

Transcribed Oral History of Bella Skolnick, Class of '33

Narrator: Bella Skolnick Krovitz

Interviewer: Barbara Anton

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Tape 1, Side 1

Barbara Anton: This is Barbara Anton at the Pembroke Center for Teaching and Research on Women. It's June 23, 1992, and I'm going to interview, for an oral history, Bella Skolnick Krovitz, from the class, Pembroke class of 1933. She's visiting Providence today, from her home in Florida. Let's start out with a little bit of family background. Tell me about your family. You were a City Girl.

Bella Krovitz: Well, no, I wasn't. I was a "Dorm Girl."

BA: Why was that?

BK: Well, I'll tell you why. My family felt that I probably needed to grow up and have the opportunity to learn how to care for myself and make decisions for myself, and my family were really very, very, wonderful. Even though I was a guarded child, I wasn't allowed to go downtown alone 'til I was about sixteen, even to go to the "5 and 10."

BA: You mean downtown Providence?

BK: No downtown Woonsocket.

BK: Woonsocket, yes. We weren't allowed to go out at night. I remember when Providence College came and in the Trinity Hall they had presented Julius Caesar, and we were studying Julius Caesar in high school, and some of us wanted to go and see what Julius Caesar was like. And so, what happened was somehow Mother and Dad couldn't go, and we found that [Natalie?], who was a friend of mine, wanted to go, she was in my class and so we had to have her, her older brother was old enough to be, you know, almost a father himself he was probably twenty-four or twenty-five, and we were just fourteen or fifteen, you know, at that time. So, he was our chaperone. But we could see, and of course we were home at ten o'clock.

BA: Now, did your parents have college educations?

BK: No, but they were very well learned, in the sense that they were self-educated. I mean, I remember Mother and Dad met in this country, but they both came over as children. And then, Mother went to school and had to go to work. So, she later on went to night school, and even when we were growing up, she would go to high school and take different courses. And when we took music lessons, she would take music lessons. And dad was a businessman, and very well-educated in Hebrew, and very learned, because he came from a very, very learned family, and they all turned out to be rabbis or cantors or something. So, he had the training, but he decided that he was interested in music, and when Mother met him, he was singing in the "Victor Herbert", the last perform, the last play that, musical that he wrote - I think it was "The Rose of Algeria". So, I grew up with those songs being sung to me as lullabies.

BA: Oh, how wonderful.

BK: And, we had a piano, and Dad would sing, and so that was...I mean young people I guess came to the house, and that was the way they enjoyed themselves, so there was a lot of culture and reading and books and newspapers, and, and...

BA: And they certainly wanted you to go to college.

BK: Oh, yes. That was from the beginning. And, I have a story that, I couldn't believe myself when I heard my father say these words, but I'll tell you about it. It was, I think in June, and close to June, and my father was sitting with my uncle, and he was...my uncle was my mother's sister's husband. - so the two brother-in-laws were sitting, and they had one child that they adopted, and the sun and the moon set in that child, and I remember Uncle Morris saying to my dad, "What's Bella going to do after graduation?" because it was just a matter of a few weeks, and my father said, "Well, she's going to college." And my uncle said, "What do you want to send her to college for? She's probably going to get married anyway, and why don't you give her that as a dowry, instead of sending her to college?" And you know what my father said, he said, "If you educate a woman, you educate a family." And that was his reply. And I've never forgotten that, really. So they were very anxious. And I have a brother who's three years younger than I am, and he too, has had the advantage of going to Amherst College, and then going to law school, and so, we have been fortunate. And when he was tutored, I mean, we had a private tutor in Hebrew, and I studied with him. At that time girls, I mean, weren't interested in that kind of thing. So that I mean, I felt that I really have had a wonderful family. Very thoughtful and supportive family. And my brother now, who is three years younger than I am is still very supportive. He's so concerned about what happens to me....and what I might do...

BA: And he lives near you, a hundred miles away?

BK: No he lives a hundred miles. It's a little ride and now. I'm not allowed to drive that distance, because it was me, and he's afraid to have me drive alone anyway, that distance. But while my husband was sick, I used to drive down there all the time, because he had to go to the hospital down there. It was the only one where he would get his tests, and things that he needed. So that's what it was like. But I had a fortunate high school, good high school education.

BA: In Barrington, I mean Woonsocket?

BK: Woonsocket, yes, we had a classical...but right in the middle of my well, let's see my, getting in my senior year, my family moved to New York. And the reason they went, was there were three brother-in-laws, and they kept saying "Why don't you come here? There will be more advantages for your children." Well, I don't know why, but they went, and they soon found out that I was so unhappy in, in...around Thanksgiving time I had just had enough of it, because I was very upset, because when I got to the schools, I went to...my mother went down and, and looked them all over before, and she didn't want me to go to this one or that one because there were seven thousand kids or you know, and I had been used to a high school with 250. Well, I ended up in [Rasins?] Hall Academy, which had been a private school, but became a city high school. And, it was a very fine school, but, there must have been six or seven thousand kids there, I don't know how many but, I mean it was so big, oh so different. And I had to travel an hour to get there by trolley. And I had lived around the corner from the high school, and could come home for lunch because I was twenty minutes away. But that didn't bother me so much. It was the fact that when I got there they said I would have to make up all the New York regent rule requirements, so I couldn't take my fourth-year Latin. I had to take Home Nursing; I had to take New York civics; I had to take, I had had ancient history and I'd had United States history, but I had to take some other history that they required. And so, my schedule was all...I mean it was just awful, and I was very upset about it. And Mother realized it, and she said, "Well, Bella, finish the semester and I will make arrangements for you to live back in Woonsocket, and you can pick up your second semester, because I think I would have, you know, had a breakdown. But they were very understanding. And so...there were two dear ladies who were widows. They had no children, and they were very fond of my mother, and very fond of me. And so they were so excited that I was going to move in with them, and they were going to have a young person in the house. They didn't have a telephone, or anything. They were quite poor, and this was really doing them a chance to have a little extra money. One of them worked in a store - second hand furniture, and the other one stayed home and took care of the house. And they were, I mean to me they might have been old, old ladies, but maybe they were only 45 or 50; I don't know. But they seemed terribly old. But they were just so lovable. They would bake certain rolls for me, and oh gosh. Bella had to have this and that. They really doted on me. I was really spoiled by them. And so I lived with them and went back to high school, and so I couldn't pick up the Latin because they said that that we were, we didn't have promotions every six months. It was a whole year you took the course. Unlike Providence at that time, we didn't have the As and the Bs and such things. And, so I picked up the pieces, and graduated with honors and was one of the graduation speakers and gave a talk, I can't believe it...I don't remember how I ever could've done it but I did write a paper on post-war figures. And I had something about (inaudible), Mussolini and von Hindenburg. I can't tell you a thing about them today.

BA: And you don't have the paper anymore?

BK, laughing: I don't have the paper anymore, no. But anyway, I graduated and then of course, it was in, from Woonsocket that I applied to Pembroke, Brown at that time.

BA: Did you apply any place else?

BK: I don't think so. I'd always wanted to come here, because I had a cousin who was here many, many years ago. Uh, not the women's part at that time, in the men's part. We lost contact, I think he's gone and died. But we used, when he was here, we used to come up and visit and take him out to dinner. And when he wanted a car, to take out someone for Junior Prom, he would come to us. So, it was, it was a nice relationship. So I always knew I wanted to go there too, you know. And the day that I was to come up for my interview - I didn't have to take exams then, because I was at the top of my class, they didn't expect it - but I, we had to be interviewed. And I landed in the hospital. They thought I had appendicitis, and that's the day that I was in the hospital - I was there for a week or more - ten days before they made up their minds, because my temperature was going up, and my white cells, and they didn't know...well, anyway, I was really upset. And Mother came to see me, and I said, "I don't know what to do. What shall I do?" And she said "Don't worry about it, Bella. I will go on the trolley, and get up to Brown and I will tell the Dean." It was Dean Mooar, Eva Mooar. And so, when I came to college, every time I'd go along the campus Dean Mooar would ask for my mother. I thought, every single time this went on. When I got to my twenty-fifth reunion, and Eva Mooar was one of our guests, and we were talking and sitting around, I said "Miss Mooar, you never admitted me, you admitted my mother."

BA: Did she remember?

BK: Yes, she did. She remembered that she took that appointment, because I didn't want to miss it. I was so upset about it. So, anyway it was really fun, and when we came here, I found that we, I had seven, I think it was seven of us on the (inaudible) at Miller Hall and we came from all over, we came from Pennsylvania, and, and Cleveland, Ohio, Annapolis, Waterbury, Connecticut...and, and let's see, oh, New Bedford. And then I was from Woonsocket. And it was like a little family. We all took care of each other, and because I knew more about Rhode Island than they did...so they would ask me about Rhode Island, and I'd want to know about their states, and then when Marjorie couldn't go home...she was from Maine, and the waters between Rockland and North Haven were frozen over, why she might come and stay with me. You know, and some, a couple of them came because they had to make up some work. And so they stayed with my mother and father in Woonsocket. So we had nice relationships. And then, and when we graduated, one of the girls, when they went down to visit in Florida, when they moved down there to, uh...they would go visit my mother and father. And when I went to Connecticut, we'd go and visit theirs. And it...yeah.

BA: I wonder if that still happens?

BK: I don't know, and we visited with her sister and we visited with her brother who was a Yale Fine Arts graduate, who is now out in Oregon. When we were out there, for a vacation, not too many years ago, and when the other sister goes south on a dance...involved on a dance crew of some sort, they will stop and call and we'll see them. So we've kept that relationship. Now that some of them are gone, it's a little difficult. And when Clarice went out to California, and I went to see her too. So, we have kept up our relationships all these years. And, I generally hear from all of them, but now some are very sick, some died, and so after sixty years, yeah.

