Gladyss Paine Johnson

Tape 1, Side 1

This is an interview with Gladyss Paine Johnson (Class of 1913) at her home in Worcester, Massachusetts, conducted by Barbara J. Anton on April 4, 1986.

Barbara J. Anton: This is Barbara Anton. I am in Worcester, MA, at the home of Gladyss Paine Johnson, Class of 1913. I want to also add for anyone who may be doing research, maybe interested in the, learning about what it was like at Brown when Mrs. Johnson was in school, that she has written an autobiography, entitled Gad: Nine Decades of Happy Living; and, I'll let her explain the title. This book is a permanent part of the Christine Dunlap Farnham Archives in the John Hay Library and is available for use. Okay, Mrs. Johnson, let's get started with a little bit about your family background, something about your parents and your siblings and so forth.

Gladyss Paine Johnson: Well, I think you would say that I am a WASP because on both sides of my family, it goes back fairly far, the Paine generation was started in 1630, when a widower and his twelve year old son came to the Boston area to start a new life and, incidentally, find a new wife. And, on my mother's side, the genealogy can be traced back to the Revolutionary War. There is one little thing that is said, but I can't prove it, that on my paternal, my paternal grandfather's side, he had a little Indian blood in him. I can't prove it, but I think that is a delightful thing to think, maybe, there is a little Indian, original American in me. Uh, I think that's enough about the ancestors - my father and mother had seven children and I was the only one who had a college education.

BJA: Now, that interested me - why was that? How did it happen that only you went to college?

GPJ: Well, the farm boys came first. And, like all boys, they got into mischief, and, my father was very strict. So, it related, it resulted in my mother sending the oldest boy down South to school at a missionary settlement. And, I can remember the third boy climbing out of the window to get away and falling off the roof of the porch and breaking his collar bone.

BJA: Oh, my goodness!

GPJ: So, they were not, they had good minds, but they had so much restriction that they wanted to go on their own. And, of course, there was the problem of money. And, then, the two girls younger than I, one was a very good vocalist, and, my father was very strict. So, it related, it resulted in my mother sending the oldest boy down South to school at a missionary settlement. And, I can remember the third boy climbing out of the window to get away and falling off the roof of the porch and breaking his collar bone.

BJA: Oh, my goodness!

GPJ: So, they were not, they had good minds, but they had so much restriction that they wanted to go on their own. And, of course, there was the problem of money. And, then, the two girls younger than I, one was a very good vocalist, and, she had a professional training in music. And, she did professional work on the stage in ?, and then later became a teacher of music in the public schools. The youngest child was very much handicapped by illness; and, so it was just that I liked to study and I liked to do well in school, and my mother was very ambitious and without much of any financial background - I don't know how she ever got me through college. There was one help from a principal of the school, grammar school that I went to, was a Brown graduate. And, he was responsible for my getting a scholarship, which I kept all four years while I was there. So, it was because it came easy to me and I liked it and I loved to read, that mother decided that I was going to college.

BJA: And, your father didn't object?
OPJ: No, he was neutral about it. And, he mellowed, as we said, in later life so that his grandchildren were a great joy to him. Do you want more about why I chose Brown?

BJA: Yes. Yes, definitely.

GPJ: Mother had picked Mount Holyoke, and that's funny when we think of the President of Mount Holyoke being a Brown graduate at that time. But, it was near, you see, I lived in Massachusetts, near South Hadley. And, she thought that the travel wouldn't be as expensive. And, so I made the application to Mount Holyoke, but I lacked one subject that was necessary - I can't remember what it was. But, so, that was when I became interested in Brown, through this man who was the principal. And, I think that's all about why I chose Brown, but I'm so glad I did.

BJA: Yes, isn't that funny how these little decisions can affect one's whole life.

GPJ: Yes, that's very true.

BJA: Just who you know at what point in time, it's just, interesting that he happened to be there and he happened to be from Brown.

GPJ: There so many things in my life that have come without my trying to get them, and I can't understand why I have been so lucky. Do you want me to go on?

BJA: Sure.

