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## Oral Interview of Peggy Burns by Andrea Hawks and Mazie Hough for the Feminist Oral History Project (Part #1)

Andrea Hawks

Mazie Hough

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Oral Interviews for the Feminist Oral History Project.

Interviewer: Andrea Hawks (AH), Mazie Hough (MH)

Interviewee: Peggy Burns (PB)

Date: 09/01/1994

Recording number: MF223-BurnsP-T1a

Length of recording: 43:47

[Transcript begins]

AH: This is the first of September, first day of September 1994 in the morning, mid-morning, and Mazie Hough, Andrea Hawks, are interviewing Peggy Burns in her kitchen. About her experiences with Spruce Run. Peggy, I hope I've explained to you carefully what will happen with this tape after we're done, and I will ask you to sign this release form. We can do this later on, but I wanted it kind of documented on the tape that we've talked about this. So, let's start with Mazie and I discussed this beforehand, and we don't really want to lead you anywhere. We want you to tell your story about Spruce Run and then the things that you say will elicit some questions from us, but at this point I would just like to turn it over to you and say, tell us about Spruce Run in your life.

PB: Oh OK, I didn't know whether to prepare for if you were going to ask. I thought you mentioned questions, so I didn't know if I ought to prepare. What was Spruce Run? Well, it was. I had been to several other shelters before I got there. And I've been to the shelter in Augusta before it even existed, but it was a volunteer opened their home.

AH: Where did you live at this time, Peggy?

PB: Before, when I first went to a shelter, I was in Madison. Before I came to Spruce Run, I was in Augusta. And we were sent to the family Violence Project shelter, but that wasn't considered safe for us. We were being threatened and staff members were being threatened.

AH: And you told us?

PB: Yes, there was myself and my son and my daughter.

MH: And when did you move from Madison to Maine? What year was it? Oh, it wasn't Madison, it was.

PB: Madison, Maine. I'm sorry, I should make that clear. Let's see. It's not going to stop them back, that's OK. It's 15, OK. It's 15 years ago. OK, when I went 15 years ago in December.

MH: To the Augusta shelter. OK.

PB: Not the first time, but the second time we had actually existed as a shelter and then I was in Augusta one year and then the following year again in December we spent two Christmases in shelters. Came here.

MH: OK.

PB: So, let's see. It was quite. It's quite a change from the two shelters because it wasn't, there was no staff out there. We were out.

MH: In Augusta?

PB: No, in Augusta the staff members were right there in the building. When they actually had their shelter, they've since relocated, but so there was somebody there during the day. And you're all in one building. So you sort of interacted more. Out here you're in two separate units of K-part there is, you don't have to go outdoors to get to one another, as I'm sure you know about this. You can go through the upstairs bedroom to get back and forth. But there didn't seem to be as much. Where it was separate and there was no staff there as much communication and as much, as much support actually. The support I got from Spruce Run, came from, not from the Spruce Run themselves, some from Spruce Run came out there, but... and we're stuck out there without transportation, I was using the city bus, which was a new experience, and I didn't know where it went and how to use it. That was really frustrating. And specially trying to carry groceries home and not knowing and everything out in K-Park in the first day it looks all alike, so you don't even, you can't even remember where to get off the bus. Yes, but the record from the city, 'cause it was city owned and operated.

MH: Well this yes this when you were at your time it was city operated and I am very interested to hear your experience 'cause we've been hearing about this.

AH: I'm a little confused so I want to start, when you move from Madison you moved to Bangor?

PB: No, I moved, I went from Madison to the shelter in Augusta. Therefore I located in Augusta.

AH: OK. And then how did you get involved in Bangor and you said you lived in K-Park?

PB: OK, K-Park, the shelter, the Spruce Run shelter was city owned and operated and it was two units in K-Park.

AH: But I haven't gotten you out of Augusta yet.

PB: Oh, OK. First I was taken by a deputy to a Sheriff shelter and then to a home in Gardner that.

MH: This was when you were in Madison?

PB: That was at the beginning from Madison.

MH: So, when you wanted help in Madison, you called the Sheriff?

PB: No, I was working through family violence project shelter and being, it was quite a procedure. I was on the phone for his name was Jackie Clark on the phone with her for a long time too 'cause I was being watched like a hawk by the, my husband and his family. And I don't know if you want events that leading up to how much detail you want?

