) but there's 13 of my children's generation and now there's hundreds coming up the pike. I don't know how they are going to run the foundation. I don't know. But they are very interested in civil rights, and Helen goes on a lot of site visits to things in Boston and Pittsburgh. Well they all have to do these site visits if you are going to give chunks of money, they have things of their own, but also they have three huge big things, like there's youth violence, the environment and what's the third? My mind is gone. The environment, youth

violence and community services or something like that, and they are going to hopefully have more big ones so that they give big chunks of money rather than little bits all over the place. And I'd say my, both of my daughters and my son, particularly, I think from our point of view are the ones that are most interested in things of that nature. Some of my Rick's nephews and nieces are interested in one part or the other. But I think they are more interested in museums and schools and you know, I mean that's a terrible exaggeration. But I would say that our three . . . but it has nothing to do with me I think it's more my husband and the two of us together . . . but I'm very proud of the meetings of my kids they will all speak up about, "Well that's one thing but I think we should not spend so little bits, pieces of money and let's make a big impact" and so on and so forth. And then, (because my son runs the family business in Pittsburgh) which is supposedly making all the money so that the foundation, I mean it's kind of wearing thin the money that was given originally you know, I mean there's some of that too but so . . . I'd say the family is very involved definitely in projects in Boston. In fact it's easy for me because all I do is call up Susie in Cleveland, or Helen in Cambridge, or Bill in Pittsburgh and say, "I can't do this but could you please look into it? Or tell the wonderful guy that runs the foundation to look into it?" So I don't do site visits too much anymore or anything of that kind. But yes to that one. What was that question?

DH: About whether or not it impacted your family's activism?

PH: Well I have to be honest with you I think they would be that way anyway. But I know my kids don't know anything about what I did in Mississippi. I'm embarrassed to say that's true.

DH: Because you haven't told them?

PH: Well they know that I went down there but I don't know they are all so busy doing their own thing I don't think anybody . . . my son, if anybody, if I gave him this report. No I don't think it's something you can really I mean they are happy that I went and they are proud of me, maybe something like that but other than that, they are all doing their own thing, and I guess I haven't really done my work in that respect, or needed to really. And they know about my mother. She was always doing things and they would drag them places and stuff like that. I guess I should get them more involved. That was a long time ago.

DH: It's coming up on the 50th anniversary.

PH: Yeah 50 years ago. It's too bad you weren't with us. You weren't born!

DH: Oh I was born. I was 12.

PH: You were 12?

DH: I was 12.

PH: Let's see . . .

DH: Well we talked about the Y already which is the next question. So last question is there anything else you want to add?

PH: I don't know there are some things I wrote down but I can't remember what it was now. Oh no I told you about that New Jersey thing so I wasn't involved. So I sadly didn't concentrate on my host . . . especially because it was until 2:00 in the morning and I was so tired I couldn't keep my eyes open. Communist, I told you, we talked about that. . . . Mississippi and state of . . . oh no I don't know what that means. "White women blamed communism" we talked about that. "Blacks happy." Oh these are just things I think from your book. "Blacks were happy . . ." oh somebody said, some white

women said that, "The blacks were happy before the CORE came down." Isn't that from your book?

DH: Yes.

PH: I can't even read my own writing. No I don't there was just a few things but I think we covered everything there. I guess at the end I said, about my mother in Oberlin and what an influence she was. Because she was so shocked when they went to Oberlin that, you know that there was racism there. Oh and the strangest thing happened I've never forgotten this. I've forgotten their names there were two professors one was a black mathematician, very well known on the Oberlin faculty. My parents used to have the faculty over all the time for lunches and stuff like that. And so she meant to call him and then, I forget, he came anyway but by mistake she called underneath the professor and the faculty telephone book the guy underneath was so anti-black,, and she had these two for dinner and I've never forgotten her story. I can't remember any of the details. Ellis, and Professor Ellis was the black from and I've forgotten who the other, Erwin, Erwin and Ellis so she called the two of them and she always thought, she was always scared that they would think that she was setting it up to see how they would get along, which she wasn't. She just was blind as a bat and called the wrong one first. You know she did things like that. She didn't do that that was the mistake, but that is the kind of thing she would love to do. So I grew up with that kind of an atmosphere. I don't know why she was so interested in racial things. I guess it didn't come from the war, but it certainly wore off on us, my sister and myself. So I give her a lot of credit for the . . . but what she was doing, the work she was doing at Oberlin and it was fantastic that she went to Oberlin because she came, my mother came, my father came back as I guess

