Interview: William and Barbara Lyons
Interview by Russ Magnaghi
April 16, 2012

START OF INTERVIEW

Russell Magnaghi (RM): Interview with Barbara and William Lyons, Marquette, MI April 16th, 2012. Okay Good Morning and the interview this morning is going to focus on Dr. Lyons' career, medical career here in Marquette and Bill Lyons' career on campus as the head of, was it Public Safety then? What did they call it?

William Lyons (WL): I think it was Public Safety then.

RM: It's gone through a number of names. So that would be the nature of the interview, this is for the transcriber. Okay, why don't we start with your backgrounds? Where were you from or were you always from Marquette?

WL: No, I'm from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, born and raised there. And, I when I got out of the service, I got a job at a stick shift company. And when they were being bought out, I was losing my job and so I applied for the Philadelphia Police Department and I became a cop.

RM: Before you go on, I should have asked this before. What is your birthday?

WL: 11/8/37.

RM: Okay.

WL: And, as a policeman, I was assigned to south Philadelphia which is a, I don't know, a ghetto, minority, however you want to put it. And in them days, the policemen were like ambulance services for people. They took them to the hospitals. I used to take my sick people to the graduate hospital where my wife was doing an internship.

RM: Now these weren't people that had some violence done to them, these were just sick people?

WL: Yeah, mostly. One way or the other, that's right, either way. They used to call police for transportation. I don't know if that still happens today. And, when the Philadelphia transportation authority went on strike in January of 1963, we were frozen on our shifts and I was on a midnight shift. And the only place you could get food outside of _____ was at the hospital. And they used to let the cops eat in the hospital

cafeteria and gave them the same prices as they gave the employees. So, it was a good deal at a reasonable price. My wife at that time, she was on the emergency room detail, she was rotating through that. And so you'd go eat and then I'd sit in the emergency room and chat with the nurses and that's how I met her. But she took a cinder out of my eye, to be exact. Want me to still go on?

RM: Okay. Let me, we can, yeah; we'll kind of take it in steps here. So, Barb?

Barbara Lyons (BL): I was born in Lorain, Ohio and raised in a family of two sisters and four brothers and myself. The sisters, they were much older. My youngest brother next to me was 13 years older than me. I was my mother's menopause. And so I was really raised pretty much alone. By the time I was six the war had started, World War II. And my brothers went off to the service. All four of my brothers spent, and my sisters got married, and all four of my brothers were in the pacific and my sister's husbands, one of them was in the European front and my other brother was working down in Florida. I was really raised alone. We lived on the farm for a while and then we moved back, I was born in Lorain? In the hospital, and we moved closer to Lorraine. I went to a school called Clowview High and a Mr. Gillis was there. I really knew nothing about college and medical school except that all my life I wanted to be a doctor. And the reason was, the veterinarian and the doctors were highly respected when they came to our farm or they treated us. They were treated with respect and people listened to them. And our doctor, Dr. Cook, even though we gave him chicken sometimes instead of money or eggs or whatever we gave him for visits, they were still highly respected people. That's what I wanted to be and Mr. Gillis, the principal of our school when I was in high school, arranged for me to go to, I'd spend the mornings in the school and I'd spend many afternoons over at Oberlin College with the head of the math and science department. And, because I was good in math and science, mostly math. And then Mr. Gillis, most of my classmates went to Ohio State and my mother said, "absolutely not, you'll go to Kent, is closer, it's a smaller school, you'll get more attention at Kent." I went to Kent State for four years and my mentor there was Dr. Crook (Dr. Clarence Cook). He's the man that invented Gojo; you know the stuff you put on your hands to get grease off? He was the inventor of that. He has a PhD in Chemistry. So several of the doctors in the chemistry department. Chemistry was one of my majors and Biology was my other major. Math and sociology were my minors. There were 22 of us when I started in the pre-med program and 11 of us finished, 10 boys and myself, there were 20 boys in the beginning and it ended up with 10 boys and one girl. And all 11 of us were accepted into different medical schools. I originally got accepted into Ohio State but my mother said, "absolutely not, you're not going there. It's full of hundreds of boys. You spit and swear too much. You're gonna go where there are girls." So my uncle lived in Philadelphia and she took me to Philadelphia and I applied there. I saw the school and applied to Philadelphia and my uncle gave me, you know, you had to send money in; we didn't have a lot of money. My uncle gave me the money to go to school there. I went to Women's Medical College, which is all women. My first year there was 55 women in the class and we graduated 55, I think. We lost some along the way but we took in girls from