BA: That's right. Remember your house mother?

BK: I sure do. She was a very, very special person. We called her Momma (inaudible) and she was always very concerned about the girls...you know everything she would like to know. If you were going out you always brought your date in and introduced him. You wouldn't think of going out without introducing your date to her. And I remember I had asked for a double late that time because Bob had invited me to one of his proms. Because you see, he was a year or so ahead of me. And, so I would come in at, that time I came in, I think about two-thirty. It had got over at one o'clock or something like that. Down there...we had to drive back. And she said to me, "I feel that you're very secure with Robert." Now, if she only knew...that I felt very secure too, with him. But she, when we came, we were there for one week for freshman orientation. And there were parties by the Christian Association, parties by the other groups, and you met your seniors...and Big Sister and we came and the dormitory was beautiful. We had beautiful colonial furniture, oriental rugs on the, on the floor, a beautiful fireplace, and -

BA: This was in your room?

BK: No, no, no. This was in the center. It was downstairs. We had a lovely dining-room that had these tables that you just flicked the top off and they became benches, so if you had a dance or a party, you could put those chairs, or benches really, and put the table up and it had this round back, and that was very charming, and we had Sunday night suppers, and we had Wednesday night was the night that you could invite guests, it was guest night. And the only difference really, was that we had ice cream and candles. So that was very special. But, as freshmen, I remember, we were given a list of things to bring. We had to provide our own sheets and pillowcases, and they were laundered for us. And we were told - one of the things on the list was linen napkins, with your name on them, and a napkin ring. Well, we came, and for one week every little freshman had her napkin and her ring with her name on it. And we had little pieces of furniture that had little pockets in there, where under the number of your room you would put your napkin. Well, we were there for one week, and then when the classes came in, the others came in, and we saw that they were using the, not the linen napkins, they were using the paper napkins, boy it didn't take long for the freshmen to get rid of them and, I think I still have mine. But it was very amusing, because we suddenly had to do what the others did, you know. We had to grow up, but Momma (inaudible), as we called her, thought that we should have, and oh she was very upset to think that we had given up on the napkins, the cloth napkins.

BA: It was her idea then that...

BK: Well, I don't know. It was part of a list and that piece of furniture was in the, in the dormitory, right in the dining room as you went in. And you could never go into the dining room, unless you were completely dressed. I mean you couldn't come in with shorts on, to begin with, but you couldn't wear your bloomers and your long stockings that you had under them, and then after the first year they changed them, and we had little socks with the colors on the, of our class on the, you know. So she wouldn't let us in there unless we were dressed. You didn't come in after riding with your boots on. It just, dinner was very formal. And she would rotate the seating plan, so that everybody ended up knowing everybody else, which was very nice. And then everybody else knew everybody else, when we finally got to sitting at her table. That was kind of special when you were rotated and came to her table. And the seniors generally served. They

made them bring the pie, or whatever it is, and serving, and then the freshman was the person who poured the water. So the water was put beside the (inaudible). And there was a lot of formality then, but it was gracious living, it really was. I mean, if you had a caller, a maid I think was Nora, and one was [Laniel?] I think, I can't remember, but anyway, they, they'd take the message and then they'd come upstairs and knock at your door, because we didn't have bells. Or if the telephone rang downstairs, there were two telephones, on either side as you came in. They would tell you there's a telephone call for you. Nobody had telephones in their room. And it was a time when you got special permission to have radios in your room, and you also had special permission to smoke. And there were sixty girls in Miller Hall, fifty-nine smoked before we graduated, and I was the only one who didn't. But I ended up with more ashtrays in my room so maybe I got some of that smoke in me. But that's what happened. Yeah, everybody liked to smoke, you see. But we came in in '29, and everybody was you know, happy. It was a good time, I guess they thought, and when we came during that freshman week, they gave us these frames that were pink and we were to wear them for a week or more...for the first month, to be known as the freshmen, you know, who were going to see the world through rose-colored glasses. Well, October came. And the biggest crash in the stock market that ever happened, was in October, 1929. And it was really a very difficult time, because we heard some of the things that happened. And it makes me cold now, because some of the girls did not come back in January, because their fathers had committed suicide or their businesses had gone -

BA: Your father was okay though?

BK: Well, he didn't have his own business. He had sold it. So he was working for somebody and it was not easy. And, gone back to being a salesman. It was someone here in Providence. So he would stop by occasionally to see me and it wasn't easy. I mean it was a very difficult time. Fortunately, believe it or not, my mother had saved pennies.

BA: Literally pennies.

BK: Actually pennies. She had a big bottle, and she had pennies, and then she had put away almost two thousand dollars in pennies. Would you believe it? Just from the change over the years. She had started that when I was young. That was a saving for me from, to go to college.

BA: For your college?

BK: Yeah, that's right. So, and I mean that kind of helped us. And then, when you think of it, everything was paid for.

BA: Did you have a scholarship?

BK: No, I didn't have a scholarship. My family felt that they could handle it. But I did get ten dollars a month, for things like, if we were hungry and we wanted to go down to Castles or we wanted to get something at the, now, is it still there? Is the Gate?

BA: The Gate.

BK: It was the cafeteria.

BA: Downstairs, it's called the Gate. It's called the Gate. That's still there.

BK: Okay, alright. Well, we could go over there - because some of the girls did not always like what they had on the menu, you know. We're fussy sometimes. And so, we could go to Castles, and we could get a sandwich for ten cents and a drink for a nickel. Or you could go down to Wayland Square at the deli and you could get a cup of coffee and a donut I think for a nickel.

BA: You walked down there?

B K: Yes, we walked down there. And we walked down there with our dates, too. That was a date. We also walked everywhere. It was too much money to pay eight cents or so, for a car check to go through the tunnel.

BA: That was a trolley?

BK: The trolley, yeah. Yeah...through the tunnel. And we would walk everywhere we went, and we walked without hats and we had snow piling up on our heads. And then some of us later in life suffered from all kinds of sinuses and everything else. But, that's another story. We would walk everywhere, I mean whether we were going to a concert. Well, but one night I remember, talking about my house mother, uh, we had gotten tickets - we were fortunate here at Brown, because they sent over a certain number of tickets to the music department, and you could get what we called "rush seats." And they were fifty cents, to go to the Boston Symphony. Can you imagine that? And so we walked down. And then coming back, the house mother was taking a taxi. So, of course she recognized us, and she asked us to come along with her. Well, I'll never forget, she was very upset with that concert. To think that Koussevitzky had put in these new numbers. "Why didn't he stick to the three Bs, and why did he put in Debussy?" she kept saying. And, it was "Clair de Lune" or something like that, you know, which is so beautiful. And we just looked. We didn't say anything. I suppose we're doing the same thing with some of the music today with the young people, you know. But that was so funny. She took us along with her, but she was a lovely person. She was the wife of a doctor, she was a widow. And she had two daughters, of her own, and I think a granddaughter. And occasionally they would come and visit with her and have dinner with her. So they were a lovely family. She really was a dear, and Bob and I were very fond of her. And I don't know what else I can tell you about her.

BA: Did you, did you live in Miller Hall the...

BK: All four years. The first year we were up on the top floor. And then I had a single room, almost overlooking fifty-two, it's over...it was the largest one because, you know, because it sticks out a little bit. That's how they built it... one or two rooms, over you went up the stairs. And of course we couldn't have men in our room like they do now. The only time we had men in our rooms, was Mayday, when we had a supper that we could, you know, a buffet supper, we could pick it up if we had someone like my mother come and visit, you know. And then everybody's families came up. But otherwise, you didn't have a man in your room. And, I'll never forget, talking about housemother, I'll never forget. One Sunday, one of the girls had gone in to

take a shower. And the bathroom door locked somehow or other. And it was almost impossible. We don't know what happened, but we couldn't open it. And she's all (inaudible). Well, we called the fire department and we said, "Well, you know you can come up on the side." The window was opened. So, in the meantime, we tried to quiet the person who came out of it, I won't give any names, because maybe she doesn't want it told at this point. But anyway, she, she was stuck and couldn't get out, after her bath. So, the (inaudible) was open, and we threw in magazines and we threw in, you know, things like that. Even a pillow for her if she wanted, while we were trying to get help for her. And she, I guess, was waiting patiently. We call up the fire department, and we said: "We do have fire escapes, and if you had a big ladder, you could climb up and get through the window." And they said, they're very sorry, they just couldn't do that kind of thing. They were on duty. And one of the girls said "Well, if it was a cat up in a tree, you would come and get him". Well, anyway, finally Bob came to call for me, because I was going out. It was just about six or six-thirty or something -

BA: How long had she been in there?

BK: Oh, she'd been in there probably an hour or more. And, you know, we were all concerned. There were just a few people left on a Sunday afternoon and evening. Because a lot of people dated, or went out if it was beautiful out. So, Bob came along, and he said, "What's going on?", and I said, "Well you've got to help us." So, I was a little bit scared, that somebody would report that I had a man up on the second floor. So, anyway, he went over to Brown, and got someone who came over for us and they came with a ladder. And they finally got her out. So, the next morning, I went right down and reported to Mama (inaudible). And I said, you know, what happened, and said that this young lady and gotten locked in the john, and couldn't get out and we all tried to get her some help and all. And she said "Well, that's fine". And then she turns around to me and she said "I hope you invited him to have supper with you." I didn't know what she was talking about. But she was just that gracious lady, and always thought of the way to be so polite and so, thoughtful, really she was a dear...

