

Title: Interview with Patricia Micklow

No Date Given

Location: Marquette, MI

Women's Center in Marquette

START OF INTERVIEW

Jane Ryan (JR): I'm Jane Ryan. And I'm interviewing Pat Micklow for the collection on the Women's Center History. The Women's Center in the Marquette area in the Marquette region. We are interviewing people who had an important role to play or been served by the Women's Center. And we hope that Pat's experience and sharing her experience well add to the understanding of how we got this wonderful service in our region. Pat, Could you tell us a little bit about yourself?

Patricia Micklow (PM): Sure, Jane. I was born in the Bessemer, not in Marquette, in 1937. I was the youngest of three daughters. And we moved to Marquette when I was in high-school, the first year of high school. And it was like going to the big city for me from Bessemer. But I'd grown up being trying to be the boy that my father was hoping to have. And I had a wonderful relationship with both my parents and my sisters, particularly my sister that was closest to me four and half years older, Dorothy. And the oldest one was Marylyn. And we were a, we lived very modest life when I was growing up. A lot of outdoor things, I fished and hunted with my father, learned how to handle a gun and tied fishing flies, and I was on the girl's rifle team actually in high school. The first semester that I was in Bessemer. Well, actually relieved and I moved for one year before we moved to Marquette. So I graduated from Graveraet High school, it was called Graveraet those days, in 1955. I was married in 1956 and had my three children by the time I was 23 years old. My husband was, we both went to Northern. I went part-time while the children were small which was unusual. I think I was the only pregnant woman at Northern at that time. And I started out majoring in home economics, because I wanted to go into merchandizing. But my life changed, quite dramatically after I read *The Feminine Mystique*. And I think you'll find that all of us that were involved in this movement read that book, and it really did have an impact on our lives very dramatically. It... I think it galvanized us to really think about what our roles, not just as wives and mothers was, but what was our role in the real world? And I did want to go on to college, as I said I went part-time to Northern and...

JR: Could you say what motivated you to feel that education was so important? Why you were coping with young family?

PM: I think it was my older sister Marylyn went to the University of Michigan and had to go by train from Bessemer. She's nine years older than I was. But she was a real trailblazer in a lot of ways. And my parents had neither of them, what had college education. They had some training,

my mother had secretarial training and my father had some dental lab training and actually was monument salesman when I was growing up in Bessemer and in Marquette. And later worked for my husband, who was an orthodontist by that time as a lab person. So there was no, they were always very supportive of us and always encouraged us a great deal with our studies and were always interested in what we were learning and... I know, my father always asked, "What did you learn today?" When we came home from school. And so, it just seemed like that was something I wanted to do. Plus I had a big, adventurous mind as a child and I read all the Osa Johnson books about Africa and for a while I wanted to be a nurse missionary. Because at that time that seemed about the only way that I can get to Africa. And another time I wanted to be a pilot. But I've always wanted to do other things to besides have a family and be a wife and so in the late 60s, I believe it was around '68, we had returned here. My husband had finished his dental and orthodontic training in Ann Arbor and we came back here in 1960, 1961. And then I... must be later than that. It was '63, I think. And that's when I started going to Northern part-time. And we...the friends that I had at the time, were all like me, young mothers with some college education or maybe complete college education. There were a lot of women moving here with their husbands for Northern. And so being a student there and [being] a little bit older than the usual students, I was able to meet a lot of the wives to and develop social relationship with them.

JR: And it was coming together like you mention a lot of these women had read about the....

PM: Yes, and they were...you know, we were all pretty similar in a lot of ways. Coping with trying to balance school or work and a young family. And yet realized that there were a lot of disabilities that women suffered from at that time when you looked around. I'm sure you've probably heard about how you couldn't get a library card in your own name here at that time. And so, that was one of our projects we got that changed. I think Betsey Barnwell who was the first one who got one in her name. And so we decided that we should look into this consciousness-raising group that we were aware of was happening in certain parts of the country. And using *The Feminine Mystique* as our Bible at that time, got started getting together. I believe I did have the first meeting at my house. And that was 1968. And it was a bit subversive obviously in those times. People would look at me and say "What's matter with you? You've got a husband with the really good job and children and... what's wrong with your life?" And when we got together and started comparing notes, we found that all of us felt, at times, that we were the expectations of what we will do with our lives was very limited. And it wasn't too hard to look around and see that, you know, were are early certain professions that women were really welcomed into. There was only certain kind of work that was appropriate and so we started...we divided the group. I think we had, we must have had at least 35 to 40 women at that first meeting.

JR: And they would gather in homes? In your home?

PM: Yes. And we gathered.

JR: Oh my.

PM: And so we decided we had to divide up into smaller groups. Because that was obviously not possible to keep doing that. And so we had, we divided into groups and I... right now, don't really remember how we did that. If we run around the room and took a number, you know, and did one two three and then one two three or whatever. But we had about four, five, maybe six groups going initially.

JR: Did you have standard agendas? Or it was just an occasion to be among like-minded people and somebody would bring up a concern and...

PM: Together. Right.

JR: Very informal then.

PM: It was very informal. And it was very revealing. Some women felt that we had to meet in their basements because their husbands were not at all tuned-into to what we were doing indeed wanted to be or were not approving of it. Fortunately my husband, Bruce was very supportive at that time and I didn't have a problem with that directly. But we did continue to meet and we found it was so enervating to be able to share our concerns with each other. That it was...

JR: That was almost therapeutic?

PM: Yes. And a lot of the women that had grown up in the area, they had moved to the area felt particularly isolated because they thought they were coming to the end of the world. Which it kind of was at that time. And so it just opened up so much. And we heard about everybody's dreams and concerns and issues that affected everyone like getting a bank account in your own name. We had some women in the groups that were really considering divorce for different reasons and that was really a horrible, horrible decision. Of course it never is a good decision or an easy decision to make, but it was complicated by the fact that, you know, most women didn't even have a bank account on their own name or access to the income for the family. So it started and it grew, and I think we were meeting at least once a week or maybe twice a month for those years up until, well, I think we met and continued to meet until '73 when I went to law school. But...

JR: Is that what led to that conference at Northern? The same group of consciousness-raising, involved women led, we've gotta do more?