other medical schools. For instance, the University of Maryland had their first student medical student become pregnant, obviously she was a girl. They had never had that. So they were gonna have her drop out of school. And so she called our president and said, "do you always have your girls drop out?" She said, "absolutely not, we follow them up, they'd deliver and then they stayed, got one or two days off and go back." So she came and, I don't remember her last name, her name is Mary, and she had twin girls. I remember we were taking one of our finals in internal medicine our third year and we were watching her in labor in the class. So, Women's Medical was entirely different. I can remember when I interviewed at Ohio State it was a bunch of men sitting around the table and this old man said to me, they were having men and women interview, and he said, "tell me my dear, why would a woman want to be a doctor?" And he said, women, like my father referred to worms out of a can, and I said, "well probably for the same reason that _____, keep in mind that I was raised with 4 older brothers. I thought, I actually thought my name wasn't Barbara, I thought it was "little shit" because my brothers used to say, "get of here you little shit! Go away you little shit, you tell ma and I'll give you a knuckle." I thought that's how girls were treated, I didn't know that girls were, you know, were treated sweet and kind. And in my day girls didn't wear dresses, I mean didn't wear slacks. They wore dresses all the time. And so, when my mother, during the war when my brothers were stationed in California, they went, she went out to California to visit them for a summer at a time, cause different ones were coming into San Francisco's port there. Well, when she was gone I said to my dad, "I have to work on this farm. I have to climb up and do things. Why do I have to wear dress all the time that's senseless!" So he said, "well what do you want?" I say, "I want trousers like the boys wear." So we went into Pennies, there was no girls shop for trousers, and I got a pair of Chinos, like my husband wears now. And a blue T-shirt. I wore it all summer long, washed it and put it back on the next day, wet or dry. I loved it! It was the greatest, and I had long pig-tails, you know, it was great. I had a big straw hat. It was my favorite. A matter of fact I stood on the platform when my mother came home, in my chinos and blue t-shirt and she walked right by me. She said, "Where's Barbara?" My dad said, "You just passed her." "I didn't see any little girl?" He said, "yes you did, she's had her pigtails hid under her hat." And there I was. And she had a fit that my father would put me in men's trousers. That was very bad. But I loved it, from that moment on I was a Tom Boy.

RM: What was your birthdate?

BL: 7/7/36, July 7th.

RM: What year are you talking about now in terms of…?

BL: In the 1940's, till about 1946, in that area.

RM: So you're about 10 years old?

BL: Yea, 10, 11 years old. And then we moved to the house that we lived in at Cloview and that's when I went to high school. And at Kent state was wonderful. Dr. Cook was a wonderful advisor. I couldn't have had a kinder man. The head of the Chemistry department was very good to me. And they helped me get into medical school. My instructor, I can't remember their names anymore, in Biology he was marvelous…. You know your professors want you to get ahead. They want you to. And I was invited to their homes and they were kind and helped me with problems. I could drop in their office most anytime and they helped me with problems. I came from a family, the only book in our house was the Bible and the dictionary. And I had to go to the library for anything else I wanted. I utilized the library, I had a lot of books when I was in college. Fortunately, one of my high school classmates, Marilyn Sepola, her father, I worked for them, they were very wealthy. And he owned the American Music Company, which put all the jukeboxes in and all the music in different bars and grills and restaurants and whatnot. And, they travelled to Italy every summer and I used to take, they had their grandfather was "pa", I don't know his name even. But he was Mr. Sepola's wife's father. And pa was a wonderful man except you couldn't let him get near the sauce. So someone had to stay the summer and cook for pa and take care of the house, which was a lovely house. And so I lived my summers there and was paid to take care of the house. But Mr. Sepola said, any books you need for college or lab fees or anything, not your tuition but any books he said, send me the receipts for that and I will send you the money. I thought it was gonna be just for college but when I went away to medical school, he said any books, you send me the receipts, cause he thought it was great that I was going there. His daughter and his son, his son became an engineer and his daughter finished college also, but he was very kind, he helped me. In those days, room, board, tuition was $750 a year. Room, board, tuition. Living in the dorms, that's not what it is nowadays. And I worked. So I had jobs on campus. And then in medical school I ran the house, we had a sorority house, actually it was called a fraternity because it was professional, it was zeta phi, 10 girls lived there and 30 girls ate there every day, supper. And so, I managed that house. We had 2 women working for us, Viola and Mary. Mary was the cook and Viola was the cleaning lady. This is the medical school.

RM: What's the spelling of the Fraternity?