BA: And she was there for all four years, for all your four years?

BK: Yeah, she was there. She died I think, I can't remember if it was last year or not. And we were going to have our dance. And I think I'd received my corsage, and we'd all decided that we would not have a dance, a spring dance, I think it was. Yeah.

BA: What courses...do you remember any particular courses that you liked, or some of the professors?

BK: Yes I did. I had, uh ... I took a regular classical kind of, course. And I wanted my Bachelor of Arts. So I had to take another year of Latin here at college. You see. because you have to have five years of Latin, when I was here, to get your Bachelor of Arts. Otherwise, you received a Bachelor of Philosophy. So, it was hard work. We had eight o'clock classes, we had at least five classes, plus lab. I mean we really worked. And we had gym. Now, some of our classes were with the men, and some of our classes were up here. Some of our freshman classes. But when it came to upper classes, why we would go over to the campus... and I remember, I took a course with Professor Taylor, an art appreciation course, and we had lab with him too. We had to try all



the different media. You know, oil and etchings, and everything else. So that we have some appreciation how these things are done. And he, we had to walk from Miller Hall, down to George street, where his home was. He had a studio in back of his home. And many a time, if we got stuck with traffic on Angel or Waterman and couldn't get across. We'd find a little note: "Sorry you were late," and he'd lock the door - if you didn't get there in ten minutes, and it was a long walk to get there. But, anyway, we got so a group of us would get out and we would put our hands out and stop traffic. We were our own policemen!

BA: They still do that.

BK: Really? Students do that, right, yeah. I mean we took our life in our hands. Really, to do that. But then, uh, the courses really were very good. I mean, I, I was very fond of our music professor, Dr. Coolidge, Professor Coolidge. And later on in life, when I became active, after I married, and became very active in Providence Public Education Council which was then a part of the National Committee for the Support of the Public Schools. When I was involved with PTA, he was involved with it. And I said "Well, isn't this nice?" and they, he, they asked me to be secretary. "Oh, Professor," I said "Dr. Coolidge, I said, I never learned to type." I said "How could I be a secretary?" He said "Well, it's a good thing you didn't, because you never would be doing what you are now." But now I wish I had learned to type. I mean, I think I would have been more useful, maybe, if I could've typed. But.

BA: What did you major in?

BK: I majored in English, but took as much psychology as I did English. In fact I think I took more psychology because when I went on to summer school the year after, well the same year. I went down to URI, it was the first year they had a summer school, not the first year, but the second year, '34 I went to summer school in '35 down there. And I took oh several courses in psychology, and some in administration, and school administration, and that kind of thing. And I remembered they didn't know what to do with me because I was married. And I wish I had saved the correspondence, because the Dean at that time. Dean Walden would write to me and say, "Sorry, we cannot put you in a dormitory. You are married." And I'd write back and he'd say "Sorry, we cannot put you here, there," you know. Well, I came back for the twenty fifth reunion, and my husband's twenty-fifth reunion. We parked practically in front of Dean Walden's home. And he came out to greet us and he said, "Now, Bella, if you came back I would give you an apartment, I could, you could send your children to preschool over there at the Watson House, and it was so different. So, we got permission from the college and the president to open Bob's fraternity house and we lived in the house mother's suite.

BA: So he was with you? Bob came with you?

BK: Yes, yes, oh yes. Well, he didn't go to school. But he worked, he was working in Providence, and we'd go back and forth, and if I wanted a ride to Providence during the day, there were people like Superintendent Town, and Mr. (inaudible), over at one of the high schools. I think it (inaudible) one of the high schools, and they were teaching courses in administration and school -

BA: So you were interested in teaching?

BK: I was interested in teaching then. In fact while I was here, I took courses down at the Rhode Island School of Education. You know, RICE I guess they call it.

BA: Rhode Island College

BK: Yes, Rhode Island College. And, I would go 4:30 to 6:00 or I would go on Saturday mornings. So, I took some courses there. And, that was because I wanted my certificate. They didn't want to recognize Brown, even though we were probably better trained. But we had to plan all these little things like Rhode Island Education Law, and we had the, such things as, made me mad years later. well, things - politics were never involved in education. Can you imagine that? Well, I'll never forget that when Dr. Carol mentioned that but anyway, it was a good experience and I had, I mean I had that skill if I needed it, you see.

BA: But were they going to let you teach? Were you a, because you were married?

BK: No, I couldn't teach because I was married. So when I came back to Woonsocket well first of all, I should say, I guess, that when we were married, I was married between my last exam, and the time that I got my diploma. We were married secretly, because we knew that after graduation, our parents could not afford a wedding. And that many of our students did that, they went off and got married.

BA: Did your parents know you were going to?

BK: They suspected, but we didn't live together for a year until he got a job. There were no jobs, dear. This was a depression. And -

BA: What had he majored in. what was he -

BK: He was in, he took business administration. But, he took all, he was the kind of person like I was...taking courses in everything else that he could. I mean he was interested in botany, he was interested in this, that and the other, so he'd take a course in it. I still do the same thing. I mean now, if I'm interested somehow, I'll take a course in it. So, it was very difficult, and I mean people would not think of having a wedding. And I think if people confessed - there were many of our graduates, several that I know, who went maybe a year later, went off and got married, had a witness. I mean, had a religious wedding. But privately, privately without inviting anybody. We lived in Woonsocket, everybody knew everybody and I knew that my family would have to invite everybody in the congregation. And, it was too much to even think of them giving me gifts. And this was one way of, you know, not having my dad who was out of work at that time, even think of it. We just couldn't afford it. Impossible. So we waited until he was, he had a job. And then we stayed with the folks for a short while. But, in Woonsocket, they were very upset with the superintendent (inaudible) because he had known me since I was a child, and we lived with, you know, blocks away around the high school. And, he thought that I had done the wrong thing, because he wasn't going to have me as a teacher. And, because I was married I couldn't. So, anyway, it worked out probably for the best, because here was the Depression. And,

it was '33, and a time when there had been a big, big Polio epidemic, early in the thirties. And early in the thirties, I think in 1930, there was a, a conference held by the government, and it was for children, a conference on children. And the important thing that was discussed was exceptional children. Now what they meant by exception, was not a child that was very bright. They meant a child who was physically, emotionally, socially different, and needed help. And at that time, in our community, and in many other communities too, if you had a child that was handicapped, you would have to educate them yourself. And, fortunately, there was a gentleman in Woonsocket, who had a child who had Polio, and he was very upset. The child was very bright. The school would not take him, even if you provided your own transportation. The only thing you could do, was have a private tutor. Now, that was impossible for many of the people. So, the committee was formed, you know, the usual American way of doing things. The committee made up of the superintendent of schools, the SPCC who were interested because they felt that these children were neglected, the visiting nurses, the mayor was on the committee. It was a city committee, and they discussed it, and they felt they should go for some grant. And at that time, you know, there was CWA, WPA, there was all kinds of money for works program kind of things, to develop things in the community. And so, they hired me, and they hired another Pembroke - she lived in Woonsocket at the time. But she was given all of the polio cases. So, she was doing Polio cases. We were given a paper and pencil, and the names of children that were born five years ago. Where are they? You go find them. So, it was a matter of really searching out, finding these children. And that was an experience, because many people who had handicapped children then, did not want to even say that they had a child, they would hide them. And we knew that they were either dead, or they were in an institution, or they were hidden some place. And I remember going to a home, and I'm talking to these people and trying to explain that we hoped to bring education right into the home, and you know, that it wasn't going to cost them anything, and how important it was that these children learn to read and write. And all of a sudden, while I'm there and these people are telling me "no" that they haven't this child. They didn't say where he was, they wouldn't tell me if he was, you know, in one of the institutions, or whether he was dead. And all of a sudden, I hear this thud and they got up and they ran, and they went into the bathroom. And it seems that anytime, I found out later, anytime anybody came to the door, they would take this child and put him on the toilet and strap him up and close the door. He knew he had to be quiet. And then that day, I guess we talked a little longer, it was too long, and he fell.

BA: How old was he?

BK: He might have been four or five. About five maybe, because we'd started them about five years old. And, so it was really something. So I ended up with that youngster who was epileptic, we found out, and a slow learner. And then I had a Spina Bifida case, I had a (inaudible) case, an osteomyelitis (inaudible) case, I had a Scoliosis we know, with a beautiful plump, fat child. It was a beautiful child. You looked at her and then you realized that here was a heart condition, congenital. So, I had all kinds of cases and I learned a great deal, because I fortunately had a good doctor, and I would sit down and talk with him: Why can't we do something? and all that. And the visiting nurses would get me crutches, if the child grew out of the size that he needed. They were giving a way cod liver oil. That was a big thing. And so you'd see me carrying bottles of cod liver oil. We didn't have cars you know. So we went by bus. Part of my pay was a dollar bus pass, and \$14.40 a week. And I would leave the house at

about 7:30 in the morning, get to my first, had to go by bus, get to the first home about 8:00 or 8:30. And then I would come home around six o'clock, six o'clock something.

BA: At this time, you and your husband were living with your –

BK: Yes -

BA: Parents -

BK: Yes, yeah. that was -

BA: And was Bob working too?