MH: However much you want to tell us.

PB: 'cause I know it sounds confusing as to why did you... but anyhow, where was it going to the first... well, I suppose I could make a long story short by saying like a fool, like so many other who also are able to get out, you go back again for whatever the reason it just. Yeah, I can't even explain it as not something you can understand. Why in God's name a woman would finally get out and then go back in again. Ah, the first time, I guess it seemed like I didn't have anything with me. Well, I ended up eventually in a move from Augusta from family violence project shelter to Spruce Run shelter. Not having anything anyway, we had what we could take in a suitcase and the city bought tickets for us and send us by Greyhound.

AH: From Augusta to Bangor?

PB: From Augusta to Bangor. Because and from family violence project, they went with who they could find, what other shelter in the state they could find that would take us. And they spent a whole day talking to Spruce Run, that didn't want to take us, but eventually agreed to take us.

AH: I see I see now.

PB: So that's how I got...

MH: Now, why couldn't Augusta keep you there?

PB: Because the character I was married to was threatening to kill us and he had threatened to kill my son while he threatened to kill us my son and I both.

AH: So they wanted to get you out of the area.

PB: He was also threatening their staff members. So they wanted to get us out of there because in some in case he could find the shelter which wouldn't have been too difficult to do and carry through with his threat.

AH: I see OK.

PB: He'd been at AM High for caring for threatening and for attempting to kill my son over and over again. But then they can't keep them too long. They kept him 3 months, 3 months and then would be out again.

MH: And you said his family too, so his family was supporting him.

PB: His family was supporting him, but they were up there in Madison area, so they weren't a problem in Augusta. Because they weren't, they weren't around.

MH: So we're still in Augusta. I guess you contacted the Family Violence Project in Augusta and how did you know about the family violence project?

PB: Because I had worked with them before for so long and I wanted to add too that I went, when I first went to a shelter, which it wasn't even yeah, the volunteer's home and I went back home. They, a staff member from family violence project. They did follow us, came to my home to see they knew from my situation that was obviously is not going to improve. From what I was dealing with then they came to see if things were OK. Well things were not OK and I needed help again. So again they helped me. So which I thank God they don't give up on you. They let you, if you leave and you go back to the situation, they give you another chance and still another chance to get out of it.

MH: So you contacted them early on and went to a safe house for a period of time, and then you went back to your own home, and then they followed up and came and talked with you. And got you moved to Augusta or helped you to move to Augusta?

PB: Right, but I didn't even know they existed until I had to call the police one time for an episode, of which I thank God only got a broken finger out, but... and that police chief in Madison. They were

super in that town. I'm dealing with family violence. I said you stay put, you stay off the phone, he said I'll get you to a shelter. Now my son had been stolen by the character I was married to. I'm trying to reframe, but I don't know exactly what I want to say. I don't refer to him in kindly terms. Yes, so that's how I even came to know that that shelter existed. I never heard of them. I never saw anything advertised on TV in the paper, nothing, because they were just finally coming into being. Not in my area, but further South and not in possibly in other states? So that, yeah, that's how I got going into shelters and then finally ending up here in Bangor because they agreed to take us. And I had been, a year before for see I don't know for a month or two. In the shelter in Augusta. Out there in K-Park, I said I felt just totally isolated. At least I had a little knowledge of Bangor because I've had two marriages behind me the first time, I was married I had lived in Winterport, so I'd had come into Bangor to shop, and movies and whatnot. So at least I had some knowledge, had no knowledge of how to use the public transportation, but I had a little knowledge of Bangor at least, which was helpful.

MH: So they sent you on a bus. And who met you at the end of the bus ride?

PB: A volunteer from Spruce Run.

AH: And she took you out to K-Park.

PB: Right at night.

AH: At night, and that's always hard, isn't it? Even a place that you're familiar with.

MH: And you had your two children with you?

PB: Oh excuse me. Sorry about that. She was calling from...so I disconnected her.

AH: That's fine. We've arrived in Bangor. Spruce Run volunteers picked you up at the bus station and they and which I know was down on Main Street and took you out to K-Park, which is quite a ways really. I think in Bangor and in the middle of the night you probably didn't know where you were going.

PB: No, Just that we were being picked up and taken to a shelter, who was going to be there or what I thought I hope there is no man there.