everybody comes back from war, you know the usual way of problems and everything, but my mother came back really alcoholic. She never drank before she went, but they got rations. The Red Cross . . . she was a Red Cross girl and working in evacuation hospitals and going in. They took these trucks with coffee and doughnuts out to the front. I mean literally my father was never in anything like that. But he was safe I should say. But they had rations, and my mother (I don't blame her) she drank whatever they gave her. I don't know how much it was, and she came back to New York where we lived and she was just almost gone. I mean she could not stand all the people that would say, "Oh you must have had such an interesting time. I hope you are going to tell me about that sometime. What are you doing this weekend?" type of thing. I can't blame all her friends. They didn't know. I didn't know what to talk to my mother about. I didn't want to be left alone. I was 13. I didn't want to be left alone with my mother. I knew, I didn't, I mean she was drinking and smoking and everything and she was in bad trouble. I didn't even realize but my father happened to meet at a Presbyterian dinner (because his father was a Presbyterian minister in New York) Erwin Griswold who was from Oberlin who was the leader on the hunt on the search committee for a new president. And don't ask me what happened. I stayed home with my mother. Because she was never allowed to be alone. And also every night, no not every night maybe two or three times a week, somebody would come back from the front, or that she had met from the Red Cross, always people in the house talking about the . . . and drinking and miserable and blah, blah, blah. Anyway Erwin Griswold said to my father, "Did you ever think about being..." He was not happy in his law firm which he started in 1931, but he just couldn't do it. Corporate law was just not there anymore. So Erwin Griswold said, "Did you ever

think about being a college president?" It was so out of this, I know him so well Erwin Griswold I can't imagine he's not that kind of a off the spur of the moment he is so rational. He was solicitor general in Washington for a while for I don't remember who Truman or whatever. And so my father must have said, "No certainly not, no." But then he kept after him and that's . . . when they went to Oberlin that changed both of their lives. I mean my mother,, she had something to do and something to love, and she got to have, she had students over all the time and faculty. I mean it just changed her whole life. I can't say that she gave up drinking entirely, but she was certainly not an alcoholic like she had been. So anyway I was so happy that she had that experience to go to Oberlin because I think that's what centered her. Because Oberlin is very, very interested in civil rights, I mean very liberal. So anyway that's what . . . you never know. There's some book that my husband bought the, "The 'What if's' of History?" What if Paul Revere couldn't ride? I don't know,, I haven't read the book but I think that's the biggest "if" in my family's life was that . . . and sadly she became an invalid for the last 15 years of her life. But the other thing was it saved my father's life because they retired to Florida, and my mother never wanted my father to leave her for any reason. She did allow . . . she did, well it's not like she was holding him in handcuffs or anything but he just . . . she was so upset that he didn't dare leave her. He did use to come every year for the, they had a reunion for his law firm that he started, and then when I was on the board for 15 years at Oberlin the head, the President Fred Star said, "What about your dad, would he come to meetings? Let's make him an honorary member of the board." I was so excited, and you wouldn't know my father almost, it changed his whole life because she did not mind if he went to Oberlin, he could leave her anytime if that's where he was

going; and so that changed between Erwin Griswold and Fred Star that just changed both of their lives. And I'm so fortunate to have had that opportunity, there's a Stephenson it's a huge great big, big as this . . . bigger than this whole house cafeteria with meeting rooms, it's a huge place to eat, a cafeteria, meeting rooms everything you can think of, small reading, seminar rooms. And when that opened they invited me to come out or I guess I was there for a meeting and right across, there was just a whole lot of people in a room like this in the cafeteria and across from me there, there was Erwin Griswold and Fred Star. You know I didn't expect to speak or anything of that kind although if it was my father I may have thought maybe, "I wish my father were here he would be thrilled at this beautiful building. Blah, blah, blah . . ." But I don't even know how I got up the nerve, but I said, "I just can't believe it right now I'm looking at the two people right across from me who changed both of my parents' lives." You know you don't get that kind of a golden opportunity, and if someone had said, "Could you say a few words?" I probably wouldn't have done it right. But at the spur of the moment it came to me, and so Oberlin has meant a lot to me and I hope, I was wishing I would get one of my children or grandchildren to go to Oberlin but they . . . they are all a little bit too conservative. I don't know what it is, a sports or one thing. It's very small and they want to go to a universities or blah, blah, blah. Well they are just starting. We have one at Duke, and my granddaughter who started at Trinity College in Connecticut (didn't like it) so she is now at Saint Andrews in Scotland and had a chance to meet the Charles and what's her name?