BK: Yes, he had gotten, well he wasn't working part of the time, but he finally got a job that was \$20 a week. And he needed a car. And so, who has credit? And who had two-hundred and fifty dollars for a second-hand automobile? So, dad paid the, well he didn't pay it, he signed the note. And Bob paid five dollars a week to the bank. And after that we said: Well, we're never going to buy anything on turns like that. Because we're only earning \$20 a week. So that fall, after, well, they didn't raise enough money to go to, this was a couple years I'm talking about. And then, finally they ran out of money. They'd a fundraising, they had a dance around the world. It was a time of Wilkie and everything was a one rural kind of thing. And in Woonsocket, we found that we had, oh we had Polish Nationals, we and Polish Catholics, we had Ukrainians, we had French-Canadians, we had Italians, and we had - and they all had dance groups at that time. And so we asked them if they would perform in the high school auditorium, and I think we charged twenty - five cents. And that was the money that we needed. And then, afterwards they asked me if I would finish up, or would I leave, because they didn't have any more money. I said "I can't leave, I've got to, I'm going to finish." There was three or four more weeks. And, I said "No, these children have to finish." The public school gave me their syllabi and books. So, I was able to follow what the schools wanted me to do. And the superintendent was very cooperative, the busmen were cooperative. They saw me walking in the middle of the block, they would pull over and let me in. Everybody knew me, you know, they just- So, it, it was a real community effort, and it was a wonderful learning experience for me in community organization. And, also, my interest in handicapped children.

BA: So, you did everything for them. You taught them....

BK: I taught them and I was like a social worker (BA:...made sure they got everything...) I was like, yes, yes....and I was right in the homes where I had an opportunity to talk with parents, and the children would sit there and wait and look out the window. And I remember this little fellow with Spina Bifida. I had to get off, and he'd be sitting in the bay window, and watch me. And every day the bus was late or I didn't come he'd start crying, because he thought I wasn't coming. You see, I was the important thing all day. And it was a learning experience for me too. I had no children. And, so I have a different point of view about people who have handicapped children. And, one of the things I learned - I remember it was Easter time. And, I decided to give each child, they used to have these plants with a bulb in them and then you'd just water them and they'd grow, you know, and I brought each one one, and I remember this little fellow, I told him

that if he gave it the food it needed, that was water. and while he was sleeping it was going to grow, and he would have a flower. Well, he was thrilled because it came out. I looked in a couple of times and it died.

Tape 1, Side 2

BA: Where you were?

BK: I think I was telling you about the youngster with the flower that died. And I, it really taught me something. Remember that I was not even a mother, and I was young myself, you know I might have been twenty-two, twenty- three, somewhere along that age and it made me realize that even children are sensitive to death and dying, and I learned a lot. I learned a lot how these parents had to cope. I learned what it meant to not have things because they just weren't available. Money couldn't buy them. I mean, and but it was wonderful. I mean I enjoyed it. And then, I moved to Providence, because Bob found it difficult to commute back to, with my folks. And we, rented an apartment, \$21 a month rent. He was making 19, and we had to provide our own heat, and we had, well, we had mother's, I still have it - her breakfast set was, so was my dining room set, and was my kitchen set then. The only thing we bought was a bed and a chest, and that kind of thing. Our living room had uh, two of those folding beach chairs, which now are very popular, with the sling-back, and there was a fireplace. And then at home it was a big house that had been converted to apartments.

BA: Where was it? What part of Providence?

BK: It was up near Roger Williams Park. And my classmate from Waterbury Connecticut - her husband was working for a construction company here, and they found a place, and I came to visit her one day, and I said to her, she said to me "Why don't you come live in Providence?" So that started it all. It being easier for Bob and all. So, she said "You know, the apartment upstairs is going to be for rent, so why don't you go over there and ...

BA: Were apartments scarce in those days?

BK: No, no, but money was scarce; they weren't scarce as I recall. It was only money. I mean nobody had a thousand dollars to put down on a house, just nobody. We could've bought a house if we had two thousand dollars down but we didn't have it. We didn't all our life have it. We paid rent until we moved down there. Then my brother helped me keep the house in -

BA: In Florida?

BK: Yeah

BA: Oh, you never, you always rented?

BK: Always rented. We never had that amount of money to put down. We never had money, but we had a lot of friends - a lot of good experiences. I mean happy experiences (inaudible). But then, we moved into Providence, Rhode Island and I found that, with Edward coming, it was a

whole new life, but I didn't get involved with any community activities then, until I, PTA came along. In the meantime, my neighbor, down below, had two children. And so, very often I'd help her or I would take one of her children, so that my son would have a playmate. So, her son and my son were close, they were six weeks apart. And I remember when they coming around, inviting people to join the PTA. And your child's going to school this year. They were making surveys, you know. Preschool surveys. And I said "Yes, I hope so." "How old is this one?" I told her. "And, how old is this one?" "He's six weeks old." And she looked at me. And she looked at me like something was wrong with me, and I said, "No, that's my neighbor's child." Because they were always together. She was a, she was in the neighborhood, so she used to see me out with Michael and Edward. But I got involved in PTA, almost innocently. Without knowing what I was getting into. I was asked to participate in something and the next thing I knew, I was asked to be the vice-president. It was during the war now. And the president whose husband was a doctor, moved from Broad Street, down to (inaudible). And so, all of a sudden, without ever having been a vice-president, I'm suddenly inheriting the presidency. So, that was a learning experience. And we had a principal, that, there was a lot of stories about this woman, but I couldn't believe that. She seemed like a lovely person to me...I had only known her for one year. It was in the first or second grade. And, so I don't know. I just better go and see the principal. And I'd heard stories that she didn't allow you to do this, and she didn't allow you to do that. So, I went and talked with her, and I asked her what she expected us, as parents, to do and what way we could help her, and said that we were willing to you know, abide by rules that she had in the school, that I was brand new, and I just didn't know what I inherited, and I needed some help. Well, she was a big, tall woman and I was short. She put her arm around me, as we went out, and she said "You know, no one has ever consulted me about things like this." So, we became friends.

BA: Oh great. And none of those stories were true?

BK: They weren't true. They weren't true. No, they weren't. She was a person who was very well disciplined, she ran a good school, and she had certain rules, and that's perfectly alright with me. I mean that's the way things have to be done. And, but I also feel that you don't overstep your bounds, and think because you're a PTA president, that you can come in any time and do anything you want. There's a certain confidentiality about the files in any office, or anywhere you work. And, and it wouldn't be right. And then that wasn't helping. That was really hindering anything that she had to do. So, we then became good friends.

BA: How long were you president?

Bk: I was president that year, and by that time I guess it was time to move on or something, and then I, then I got on to council, Providence Council...

BA: Providence City Council?

BK: No, Providence Council of Parents and Teachers. It was, every PTA had representatives. And so I became very active in that, and was chairman of the committee on the exceptional child, believe it or not, at that point. They were beginning to talk about exceptional children here.

And they found that, it was now '46, and I had gone to some meeting, and that's where I met Harvey Langdon at Meeting Street School where it was being thought about -

BA: Oh, it was?

BK: Yes.

BA: In '46?

BK: In forty...well, the year before really, '45. In '46 we were incorporated. But, '45, we spent the whole year studying what we could do, and we had meetings at the medical society library on Francis Street, was it? The street that goes up to the State House? They have a -

BA: No...

BK: I think it's Francis Street. And the medical library was there, and they were very generous. We used that library for our meetings with different groups and we had CP groups, we had epilepsy, we had every group that you can think of that worked with handicapped people at that time, come to us. And then, Dr. Denhall came with his ideas and then we were able to think about setting up. We had decided that was an unmet need because the philosophy of the Easter Seals was never to duplicate anything that was already being done, and being done well. There was no reason for us to do that. So every state in the union that has Easter Seals, does something different. One may run a sheltered workshop, one may run a camp, one may run a program for hard of hearing, one may have a mobile unit that does rehabilitation in the home. So that every state that you go into would do something else. So we, after a year study, and we had all the doctors in, and we had people like Doctor, Oh God his name I miss, but he was head of Butler at the time, and people from Rhode Island Hospital, and even some outsiders who came. And we felt that that was what we needed to do, and so we became incorporated. And we were allowed to use Meeting Street School, down here you know at the bottom of the hill.

BA: No, where was that?

BK: Right at the bottom of the hill, near North Main Street. It's opposite Shakespeare's Head that the Junior League had. And that school was built by, from, rather I should say, from the bricks that were in the ballasts of the boats that came here when Rhode Island was settled. And it was an old, it's an old building, I've forgotten how many years old it is, but it was always used as a school, and it was a fresh-air school at one time. And I don't know what else, but when we took it over, there were, there was a pot-belly stove, big one, downstairs, narrow stairs going up on the right-hand side to the second floor, no heat, but that pot-belly stove, and these little stairs. And, Harvey Langdon and I were looking the place over, and dreaming of handicapped children. Where were we going to put them? What could they do in that space?

BA: And how many could you ...

BK: Yeah, but the point was that we hadn't even found them yet, so we didn't know how many we were going to have. So we looked at it, we dreamed a little while. We decided we could not

have that pot- belly stove, that that had to go, and maybe we could have the offices upstairs because people, oh the people could walk up, the staff could walk up. And that's what we did. The first thing we tried to raise money to, you know, clean that building out, and put in heating. We put in these carrier heaters, I remember they were up on the, you know, like you have air conditioning out your window. This was inside. Only heat came out of it, so that children could have the floor with out - and the floor was an old wooden floor that if any of these little youngsters were on their rear-ends on that floor they'd have gotten splinters. Well, so we had to think of what we might do with that, clean it out.

BA: And you had to raise all the money.

BK: We had to raise all the money, we had no money. Except, that I think National had taken care of this year of doing study, and then maybe about five thousand dollars they had given us.

BA: National what?

BK: National Easter Seals.

BA: National Easter Seals, okay.