PM: We've gotta do more. And we've got to reach our sisters. Very strong, I think *Sisterhood is Powerful* was another book that was out of that time by Robin Morgan. And there were a lot of feminist writers surfacing in different ways and on different topics at the time. And we were so idealistic and we thought, if we could just tell people how things should be that they would go along with it. We're naive, and we were so galvanized about it. We just felt like we had a mission to change the world. And we were sure we would be able to do it. It was really amazing. And I think it's spun off in so many different ways. The group that I was in had Holly Greer and

Carolyn McDonald, and Karlyn Rapport. And Audrey Hueger-Heidi who was... she's no longer here and she just died last year. She is Michelle Butler's mother. And we also had Betsey Barnwell who died several years ago. Carolyn McDonald, I think I said, Lillian Heldreth came in a little later, Miriam Kublin came in, I think, during the time when I was gone, came into the group. But they continued to meet and that maybe not as frequently. But we decided that we needed to have a conference and we met with the other women that were in other groups. And they were all enthusiastic about having this conference about changing the role of women.

JR: I've noted that the conference involved women outside the Marquette community. How did that outreach goal? Were they doing consciousness-raising?

PM: Well, we as small groups, went to talk in community we got invited to go, I know I went to Houghton a couple of times. And I think others went to different parts of the U.P.

JR: So the community people were aware?

PM: They were finding out of it, yeah, and they wanted to know what we were doing.

JR: Sort of word of mouth? You didn't publicize...

PM: Word of mouth, we didn't publicize. I remember one meeting, I was pretty brash in those days and I thought we should be marching down Front Street and Washington Street with feminist signs. And I think it caused some of our members to blanch, it maybe caused some of them to drop out. Because we were so enthusiastic and thought we've got to get this message out. We've got to help our sisters and ourselves to change these parts of our role that were not right. We never reached the point of burning bras or anything. Even though I think we probably got tired with that brush as being radicals at that time. I'm sure we did in some quarters but generally, we were all active in the community, we all set on different boards, and we were working or going to school. And our families were active, so there was just...

JR: That was a dramatic change locally that, I think you've mentioned their some had mentioned Jenny Saline who was active in the Democratic Party and how she evolved to that, I've never heard...

PM: Yes, Jenny was sort of our standard-bearer. She was not involved as I recall in the consciousness-raising group. She seemed like...her consciousness was already raised. She was older than most of us. Most of us were in our early 20s at the time or middle to late 20s. And so we just... Jenny Saline and later Gerry Defant as being our standard-bearers that provided us with so much information politically. And they were so astute politically. Jenny was the chair of the Democratic Party at that time. And Gerry was, the woman who of course organized the woman for the Gossard factory, lingerie factory in Ishpeming, with the lady garment workers union. I mean that was...

JR: That was amazing. And ironic, that it would be lingerie, I think that's wonderful!

PM: And that in-itself is wonderful. Wonderful story. That deserves a lot of attention. Because it was amazing what she did and how those women were able to get better wages and better conditions as a result of that. Better working conditions. But Jenny helped us politically and she was my mentor for many years during that period and at that time I was having some concerns with my kids, my oldest son in high school had a hair issue and he was not allowed to play on the basketball team even though he'd been a star as a freshman. And he had to have a crew cut. His hair was not long at that time. It was, you know, just normal.

JR: Longer than...

PM: It was longer than crew cut. And the coach insisted that a crew cut that kind of galvanized my interest in education and what was happening in the schools. And I ended up running for the State board of education in 1971. I conducted statewide campaign with Jenny and Tom Baldini was my manager and we went all over the State. And I wasn't successful because at the last minute, the UAW through their support that they had promised her in a previous union... as a union to a previous group, the Latinos, and I would have knocked off the only black incumbent on the whole ticket in '72 in the State. So I withdrew... but it put me in a very good position with the party. They always loved me after that. And I got a lot of appointments that I would probably not have, but for that. It was amazing experience to do a State by campaign and I learned a tremendous amount. And I enjoyed it.

JR: Did they connect up to your interest in law then?

PM: Yes, and by that time, I had received, done my Bachelors and Masters at Northern. And I switched my major very early from home-ec to literature.

JR: Political science? Literature? OK.

PM: And then my Masters was in history. And so that I realized that if I really wanted to make a difference for women in the future. That I would, a law degree with really being helpful. Well, that helped me getting into law school as well. That experience that I had.

JR: So it really was connected to your interest in women's issues.

PM: Yes, very definitely.

JR: You saw that's the role. That's interesting.

PM: Very definitely, I felt by this time, I was very committed to making the world better place for women. And our consciousness-raising groups and the literature that we read and the encounters that we had trying to talk to people about feminism, all kind of came together and launched me into realizing that with a law degree I might be able to really do something with that passion that I had and still have.

JR: Obviously. So the chronology was that, though just as the Women's Center would be launched, my understanding is pretty much from the conference people said...

PM: Yeah, that's amazing.

JR: And Northern was willing to cooperate. But you were off to law school. Did you keep in touch with what was going on here? Would seem like once you're in law school year you're pretty focused on your studies.

PM: Well, I tried to. In a course, in law school I still wanted to do something. The university of Michigan law school at the time I started, 1973 had an accelerated course to go through law school. You could go three summers and two full years and it'd get you a law degree, and so it was very intense. And I was trying to commute as many times as I could on the weekends, so I could be with my family. My husband was marvelous about it and he went to all the basketball games my daughter was the star basketball player on Marquette's team that won the State championship while I was in law school. I got to go to some of her games and one of her final games. But there was just a great deal of work that I had in law school, just trying to keep in touch with my family, and that was another thing that was not very popular at that time. Nobody, a lot of people just couldn't understand why I was leaving my family to go to law school. Even my parents-in-law and my parents were not real sure that that was a good idea. And...

JR: And that, I'm sure it was a generational thing I've heard so many comment that even like your mom might have really admired but hey, this is out of the track that we've.