AH: So you had your two children with you?

PB: Yes.

MH: And how old were they?

PB: Let's see. So I have to think back 14 years ago when we came here. My son was three and my daughter was 15.

AH: And so she took you in. And what happened after that? Did she just drop you off or did she introduce you to other people there or? What happened at that point?

PB: I recall there was no one else there.

AH: Did she show you around the shelter? Or did she just sort of say, well, I'll call you tomorrow or someone will call you tomorrow or...

PB: I can't even remember. But I'm pretty sure then at that time, and I think so. I don't believe there was anyone there for an entire month but us, but that was kind of nice. It was like having the space all by yourself and it was safe. And no one around you, you know who you were, and you didn't know who they were. And there was a telephone right up there on the stairway that connected you. You just picked it up and you were connected the Police Department. You couldn't call anybody, though. That was kind of frustrating. You couldn't call anybody unless you went to the store and use a payphone.

AH: So did you explore the next day where you were and how to get around? Or did you discover the bus by yourself?

PB: Oh no, I'm sure we were told. And also, as I said, the support kids I mentioned before the support came from the city worker. She came out with Carolyn and told me at the time and she's still there or not. She came out three days a week and she was, that's where I got all the help that how the questions, she knew the city. She worked for the city, where the bus, where to meet the bus and there was a bus schedule come think of it there on the table, and on the kitchen table in the kitchen. And there was information there. I remember distinctly the bus and I don't remember what all else. And of course, that's where it went. So yeah, we went out and explored on the bus as to where, how to get around and mostly I remember I wouldn't get too adventurous, so I didn't get too adventurous to go to the airport mall. It was the closest place to K-Park. And do grocery shopping and look around and stuff there.

MH: Did you have any food there when you arrived?

PB: That's right too. Yeah, I think there was some. There again, I've forgotten some of these little details, but I'm sure that there were two refrigerators in that kitchen and I'm sure there was food out there or are... I don't remember stopping on the way, but we may well have stopped and picked up, the bread and milk and all and basic stuff and I'm sure there was there were cereals in the cupboard and whatnot. I remember more, the supplies in Augusta are that those companies were there was flour and sugar and you could bake if you wanted to, and when one of the girls did for that matter, that was there. Then bunches of cereal. There was no washer and dryer in that one at first, and then they put one in, but there was. That's another thing it was out in K-Park has a washer and dryer, something I hadn't had. To use right there. So that too care of that.

AH: It was a little easier. Did you enroll your daughter in school?

PB: The worker, the city worker that came in did that.

AH: So she took care of a lot of those kinds of details for you.

PB: Yes.

AH: Yeah, that was good.

MH: Did you see anybody from Spruce Run? Once you got to the shelter?

PB: I don't remember, I've seen anybody very often.

AH: So, what kind of contact did you have with Spruce Run? How did that evolve?

PB: Their office was on Harlow St. on the corner and a brick building upstairs over I think what a travel is now, I think. I remember going in there. I wrote a long paper for an English class and compared, it had to be a comparison paper. And compared the two shelters in great detail, I wish I had saved the paper, but I didn't save stuff like that. I had a student from another class that said, save all your papers you can use them for another class, change them a little bit, professors never know. But then it occurred to me that I had many more details that I have now forgotten because it was not just a few years ago, but.

MH: Do you remember anything that you said in the paper?

PB: I sat there the other day trying to think of that and then. No, I really cannot remember all that I had written down.

MH: Well, it's interesting to me that you said there were other people in the Augusta shelter. First of all, other women who were there for shelter. And then there were also the staff of the Domestic violence project. And it sounds like it was a bustling household in Augusta.

PB: It was, and there's no greater support than talking with others who've also been through it, and we already were sitting down at the kitchen table and also the staff there had a support group in that same building for us on a particular day, when different ones, even different other ones, would come in. Plus, those of us that were right there. And the best support I ever got was sitting around the kitchen table talking with all the others because well, before you go, you think you must be an idiot that nobody in their right mind where the normal intelligence would get mixed up with something like you did, but you find you're in great company and I would love to know what's happened to some of these, but I've lost track of almost everybody. I've lost track of everybody in Augusta shelter. I've since bumped into one young woman that I was in the shelter with that...appear she's working in Walmart, she said don't I know you from way back and I said yeah, we didn't say from where. So caught up as much as we could while she was just standing there as cashier. But yeah, that was a huge help rather than getting to a place and there's nobody there. And there's no staff members, so that must make a huge difference to Spruce Run now, because that to me made all the difference in the world that there were people there. Every day during the day. You had somebody who had support. I got a lot of counseling at just the family violence project shelter, but then I thought, well by the time I'd gotten here, I didn't need. I've had all that counseling. And I just figured I was left alone out there because I wasn't considered to need much that I was capable of considered possibly capable of figuring out things on my own. But it was hard and I had no money. When I came, I came without money and almost no possessions. I'd say, well, we could fit in the suitcase. How are you going to go out and get a place to live?