GPJ: I think it was most fortuitous that I entered Brown in nineteen-nine. That might not seem to very important to you, but it was a period of transition because, although, the Women's College in Brown University was founded in 1891- and Miss Woolley was one of the first entrants - I can remember that date because that was the day I was, the year I was born. And, now in nineteen-nine, I am in the class that is the last one to spend a year on Benefit Street in the mansion. And, that I think was very important to me. And, then, you see, I went to, the next year, to the Miller Hall, which was the first dormitory. So, it was this period of transition that was so important to me. And, that's where I was so excited to see on page 112 of the Brown history, the Class that was, of the four Classes, that were in Benefit Street.

BJA: Did you like living at Benefit Street better than the dorm?

GPJ: Yes, it was a very different kind of living. It was a mansion. The living room was beautifully furnished. The people who came, like Sarah Doyle - she was very awesome, but she had, she was up and I call, a lady, a regal lady. And, in reading the Brown history I was astounded at how many things she had done besides supporting the university for women.

BJA: What did she come for? Did she come to give lectures at your dorm?

GPJ: No, she would come to a Sunday afternoon tea. And, we would be very proper and we would be properly dressed and we would have proper manners. And, I remember the, Sally Ross, was the house mother and she used to give us talks in a very kind way about us country people who didn't know anything about elegant living. And, I think that it was a very different kind of living. And, from being next door to my friend in a room by myself at Miller Hall and there were many more people there too, by that time. You see, in my day about half of the class would be day pupils who would come in from their homes, so that our class
at graduation was only forty-seven. So, you see, we weren't a big number of people. We were very much influenced by that first year, I think, of the Benefit Street living.

BJA: Did you find that there was a real separation between the city girls and the -?

GPJ: Oh, you knew the girls that, your first year became life-long friends. And, I have kept that connection until, now, there are none of them living. I had some friends that were city girls, but you didn't know them as well, and you didn't keep the same - over these years, until the last one died about two years ago, I have kept in touch with them as they went one by one into the next world.

BJA: Wonderful.

GPJ: So, I think that was very important. Do you want to ask another question?

BJA: No, you can just continue. You've done a very good job of preparing for this interview.

GPJ: Well, I wanted to tell you something about the selection of courses. We didn't have any counseling in those days. (BJA: No.) You did what you wanted and I can't tell you how many times I had heard lectures at Brown on the importance of liberal arts. (BJA: Yes.) And, you can learn your trade after you get out of school. But, do take the enrichment courses and I took that very literally. And, I did take the liberal arts courses. I, when I went, I knew what I was going to do and why I was going to do it. There was no question - I was going to be a teacher. And, I was going to teach mathematics because of the teacher that I had had in high school had made me love the study of mathematics. But, in addition to that, I was very poor in languages and I loved studying art, public speaking; Latin, I think, is fundamental and I can't see why it isn't stressed in the high schools today because it is of, the basis of all - what kind of languages do you call them? - romance languages. But, I was very poor in French and German and I never studied Spanish. And, I loved taking Astronomy. And, I loved my course in American Poetry. You see, those were all things that would stay with me all my life.

BJA: It's true.

GPJ: I think, especially, public speaking has been so helpful because I have done so much of that in different fields of interest in my life since.

BJA: That was Professor Crosby; remember, you had asked in your book, I noted, that was Prof. Crosby who was your speech teacher.

GPJ: Yes. I had been amazed in looking over this period of history at how many of the professors I had were worthy of including in the history because they were experts. And, so then came the question - why did they come over, you see, to the Pembroke Campus and let us have full professors, instead of instructors? I, I, you know, I don't know the answer, but I kind of guessed. Maybe, they got working with the women.

BJA: Maybe the women were better students.

GPJ: Well, I never thought of that. Maybe, they liked the smallness of the classes - you could go one on one. Maybe, they liked the addition to their salary because I understand professors weren't very well-paid. So, that leads, I think, right into some of my famous, favorite professors. (BJA: Yes.) And, of course, Tom
Crosby would be one that you would think of, inevitably - the *bon vivant*, as they say. I want to tell just an anecdote in my public speaking class - I think this might be in my book. He put some titles on the platform in Pembroke Hall. And, we had to go and, just at random, speak for two minutes on the topic. And, I looked at the topic, I can't remember what it was, but I knew nothing about it. So, I got up and I said, "My topic is so-and-so, and that reminds me that some of you haven't paid your class dues. And, then I went on and talked for two minutes on how, as the class treasurer. And, when I got off the platform, he said, "Very, very verbose, but not very much connected with the subject." (BJA laughs) I love that story! And, I have another funny, not funny, but, anyway, I think this isn't in my book. Uh, uh - what's his name? Oh, uh, I can't remember it right now, but it will come back to me. Maybe, I might mention some of the professors in mathematics that I was very impressed with and learned much from - Archibald, Richardson, and Matting. Not too long ago, they wrote to me and asked me about my remembrances of Matting. Now, to me, he seemed so old, and he really wasn't so old at that time. But, they all seemed to have beards which added to the years, you know. But, he gave us, at one time, a textbook in French. I don't know how I ever passed that course!