PM: Yeah, this is not what you do. It was very revolutionary at the time. So my kids were all in school, my oldest son had graduated from high school in '73. And... Oh, it wasn't. It was in the last year of high school. And my second oldest son Brock, Kurt and Brock, Brock was in, a junior when I went to Law school. And Susan was in 8th grade but already launched on, as a freshman, she was on that team. And that was a little bit new too. We didn't have women's basketball anytime that I was growing up. And so she was a very wonderful athlete, still is.

JR: Did you detect her admiration or her curiosity about what you were doing as a daughter versus sons, that's another subject.

PM: Yeah, she has always been the kind of kid that just decides what she's going to do and she does it. Very straightforward and very talented. And my kids got... had the horrible experience of losing their father. My husband Bruce died of glioblastoma brain tumor in 1981. But his symptoms started just as I was finishing law school. He had his first grand mal seizure. So those years when I returned to Marquette, and my kids were all in college. It was a very tumultuous time because he was ill and we understood that it was a terminal illness.

JR: Fatal

PM: So all of the kids were, their lives were dramatically affected more I think, by that than the fact that I had been gone. And we just always operated as a team during that whole time. As I took him all over the country trying to find cures for his illness. And I think we expanded his illness, we're sailors. He was a very big sportsman and we took, ended up taking two different

boats of ours, down to the Virgin Islands so that he could have time, on the boat. And the kids took time off from college and Susan had to change she was on the golf team in University of Miami in Florida and she left and came home. So there was a lot of turmoil there. And that was just after I finished law school.

JR: So did you postpone any use of your degree?

PM: No. As it turned out, I was able to go, I did look around with civil law firms but I... when I was in law school, I had never dreamed about being a prosecutor or judge. I mean I always thought about being a woman fighting for women's rights in the civil courts. And I realized after law school, because my friend and colleague in law school Sue Eisenberg, and I decided that we needed to have a research project. University of Michigan law school had, I think about 50 percent of the students were women at the time. There was one black student in my class of two hundred students. It was not an integrated school at that time. And we were not comfortable. And I know it's been quoted before, there wasn't women's bathroom in the main classroom building at the University of Michigan law school at that time. So we weren't real comfortable. We realized that what they were looking for were corporate attorneys, and we didn't fit that mold in any way. There was one woman law professor and she taught Women in the Law. And there was that class and of course we took that. But when I had been in Marquette, I was on the family services board before I left from law school. And Lloyd Sitwell who was the executive director at that time said to me before meeting one day. "You know? I don't know if it's just U.P. or what. But it seems like all of, just huge percent..." he said, "it's probably like 80 percent of my case load involves violence. Domestic violence. Wife beating." We didn't call it domestic violence right away, we called it wife beating.

JR: And you didn't talk about that much in those days? 80 percent

PM: Oh, no. but then when you thought about, you realized that there were you'd heard stories of relatives or friends that were experience again. And at that time Virginia Norby who was the one woman law professor at U of M was involved in the reform of all of the rape laws at the University of Michigan. And she was on the committee that was rewriting everything and...

JR: And legislative changes?

PM: For legislative changes. Right. And Sue Eisenberg and I, we were good pals. Kind of hang out with each other.

JR: Who was Susan from as on a side?

PM: She was from the Detroit area. Actually she was from one of the suburbs a wealthy suburb. And she's a terrific gal. And we just hit it off and we were pals through law school. And I said, "You know? Lloyd talked about wife beating." And we were looking for what we called the body issue. Rape was a body issue. Contraception. Abortion. Those were all body issues. But we were looking for something that we could get our teeth into it and write about. So we decided,

ok, we'll see if we could do a twelve-hour research project, and let's see if we can do it on wife beating. Well, we went to Yale Kamisar, who was a very famous guy at U of M Law School. He's written of the textbook *Criminal Procedure, criminal law*. And he is the one that's always the commentator on national news whenever there is a big trial going on. I know he was a commentator for the trial of... the big sports star that was accused of killing his wife. All of a sudden, I can't remember his name. There's probably good reason for that. I don't like to remember him. But anyway, we went up to and told them that we were thinking of doing. We're going to ask them to be our faculty advisor which we would have to have. And we told them about what we're doing. And he looked at us and he said, oh, you must have been talking to my wife. And that did it for me and Susan, wait. I mean, I walked away, we were outside walking with him on campus and I just couldn't believe that he would say such a thing. And it was so insensitive. We're saying this is a problem for women and he's saying, he's making a joke. So fortunately Virginia Nordby even with all of that she was trying to do. She agreed to be our faculty advisor. So we had little tape recorders and we went to everybody we could think of that might come in into contact with the problem in Wayne and Washtenaw counties. Susan covered the most of the Wayne things because she was from Detroit area and she had contacts there. But we interviewed everybody from judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, psychologists, emergency room doctors, anybody we could think of that might have encountered the problem. And we recalled it what they said. And it was absolutely mind-blowing. And we realized we have this tiger by a tail. By the tail. We got responses like the head of Detroit General's emergency room said, I don't really care if two people want to beat each other up. That's not my business that's something they can take care of their own relationship. We were able to meet with legal services in Ann Arbor in they were so in favor of what we were doing that they helped get about twenty victims were agreed to talked to us.

JR: Were there any defenders for these? I mean, prosecutors at that time?

PM: Well, the prosecutors that we talked to had waiting periods that whenever a complaint came in, they made the woman sign it. First of all, and there was no way to immediately defuse the situations so they walked the guy around the block or something. Or they tried to see if the women would go somewhere else. But often she didn't have anywhere to go, she had children.

JR: So you were really clarifying this whole issue that nobody talked about.

PM: Oh, right! I'm surprised we've got through law school. Cause it was an overwhelming issue. And we had other classes and lots of work in. So we decided to write a law school article and see if we can get it published in the law school. And we did, and we called it *Wife Assault Catch 22 Revisited*. And we got a lot of publicity locally on Ann Arbor at that time. And it launched the first women shelter in Ann Arbor.

JR: In Ann Arbor?

PM: By the N.O.W. organization, the national organization of women was very active in Ann Arbor. Very strong group of women there. And they gave us the Uppity Women award at the time.

JR: Were they, this is an a way a tangent but isn't was the N.O.W. group there aware of the issue as much as...so they really like the fact you had clarified pulled it together in a paper?