AH: What did you do Peggy then? What did you do? How long you stay in the shelter? What did you do?

PB: The city let me stay long enough to build up enough to pay for our rent, and it did cost a lot by the time you had that and the security deposit. From Spruce Run I was told to go out and get anything... What landlord is going to take you? A stranger without paid employment? And not and without the money to pay all that they want right up front?

AH: But you said, did you get a job? I mean, how did you save that money? Or did they give you?

PB: No, I had AFDC applied for AFDC and I had that. That matter, I had applied before I came over here.  
My husband didn't work.

AH: But it finally came through when you came through?

PB: No, it had come up actually that day and I couldn't get for my daughter, but I could only get it for my son. That's my son and myself. But how that reckon I know was a small amount and then come the day before I left Augusta. And we put it in the cupboard, and I escaped with, well, family bonds, two staff members of family bonds and two police officers. My husband took the, he remembered someone when all this crowd showed up and they helped me to pack so that I could get out of there, which wasn't much, but anyway. And to get away. And he remembered that money. So he took that money out of the cupboard and held that. And they couldn't, I couldn't, I was not allowed to take it from him, I didn't know what to think about that anyway.

AH: So he was there in the shelter when you left?

PB: This was leaving from home. I had two family violence project members, staff members and two police officers. So that I could get whatever I could was able to get and get out of there safely.

MH: And your husband was there too.

PB: Yes. But the police officers managed to keep him calm enough so that, and to leave me alone so that we could get out.

AH: So when you got to Bangor it took a while but your next check came to you there.

PB: Yes.

AH: OK yeah and that's where you started to save the money enough to get an apartment.

PB: I saved up enough to yeah to...

AH: How long did that take you can you remember Peggy? How long were you in the shelter?

PB: I think I was there a couple of months. In order to get, safe enough to work. To be able to go out and get an apartment.

AH: So, you got an apartment?

PB: Right on 3rd St in Bangor.

AH: OK, now did you have anything to do with Spruce Run after that? Did you hear from anyone from Spruce Run or did they keep in contact with you? Or did you keep in contact with them? Or did they feel that you were OK now?

PB: Ah, I don't remember staff member ever coming to the house, but I guess they probably didn't do that. They'd have so many houses to go to. Yeah, I remember going into the office now and then. And just there was no. I didn't know anybody and it was nice to at least be able to go find a friendly face .

AH: So those were people that you really knew in Bangor, the people at Spruce Run.

PB: Yes.

AH: So it turned out to be sort of a social link then going there and talking with them.

PB: For me it was yeah.

MH: Were they running support groups then out of Spruce Run?

PB: I never remember attending a support group and I don't think they had one going at that time. I think they I know they have sense, but I just didn't feel the need to go since then.

AH: So when you went to Spruce Run and you went in and said hi, how are you and they said hi, how are you, did you sit around and talk with them for a little while? Did they ask you about your life and what was going on?

PB: Yeah.

AH: So you felt as though they were personally interested in you as a person, they liked you. You were a friend of theirs.

PB: Yeah but felt accepted.

AH: I don't hear that they the feeling that you think that you were a client really at that point it seemed as though you were friend.

PB: I felt more like they, from them I had gotten a safe place to be over here and that was the basically the extent of their help that I'd gotten. What if I needed a whole lot more than that? I'd already gotten that from the past in the past from family violence project shelter and from here I got a chance to live actually what I started...just a chance and then to have a life again.

AH: Now, did you volunteer for working at Spruce Run yourself or did they ask you to volunteer?

PB: I've been asked to, but I think I could deal with it now, but I couldn't have dealt with it. There's just too much anger and bitterness and...