BJA: Did somebody help you? Did you get fellow students to help you?

GPJ: No, I just, I think he helped me some. But, I did pass it, but I think he must of been kind of, very sweet and long-suffering. Oh, the man I wanted to speak to you about, who was quite famous in those days, was the provost, Sam Arnold. Well, Sam Arnold was a math major, and, in the higher classes, you had to go to the campus to get the mathematics. And, one day I was standing next to him at the board, we both had a project to complete, and he got stuck, and I gave him a hint and then he went on and completed it. I have always been so proud that I could help Sam Arnold!

BJA: Provost. (laughs) Was there any problem with a woman majoring in math? Were there other women?

GPJ: Of course, there were some, but we were queer.

BJA: You were?

GPJ: We were queer.

BJA: Oh.

GPJ: How anybody -

BJA: Even then, huh?

GPJ: At that time, how anybody would major in math, they don't know? Another, well, let's pick up my favorite dean - Dean King taught Latin and I took a course in Latin with her. She was very strict. We were a little scared of her, but she was an excellent dean and I think she impressed me very favorably. Her mind was so keen and her - of course, they always gave little homilies at chapel. And, she always had something worthwhile to -

BJA: What was your relationship with her? Did you, was she just someone who talked in front of you or did you have any personal relationship with her?

GPJ: She was not very approachable and you wouldn't - but, I did have a good relationship with her because I did have this course with her. And, I can remember
Gladys Paine Johnson

5

going to her office - why I don't know - but that was rather unusual. Another
professor who impressed me was Everett, Prof. Everett. He specialized in
philosophy. Am I going into too much detail?

BJA: No, this is wonderful.

GPJ: He was a very good philosopher. But, I can remember that, what we use to
call a "greasy grind," would take over the class and would discuss something with
Everett on a level much too high above me. And, I would either day dream or wish
that the class was over, or something. I didn't do what I should have in philosophy
because she sort of took over.

BJA: Oh, it was a woman.

GPJ: She was a woman in my class.

BJA: Uh, huh. I was going to say, "I bet it was a man." (laughs)

GPJ: The professor was the man. And, I suppose because her mind was so keen
that he liked to discuss these things with her, but it would take the time from the
rest of us. Prof. Upton, in astronomy, I liked very much. In American Poetry, I
had Prof. Bronson. He was a little gruff, but he was an excellent teacher and I've
always loved those poems of the last part of the nineteenth century that aren't
fashionable anymore. And, he had a niece in my class, so I felt sort of that name
Bronson meant something to me because I corresponded with her after we
graduated. I liked a Prof. Poland in art and I have tried to do things in art. And, I
loved to visit all the art galleries that anybody would take me to -

BJA: Wonderful, wonderful.

GPJ: In my wheelchair. That has meant a great deal to me in my after-life. So,
that's - oh, and of all the Presidents, come President Faunce was there for a long
time. But, the President I remember best, after my graduation, is President
Wriston. Whatever he did, whatever he said, I agreed with him one-hundred
percent and, of course, he had a very good career after his presidency at Brown.

BJA: How about the dean, you said Lida Shaw King was your favorite dean - was
there another one there?

GPJ: No. Dean Morriss came after me, and she was very much a more
approachable, if you know. It was, and she was very much easier to talk to and
she was - I guess that old-fash-, much-used word, charismatic. She was a lovely
woman. And, of course, going back for reunions, as I did because I lived fairly
near Providence, most of my married life, I would get in touch with all of these
new people. And, but, I think for what I needed at that time in my life that Dean
King was the answer.

BJA: Well good.

GPJ: Now, the final program of, paragraph that I have in this outline is my debt to
Brown. And, maybe we can, unless you have some other questions?