PM: Well, Ann Arbor News did a feature story on our article. And that's what got their attention. I mean we were... We knew the laws had to be reformed. And the big thing was, is there a way that the perpetrator could be removed from the home by arrest, immediately. And we knew because misdemeanor arrests, you can't do that. You couldn't do that under the law and you still can't today for most misdemeanors, it's not an immediate arrest. But there were so many laws that were impacted. All of the personal protection orders we learned from the victims. One moment was you know, took out of personal protection order to keep her husband from beating her. And he made her eat it after it was served on him. Physically made her eat it. It was not enforceable. It was, there were no criminal penalties for violating it. And so it was useless. And on a course a hearing was always available, still as today after the fact. But there was no way that these women go in and testify in a hearing. And then get beaten up when they got home. And there were no shelters except we had been, and this has been was happening and I'm sure all over the world it happens. We're neighbors or friends take her in to get her some safety.

JR: Get some risks to themselves.

PM: But there were no shelters for women suffering from the effects of domestic violence. So we looked at all the laws in Michigan at the time, and that was the basis of our paper that were affected by... that needed changing. Another one was... it didn't need changing, but it needed to be publicized was the law that was on the books at the time about non-accidental injury. And that was interpreted by hospitals and doctors and nurses to be gun or knife wounds. But even if someone came in badly beaten with broken bones, and usually the women were afraid to say who did it. They still did not, there was still no mechanism for calling the police and saying what happened here. This is a serious non-accidental injury.

JR: You need to investigate this?

PM: You need to investigate this. So there were all kinds of those kinds of laws that we were not effective, and the intervention, we found that time was totally ineffective. If they call the police, the police couldn't remove the perpetrator. If they went to the hospital, nobody called the police. Nobody gave them any protection. If they filed for personal protection order, that was useless. If they called the police and they would have to go, there was a waiting period the prosecutors would ask them for and they'd have them come in, oh, ten days to two weeks later? To make sure because most of these women, they experience the prosecutors was that they wouldn't follow through. And they set it up for trial and through the system. And then they wouldn't testify. And they would make them sign the complaint. Well, that was one of...the first things we

wanted to get changed is prosecutors don't make this woman sign these complaints. Because you don't do it for other forms of crimes. Other crimes, you don't have to sign. Why do you have to do it here? It puts her right on the firing line. And so those things were really important. And that was the basis of our paper was pointing out. All of the various assaults that could occur, the malicious destruction of property. That was a very common thing that we were finding. And mistreatment...

JR: And impact on children?

PM: Yeah, impact on children and mistreating the child in the household or having them witnessed it, we knew from the psychologists at that had long-lasting effects. Mistreatment of the pets in house, killing the dog if she complains, killing the cat, you know, in gruesome ways sometimes. We were just astounded and at the time the crime statistics were being kept. That was another thing. It didn't tell if that was by an intimate or not. So you didn't know if that was husband that killed the wife. You just knew it was homicide. So that was another thing that needed changing.

JR: And you need documenting into get legislation. Often people say, Wow, it's not an issue.

PM: It was a system wide.

JR: Yeah

PM: And it was so varied and the prevailing idea was you keep your marriage together. And you do not complain. And you major beat, you lie on it. In fact, we had some of the people we interviewed say, "You know, they made their bed and let them lie on it." That kind of stuff. And it was just like it wasn't there, it wasn't talked about, and it brought a shame on the victims. If they complained it, it affected everybody's perception of them. And by the time they might have complain to somebody, they were so beaten down and that they believed it was their fault. It was just a horrible, horrible situation.

JR: Having written this and you'll tell me more about getting it published but if you want to get out and do something about it and that wouldn't be easy to do. Would it?

PM: No.

JR: I mean, did that take awesome steps to educate and...

PM: It really did, it really did. But we had some friends in the legislature, and oh, by the way, our paper was not published at the University of Michigan Law School. We brought it to the *Reform*, legal journal and it was all male staff that reviewed it. And they wrote in the margin so many sarcastic things about, "you gotta be kidding," that kind of stuff. That we were absolutely devastated and thought, this is not going work here. And it wasn't until 1977 that we were contacted and after we had an article in *Ms. Magazine*, and had some publicity on this that someone from Rutgers's University the...they had a women's rights law reporter at that time.

And they offered to publish our article. And so we worked with them and it was published in 1977. At Rutgers.

JR: I'm hoping very much that we can get the *Ms.* Magazine article and your paper to add to the Archives. If you can help us...

PM: I have the, I have the paper. It's a little faded, the cover on it. But it turned out to be the first legal article that was published in United States on domestic violence.

JR: Well, we are lucky. You are really motivated...

PM: It turned out that...and it turned out to be that, and have been so much wonderful work done since then with legal articles by women students and men, that is just hard to remember how that it was at that time. I mean, we did research of the literature before we started our writing, of course. We couldn't find anything. And in the University of Michigan Law Library and the regular library there was nothing on the laws. So anyway, when we graduated, Sue went and got a wonderful job in Washington D.C. with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. And she worked there for several years before she returned. And she's private practice in Detroit area and she is a leading-light on employment of discrimination against women's cases. She has some very large cases that she has settled and made tremendous strides for women on. I came back and had no intention of leaving the area because my family was here. And I applied for work in the prosecutor's office and it dawned on me; There's a place that I could help. We've got to start working with prosecutors and judges and probationary officers and everybody that's involved in this cases.

JR: You are in the trenches when you were doing that.

PM: Yeah. And Gary Walker was the prosecutor, a fairly new prosecutor at that time and he hired me. Bless his heart. He told me he had no intention of hiring me because he didn't think I need the work. My husband had a good job.

JR: Classic _____

PM: Yeah. But I guess in the interview I talked him out of it. And he hired me. And I was first women assistant in this office and I think probably in the U.P. at that time. There were no women in prosecutors' offices at that time.

JR: And I can remember living here, that's the beginning and that's part of this process, you was a model. Somebody could see a woman in those jobs and as you moved up but you tell us more about if she can do it, maybe I can do it. Those modeling things are so important for any group of people that are moving out of their normal...

PM: And there were, I just really treasure the times that I've had women come up and say to me, I went away to school because if you or I went into law because if you or I went into another profession. And that has meant a lot.