AH: So they asked you if you'd like to volunteer and you said I don't think I can handle that and they said fine.

PB: Oh yeah, there was no problem, yeah, like I come right.

AH: Do you think you ever might want to volunteer?

PB: Yeah, I think I could deal with it now.

AH: So you're thinking sometime in the future you might decide to do something like that.

PB: I have done volunteer work. I'm now need the paid employment, but yeah, yeah.

AH: You have volunteered for Spruce Run?

PB: Not for Spruce Run, I've done volunteer work, but it's been like, well I volunteered one year at the in the library at the grammar school. I liked that I wouldn't mind working at a library, and I've done mostly volunteering for the elderly at this dining room right up the street here and for the elderly. And I volunteer in there.

MH: You said that they figured you had a life of your own now. So you did get a life of your own? You got an apartment and then what? You went back to school?

PB: Oh, we just survived for a while I thought, I thought, jeez, I must be lazy. I didn't get anywhere right off the bat but then I seeing that... that triangle I could see myself stuck at the bottom for years, just surviving. We got in a lousy neighborhood which was real nerve wracking, and it was just across two were all basket cases from what we've been through. So I just put all my energy into, and I was doing without money. The poverty that low poverty and then no car. No, no modern conveniences, no washer and dryer. That type of thing, and so just all my energy went into, I've worked, spent a lot of time with my son just staying home and then. Taking him to parks to get him out of that lousy neighborhood and then when he went into the Head Start, so I volunteered a lot there because they'd have to have a parent volunteer and I didn't have any little kids. Most of them were, the mothers were young and they had little kids, so I didn't. So I was. I was volunteering a lot

and actually enjoyed that too. And so that helped him through that that year and then eventually then went to Displaced Homemakers. It's just how I happen to end up going back to school.

AH: How did you find out about Displaced Homemakers?

PB: That's awful, but I can't remember that, it will come to me I'm sure, but at the moment I cannot even remember how I found out about that. And they encourage going back to school. I think they do almost everybody. What do we do with this woman, send her back to school. Everybody needs more education, and it makes real sense for the younger ones but then maybe it will for me eventually, but I'm not at that point yet. So then why did uh, went through the Displaced Homemakers? Actually, I've been through the program twice. I just wasn't at a time in my life the first time to really get that much out of it, so I was given a second chance there again to go back. And then I then from then I went on to school and seems like it took me forever because there again I've done without a car till I got it was a year ago yesterday I got a car. Which has been a huge help. And so that, so I've been going to school part time.

AH: You were working at the same time?

PB: No. All I've been able to manage is going to school part time. The only work I've done is it's been volunteer work and I wish I had put my energy. If I had done work study or something for pay it would have counted, but I haven't found anything yet or anyone yet who values volunteer work. And they want references from paid employment, not from volunteer work. But anyhow, so be it.

MH: When I hear you saying too that you had a long healing process to do and your son as well, I'm sure it was only three. But he's managed it real well. Looks like it.

PB: Thank you. Yeah, I feel like and I can finally look at man, in fact there is a man in my life, as human beings which took me a long time to be able to do that. That's why I say I couldn't have done volunteer work...

AH: Did you do this all by yourself, Peggy? You did all this all by yourself?

PB: Except that the only while, I get support and that's one reason that I still will attend support groups at Displaced Homemakers. This great support there and some of the staff members.

AH: Yeah, but you've done this all yourself.

PB: Over here, yes, I kind of thought maybe I should have gone for counseling years ago and I would have come along faster, but maybe not, I didn't, so I can't change that. Yeah, that's been, and that's one of my greatest problems have been being alone. There's nobody here. I'm so sick of being isolated. I finally got together this year to go to the coast, but I did get to the coast, but I wanted a group of friends that I went to high school with and everybody over there and I will be here. So after my son is through high school, I'm out of here. I hope.

AH: Did you ever hear from your husband once you moved to Bangor?

PB: Thank God for me. He disappeared. No, I haven't been bothered. It's been over here 14 years of peace and I feel so thankful for that.

MH: I'm curious this woman that you met at the store who had also been to Spruce Run did she have a life of her own now?

PB: Yeah, she said I'm starting a relationship and he seems real sweet, but we'll see. Yes, and her children have grown up. She's a lot younger than I am, but both of her kids are grown up and gone on their own.