BJA: Well, uh, no, just, let's see...um, you said you had no counseling, you
never had any kind of counseling about what you were going to do?

GPJ: No, no. Nobody ever told - and there's one anecdote to that. When I
graduated, I had honors in math. And, one of the math professors said,"Oh, if
you had only taken one course in science or physics, chemistry or something like that, you could have made Sigma Psi. Your grades were good enough. Well, it didn't break my heart because I didn't get Sigma Psi because I think those keys are a little overrated sometimes. You know, the men always wear them across their vest.

BJA: Or their key chain.

GPJ: And, it's nice to have the awards, but your life isn't ruined if you don't.

BJA: No, that's true.

GPJ: But, I was pleased to know that it was a possibility. Now, maybe if I had counseling, they would have said, "Your mind should go this way." In fact, when I taught, the first year and the principal was fired, but he wouldn't admit it, and I had to teach beginning physics for six weeks until we got another principal.

BJA: Oh my! That must have been difficult.

GPJ: Well, it wasn't too difficult because I read ahead. And, the experiments I couldn't do, I just passed over. And, I didn't tell them that, I told them the truth that I was studying it with them. And, we got along beautifully.

BJA: Great. Great.

GPJ: I don't believe in trying to overrate yourself.

BJA: You were also involved, you were the class treasurer, so you were really involved with events at Brown.

GPJ: Yes, I was class treasurer and - of course, we didn't have so many different people to choose from, but I got... And, we, I was in the Sophomore Masque, the lead. And, I was the leader of the Glee Club. And, I did not, we had sororities at that time, I did not join a sorority for two reasons. One was that I couldn't afford it. And, I didn't really think it was too important. And, there was another reason...uh, I didn't get the bid from the one I wanted. (BJA and GPJ laugh) The other was very nice and they were nice girls, but my special friends were going into this one and so, I said no. But, of course, that isn't as important - I don't think they have any sororities, do they now? With the girls?

BJA: Perhaps, yeah, they have some, especially, the black students have sororities and fraternities which they feel are very important to them as a support group.

GPJ: It would be.

BJA: Yeah, yeah. But, you had your friends at the dorm anyhow? You had all your connections.

GPJ: I didn't need it, really. And, shortly after I graduated, I believe, they did not have sororities in the - of course, we were, originally, the Women's College in Brown University, then we became Pembroke and now we are just the same as the men.

BJA: Right, now it's just Brown. Does that bother you? Do you...?

GPJ: No, it doesn't bother me at all because I got a Brown diploma.
BJA: Right. Right.

GPJ: And, there was nothing different with my diploma from the men on the hill.

BJA: Right. Right.

GPJ: So, uh...

BJA: But some women feel that having the Women's College separate was very important like, for example, like yourself, you became class treasurer. You were a leader of your class and they felt that that gave women a chance to do that, where as if it's men and women together, so often the women don't have a chance.

GPJ: Yes, that's true. I think it was, that story of the establishment of the Women's College in Brown University is so exciting. And, I think those women who belong to that society, led by Sarah Doyle, deserve so much credit because we were able to take the good from Brown, you see, into our little group. And, now, we are an intricate part of Brown University. And, I think that is so nice to think back at. I'm very proud to have been a member of the Brown University.

BJA: That's wonderful. The Pembroke Center is planning a - the whole University is planning a year-long celebration in 1991 of the centennial of the Women's College of Brown. So, that will be exciting. I hope we can help you around that weekend.

GPJ: I'll be there then. And, never mind, I go where I can, when I can. But, I'll look forward to it with much pleasure.

BJA: You were going to talk about your debt to Brown. Is this...