JR: You're making it difference. Yeah, that's wonderful. Just wonderful.

PM: It made me have little time out trouble. Keeping back the tears because it's something that you just can't believe it, that you had, were instrumental in helping to change lives.

JR: And that it takes for changes to take place, some people have to step beyond and make the change so that others who might not have the courage or maybe quite detail and say, "No, if I work hard, I can do this. I can get this job. I can continue my education," which again leads us just back to the Women's Center, because that's what it did locally to empower, I love that term. Empower women or whomever.

PM: Empower women or whomever. Yeah. It was such a remarkable group. And I have felt, over the years, I have always been so proud of us and this community because while the Women's Center is still the longest, continuous, the oldest continuously-operating center in the State. And we think possibly in the nation. It has been absolutely such a kernel of growth and strength and leadership in this community. And it all started with those consciousness-raising groups. And in the Women's Center in the leadership, the women that rose out of that, there's several, there's so many. It wasn't just me. That's for sure. I was only had small part of it. And it continues today.

JR: Right. And they went into different works of like, political, education...

PM: Oh, all kind of different professions and things that they did and in their own ways.

JR: And my understanding too, cause we've tended as we've looked at some of the not so good things that happen because of the influence of men and kind of those standard things but my understanding in this community, we had some men in key places, the prosecuting office, other places who were willing, again, to step out of the normal, yes, take it chance. Could you describe one of those?

PM: Willing to take a chance. And I'm glad you brought that up because that is really true. I mean, the amount of negative stuff that we've had happen is far outweighed by the number of men that said, "You're right. We need this changes. We can see that. We need this changes." Gary Walker, was instrumental getting a huge grant for the Women's Center in a very crucial time for federal security monies through the prosecutor's association and everything. It was a 1.5 million dollar grant. And there were in other words, men and all the different fields that were trying to help that just did groundbreaking things they started anger management courses at the course could send convicted perpetrators to...

JR: And education was a part it, both on those part and on the part of this man who culturally thought it was okay. We are dealing with that internationally if it's a part of your culture and nobody said no.

PM: You can't do it. Yeah. And that was it. Nobody said no. and now, you would have been stepping in and say this, you even see it on the TV cop shows. You know? That they'd threaten

these guys, “If you ever touch her again. You’re gonna deal with me.” And that kind of thing. There was never that understanding and that line drawn.

JR: Or that line drawn. And wasn’t a key element, I don’t know that was a grant or what. You might have been involved where people would be trained to ride with a police or when there was a case that these people who knew how to help the women go through the either the rape situation or the abuse. So that there is...

PM: A lot of that was happening when I was in law school and gone. But they did ride-alongs, they developed a crisis sexual assault team, that would go to the hospital make sure the rape kit was done. Make sure that the women knew that there were services for her. And that there were shelter for her if she needed it. And the spouse abuse shelter, at that time was separate organization from the Women’s Center. It wasn’t merged until 1986. But, then when the Women’s Center took over the whole Domestic violence shelter area. But those women were key and setting of the groundwork and working. There were so many agencies involved. There’s mental health, there are all of the helping agencies, the psychologists, psychiatrist, there’s the substance abuse people, there were so many groups that we had to be touch with and network with. And it taught a lot about networking. And I remember thinking, when I was in law school, I was appointed...after finishing law school, I mean that, I was appointed to the...the State Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board, for which is formulated in seventy seven. And prior to that I was on the joint legislative advisory board for domestic violence. And we’re the ones that made recommendations to the legislature to change the laws, I was a co-chair of that.

JR: Did that legislation for the most part pass?

PM: And that got passed in `78. And we changed a myriad of laws and established the Domestic Violence Prevention and Treatment Board. The domestic violence prevention and treatment board, it’s very hard acronym to say. And we provided funding through federal and State funding sources for shelters across the State. In addition to working to improve the education on all these changed laws, immediate arrest if there’s reasonable cause. No waiting periods. We couldn’t legislate those, but we could work with prosecutors in prosecuting attorney’s association which we did. To change those waiting periods.

JR: Network to get. Yeah.

PM: No signing of the complaints. Criminal penalties for violation of personal protection orders. Looking at the Michigan State police, the way that they kept their statistics getting intimate-partners as a category. There’s just, I probably missing some. My memories isn’t as good as it used to be.

JR: I’m amazed. No I’m amazed by the memory. This is very instructional.

PM: But it was very extensive. And I remember thinking at the time that we started meeting, we would go and visit the shelters that had been set up while I was on the board. And that was up into that early 80s, I thought this is absolutely fantastic, because these women, shelter directors were phenomena. They were phenomena fundraisers, networkers, it provided an executive class of women with jobs that they've could really get into. And they came up with providing ways to bringing in funds so they could fund their services. I remember, one of them in Detroit had a fashion show with the Detroit Pistons as the models. And they brought in tens of thousands of dollars for that night. I mean it was incredible. They set up secondhand stores as part of their operations which we do here with Pak Ratz. And just very innovative ways of bringing in money and educating their communities and providing services, amazing services to women.

JR: And I always go back to the modeling thing. Then somebody coming to that agency sees a woman in charge who's the physician knows how the network, knows how to raise money pay. There's a niche. And she can move on of the letter and maybe I can do a job like this.

PM: Yeah. That's right. It just tickled me. I thought, wow, this is something. And it wasn't long before we had shelter coverage in every county in Michigan, all 73 counties, we had shelter coverage.

JR: So you were doing two things, you were working at the State level on some of these things why you were in the prosecutor's office and then go on with your career a little bit, and then how you reconnected or because I know you're active on the board now.

PM: Okay. I think I'm taking too long to talk.

JR: No, no. this is wonderful.