AH: So she was with you in the shelter, the two months that you were in...

PB: No, there was no. As I recall, there was no one there the first month, and so we spent Christmas there as well as the Christmas previous. Not in a shelter but I think it would seem like it was January before anyone came. And then of course we ran two separate. You know there was half in one section and some of us. She and I were in. She came in with another woman and both of them with their children, where we're all in this same section.

AH: I wanted to ask you, Peggy, about Christmas in the shelter. That's something that I've going through some notes. Looking at Spruce Run and what they do and now and what they did then I'd like to know what this what Christmas was like for you in the shelter. Can you remember that?

PB: I remember being determined to have a Christmas tree and told there was no way I could have a tree. I said I'll bring one home on the bus until they said they won't let you bring one on the bus, by God they will. I will take a trouble. Take a tree on the bus.

AH: Who told you no?

PB: I think the city worker. Yeah, they won't let you bring a tree on the bus. And you know, I have since seen someone bring a tree on the bus. You get the right bus driver and you know what you can do. And you learn some of them are real sweethearts. Most of them are pretty good and some of them are super. But anyway, one of the neighbors out one of the person. Well, she kind of looked after the place. I felt like she was kind of a watchdog she worked with Spruce Run and she was and she wasn't with the city, she just was somebody that they knew that kind of looked out to make sure like you didn't have men coming through the front door and out the back door. I guess women had done that too. I didn't wanted one at that point, but anyhow.

AH: And you knew that she was there. You knew that this woman was looking at you?

PB: Was kind of yeah, of watching out and well tend to if like once in a while the telephone got off the hook. Well that would and it would keep running into the police station. And they would drive nuts, goes down there, so they'd have to get somebody to come and tell you to put the phone back on the hook. Because if one of the kids accidentally knocked it off, you didn't even know it. Ah and not it, but it was from this woman got us a treat. The woman that there was the neighbor that was kind of watching out for things, 'cause I was so determined that I would have one. And then I remember going out and buying some cheap decorations. Basically, I got decorations at the Salvation Army still got some of those as a matter fact, and that they also provided a lot of toys for the kids, especially my youngest one, was three years old.

AH: How did they know you were out there?

PB: I went into the, I don't know if they had been told of this, that I would be coming in or what, but I remember being given loads of stuff getting loads of stuff at the Salvation Army when you could. I don't really remember what the process was, but they at Christmas time and they're still doing that right provided towards and food for the those who needed it.

AH: But it sounds like that you had informed them that you needed it?

PB: I remember going and getting stuff and whether they had been told or not because they gave us an awful lot of stuff so it strikes me that that they knew. Or maybe, I don't remember. Maybe I had told them myself, but we were out there in that shelter.

AH: So you try to create as normal and I say normal with... normal like it's already normal in the world, but.

PB: And since this is saying that there's peace and you know that's going to continue to be peace and your safety and you keep the dog and doors locked. Yeah, and you'll.... when I was first in Bangor, I would keep a baseball bat by my door and my landlord knew. damn well let me know before you come through that door I said because I'll strike first ask questions later and I would. And first when first up here I had something at that door and like I say, I wouldn't hesitate to use it because you just feel that determined. I feel very determined that no man on God's green Earth will ever abuse me again. But Christmas actually wasn't all that bad, it's just 'cause it was, it was peaceful. And there was the hope that you were given the chance that, OK, you could go out and you could get a place to live, then again build up the things that you need to create a home. Basically from, that was from thrift shops and yard sales. I've since gone at a yard sale every weekend and I would yard sale on foot before I had a car and most everything. I mean this. This table is from a yard sale, and you get donations and first stop from thrift shops and yard sales and...

learn not to treasure the material stuff all that much because they can be replaced. The only thing I can't have here are my pictures and I was like well, OK, as long as I still had my memory, I can remember what all these people look like and if I no longer had my mind then even if I had the pictures, I wouldn't know who they are anyways. That's my solution, the only thing is I regret not being able to pass them along to my children following the process of picking up pictures from other family members, so replacing those sort of replacing those pictures.

AH: Who can you remember at Spruce Run? Can you remember any of those people used to go in and say hello to, can you remember their names?

PB: I remember Connie, She stands out in my mind. This is the friend that I used to bump into her later in later years, uh.

AH: I was going to ask you that if you...