GPJ: Yes, and now one thing is the things that came to me unsure and unexpected all my life, afterwards, and I think it was the foundation that I got in Brown University that brought these things to me. For instance, I have been very active in my church work, and I have had many leadership jobs, the one that I think is the most important was to be the moderator of the whole church assembly. I have been active in DAR work. I have been Regent twice. And, incidentally, I never would have been it if somebody hadn't been interested in genealogy and gave me all the facts and figures and I didn't always agree with all they did. But, I had a very pleasant experience with them. I have been President of my Connecticut State Federation of Women's Clubs and I didn't go through the steps, with Second Vice-President, First Vice-President - they came to me and asked me to fill in because of some problem. During the War, I was an advisee on the Governor's War Council. And, after that, I was asked to take, in my section of the state, the setting up of the war bond process, or whatever you call it. I had to get a leader in every one of the fourteen towns in my county. And, none of those things did I want, particularly. I didn't go through the regular channels, but I think it's the background of the wide range of interests and I think, probably, you can call me an activist because if I belong to something, I want to work for that something rather than to sit back and take it. It's a peculiarity of some people that they want to be active, and others just hate it. Now, this is what I thought why I owe the debt to Brown - because, when I was there, I had a library, I could find the books, whatever I wanted, for any subject that I wanted. I had professors who were leaders in their field and through their...

End of Tape 1, Side 1.

Tape 1, Side 2.
GPJ: I've been doing too much here in the house. I prepared a program yesterday and I'm doing one two weeks from now.

BJA: So, you're still an activist? [both laugh]

GPJ: I love to do it. Is it on now?

BJA: Yes.

GPJ: And, then the contact with the students to learn to live with different personalities. I know that I am a great talker and I think when I first went as a freshman, I did talk too much about my family and my dad.

BJA: You would talk too much?

GPJ: So, the upperclassmen gave me a, sort of, polite hazing, so that I knew that what I was talking about wasn't of great interest to my peers. And I tried not to talk so much about my family and my home. It hurt at the time, but I've been so grateful to those upperclassmen. I can't remember what they did, but they made it very polite that I was much too talkative. And, then I think my training in leadership came because of these activities, extra-curricular activities, in the small class because they had to take somebody, so they took me. [GPJ laughs]

BJA: No, no, your life has indicated that you were a leader, always, really.

GPJ: And then, I think living in the city of Providence did a great deal for me. I had come from a small town. I knew nothing about urban living. And, I can remember then, it was safe to walk out by yourself at night. And, I can remember walking around the East side at night and if the curtain was up, I could see these beautiful rooms with these lovely furnishings, you know. And, I felt sort of, I didn't feel that I was spying, but I felt I was becoming a part of gracious living. So, that's a very silly thing to say. But, I really do think there were so many opportunities: there was the opera house, there was the art gallery, and, of course, the gallery on the campus - Ann Berry Brown, I think it is [BJA: Yes.] - did you ever see and do they still have "The Rape of Poland" there?

BJA: I'm not sure.

GPJ: A huge canvas, and I use to go back there to see that and to feel so sorry for Poland who was being, and is still being...

BJA: I'll look that up. I've been in there recently, but I don't recall that painting.

GPJ: And, of course, the dormitory living was another thing that helped me because you had to live with all kinds of people. You had to learn to eat all kinds of food [both laugh]. Some of it was good, some of it wasn't so good. But, I think, just the fact that one of the waitresses sent something to me just yesterday, he said, I said, "Oh, that was a nice lunch!" "Would," she said, "you like everything anyway!" [both laugh] And, I did feel that living in a dormitory, you took the good with the bad. And, I think, especially, my living in Benefit Street House for one year did quite a bit to rub off the rough edges of this country gal.

BJA: How was your relationship with the rest of your family? Did they think it was strange that you were going to - what you were doing?
GPJ: No. They all helped what they could. I don't, I only remember one experience of when I was with my nearest sister. We were up to Vermont - we had been up to Quebec. And she was driving and she looked at the map and then - I am a back-looker anyway - and I picked it up after she put it down and she resented it. And, for the only time in her life, she says, "Well, I can read a map even if I haven't got a college education. You're not so smart!" Well, that hurt me terribly because I had never felt, I thought I was lucky to have a college education, but I didn't think I deserved it particularly. And, I didn't think it made me any better than the other members of my family. It was just pure luck and my mother's determination.

BJA: Right, right.

GPJ: And, so, I don't take any credit for it. And, I have a very good friend that, for a long time, I didn't know she wasn't a college graduate. She is what I call my adoptive daughter. She's young enough to be my daughter; she's my very best friend in Connecticut at this particular town. And, one time she confessed to me that she felt inferior because she had been a typist and secretary and had not gone to college. And, she is so interested in the world, in people, in learning, in reading - she is so much more intelligent than many college graduates, I could tell you. And, I tried to make her understand that you don't judge a person by their degrees. And, so, I never felt any distance and only that one incident - I shouldn't have put that on the tape, I guess.