PM: But in the prosecutor's office, Gary, of course, was a very good supporter and he had no problem getting rid of the waiting period or in fact they hadn't always used it very thoroughly in Marquette County. He also held a lot of sway with the other prosecutors in the U.P. and in the State. He eventually was the president of the prosecuting attorney's association. And so he had a lot of contacts and so we were able to, we took away the women signing at that was not done. And we spent, he let me spend time with women victims. There was not yet set up the victim witness advocates that are now and every prosecutor's office under the Victim Crimes Act in Michigan. That came later, it probably came in the 80s. Early 80s. It was early. And some of our, the other colleague's mind in the office were not real share that this was good. They said I was turning the prosecutor's office into a social work agency. And we had to work out some things periodically, but it did come together. And they all understood the issues. I've worked during that time with the State court administrator's office held, holds trainings for prosecutors and probation officers and judges and I was an instructor at the State level for some of those. And also, Sophie Williams was on the Supreme Court at that time. And he was such sweetheart, and he... I called him and said, "You know there is a pilot program that one of the Eastern States," Oh, gosh. Don't know if what it was... I want to say, Maryland. "They want Michigan to partner

with them to put on a pilot program for training judges.” And I said, “Since the Supreme Court, supervises, all the judges in the country. I said, you know, “Is that something new we could do?” And he said, “Of course, Pat. Of course. You let me know what we need to do. And we’ll do it.” And so we joined with Maryland and we had conferences, huge conferences in California. And I was one of the trainers and it turned out that we had several meetings out there. But it turned out that the main one that I was involved when my father died, while I was gone and I had to leave. I was unable to stay for it. But it was an amazing thing because it was pulling in all the States in the late 70s-early 80s had passed of similar laws across the country on domestic violence. And then we all realized the education had to go with it. And these people in key positions that we’re making decisions about these cases had to be involved.

JR: Had to know about them and also had to overcome what might be resistance. Because we were still...

PM: And there was a resistance. Wasn’t the way things were done. And these cases tended to take a lot of time and energy on the part of police prosecutors, probation officers judges. I mean they are not easy cases, they are complicated. And often the victim or survivor will go back and everything falls apart. I mean there were two sides to that story of court reform. And it was discouraging to some, to many, and it took a lot of getting used to thinking a little bit differently about those cases that maybe these are important cases that need that amount of attention.

JR: Exactly your comment about becoming social service agency. Well, they needed an element...

PM: an element of that.

JR: Of that where people were looking beyond the strict letter of the law but human beings. Learning to have a relationship it’s healthy or not.

PM: As well. And during those years, it was so exciting to see so many women coming out of law school and other professions and inundating the systems and helping to make sure that the educational issues were being done. You could see it. I could see it. I was just so overcome by how much that took hold when it did. And now it’s a household world. It’s an institution actually which it was very hard to see in `73 that it would ever be that, that it would ever had that elevation within our culture. And so much has happened and so many women and men have had hand in developing that. And developing that procedures there, we added stalking which turned out to be a really difficult criminal issue. And so there are just so many things that have happened over the past...

JR: These are exiting times have lived. And the whole area of civil rights. Yeah, we have long way to go we still have a long way to go. But a lot...

PM: Major changes.

JR: I do want you to go back to your own career. You were in the prosecutor's office. What led you to take on election on judgeship and then reconnect back?

PM: Well, my first husband died in 1981 while I was in the prosecutor's office at that time. I had met my future husband at that time through the prosecuting attorney's association. He was a prosecutor in Jackson at the time. And had worked in Lansing and different parts of the State, downstate. And he was placing interns in prosecutor's offices to help them recruit people that would be interested in being prosecutors. Sure, I'll have a little more tea. Anyway, he placed intern in our office and he was friend of Gary's, and so I met him in the office. But the following year, I went to the prosecuting attorney's association in Mackinaw Island conference. And he was there and we kind of hit it off. And a year later, we were married. And he... Gary had an opening. And so he came up here and was a prosecutor, assistant prosecutor in the Marquette County office. And so we worked together for couple of years in the office. But he said, "You know, you ought to run for judge." Because at the time, that my first husband was so ill I had taken on, instead of being a criminal prosecutor, I had asked Gary if I could do the civil work. So I was the attorney for the board commissioners, and I think we had 33 other county commissions and boards that I supervised and I also helped with townships. And I was on television every week for the meetings, or every other week. I guess it was, I don't remember. But I didn't have a trial schedule to try to deal with when he was so ill. And so that was the position I was in when my husband Judd was hired, he was in the criminal division, I was in the civil division. And there I also had contact with the family support unit which there were things on that area that with custody issues and so forth, that domestic violence also affected. So I had my hand in it in that way too. But I had never considered being a judge, but I was in a perfect position to be able to do that. I...

JR: And could you see the connection to the issues that you continued to be?

PM: The district court, which is the position I ran for had two judges at the time. One was in Ishpeming and one was in Marquette. The one in Ishpeming used to call me "Honey" from the bench when I appeared in his court. I knew he wasn't terribly enlightened. The other judge was very wonderful scholar. Very nice guy and civil rights person. He really... He really, I thought was going to be very formidable. And there was a little incident with the bar association that caused me to not feel quite so bad about running against him, his term was up. And he had been in office for two terms of six years. So he'd been there for 12 years. The Bar Association, the local bar association wanted to return having strippers at their annual bar banquet. And I think Preed Burnham and I were the only woman attorneys at that time. Maybe Carolyn Hanson, and I was the only woman at the Bar Association meeting where this was discussed, I know. And they thought it was cute because they were going to have male and female strippers that they would hire from Escanaba. And that would renew this old thing that they used to do at somebody's camp. And I was aghast and my husband Judd was aghast, and some of the other attorneys were aghast. This is a professional organization and you are going to have strippers? And I were re-standing up and saying, "I'm really uncomfortable about," you know..."I don't think we should

do anything that we have any of our members feel uncomfortable.” Well, that didn’t go over, nobody responded. So then when McDonald said, “Well, I remember the days when we could entertain ourselves. And I make a motion that we don’t pay for any entertainment.” And the motion passed, but not by much. And the sitting judge that I ended up running against, voted against it. And I thought that’s not good. I mean, because he’s a public employee, he’s answerable to the people of Marquette County and the State of Michigan. And how could he possibly vote to have strippers at an annual bar banquet. So I didn’t feel quite so bad about running. It’s not a story that I’ve told many people and I have the deepest respect for him and work he did. But it did make me realize that there was just a lot to be done yet, and that maybe I could be helpful in a judicial position. So I did run and I did win and I served 14 years on the bench. I then had the opportunity not of charging cases like I had in the prosecutor’s office when I was doing the criminal cases. But I also had now the opportunity to look at these cases and how they were disposed of. And what would happen and I instituted public apologies to the victims but that wasn’t all criminal cases. In the district court, it’s like 90 percent criminal work. Every criminal case in the county starts in the district court. Bond is set there and so we instituted putting bond conditions of contact with the victim, which if it happened and it was reported to the police they could arrested them and jail them.