BK: And we became the Easter Seal Agency of Rhode Island. The Rhode Island Chapter of Crippled Children and Adults. That's what we were called. Well, we got started, and we had to do all kinds of things. Harvey and I wrote script, and I remember that day when we went over to see things and dream a little more. It was so cold, we got back in the car, and we turned on the radio, and just at the point where they were announcing that we were going to be on the next week. It was so funny. So, Mrs. K, and Mrs. L were writing scripts, and they we passed it on to National and they were quite excited. We raised forty-six thousand dollars, the first year. We thought that was fantastic.

BA: That was for those days.

BK: Male, it was a male campaign, and you know, we never...

BA: Statewide...just the state of Rhode Island?

BK: Yeah, Just the state. Just the state of Rhode Island. And we started with preschool children, and they had to be evaluated and all that. Dr. Denhall was our medical adviser. And we had a wonderful board, we had an architect from the School of Design who taught architecture, we had doctors, we had bankers, we had all kinds of people. I guess I was the only one who was really a layperson, but my interest had been in education.

BA: Oh, you had so much experience too.

BK: And, yes, and so I was involved that way, and we, as a group, did a lot of educating of the community. That was a big thing. We also found that a great many teachers, now that we were



going to be hoping that these children, after they had help here, would be mainstream. That was the idea - to get them into public schools.

BA: So you were talking about it way back then?

BK: So we try to get them into public schools. Well, it wasn't easy, because there were no laws, there were no trained teachers. There was no place for them to train, except in Syracuse at some study courses of exceptional children. And there were no scholarships, I mean the teachers who already taught were quite, you know, might want to go off and get a Masters in special education. Now it's called special education. And, we had to do something through educating teachers, because not all handicaps are visible. I mean you don't see -

BA: Dyslexia, or...

BK: Yeah, you don't see sight problems, you don't see hearing problems, you don't see heart problems, you don't see arthritic problems. I mean they're non-visible. So we formed a group, and we became part of the NEA, it's called the International Council for Exceptional Children, which I understand is still going. And we had a person who was Commissioner of Education, who, Mike Walsh at that time, had his office here, on Benefit Street as I recall. And, we would meet in his office, and we developed a team. We had a person who was working in sight, a person who was interested in hard-of - hearing - I'm staying with her now. And she's retired many years, she started a hearing program - one of the first people to get a degree from what was then Western Reserve, which was one place that had, and now it's called Case Western, she got her Masters there, I think, and, I think an honorary doctorate for the work she did here in Rhode Island. And we had Pauline Langdon, and then we had, oh, a whole group. We had Miranda Willoughby who, I think, who's interested in the psychological aspects that I don ' t remember if her husband was a psychologist, but I think her son is, I think her son now is a psychologist, or psychiatrist. I don't know because I've been away too long. And, the Commissioner made it possible for us to have seminars around the state. We'd have, for example, one in Providence, one say in Central Falls, Pawtucket, that area, one down in the southern part, one over in the Bristol area. They gave them permission to be out of school in the afternoon, and we would meet them in one central place. And we would put on a program, and then have questions raised, and then talk about, well where are these children? And there were about 15%, they found at the Conference, (inaudible) Conference, children in the public school, were in some way handicapped, in some way different, exceptional. So, where were we? And I remember one teacher who had taken courses with me at the Rhode Island College of Education who later became one of their trustees. She was from Central Falls, and we had to, she got up and she said "Mrs. Krovitz," after we had finished, "you're expecting us to be diagnosticians, and we are educators." And I said to her, "My dear, a mother is not a diagnostician, but she can see if there's some pimples on the child, and she doesn't know whether they're measles, mumps or what they are, or chicken pox. But she knows she needs to go and get some help." And I said, "You have children in front of you for five hours a day, and you know he's not doing as well as he could. You think maybe something is wrong. But you don't know, but he's not doing what the rest of the children in that room are doing. You have a nurse, you have school doctors, you have, you could find these children. "And believe it or not, we now, we've come a long way, we've got national

legislation ...we've come a long, long way. And I was happy to see that you've got a lift in here. I noticed that immediately.

BA: Yes, we used it one year for, a woman who came back from her seventy-fifth reunion.

BK: Yes, so we've come a long way, and now it's just accepted everywhere. But, there's still much to do.

BA: Oh, yes

BK: And then I worked on architectural barriers. By that time I had moved to Massachusetts, and the law that came in that we worked on buildings, public buildings needed to be barrier-free and we had to do it by persuasion at first. We had to do it by persuasion. There were four or five of us who would leach together, and I drove one of the women who was a handicapped person. She happened to have been the wife of the Dean of the Harvard Law School, Dean Griswold. Well, Harriet Griswold had polio when her child was about two or three years old and she had to take care of that child. She wore a corset kind of brace. She had to put it on in bed, her legs and all. She had a car, which was wonderful, but it had a, (inaudible) using your finger to accelerate. And also, the brake kind of thing. And she could not drive any distance. She could only drive around Belmont. So I offered to drive her, and I would pick her up and we would get our meetings together. And what we were trying to do then, was to get churches, school buildings and others, by persuasion only at that time, no law that mandated it, to think about making the building barrier-free. And we would get the names of these people from the Dodge reports, which are used by builders, whenever a new building, I think there still are, when a building is to be built, there's generally a committee, and they have an architect and they may choose a building. Well, there evidently was some book that's being used by many people who were in the building trades to see where new buildings were being built, so as to get some of these sub-contracting jobs, you know. So, we would look at those, and the, in my area, I was living in Wollaston at the time, and Milton is nearby. Now if there was a church being built. I was given the name, and I tried to call the chairman of the building committee, and say "Have you thought about making your building, making it architecturally barrier-free? And should you like more information, we would gladly send you what the AIA has now come up with - how steep the ramp should be, and how to figure out about extending the bannister, so on a, on a stairwell, so the person could reach the last step. Should be about so you could pull yourself up over that. Little things like that that don't cost much more to add twelve inches of wood to the banister, I mean cutting it, little things like that and thinking about making the bathroom a little wider while you're building. And we were successful in some cases, but in other cases, they you know, their architect probably didn't think about it, and all the churches have beautiful, beautiful steps coming up, and making a very elegant but they were barriers. So we had to do a lot of that and then we worked on national legislation which has passed, and we got Section 502, and Section 504 and now we've got this new thing that I noticed in the paper just yesterday's paper, I think, in the Providence Journal, mentioned that businesses that employed handicapped people should make things a little bit more comfortable for them, help them make their job a little easier for them.

B A: So you, you did all this, for all these years as a volunteer.

BK: I've been a volunteer, I've been a volunteer in health and education and welfare. I don't know which, it all worked in together. And, what is so exciting is that I just met the most wonderful people in the world. And it was very rewarding when something got done. I mean if you could see something done. And for me to come back this year and see the changes, even right around here, I mean is really thrilling. I mean, to see the changes that have been made. I feel, it's, it's been wonderful.

BA: Oh, yeah - you have really made a difference.

BK: I feel so wonderful

BA: You have.

BK: Well, then, I found that I have, my son was out of college, and I was involved with community activities in Quincy, Massachusetts, and I got involved, when I moved there, they told somebody that I was in PTA here, and I've been on the Legislative committee and I've been up to vice-president, but I'd moved. So, I was ready to, for another election. But I got there, and what do I do? Get a call someone says to me, "we'd like to have you help us out in District three. We don't have a district director to work with the different PTA Association." And I said, "Well, I just moved in, and I really don't know Massachusetts", and this person says to me - she had met me at a national convention - she says to me, "Well, you know PTA", I said "Well, I guess I do know PTA. I've been with it now for many years" "You can read a map, can't you?" So, I, I couldn't say no. She invited me to the mid-winter conference, remember I don't know a soul. And stayed at the Statler Hotel in Boston. So, I arrived at the Statler, and I'm just looking at everybody. They sent me, they had a monthly bulletin that had articles by the different chairmen, and had pictures of some of these people. So, I'm in there, I go into coffee shop, and I'm looking at this one, and I'm looking at that one (inaudible) picture, and finally, I see someone that looks like their picture, and I go oh, she's sitting at the end of the coffee shop. And so then she brought me in and introduced me, so I got to know them. And then I was finally, finally went up the "up the ranks" you might say. And was elected President in '66, of the state commune. But unfortunately what happened I was there for a while. I'd had a physical before I was to take office and all, and everything was fine, great, and then during the year I found that what we had been trying to take care of and prevent evidently just bloomed. And I found myself having a surgical menopause. And then, problems started so that I felt it was important to resign, and not have people making excuses that our president is not available and ill. And, I resigned and the vice-president took over. So I was out of circulation for about a year, and then things started because I had been involved in Quincy with community action, started during Johnson, Great Society kind-of- thing. And they had asked me to be on the Board, but I said "I can't be because I want to get this presidency, and they want me to be President of the PTA". So, what happened was that the next year, they knew that I had resigned, and I was feeling better and it was right in my own community, so I went on the Board, and I stayed with it until I left Quincy. And while I was on the Board, I became very much interested in what was going on in the community, of course. And, on the Board was a gentleman who was Director of the Council on Aging. And, they were building public housing at that time...'69, '68, around there. A lot of twenty dash two money and all kinds of money for universities and all those. Housing for the elderly and the handicapped. And the, the housing authority director, and the Council on the Aging director were

very much interested in seeing if we could get for the city of Quincy, a grant so that we could have a demonstration project (inaudible) and we got it. And he, he suggested, he and I were on the same wavelength. And our philosophy was if older people, if they cannot get to the service, the service will have to come to them. And so I was given again, paper and pencil, and all the city services - now see what you can do in getting support services. So, we come into a brand-new building with two hundred people from Boston, South Boston - all over. Some had never lived with high-rise. Yep, this is fourteen stories. Some had never lived with electric stoves. Never had elevators. It was a whole new lifestyle. They'd never lived where one door was your apartment and the next door was the next apartment and fire doors, and we had elevators and incinerators at that time. And janitors and all that. So, it was really an experience. And so first of all, I devised a well, sort of interview that I would have with each new resident just so I could know where they came from, what they had retired from, what their hobbies were, what would happen if there was an emergency, who would they like us to call. And so as a result of this survey kind of thing, we developed emergency cards which we would put on the back of their bathroom door so that we had these things you call emergency pulls. So that it would put a light on in front of their door, and it would also open the door. So that anybody who wanted to rush in and help them. If they fell and they could, were near where they could reach for, there was one near their toilet, and one near their bed. So, that was important. And then I had to do tenant education, I had to bring in people, from the elevators, the people who were, who were, had installed the stoves, the electric company, so that they would explain because many of them had used gas, and no flame, and sometimes they didn't know it was on. And they would have their bathrobe on and reach over to get the kettle, and this one was still burning. So we had to do a great deal of education. But it was a very exciting period for me, because the questions they came down and asked me, and I was sort of working with the Council on Aging, but I also had to abide by housing authority regulation. Two of them, two directors, were really wonderful people, because they gave me the freedom to try things and to grow. And I appreciated that and they did too.