BL: Zeta, Z-E-T-A P-H-I, zeta phi. So I managed, I collected their monies and I went and did the shopping for Mary, Mary made lists and I brought it home. I had a little Volkswagen. I got grants for tuition and medical school, first year was $900, the second year was $1100, the third year was $1300 and I didn't go the fourth year, I was out with the Indians, so I really didn't pay for my fourth year. The first year I had a scholarship, the second year I had a grant and the third year I borrowed money and the fourth year I borrowed. And when we went out, my roommate and I went out with the Navajo Indians for a year, September to May and we graduated June 6th. We came back, took our boards and graduated. Then I went to University of Penn Graduate Hospital. In those days, you took an internship and then started your residency, and that's what I did. But, that's where I met him, he had a cinder embedded in his cornea, and I was

sleeping in the morgue, because the morgue was the only cool place in the hospital. Hospitals were not air conditioned in those days. The morgue was right across the hallway from the ER and nobody bothers you in the morgue, they're all dead. So I would haul in a clean litter, throw on a couple of sheets and crawl underneath the sheets and sleep, if it got quiet cause that, it always get quiet in ER about 4-5 in the morning. You're done seeing all the drunks and crazies in. The nurse was always dating the cops. Her name was Patrinzia, Nicky Patrinzia. Mind ya, I can remember that name. And then, what's the other, Betsy, Becky. Becky was the other girl, she was the OPN. Nicky came over and got me and she said, "there's a cop with something in his eye and we can't get it out." I said, okay. And I figured it was one of her boyfriends. So I went over and I said, "you gotta sit here and you gotta hold real still cause I'll flick this out of your eye with a needle. And if you move you'll go blind." He didn't move and I had a very steady hand I just flicked that right out, you know. And I wanted to give him a patch for his eye cause normally you put an antibiotic on it and patch it for a day or so, and the cornea heals. He said, "No I can't wear that and work." So I said, "well if you don't go blind in 3 days come back and let me see it." And then he said, "Could I buy you a cup of coffee?" Now in those days the nurses stood when you came into an area, the nurses made your coffee, they brought you coffee, the nurses did a lot of things they don't do anymore. I said, my exact words were, "what the hell do I need your coffee for? The nurses make it for me anytime I want," and I went back to the morgue.

WL: That was it, the magic words.

BL: That was the magic word. That was what, I warned him right there, no other woman had said those kinds things to him. Anyway, that was the beautiful romance. What really happened, I went up to Philadelphia Linion Hospital, which was 11 floors of babies and deliveries. They were just lying in. That's what they call the place where women, a lying in area, where women lay down and have their babies. And so, I was working up there and he came to visit me. One night I got, you know things happen, fate, I believe fate has things happen, it was, I wasn't busy that night. Normally I was catching babies out of both hands practically. I mean there were three or four delivery rooms and you went from one to other, catching babies. That night, there wasn't a soul at Philadelphia delivery. A rainy night. The operator called me from downstairs, "there's a handsome fella here, all dressed up, he wants to see you and he has coffee for you." I said, "Well if he's got coffee send him up," not knowing who it was. I was thinking it was one of the interns. Actually at that time I was dating a guy from Philadelphia General. So I thought that's who it was and up comes Bill off of here, and he's got two cups of coffee and said, "Here, you want a cup of coffee?" And I said, "Oh sure." So we went up to the residents' room, which is on the top of the hospital, which overlooks the whole city of Philadelphia, cause we were now 12 stories high. And, we sat up there and talked. By the time he left, I had a date for some weekend and that was a beautiful romance. We were married that July 13th. And the reason was that was that was the only time I had off. Right?

WL: Yeah.

RM: That's a great story.

BL: It's true though. Anyway, we finished out my internship, didn't we? I had a research project that I was on with Dr. Schwaint, who was in Pharmacology, again cause I really like chemistry. We were doing open heart surgery on dogs. I was working on a drug that helped pay my way through medical school, Mephertmine, the national institute of health and Wyatt lep, which became a drug called wyomine.

RM: How would you spell that?

BL: M-E-P-H-E-R-T-E-R-M-I-N-E, Mephertermine. I love scientific names, I can't spell a darned thing, but they are just exact, you say them and they don't change. Anyway, I was working on that drug and we had several parts of it we had to finish. Meanwhile he was a cop and I said to him, "why don't you go to college?" And he said, "I'm not smart enough, I can't write all those." But I said, "of course you can, you'd think I'd marry a dumb guy? I hate dumb people!" I told him. So anyway, I talked him into it and he went to Temple.

WL: No, I went to Ventura. We went to Ventura.

BL: Yea, we moved out. We went to California and you went to Temple later on.

WL: Yea, from Ventura I went to Temple. That's where I took my community college.