JR: That was very strong consequence that had links back to what you discovered way back. No consequence. Excellent.

PM: Exactly. Yep, yep. And we also learned with the personal protection orders that if they’re going to blow up. They were going to blow up soon after they were granted. Now the circuit court granted those, but we enforced them in the district court if there were violations. So we worked with police and our police and our prosecutors and our probation officers if there was a no-contact order as an order probation, another thing. And always we’re looking out for where it was really appropriate to put whatever we could on those conditions of bond or probation.

JR: And I think that your evolution through all these roles, bringing the education you had gotten in this just perfect fit. It turned out to be...

PM: Yeah, it really turned out to be. And I realized that it would be the way to go. And I really didn’t think I was going to win when I ran. I loved campaigning and I think I did have an advantage because I think my colleague the incumbent judge was shy. Shy guy. He’s very brilliant and he was very able. But he used to talk really fast and people didn’t always understand what he said in court and they’d come out and say, “What did he say?” And so it seemed to me that we had to take time and really let them know from the bench that this was inappropriate behavior. And so I tried to do that. And I don’t know how well I did with it. It’s hard to say. But I tried to make them understand that that was just not acceptable behavior. When I was...

JR: Which is again such an evolution from when it wasn’t even described...

PM: Yeah

JR: So were you aware then, I need to get back the Women's Center. Were you aware of the going's on. But you were, particularly as a judge you have to be careful about commitment to causes and things?

PM: Right. I think I was on the Women's Center board. As I recall, when I was at in the prosecutor's office, I was on it for a while. Because when I did win election, as a judge, I had attorney's warning me to recuse myself from cases involving domestic violence, because I was on the Women's Center board. And I got off the board when I was elected. And I refused to do that. Because I had to be able to see both sides, and I did see both sides. I did see the problems on each sides. And I certainly try to be a compassionate but fair judge.

JR: Well, there will be male judge wouldn't be asked to recuse himself because he belong to some men's club.

PM: Yes, right.

JR: You know, in organization that's...

PM: Yes, I always didn't appreciate that. But I would tell them no. I am no longer on that board that is not an issue. And so rather than invoke my ire more than with usually drop the matter instead of appealing at. I don't think I had any appeals on that. But anyway, so all I was in judge was really interesting to be able to work on the disposition of these cases. And I did sit on the circuit bench periodically to substitute and I did have some cases that involve sexual assault. But I don't think I had any domestic violence ones. But there was sexual assault between intimates... is really domestic violence too. We just characterize it separately because it doesn't always mean that. But most sexual assaults do occur between people who know each other. And that's the same thing with domestic violence, we extended it to the dating relationship or living in the same home...it got expanded to include boyfriends significant others and...

JR: Abodes, and occasionally it's spousal abuse of the men by the female. As I understand it, much was coming but we don't rule out the thinking this going to happen.

PM: Right, yes. That does happen. No. in fact when we were more flushed at the Women's Center, we would put those men up in a hotel because we couldn't put him in the shelter with the other women but we can put him up in a hotel for period of time. We haven't had funds to do that recently. But I was always aware of what the Women's Center was doing and we often had women's advocates from the Women's Center in the court room that was very common during preliminary examinations during bond hearings, during...

JR: To support women?

PM: Yes. To support the women. Even if the women wasn't there or didn't need to be there for trial, and I did have trials involving domestic violence at the misdemeanor level. Not at the felony level. So it was really, it was very interesting and challenging because you could see that we still have ways to go. There were always new personalities or new police coming in or new...

JR: The education process goes on... Well, one of the wonderful things about a community like ours is to have somebody who has been connected knows the community has a new role with different powers or decision making but still can relate to what's going on, the networking syndrome. And we are so fortunate here and I think it's shown up with lot of the other people who've been involved in the Women's Center, that they've had another role to play in the community and they bring that knowledge, understanding, experience into their other roles, vice versa.

PM: Yes, that's so important. It's so important. Because you have to integrate it into your life. Your values...

JR: So now you're back on the board, and how did that happen?

PM: Yes. Well, I retired from the bench in 2001. And my husband and I both retired at that point he was federal prosecutor here in the office in Marquette. And we both retired and then we've traveled quite a bit and started to have time enjoying our grandchildren. And three years ago in July, it'll be three years ago this coming July, so it's two years ago in July, I was approached by Sally and Matt Weise, and Karlyn and some of my friends saying that the Women's Center was having some very strong challenges and issues and would I meet with them and we met and it evolved into us setting up the whole new board with the permission of the previous board. And the previous board elected us as the new board members. And we had a board of I think about 8 of us with Martha Parks as our president, and they elected me treasurer at a meeting that I wasn't at...

JR: Classic. Board behavior.

PM: One of the major problems we had was financial and we had some structural-organizational issues as well. And Phillis Loonsfoot was our wonderful director and still is. But she was handling like three jobs because the previous boarded founded necessary to reduce staff. And it was just a very difficult time and so four of us, the Founding Mothers well, Holly came on last year. When, after she moved here from New York, move back to Marquette. But Karlyn and Sally and I were some of the old Founding Mothers.

JR: Yes, I love that term. We used that before, it's perfect.

PM: And they welcomed us with open arms. We were back on the board and we had a lot of work to do and a lot of challenges that needed to be met. And one of the main ones was reconnecting with the community. There had been some issues that had caused the previous board to back up quite a bit and not continue with the capital campaign to fund the new Harbor House that was opened in 2006.

JR: And Sally had a chronicle I think that funding after 9-11 apparently lot of federal and State grant had to be directed toward counter terrorism and all of those connected issue so that some of

the things the Women's Center had to depend upon gone. Like the rug pulled out from under you. It would must have been very challenging.