BA: How many hours a week did you work on that?

BK: Well that was a full-time, but that was a paid-job.

BA: Oh, it was a paid-job, oh good.

BK: That was my first paid job. I got 80 dollars a week. And that was wonderful, because I loved the people and I think that we got along beautifully. So, we had to tackle everybody. We had to tackle the police department - we had them come up and speak and talk, and talk about crime and crime-prevention, and how older people need to behave. We had the fire department come and talk about fire safety, and what to do, that we were a fire-resistant building, and please don't use the elevators. Get out on that balcony, because you'd be safe there. Steel construction and cement. So it was a fairly, you know, strong building, and fire resistant, and we had to explain that. Then we had to call the post office. Now there's where I ran into a problem. We had a mailbox, that was on a post on the- street around the corner, in front of the fire station. So, these older people had to come out the front door, go to the corner, go down one block, cross this very busy Washington Street, and put their mail in this nice little box that hung on a telephone post. Two hundred people living in this building. So we call the Boston post-office, so they have to

come down and make a survey. And they make a survey, and then they tell us that, well yes, they'll move it. So they move it across the street, but they don't have to cross the street. They still have to come out the building, go like this and around. Well, that was better than nothing, but we had to complain again. Fortunately, the mayor the Council on Aging people, and the, you know, the others in the community around there said: "Well, why don't you put it on Curtis Avenue, instead of way over there. Well, they weren't so sure. They had to come around and make another survey. Alright. We said "Now the people on this street won't be able to use it. If you will please put it in front of our building, we would like to have you put it under our portico because then they can come right out without getting wet or without getting snow on them. Well, I guess the Good Lord works in wondrous ways, because I came in, about Valentine Day, and the snow is about two feet, and I look out, and all these envelopes are on top, and the valentines are just thrown all over the place, and I thought "My God, what has happened?" So I pick them up and then I realize that many older people put money, not checks but money in valentines for their children. So I brought them in and I found out what happened. There was this big snow. They put these letters to go out in the foyer, and they left them for the mailman to pick them up. They couldn't get out in that snow and go around. And, occasionally if they met the mailman, he was very nice about taking the mail and bringing it to them. And when he came of course, he opened all these mailboxes, and put the mail in, and they would wait, because for him to., "Well" I said, "Now what do we do? This is serious, because these people, this kind of weather - we cannot do that." Well, again they came down, and they looked the situation over, and they now put it near the curbstone. They brought a big mailbox this time, and also a box that would be a storage box for the mailbags to be put. But now it is right there on the curbstone in front of the building. Well, that looks fine. Well, one day the mailman was coming along, and boy that mailbox was going, tumbling right down the street, because that street was like a wind canyon.

BA: Oh, yeah, like with the big town buildings.

BK: And here's this mailbox. And so, that was the best thing that ever happened. So then they came and they finally put it under the portico.

BA: Isn't that something?

BK: Two years, I had everybody writing letters, everybody calling the post office. Well, that's that. That was really great. We got that done. Then we, I found that there were some problems. This woman was going to the doctor, she took a taxi, she was legally blind, she came back and her doctor had called the pharmacy and had them send five different prescriptions up to her. So, I didn't know about them. I saw her coming back, and she goes up to her apartment, and when the prescription came, you know after I had left of course, she calls in a neighbor, and she asks them to read what it says in that little print. Well, she knocks the number of pills on the top of the thing and that night that woman, took one of every one of the five different pills. And she couldn't sleep. And she was having an awful time. She gets up and takes one of those non-prescription drugs, that she was used to taking. I don't want to name any particular drug. And she was miserable, and I came up, she called me the next morning, and I said "Mrs. S, please call your doctor immediately, and tell him what you have done." And then I said to myself, "These people need to have a health counsellor, or health educator, or somebody in here. "We had a room that was set aside for health. It had a scale, and it had a file, and it had a desk. And when

they built the building, they thought in terms of, a health room. But, now, how were we going to get the money? We had no money. Well, fortunately, I was on the Budgeting Committee of the United Funds, and we were meeting, and there was five thousand dollars, that we couldn't, it was too much to give to one organization, because we were budgeting for the South Shore. Boston was separate at that time. I think now it's altogether. And they wanted suggestions. What are we going to do? We don't want to turn it back, you know. So, what was the unmet need? And I said "Well, if I had that, I would like to give it to the visiting nurses, and ask them to come, maybe one hour a week, or two hours a week. Use that room and counsel people. Let them bring down the medicine. Explain it to them. Let them take their blood pressures, and refer them to the doctors. Someone they could talk over, before they went. Well, we didn't believe it, but the person who was the Department of Health officer and doctor, I guess was not too pleased. He thought the nurse was going to pack in the medicine. They didn't realize we got signed off by all the medical associations, and the other people. They thought that was a wonderful idea, because it would mean that these people would be going to the doctor, because the nurse would say "I think your blood pressure's high, and you'd better go see the doctor, or your pulse is high, or anything like that. But he was not too sure that was a good idea. And so he had his patients come in every week, if he wanted them to have their blood pressure taken. But everybody else - was very, very happy that we had that, and the nurse was there, and pretty soon, all the other buildings had, see we were a demonstration building. But every, then everyone wanted what we had, because we were demonstrating the need. And it worked out beautifully. So I got myself involved again. I had to be Chairman of the advisory Committee, now, for, for the visiting nurses. So one thing led to another.

BA: But you had the skills, and obviously you had the leadership skills.

BK: But the linkages. I mean we would be linked. There was Community Action, Council on Aging, Housing Authority. Well then we had to get some money deposits, and another one that was difficult, was the school department. I thought that was going to be easy. But they told me, "Well senior citizens can take the bus, and come up and take classes at the evening high school, or they can take classes at the evening. VocTech school. And I said "That's very nice, that's fine. It won't cost them anything." But I said how many of these people are going to get on a bus at night and when it's snowing and sleeting and raining?" I said "They will not go." I said "Look, we have a beautiful big hall, we have tables, we have chairs, we have lights, we have heat. We have everything you need except the teacher. Why isn't it possible for us to get a teacher from, say 4:30 to 5:30 - an hour in the afternoon? And that would be very nice for the people to have a discussion group or anything else led by a teacher or perhaps giving a course, I don't care, if it's what the people want. I find myself on the Advisory Committee of the adult education. You know, every time they want to set you up, they put you on a committee. So, anyway, finally they were convinced. And we did have someone discuss money, and that kind of thing. And that worked out very well. And then, there was a wonderful doctor who wanted to do some health education. She had come up with a series of seminars, that was called "HEALTHY," "Health Education and Learn to Help Yourself," the letters spelled healthy. She was a woman who was a doctor, and she worked with one of the nurses that at the Harvard Public Health School and develop this series of six, of six - three hour I think it was, two hour or three hours, the morning or in the afternoons. Six periods when we come together and discuss the aging process, and what happens when you get older. We talked about such subjects as the skin and the outer change of

hair, and all that. And then we had one on chronic diseases, we had one on stress, which was mental health, given by a mental health person, we had one on pills and vitamins, medication, finding a person who was the head of the State Commission on Pharmacy. Very fine promises to have from Quincy. We had dentists, we had visiting nurses - we would discuss chronic illness. And it was a wonderful series. At the end we gave them a little certificate. We had a little program, with the Council on Aging director on the, and it worked out very well. So, but again, when I went to see this big director of the Health Department, the gentleman says "I don't quite understand", he said, "the less older people know about what's bothering them the better," he says. Of course, I didn't believe that. So I thought to myself, "well, if I get this show on the road I had better call Dr. (inaudible) and ask her because I thought it would be better if one doctor spoke to another, one medical person to another, they'd understand each other. Well, he finally was convinced and he was going to give the first lecture. We asked him to do that. And it worked out very well. And, again, we were pioneers, because there were only a few communities that did that. And I could not have done that without the Housing Authority and the Council on Aging and they were thrilled. Then I said we were given time by the public service time from our local radio station and the director and I, he used to call me his administrative assistant. And we would be on like once a month on a Friday afternoon for about twenty minutes on the radio. And we'd talk about the health fair and we'd talk about this program HEALTHY. I was specializing more in health than anything else. I felt that was the most important thing to an older person. So I tapped in on anything I could get or bring to them. So I said to the radio station people, "Would you do this for us? Could you extend your fifteen minutes," or twenty minutes which they gave us, "on Friday afternoon, and have ten minutes more. We'd like to use that time for health education for the whole community." So I handed them the program, complete with the speakers and everything else we had. Oh, we had written material, we had suggested reading for people, we had discussion of these things. So it was really a very good seminar. Everybody really felt they learned something. And, of course, the radio could only answer questions over the telephone. But that worked out fine because the station won this special award that year and that was really wonderful. I was thrilled to pieces.