BL: I went to my residency. I did a residency in, family practice; it was actually general practice, cause you only had to do two years. Cause you had one year as an intern and then two years. And he was going to Ventura, it was out in Ventura County General. And he went to the college, Ventura Community College, and he started there. Then we moved back East for me to take an OB/GYN residency, and I only took part of it cause I got credit for part.

WL: That's when I went to Temple.

BL: And then he went to Temple.

RM: So you went back to Philadelphia?

BL: Yeah, he went to Temple. And then, he was finishing up, no he had more to do, and he didn't know if he wanted to stay at Temple and I was finishing my, we were starving. In those days your were paid $26 a month for your internship and $70 a month for your residency. $70 a month and you worked everyday and every other night and every other weekend.

WL: I had the GI Bill but it was _____ stuck and I wasn't getting it. And so the only money we had is the couple bucks coming in from her. I used to go to the hospital and the women that worked in the cafeteria felt sorry for us and they'd feed me for nothing _____.

BL: We were looking in the magazines we got and I said, "Well I can teach in student health, I mean work in student health and you could go to college wherever we went." And so we started really looking at that because he could finish his college. And we found Ft. Collins, Colorado and Northern Michigan University. I interviewed at both didn't I? No, we talked to them both over the phone and we had opportunity. It turned out that Northern Michigan was paying $250 a year more, not $250 a month more, a year more and that was a lot of money to us. So we borrowed the money from his dad and my folks.

WL: She had to come up for an interview.

BL: Oh yea, I came up.

WL: And they didn't pay for it then.

BL: No we had to pay.

WL: And so, and went and put her on the plane, wrote the check for the ticket for the airline and I left the airport and went to my father's. And said, "God I just wrote this check and I don't have the money." So, the old guy paid for it. So that's how we got her up here. That was in February.

RM: Of 1968?

WL: 1967.

RM: 1967.

BL: And I walked through a tunnel of snow to get to the airport. The plane stopped, there was a tunnel that went into the airport, and Alan Niemi met me there, Dr. Niemi. He was the student affair…

WL: Dean of Students.

BL: Dean of Students, yea. And I interviewed with people up here. Who were those that, the girl and fella that went down to Menominee/Marinette?

WL: Yeah.

BL: I can't remember.

WL: Bob and, what the hell was her, she was Dean of Women a young gal; she was only here for a couple of years. Evans.

BL: Evans. Bob and Shirley Evans. So I got hired to work at the health center and Bill decided to, he enrolled. And when I got up here, they hired two other people. I have now had an internship and residency, okay. They had no concept of residency at Northern, that's training, that's like your post-doctorate. They had no concept of that. So they hired a young fella, Darrell Thorpe. He had just finished his internship, but he was better looking than me. And he became the director. Darrell was a nice guy. And they hired a guy who also had an internship, Rex McConnell. You probably remember Rex.

WL: He started the church on Third St. and Bluff? Third and Ridge, by the library? He started that church and I can't think of what denomination.

BL: I think it was Open Doors.

WL: Open Doors.

RM: Wasn't it the Missionary?

BL: Missionary Church, that's exactly what it was.

RM: Then they moved out on Wright Street.

BL: And so, anyway Darrell Thorpe left.

RM: These were all physicians?

BL & WL: All physicians.

BL: Bill spent two years going to school here, finishing everything up. When he, you tell it from there, when he graduated.

WL: My only claim to fame, I went to three different schools and I still graduated in four years, which I thought was very good because I am not a student.

BL: He is too.

RM: But you got through?

WL: But she did the bibliographies. When we came here, we were only coming here to go through school. And so, that's when they had the guy from Michigan State up to evaluate the campus safety situation. And the guy who was chief used to always drive, Edgar Harden, he was Edgar's personal chauffeur. The guy said that has got to cease. So they fired him and they were looking for a chief of security. Barb, I don't know, we talked about it. So I applied for it and I got it.

RM: So you were, the two of you were just here temporarily.

WL: Initially.

RM: And you were here to work until…?

BL: Until he got out of college.

RM: And then you were gonna see where you were going to go.

BL: Right.

WL: Then I applied and I got the job.

RM: Now this was what year?

WL: 1969. I graduated in August of 1969 and I started the job in September.

RM: Well that was the same time I got here, September of 1969 I started.

WL: Oh, you came in 1967.

RM: I came for a visit in 1968, and then I went back to graduate school, then I came back, I had the job then in September of 1969.

WL: Okay. That's when I started, the September of 1969.

RM: Now, campus security, what state was it in before you took over?