PB: Usually we'd meet on the bus, and when are you coming to volunteer? Not right now Connie. And my kids got into school, I didn't really have the time. I might have been able to handle it as I'm going through that, but I really didn't have the time, so I had to put all my energies into studying, evenings and weekends, but every spare minute would be into studying and I was not a student, but I didn't strive to be, but I said I had to put a lot of time into that.

AH: So you remember Connie. Anybody else?

PB: I remembered Sue when I saw, know there were two named Sue at the time and they had, didn't they? One of them was sued B and there were two of them so that...

MH: Bradford yeah.

PB: I remembered her, but I hadn't remembered her until I saw her are at the luncheon. There was a, the one that used to get out to see us when she could get out there now sometimes due to the weather she couldn't get out. This was winter time. I don't remember her name, she was a college student from another state and I believe she went back to whatever she called home, but the only one that I really remember is Connie. Being very pleasant and friendly and sociable and say you could go in. Yes, I remember being a social place at Spruce Run, you could go in and have coffee and there was a couch there. I don't know what all was there, but it was fairly decent, well furnished, office, right. It was meant to be not on the office looking office, but I'm more comfortable. And that's my most of my memories from Spruce Run.

MH: I want to go back if we can to the time when you first went off, no. When you secondly went off to the shelter. Just to know you how long, I just want to know your story when you were there, your husband was there. Did you call the workers to come and get you, or did you call the police to come and get you? Did you feel like you had somebody you could call?

PB: Going you mean, going to shelter the families of family bonds project shelter, when it actually existed as a shelter?

MH: Right, when the two policemen and the two workers came and got you out.

PB: No, that was...

AH: That was the first time.

PB: You mean going from Madison to...

MH: Right, right.

PB: One of the workers came up with her little car jab Jackie clock. I don't remember who's who, Karen Sinclair and Judy I remember all their names. I always had trouble with her last name. She's now the head of the Displaced Homemakers. I've lost track of the other two. One of the staff members came up and which I believe my ex-husband who is, we're friends or just friendly, We married many, many years ago but he came up with his pickup truck so we escaped when there was no one,

my husband at the time was working probably. He did work a little bit. And he wasn't at home. Otherwise, I'd never would have attempted it.

MH: This was your first time and you called the police?

PB: When I had to call the police, I got away with the sheriff's deputy. Took us first to a sheriff shelter and from them someone else picked us up and took us on.

MH: To a safe home.

PB: To a home.

MH: And then you went back to your husband. And the worker came to see how you were doing. And you weren't doing well, right?

PB: Right.

MH: And then how did you decide to leave that time? Did you leave immediately when she came to talk with you?

PB: No, we had to make arrangements to get someone to. So it's to get a couple of car or two so that you get possessions.

MH: So she talked with you about it and you decided it's time to go. Yes, and she said, I'll help you.

PB: We made arrangements, I kept in contact with the Spruce Run, not Spruce Run, Family Bonds Project.

MH: And then when it was time to go, they came with the police.

PB: One of them, no, I didn't have the police that time. I had one of another car and my ex-husband with his truck. But I had planned it so I knew what ti was going to take and got the essentials. Just things that I would prefer not to lose naturally not everything, no furniture, it's not that big of a treasure.

MH: And this was when your husband was there.

PB: He was away, he was out of the home at the time and I knew he would be out of home, so that was planned that way. Then I got to Augusta.

MH: OK, and this was what month?

PB: This was December.

MH: December, and then you spent almost a whole year at the Augusta shelter.

PB: No, I spent a couple of months or a month or two at the Augusta shelter and found an apartment in Augusta a little nice, little permanent on the third floor. And lived one year there. And they, from the shelter they contact the husbands so he knows what's become of you and that the family is OK. I tried to allow visitation rights, so I let him know where I was. And couldn't get rid of him again, so therefore I needed to get any of this meanwhile, threatened he would take my son off and he supposedly was going to drown him, and the two of them in the Kennebec River. The only thing, and he was always pulling this I'm going to take him and you're never going to see him again. I guess the idea I don't have a clue. If I can't have him, you can't have him, so I kill him. I've never gotten a divorce from him, so that he will never know where we are so my son can walk in freedom. But he's going to be 18 in another six months that matter. He's going to Chile in January. My son. So, then I'm going to get a divorce.

[End of transcript]