BA: Now, what year was this?

BK: This was back in the early '70s.

BA: Is that house still there?

BK: Oh, yes.

BA: Still has the programs and –

BK: I hope so because after I left, the Housing Authority, I think after the demonstration was over and they felt it was worthwhile they, the Housing Authority, got some special thing from [HUD?] to do tenant orientation or something like that. It involved everything that I did. And we tapped in on everything we could tap in. I mean, if anything was going to be available, man, I was going to get it for them. Bright Eyes came to Boston, at the University hospital. The National Society for the Prevention of Blindness gave Boston a grant for older people to have an examination of their eyes if they had not had an exam in five years. And most of these people

were poor people. Housing people, people in public housing. And so I called them and I said, "do you know we're in Quincy and our hospital doesn't have anything like that. We don't have any eye tests and I know we have people who need help." So they worked it out so we could have seven bus loads, each bus had forty. And they said to me, if you will do all the clerical work and all the, you know, filling out forms -

Tape 2, Side 1

BK: The "Bright Eyes" project provided the transportation and a light lunch, like a sandwich, and a cookie, and a drink and then transportation back into Quincy. So we had seven bus loads, and I asked them for a report, and we found there were 23 different types of problems with eyes that these people had, not just cataracts, but all kinds of very difficult things. In fact one person was immediately kept from going back home. Yes. And it was quite upsetting, because his wife had to go home alone. She went with him. But we took care of that so she got home alright. And after she, you know, got off the bus. And, we found that was very worthwhile. Now, I was interested in reading the paper, recently, that finally our own hospital was having eye exams without optometrists, volunteered to do some examinations. But this was the test that they had, was the drops, and everything else. It was a complete ophthalmological wonderful test.

BA: Wonderful.

BK: So, those are some of the things, I mean I could go on because it was a wonderful, exciting period of my life because I was in on the beginning of things. And when you're in on the beginning of things, that's what's exciting. I mean that's why I'm saying I'm enjoying my life. It was really good for me. It was exciting.

BA: Wonderful thing.

BK: And, so then that led to my being involved with the elderly. By that time the National government had the administration on aging, and we started having each state developing area agencies on aging, and having state departments. The Department of Elder Affairs, in some states, or executive offices, or they had different names but there were nothing more than state branches that were involved with aging. So, again I had the good fortune of being on the beginning of that and development of area agencies. And so then I served on the area agency, I served on the homecare corporation, which was an outgrowth of that. And then, after I had retired, so, you might say from that, a job at (inaudible) Towers, I was asked to be on the council on Aging. Now I was in a different role. And so I found myself going to State, and area, and regional meetings that the Administration on Aging had for example, in different parts of New England.

BA: Forget...now you were back to being a volunteer.

BK: I was back to being a volunteer, yeah, after I left. But I stayed on a year as a volunteer, until they found someone to kind of take over. But they, I think they changed the focus. I mean things have changed, you know. So they changed the focus, and I think, I think many of the departments - my job really was to educate the city that they should pick up and then afterwards,



the Council on Aging took up, and we started it, transportation for medical reasons, because many people could not drive.

BA: A real problem.

BK: And we had, we had trips into Boston, to the hospital clinics, more than once a week and they were very cooperative to arrange them so that our drivers could take several instead of you know, one group of people running back and forth to Boston from Quincy. And so there were groups that would go in. And now they have the RI DE. which is transportation from the MBTA, you know the agency which is in charge of transportation. We've come a long way. So now that we've set them in place, you know, now it's accepted transportation. Another thing which I was excited about, was I had been to a transportation conference, and I had heard that one of the companies that is involved with retail sales of food - I hate to name, put names down, because I feel that you know I'm not a commercial, and I don't want to give them applause. But one of the groups, was going to do something about transporting elderly people. And I thought that's a fine idea. I've been trying to do that for two years and got nowhere with one of the other, big chains in our community. Whenever I talk to them they said "Well, there's the insurance problem, there's this, there's that. We can't do it." So finally, when I called and told them that one of their competitors was going to start it north of Boston. "Well, you'll hear from us," they said. And fortunately again, things fall in place. The, one of the women who lived in another part of the city, and who was living in public housing, not the building where I was involved in, had asked her son who was a manager of one of these big markets, she said, "How am I going to get to your market, we don't have a car, we can't go shopping on the bus, it's too difficult." And just at that point, he was interested in how he could help the people where his mother lives. So, when they called me from their National Office, he said the new manager wants to know, too. And he'd be glad to talk with you and the head of the Council on Aging. So we made a survey, and we said "How many people are willing to use the bus once a week and go do their shopping in this market?" Well, I mean everybody signed it. Everybody signed it. And they made quite a fuss about the old people, they gave them coffee when they came in, and that kind of thing at the beginning you know. Well, it wasn't very long before two other chains in the city wanted to know what day they could come. So I had bought, I had buses pulling up on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Each one wanted -

BA: They could have their choice then of what store.

BK: That's right. And they also, they could go anytime, I mean they could go all three if they wanted to. One of the shopping areas had a pharmacy, and the other one, I think was near the post office or something, and more near downtown, so that was convenient, and I think one of them was near a liquor store, so it would be convenient for some of them. So they could do a lot. They gave them an hour and a half, and they made all arrangements. But then I had to explain to these people that you cannot package your stuff the same way with older people. And I said, "now look, you got to think. They're going to buy one pear, one apple, one banana. They want a variety. They might buy one or two pieces of chicken, they might want one lamb chop, and you just better think about the day that they're coming," because everything was packaged. So we had to some educating, again. So then you get yourself involved again, and you end up on a Consumer's Board. I mean, every time you know, you opened your mouth, you had to, well, it

worked out to be very fine. I mean, they were very cooperative. They did a good job. And then they finally, I couldn't take the time anymore, and I said, you know, "More men are doing shopping for women." I said "Many of them are coming home and shopping." Well, they said "Well get me a man," you know, as if to challenge me, "Where can we find a man?" And I said "Well, my husband's retired. If you want to have him, I'm ready to resign." So they put him on the corporate board, which was later, they have stores in many states - New England and Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey. So he went on the corporate board, and they would come in - delegates from the consumer boards in each place would come in, and they did a great deal about getting them to do something about packaging, and all of that, and pricing, and there was a lot of research been done on the colors that older people can see well: Why do you have your labels underneath there in orange color, and the lighting, and then we finally did a lot. This company I think this company should be rewarded, because they did a lot in sensitizing their help to what it means to be an older person. And there was a project when I left, a project was with AARP and this company in New Haven, and they were going to try it out, and then whatever kind of information they found would be printed by the FMAS food marketing associations - national association, of all kinds of food marketing groups. And I haven't seen reports, but I know that they did work on for example, putting gloves on people, and when you have an older person who's arthritic and can't pick up that dime, and it drops you know, and you, you've got the person who's behind the cash register, get into kind of (inaudible) out. And I mean it took a lot of educating, and also their attitude towards, you know, older people coming in. So that was an experience. And one thing led to another. That's all I can say. I find that, I find that, well, that's what happened. I went from children to the elderly, but the things I learned were so, I mean I just transferred. Sure. Making a survey, I had to do it when I came in with, you know teaching, getting new courses, and then, because we had done so much, Boston University finally got a grant to start its department or gerontology. Well, Brandeis had had a department, but their department was more in the field of philosophy and policy. They were the ones who did all the research and study to develop the area agencies on aging, and they reported to a senate committee on aging, and helped pass a law. But Boston University had decided to make it interdisciplinary. So, every department, whether it was sociology, whether it was the nursing school, whether it was the medical school, the divinity school, all had something to study about the elderly. And an awful lot has happened since. Well, I was in on some brainstorming because when they got the grant, they asked this other person who had done this demonstration in her community and, and they asked me, and a lot of other people. We weren't the only ones. They must have had about twenty-five. We spent two or three or four days, saying "What would you put into such a course? What do we need to know? We need people who are workers, and we need people who are workers, and we need people who are consultants to work with them. Well, what do we need?" Well, that led to what was the material that needed to be presented for this grant for the original setting up of the school of the, our school at BU, and there was a wonderful professor, Dr. Lowey, and I had the good fortune of working with him, and never thinking that we were going to set up these courses, and that I would ever be able to take it. Well, they called me in, they said "We have some money left, we have a person who is a consultant in training of consultants, and she had been teaching up at McGill or some place and she will be teaching our group on geriatric consultation in training consultants. So, they said "If you can get some room for us and we've got the students, because we knew that a lot of people, were beginning to be involved with nursing homes and beginning to be involved with setting up the, you know, homecare corporations, and you know groups like that, that we wouldn't have any problem in

getting students. The important thing was getting a teacher and getting a place. Well, the library in Hingham offered us the library, BU offered us all of their audio-visual material for replacement in the in the library, and we had a very intensive course. Not only study, not only lectures, but actually work.

BA: How many people were involved?

BK: There must have been about thirty, I would say, or forty. And so then we all got a certificate in social gerontology from Boston University.

BA: Great, wonderful.

BK: So, now we became a little bit more important. But, it was a wonderful thing. And, I mean and so I miss it all. I really do because I found that my husband became ill just as we were moving from Massachusetts to Florida, and we couldn't even go down there for the closing. I mean my brother had to take over. Bob was in the hospital. So, we bought the place over the phone, and moved out six months later. And that was something. It was traumatic to say the least.