BJA: Oh no, no. I think that's interesting because it was, you were the only one out of seven children, and I think that's...

GPJ: Yes, and we were very congenial. But, she was very different from me and, when she visited me after she was a widow, I was perfectly exhausted - now, you would think I would be the active one, but I wasn't. She was much more vivacious than I. And, so, I think that, perhaps, she was tired and she just shot back at me. But, I never knew, except that one time, that she ever had any feeling that I felt superior. And, I didn't, I honestly don't.

BJA: What was the relationship between the men on the campus and you women?

GPJ: Well, the girls who were day peoples knew loads of them. And, so, I think they had a better relationship with the graduates of Hope because they were graduates of Hope. I can't tell you much about the relationship with men because I wasn't one that the men paid much...

BJA: You weren't interested?

GPJ: Well, I won't say I wasn't interested, but they weren't particularly interested [BJA laughs] But, I did manage to get engaged before the end of college.

BJA: Oh!

GPJ: But, that was only due to the help of one of these day pupils who found this man for a dance for me because I didn't have any relationships with the men. I don't, I think they sort of ignored us. I - the men, as a whole, I think they felt very subservient and we were kind of - and, of course, some of the girls, I know one who was very much interested in young men, and she deliberately took an advanced course over to the campus to have an excuse for going there. [BJA laughs] That's true.

BJA: That's the only reason you could go there was to take a course? Is that?
GPJ: Oh, you could walk over to campus. You could visit the art museum, you could go to Manning Chapel.

BJA: Is it true that you had to wear gloves and so forth when you went to campus?

GPJ: Oh yes! Gloves and veil and hat - that was an entity, you know. We were proper. It's hard for me to understand the way college people dress because just the way all of their contemporaries do. But, it looks so sloppy. And, also, I think it was Woolley that was added on to Miller Hall, wasn't it? And, at one reunion, I was down there and I went into their beautifully decorated living quarters and there were cigarette burns and scratches and...

BJA: That's terrible!

GPJ: Oh, they don't take care of...

BJA: Yeah, that's, you're right, yeah.

GPJ: And, I think this, well, I call it sloppiness and lack of care for tangible things. If they want to put their cigarette down here, what matters! They, I wonder if they have any restrictions on smoking in any of the...

BJA: I haven't heard of any. No. Unless, I think, maybe in some of the houses that students themselves, the Governing Council, might pass a rule that says "You can only smoke in such and such a spot." But, the University as a whole doesn't have any yet.

GPJ: No. I'm hoping that they will more and more get away.

BJA: Oh, I hope so too.

GPJ: Both of my daughters were heavy smokers and both of them are off of it.

BJA: Good.

GPJ: And, I am so much happier in the car when we are driving places. [GPJ laughs] I never told them that, but ... They took that very strict course, you know, where you celebrate at the end of it with a glass of champagne or something [GPJ laughs]

BJA: Oh, well, it worked for them, huh?

GPJ: Yes. And, one, one of them, was a backslider for a while, but she's off of it completely now.

BJA: Good, good.

GPJ: And, I'm very happy about that. And, we don't have any smoking here, except in the Smoking Room. And, I wish they would close the Smoking Room because it's awfully smelly. They go in there after a lunch and have a little smoke. That's just the way I feel, but it's really medically awful.

BJA: Well, have you...?

GPJ: I think I've gone through Brown.
Gladys Paine Johnson

BJA: Gone through Brown. Okay, well, I'm going to talk a little bit about your life after Brown though because you did go on to teach and...

GPJ: Yes, I taught for nine years. And, then, I wanted to get married because I was, they were worried because I wasn't ever going to marry. So, I found somebody who would marry me. [GPJ laughs] I think that's really partly true - I went after him. [GPJ laughs] But, then, I had to resign from my Hartford position which I loved. Public high school was two buildings and that was the only high school in the city at that time. But, they didn't keep married teachers. I was married in April, so they let me finish the year, anyhow. But, then, my husband was salesman at that time. And, so, as he was on the road, I decided that I'd go back to a smaller high school where they would take me. And, so, I taught two more years before my first daughter was born. And, so, my teaching, except for substitute, which I didn't care for because you never teaching them anything, you just keep [BJA: Order.] order, was eleven years. And then, after that, I became more or less what you call a liberated woman. Because my husband was more generous than he should have been and he was generous enough to live my own life in my own way. And, he never said, "Well, I think you should stay home and take care of me. I don't think you should take that trip because, what am I going to do all alone here?" He, I can't understand even people my age not going to a certain meeting because their husband didn't want to be left home.