DH: Camilla.

PH: Because that's where they met. No, not Charles and Camilla, Edward I'm sorry . . .and the newlyweds.

DH: Oh William and Kate.

PH: Kate, they met when they were both going to Saint Andrews. So but we've only got two so far in universities, the others are coming up the pike. But I know that wasn't on your list I don't know why I keep talking about my poor mother!

DH: That's okay. No it is actually of interest and one of the things that I'm going to talk about in my dissertation is how you all were influenced to . . .

PH: Because you know how you were influenced.

DH: To become a part of that.

PH: I was just trying to think if it hadn't been for WIMS, I wonder what some of the other people might have done if they hadn't had that opportunity? I mean there aren't that many things to do. You could teach. I mean, for instance, I had that wonderful little group of Phillis Wheatley. Do you know Phillis Wheatley? Yeah you do.

DH: Yeah I do.

PH: You do. I didn't know anything about her at the time.

DH: We have a high school in Houston Phillis Wheatley.

PH: Oh you do?

DH: Yeah.

PH: I didn't know anything about it my mother said, "You will show up at 9:00 on Saturday morning and you will meet the kids you are going to take care of." I mean that's the way she was. And but there weren't that many, many things you could study it,

you could go to lectures about it, but to get your hands into anything, there wasn't that much in those days.

DH: And women were limited.

PH: Yeah they were. I don't know why though. Why would we be limited? There's just . . .

DH: It was just the times.

PH: Yeah I guess so. Oberlin of course was easy but in a lot of the colleges . . . I went to boarding school because my parents were overseas, my sister went to another one and we both went because we stayed . . . we had two grandmothers taking care of us during the war and it was enough for them to worry about us in the summer (although we had summer jobs) so we both went to boarding school and there wasn't any blacks. There was one (I didn't even know she was black) but when someone told me my senior year. I said, "She was black? I thought she went to the tanning place or something." But it was terrible in those days. I mean Putney where I went up in Vermont if there weren't any blacks in Putney believe me there wouldn't be blacks any place else. It was terrible when you look back on it. God when you think about it. I would have been interested in reading, of course about this Bulger thing you know this Whitey Bulger who just been caught.

DH: The organized crime guy?

PH: Yeah. It's amazing though. Did you know his brother was president of the University of Massachusetts?

DH: No I didn't have any idea.

PH: You know but the thing I was thinking about along that line is that the Catholics, yeah the Catholics, the Irish I mean, not the Catholics, the Irish that came here and been so beaten down in Ireland and so hated by the Brits that when they came here they just clung to each other like glue,, and they hated first the Brits and then they hated the wealthy rich people in Boston, and they would, it's like the black families coming but they were so put upon and I can't see why the blacks wouldn't have done the exact thing. Anything goes. I mean William Bulger, he knew in the 19 years or whatever it was, no 25, 40, 30 years whatever, that Whitey has been missing and they've been after him he's been number 1 on the FBI list but his brother never, it's just the way they were brought up because they have so pushed together through hatred through everybody else hating everybody that it's going to come out though that he . . . in the meantime while he's not saying he must have known where his brother was. He killed 19 people, that's what he's indicted for. Either he did it personally, or he had the job done. I've just, I can't get over the fact that they are, in those days, your brother could do everything, anything bad and if it was family, family is family, but I don't think the blacks have done that to that extent do you? I don't think so. They were too beaten down.

DH: I don't think so in general but I guess the prime example I would think of is the O.J. Simpson trial.

PH: Yeah because that's money and lawyers right?

DH: Yeah but I think to a certain extent.

PH: Because he's black?

DH: I think to the certain extent when you had the one juror that's giving him the Black Power sign.

PH: Oh uh huh [in the affirmative] of course he was a well-known . . .

DH: I think it was you know . . .

PH: athlete.

DH: . . .for all the times that we've been convicted of crimes unjustly.

PH: Uh huh [in the affirmative].