PM: Yes. And we had really become disconnected from the community. There were reasons for that, I mean, the previous director, there were reasons that that happened. But we were amazed that we didn't have a donor list to use that was anywhere close to being up to date. It wasn't even existent.

JR: So you almost had to start from scratch?

PM: We had to start from scratch on that. And we had to reconnect with all the various community organizations. And we are still doing that.

JR: But this has been a lot of progress.

PM: But I think we've done a lot. I think we've been able to do a lot. We are hoping to...we've got a pending grant that I don't want to give away but it would, its designed to pay off the Harbor House mortgage which would put us in a beautiful shape. But we have developed other businesses like our Pak Ratz is doing beautifully, our secondhand furniture and clothing store that is housed on South Front Street. We have a marvelous director there of that, Nicki. She's spectacular and what she can do to bring people in and they, all the funds from that are garnered from that operation go to support Harbor House and the Women's Center programs. We also rent out lot of our space. Thanks to Sally, and her husband Phil who has done more than enough to get those spaces ready, we have Superior Fitness and one part of we have Superior Rehabilitation Services and other suite of rooms and the Dia de Los Tacos owner, Mike Walker who was Gary's son actually uses...rents our kitchen to prepare his Tacos. And of course has space in our parking lot for his truck when he's not using it.

JR: And occasionally serves the product at meetings.

PM: Yes, well. We haven't...he's gone at noon hour all the time. So he's got his spots around town. But he has helped us with we had a live remote at Eagle Radio and Rosemary Smith and her operation has helped us so much. And we had invited people in for open house in October for the second year we did that, and they bring things in and they help us get some of the larger items like last year we got complete on-demand water heater as result of that, free for Harbor house.

JR: And connect me again, how did that happen?

PM: With this live remote, the radio station is with us for two hours and we were inviting people to come in and the hear us on the radio and we tell him couple of items that we really need that are large ticket items, and this year we got a new washing machine. In fact, we got two. We needed washing machine for Harbor House, the old one was dying and that brought it in again from the community. The community was absolutely marvelous. I mean, I couldn't ask for a

more beautiful, giving, interested, dedicated community that we have and people are there, it's just matter of connecting with them.

JR: Oh, I understood the renovation of both the building and Harbor House a lot of it was donated, unions helping...again, Marquette is awesome.

PM: They are. I think, I might – about that. But I really think it's the size of the community and the varied, having the university and the hospital here, and the great mixture of people from all walks of life. We're not relegated to your professional group which I think happens in larger cities.

JR: Bigger cities.

PM: You are with everybody. It doesn't matter. Of course a wonderful recreational bike paths, thanks to Holly and the city, all those things have worked together so that we have such a core of people from all walks of life that are together and connected.

JR: In closure, you've actually alluded to some of the things going forward but what would be your hope or dream in evolving either the Women's Center, spousal abuse or programs, just maintaining, are there things we're not doing that we should be working toward...what's your thought?

PM: Well, I think our dream would be for Founding mothers to be up the get off the board at some point.

JR: Draw in some new board members.

PM: We need some young dynamic, committed board members. The younger ones, it would be wonderful then we have some younger ones on there now. We are very delighted to have Melissa Adamson who's the head of the Medical Care Access Coalition, she is a director and we have Ellen Winegarden who is with MERISA. They all have a lot of experience and a lot of energy. We have Jen Laami, Jennifer Laami who was the financial person for the regional history museum one day were building their facility. But she's now the executive director for the... I think it's Upper Peninsula Builders Exchange...

JR: I think it might be good to talk to some of these young women, we're talking history but to see put their awareness out of how to solve began. Because one of the motives behind these Archives and we parallel it with the civil rights movement is after 40 years, the generation of younger women may take the lot of these progressive things for granted, that they've always been there. You didn't...so part of the Archival and the discussion is let him know what it took and what we're going to need from younger people to continue progress.

PM: That's going to be very important. It's going to very important to have the younger generations of women take hold.

JR: Understand

PM: Take hold. And there are lot of them out there. There a lot them are too darned busy. And I understand that completely with young families and working difficult jobs. It's very hard. And we're retired all of us, I mean the Founding Mothers anyway. But it's hard. Oh, we also have Meggie Morgan who is the, was the Hiawathaland organizer and director for many years wonderful source of energy and ideas and she has an absolutely wonderful sense of humor which has really helped us.

JR: We need that. We need that. Well, this is hopeful. This is good things...

PM: And then as far as programming as concerned what I would love to see is for us to be able to get rid of all of our mortgage. We do have another \$310,000 on the building, the South Front Street building. And if we could get rid of those mortgages, if we could hire some more staff, I cannot stop this interview without talking about our staff. Phillis Loonsfoot is absolutely incredible leader and the staff is phenomenal, they all are. They have worked under very difficult circumstances for many years. They haven't had a pay raise until this year. They have...they're so dedicated and they work so hard. But we really have limitations on our services. As a result, we just cannot move forward with anything more until we have more funding and more staff.

JR: So that really is the crux right now for the next year's ...

PM: We'd like to have services for women beyond domestic and sexual assault violence. And we do have something but our staff is now working on trafficking. They are making presentations locally and have been trained statewide to do workshops on that... and that's another big problem. It's another ugly part. We had a case in Marquette County.

JR: And people tend to think that doesn't happen here.

PM: They don't think it happens here. Yeah, they are taking it happened you know. So there's a lot of other things that we'd like to be able to help women with. Like retirement like...helping with job creation, job development, those kind of things we used to do that. But we are not able to do now.

JR: That, and that was what I wanted to say when you look at the history. There were lot of programs like working with young women in schools, talking about dating situations or whatever.

PM: Well the dating. Yes, we still have those programs lying on with our staff and the schools. Yeah, we still do the dating violence is going on. But maybe there's probably a lot more than could be done in those areas.

JR: Well, I commend you for your contributions all along the way. And thank you for participating in this project. Because I think we are all going learn from hearing you, other Founding Mothers, staff, and people who have benefitted from the programs, I think when we can talk to more of them to hear how really. Cause I know it from a field stories. It's life changing to have connected with the Women's Center. So thank you. Pat.

PM: Thank you, Jane. I've been blessed to be able to be a part of it.

END OF INTERVIEW