BJA: And you had friends like that?

GPJ: I did and I couldn't understand it. She, one woman said to me, "I'd love to pick you up for that meeting, but Honey doesn't like to have me go out at night." Oh! Well, I think that was one reason that I was free. I didn't have any money, but I had done a lot of traveling. Some of it under church auspices, some just for fun. And, now, I'm taking last trips with my two daughters. [BJA: Yes, I...]

BJA: Wonderful! This summer?

GPJ: Yes, but I don't think I can afford it.

BJA: Oh. [both laugh]

GPJ: But, you know, you can afford what you want.

BJA: Want. Right.

GPJ: And, so, I would give up something else that doesn't mean so much to me. But, the reason that I do go on these last trips is that these two sisters, who are twelve years different in age and a thousand miles and more apart, are with me and they can do things and I can rest. So, I rationalize it.

BJA: It's a wonderful idea, yeah. And, then, sometimes your granddaughter, does she still go, your granddaughter?

GPJ: No, she doesn't go anymore.

BJA: Okay.

GPJ: And, we only took her when she could go for half price. [both laugh] But, now it's two of them and we - the other thing that I really was interested in doing was to stay right here and have the girls come here because this makes into a bed and then I have a mattress that goes on the floor. And, get a Fodor (?) for New
England and visit some of the places around here. Now, strangely enough, I have never been to these concerts up in...

BJA: Tanglewood.

GPJ: Yes. I've never been there. And, I'd love to go to a concert there. I love music and I love the ballet. So, I know we could find enough to fill up our time and we could come back here and sleep, if we wanted to. If it was too far, we could stay anywhere.

BJA: Right.

GPJ: That is what I think my age needs. But, I don't want to say no to the other two, if they want to do it. And, it so happens that there is a reunion of the 10th Mountain Ski Division in Seattle this year that my son-in-law in Georgia would like to go to. So, he and Ruth could go to that and then we could join them for the cruise part. So that's more rationalized.

BJA: That's wonderful that you're still planning to do all these things.

GPJ: And, you know some of the ladies here think I'm crazy. [both laugh] "Why do you want to do that?" Well, of course, traveling with them is no bother. They take care of the money, you know we all chip in. They take care of all the reservations. They make all the plans. They tell me what I can go and when I've got to rest. So, it's just going along for the ride. And, of course, I take my wheelchair. And, so...are you, is this the film or are we talking?

BJA: No, this, I'm still recording here. Let me just see if I, um...

GPJ: Have you recorded everything I am?

BJA: Yeah, any...I know you had a very interesting life. As you said, your husband let you do a lot of things and you did a lot of things like start your own little businesses. What you had?

GPJ: Yup, I did, he went into the ice cream business and did quite a bit of selling outside. But, I opened this little lunchroom with ice cream in front and, of course, the girls helped me with that.

BJA: You served sandwiches and things and...?

GPJ: Yes, we, hot-dogs and hamburgs, you know. Nothing elaborate. But, I did make a little money on that project. It was awful hard work, though.

BJA: Oh, yeah!

GPJ: Because I was, I was working also - some of this was because of necessity, some of it because I like to. I was for ten years in charge of the business end of a medical clinic with five doctors. And that was very inter-...And that was something I didn't plan on it but they were right across the street from me in one of these big old houses converted to offices. And, they needed a bookkeeper because this secretary couldn't keep up and they were about six or eight weeks behind in all their records. And, so, they came to me and asked me if I would be interested. And, of course, the first thing I did was to get them caught up, then they were very nice to me. And, every time they'd raise the nurses, I asked for a raise and got it.

BJA: Oh good. Good.
GPJ: But, sometimes it was because you needed the money and sometimes it was because you liked to do the volunteer thing. And, I think I've covered - probably, I've forgotten some of the things that I did. [GPJ laughs]

Tape recorder turned off.