BA: You went there because of his health?

BK: Yes, yes. We knew that we couldn't, couldn't, he couldn't take the cold anymore. And then when he got down there he was a very rare case, because he was about the only one in the whole community and fortunately we had found the right doctors. He was researched, Bob researched the doctors, because he had heard so much about him, and we had been patients of doctors at Mass General, and so we wanted very qualified people, we fortunately found them and fortunately he was guided to be sent down to Jackson Memorial Hospital where he was the thirty-eighth to have an AICD implanted. And that was only in '87.

BA: This is the heart thing?

BK: Yes, it is an automatic, implanted cardioverter defibrillator. And there were only about six places in the country where it was being done. It was very expensive, it was experimental because it only had been approved in '86 by the FDA, and fortunately the doctor where we are realized what had happened to him, and knew he had to go there because his doctor and his partner had worked down there for seven years at Drake, so he knew what was going on and he knew that Bob was a candidate. So he was thirty- eighth to have that implanted. So he lived with this big thing that was implanted in his abdomen, and before that when he was down there for seventy - two days, in intensive care, which is another whole story in itself, but the first operation, he had six different procedures, and one ending up with putting in the wires, the electrodes from his heart down here, and coming out and waiting for this instrument to be made, in Minnesota. And so it was finally made, and then he had a pace-maker up here. Well now we've come a long way. That year, the first year there were about 2,000 all over the country. And just the other day I received, what they call news "Rhythm and News", which is put out. And there were 25,000 done last year, and done on much younger people. It, because, this type of heart condition that he had is silent death. Tricky little arrhythmia, no pain. But this thing, if his

heart had gone beyond 152 it goes off, and there's an electric current that's as if somebody were banging his heart, brings them right back. And it's so powerful, but very painful when it happens. And every two, every month and a half, every other month, we had to go down and have it tested, because when it gets to six seconds, that means that it's not reacting fast enough for anything, and so they had, he had another one implanted. They took that one out, and put another one in. Soon after that, other things happened, many things happened in the body besides the heart, so bladder, and kidneys and everything else. But, fortunately, his mind did not go, so I was grateful that we talked to the last minute, and I mean I was...he knew what he wanted. A wonderful, caring, delightful guy.

BA: So you had the one son? Edward? And now you have two granddaughters?

BK: One son, two granddaughters. Yes, one is 26 or 27, working for a publication, a publishing society.

BA: Where?

BK: In the California area. I think her, the company she works for is in (inaudible), they live in Sherman Oaks. And the other daughter, the other granddaughter, is in Tennessee.

BA: Oh, my. Do you go visit them?

BK: I was out there last year for a short time, but I haven't seen the one in Tennessee, we correspond, we write, we talk, and recently, she sent me copies of her graduation of her diploma and her program, and her citation, and her magna cum laude thing. So, I was very pleased that she's going on, because when she graduated from high school there was a boyfriend. And a car. She didn't think about college. But her dad said "Anytime you want to go back you say the word" So I guess her time came when she realized ...

BA: Are you doing any volunteer work now in Florida?

BK: I'm not because I was a full-time care-giver there, twenty-four hours a day and taking care of the patients...

BA: Two, three years, or something?

BK: The kind of volunteer work was doing is, for example, I have a dear friend who comes down from (inaudible) and she's 88 and she no longer drives. I will take her to the doctor, and I will take her to market and that kind of thing, emergencies. I've gotten involved with adult education, I've gotten involved with courses, and but I realized I was a widow, and needed to learn something about, even though I had done income tax with my husband, but now my status had changed -

BA: You were responsible.

BK: And there was this wonderful course that was given on income tax for the individual. So, I took it. So anytime I want to learn something I take a course. So, that's one thing I've done. And I mean, I look backwards feeling so good about so many people. Because we knew people all over the country, and we travelled a lot. And when Bob retired from insurance after 29 years, he was sort of stuck in it during the Depression. He really was going to go on and study law. But he would have been a better teacher or professor, he really would have. But he found himself, I was involved with mental health which I haven't even mentioned and the opportunity came, I was on the board. They wanted someone to consolidate. They had four different offices in the downtown area of Quincy, and one was a preschool, and one was the guidance clinic, and one was something else, and they were all over. And the opportunity came for them to rent one whole floor of a very big building. And, they wanted, they didn't have any money, and they wanted someone who was retired, who'd run a business, who'd run an office, who knew something about purchasing and (inaudible) a psychiatrist and a psychologist were running this, I don't know what to call it, but it was running all over the city, I mean four different places. And some not knowing what the others were doing. And if they wanted something, they wanted a toy for their clinic, they'd go over to the toy store, and buy something. There was no order. They knew nothing about setting up pensions, and they were getting money they were beginning to get a lot of money from government grants, from United Funds, from fees, because we were beginning to empty out our mental hospitals and they were having people coming for aftercare, and they were getting some of their slots were taken by state so they were paying for some of these people. And 125 people working but they were scattered. Nobody knew what was going on. So we had to do that. One of the big projects was getting them moved, setting up their plans and he knew it was something he worked himself out of. And so in a couple years he had set up their office procedures and all of that and pensions. And they moved into this building. Now we had also to make all the changes, because it was an office building: knock down walls, make space for libraries, set up a two-way room, with the two-way mirrors that they have, you know, so that they can look through a watch and observe the business end of it. The telephone for 125 people. Purchasing - all of that. And he loved it. Oh he just loved it. He just enjoyed every minute of it. And then, when he finished that project, he was always involved with college youth. That was his hobby. And very active in scholarship - not necessarily raising funds for scholarship, but in how -study. There's a book on talking with college students. In fact at one time he was President of the College Fraternity Scholarship Association. And they were interested in ratings, and getting the fraternity to be above the all - men's average. So he was involved in his fraternity and then went up the ranks, and then was involved with the foundation. So he was travelling to the foundation. And then he became President of the National College Fraternity Conference, which is made up of all of -

BA: This was after he retired?

BK: Yup. And so he travelled for them. He was President for about 26 different committees. So he was well-organized, I mean I'm not as organized as he was. Really he was organized. When I look through some of the files and I think: How could I do that? All by mail, you know. Talking to these people. And we travelled a lot. So when I could go with him, I went with him so I'd find myself all over. We couldn't hassle a college, but there would either be a chapter or a dean, or a student personnel person, or there'd be somebody that we knew, you know. So we had a wonderful time travelling, and he had a wonderful time talking at convocation, so now all of that

stuff, I haven't put together, and it's all promised to National Fraternities of Indianapolis, the headquarters of many of journeys that his fraternity took, Alpha Epsilon Pi. So, and there's a scholarship that started in 1956, when he was, '56 yes, he was President in '46, but in '56 he had gotten the Order of the Lion, which was their highest award. Some of the brothers were instrumental in starting the scholarship fund. And he, he wanted it, as I wanted it always to be broad enough so that it could be used, not just special for one and he wanted it for a young man who was at the University of Rhode Island, who was a fraternity brother who may need it, but if there was no one eligible that year, it could go to any of 125 different places where they had chapters. All the way to Canada or anyplace else, but we wanted it used so I made everything broad enough without strings attached.

BA: He was a Rhode Islander too, then.

BK: Yes, yes. He was from Providence. And so I'm trying to carry out his wishes. That's why I'm here and at Meeting Street School.

BA: Meeting Street School has grown. Hasn't it?

BK: Oh, it has grown. And that new building you see, I wanted to see very badly, because the person for whom it is named, was the director when it started, (inaudible) Langdon, and she remarried just recently. At eighty she got married, again and we knew her first-husband very well. He was a pediatrician who at forty-two, I believe, had a stroke. He had extremely high blood pressure. At that time they performed what was called a sympathectomy, but it didn't work. And so he was handicapped. And she had been headmistress, at the Gordon School for many years. They had three little daughters. And we became not only working partners, you know I was a volunteer, and she was a professional. But we became very good friends, and we would take her husband out to a special place down at the corner, I forgot the name of it now, Rhode Island and Connecticut, and there was a beautiful park down there, and on the ground over one end there was a lake and a playhouse. And they didn't advertise in Rhode Island. They used to advertise in the New York papers. But it was right on the borders, and we would take him down, and of course Bob would help her take out the wheelchair. We'd go - he was a boy scout, so he had been to the World Jamboree, when he was a child. So he used to love to make the fire, build the fire and then we'd have a cookout or something, and then we'd take him to the play in the wheelchair. I was just reminiscing yesterday about those things, you know. The times that we had together. So, it was a wonderful friendship, and wonderful experience. I learned a lot from her. We traveled to conventions together, drove across the country - Chicago together. It was just wonderful! No money, but we had fun.

BA: You have certainly led a full, full life.

BK: I feel that way. I've been fortunate and grateful for many things. And now when you ask what I do, I am very happy to have one thing to look forward to. Because two years ago, five months after Bob died, I didn't expect to be here. And I don't think the doctor did here either. He said "Why do you Krovitzes have to be so different?" So they didn't know what was wrong, and I developed something that was multi-pulmonary clots and so I am very fortunate, so I'm very grateful that I can do what I do, and if I can look forward to one beautiful thing each day,

meeting a new person, getting a telephone call, from an old friend, maybe somebody just stopping by and saying “hello,” watching the birds whistling to them in the morning we have loads of birds around, looking after some plants that I have - my little patios, I have two little patios, and living, in what I call a "Postage Stamp," a condo...I don't call this much more than ...but I do have two bathrooms, and two bedrooms.

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