DH: This is like a payback.

PH: Yeah. Well that could be. Yeah I see what you mean.

DH: But that's the only . . .

PH: And of course you've got John Brown and you've got few rebellions. But I don't have that same feeling about blacks as I do about the Irish in Boston. Especially now that we know about this brother situation, and that he is so respected his brother William. But I don't know . . .

DH: Maybe he didn't know.

PH: Do you remember that bomber who was that famous bomber?

DH: The Unabomber?

PH: Yeah.

DH: Ted Kaczynski isn't that his name?

PH: Yeah his brother turned him in to the FBI.

DH: Right.

PH: That's what you would do if he's hurting people. 19 people died. Of course people say, "Well they were a lot of bad crooks" but I don't care. It's amazing but when I think how good natured black people have been through the years really when you think about it.

DH: Well I mean when you think about how much hate and vindictiveness there could have been and especially in that time period in the 1960's and you know you have to give a lot of credit I think . . .

PH: To Martin Luther King.

DH: To Martin Luther King for . . .

PH: Pacifism.

DH: Right. Have you ever read Ann Moody's book, *Coming of Age in Mississippi*?

PH: I'm not sure. I don't think so.

DH: She's a young girl who is growing up in the 60's and she talks about in her book sometimes how you know turn the other cheek finally just really wasn't . . .

PH: enough . . .

DH: . . .doing it for her anymore because things were just too bad. And so she got more involved and of course that's when Black Power was immerging and there was a shift in the rhetoric of the movement. But I still think . . .

PH: But that's why this program . . .

DH: It would have been worse had it not been for people like Martin Luther King.

PH: Yes that's what came through, so on this Freedom Riders.

DH: Freedom Riders.

PH: That was just so amazing when I stop to think about it.

DH: You know one of the women who help put WIMS together, Shirley Smith was a Freedom Rider.

PH: Was she?

DH: Yes.

PH: You know it's interesting because Mary Peabody who is, being a Peabody around Boston that's a big name and there's a lot of them. But Mary Peabody whose husband was the president of Groton's School for years and years and years, there was a very cute story about her actually to tell you in advance. I think he was there 25 years or something as president or head or director whatever they call it of Groton School which maybe it's better now but in my day it was just like being in prison and they just treated everybody in their little cells. But at any rate, it's not that way anymore and hasn't been for probably 50 years, but I grew up thinking that. But she was sitting on a bus in Boston, and she looked across the aisle on this bus. She's waving and smiling at this man and everything and he's sort of looking around. He never saw her before in his life. Then he looked up and she'd do it again. Anyway she got off the bus she said, "I am so sorry I thought you were the father of one of my boys (from Groton)" and that was a big story. But anyway she went down South, and she got arrested, but everybody thought that she probably tried to get arrested. She thought that that would make a big impact whereas WIMS of course was just reverse. They want to do something there. But ending up in jail? We all just though, "Isn't that a shame. She's wonderful." I didn't know her but I thought, "Well . . ." when I went down I thought, "Well maybe I'll be arrested too." Then I got the idea of what it was all about rather than going into jail. Maybe that made an influence on people because everybody knew Mary Peabody in the Boston area, maybe. Maybe that was good that some people did get arrested. I don't know. What do you think?

DH: I think to have change it has to happen on a lot of different levels.

PH: I don't know what she did.

DH: I think you have to have some people who operate on the radical level and you also have to have some people that operate quietly behind the scenes.

PH: Yeah maybe that's true.

DH: It needs to happen.

PH: Every little bit in a different way helps, I guess that's true. We all heard about Mary Peabody. She's been dead many years of course now. But that family, it's funny, when we moved up to Cambridge, I didn't have a cat but I had a dog and we were invited to go to it was something for the weekend or something. I didn't know . . . I didn't want to put my puppy, it was sort of puppy-ish, in a vet or in a kennel. So someone said, "Oh yeah go over . . ." she told me where the kennel was. So I was sick to my stomach because I had never been away from the puppy and out came governor (he was) Peabody (her son). No he was brining his dog out; just picking up his dog who had been in the kennel for the weekend or whatever, the week. So I thought, "Well I guess if it's good enough kennel for Governor Peabody, its good enough for us." I always think of those two together. They were an interesting family, the Peabody's are all over the place. Well did we do everything?

DH: I think we did! I think we did!

End of Interview