WL: Well, they took just about anybody that got fired from the city police department. Now, I'm not saying left the city, guys that got fired. They had some different guys there. And I was not an authority of law enforcement by any means. I've been a city cop, I went through Philadelphia Police Academy and I knew a little bit. But I knew, I think, I always thought I knew what it took to be a good cop. I started, _____ guys would get there and I didn't fire anybody. But then I was looking for young fellers. Young fellers who wanted to be cops and that's how we started. My little claim to fame is the two chiefs of police at the city, before Angeli, I hired them and gave their initial jobs. Both

Sal Sadove and I can't even think of the other name, the other guy but he retired from there and he's a US Marshall in the court now. But anyway, I gave their first job and the sheriff of Marquette County, I gave him his first job. And then half, maybe not half, but close to half of the city police department, the guys that I had hired returned to the ram to where they were taking off the line because they were paying more, the school wasn't paying them anything and that's when they joined the union. I'm not great on unions, but I couldn't blame them for it, they weren't making any money. When Northern got the Criminal justice program in, I as hiring students part-time to do traffic enforcement in the parking lots at night. And then I was getting graduates to fill full-time positions on the campus safety department. It worked out.

RM: And that was sort of a whole pattern then, I remember that, and so you were the person that started that. But I think Mike Bath started out, he's head of security now, as a student.

WL: I probably wasn't there when he started out.

RM: He followed that procedure, of starting out as a student worker and then work his way up, interesting.

WL: The kid who writes the column in the Mining Journal on Birds, Scott Stewart, he worked for me as a student as a dispatcher for I think three years. Anyway, what else? Then also, right off the bat we had Niemi being held hostage, remember in the Dean of Students office. Good old Jamrich, he may have hired me but he didn't think much of me because he went ahead and got George Johnson to take charge of things, and I sat in my office. That makes you feel good.

BL: But he and George Johnson would play cards, poker together. George Johnson, Jamrich played poker together. You need to know the ins and outs of the city and when you're the family practice doctor, which I was later on, by noon I know everything about this city; who slept with whom, who's doing what, who's doing what they shouldn't. I used to come home and say to my kids, "you did thus and so" and their teachers were in and told me or their friends' mothers. People would come in and then spill their guts to their doctor.

RM: So this was really a time when it was still very small town Marquette.

BL: Very small town.

WL: Exactly.

RM: And so Jamrich didn't feel you were up to the job to be hired, but you were up to the job to…?

WL: I think I was hired so they wouldn't lose a doctor.

RM: Oh, I see.

WL: But, anyway, in other times if something happened he said, maybe you better ask George Johnson and I said, "I'm not going to ask George Johnson every time the cat has kittens." And so the next time I saw George Johnson, he asks me about that statement, I said, "that's a matter of fact, that's how I feel." It didn't change anything. Jamrich talked to George Johnson all the time.

BL: But they played cards together. You have to understand the buddies you played cards with, they were your buddies and you get all your lowdown information from them.

RM: Interesting. Now were there other, do you want to continue with your time in security at Northern?

BL: The numbers you had when you started, how many people did you have working there?

RM: Where were you located, where was the headquarters?

WL: When I first started, I was in the basement of Kaye Hall. And, I moved out of there, I think it was right after the first of the year, the end of December and January of 1970 and we moved over to Lee Hall. I'm sure you remember when we were in Lee Hall, we were there as long as I was there. And that's when we started collecting the student rifles and storing them at campus safety.

RM: In the spring of 1970?

WL: Yea. And they put up a whole room of gun racks and we went around to every room and got every rifle that was on campus. And it turned out the students liked it. Their guns were safe, they were stored properly, they weren't leaning in the corner getting knocked down. And so once we had it done, there was no more trouble about it.

RM: Do you remember at that time, and that was all part of the Kent State and Jackson State thing. Do you remember the rumors that were going on, well one of them I remember was that some students were going to shoot at some black kids? Yeah, they had their guns. That's what I think triggered that.

WL: Well they said there were shots fired up in one of the quads, in between the buildings. But it was never proven, you know nothing came of it. And it was just rumor, nothing came of it. Anybody you talked to seriously never heard anything, it was only the people spreading the rumor heard the shots.

RM: So that was pretty much your conclusion of that?

WL: We didn't put any fact in it. From what I remember, there was really not much done to investigate it but how do you investigate when you have 60 windows a side, 60 this side, where did the shots come from, nothing was done. Nobody was served, there was no proof that any shots were fired. That's where we left it.

RM: Was that like the first big incident that you had to deal with?

WL: Probably.

RM: Other than kidnapped Niemi.

WL: Yeah. That was the first big thing. We had galvanized trash cans that we bought and were sticking the guns in there until the shelves were built. Once the shelves were built, I think we doubled the number of guns we had. Kids who either didn't turn them in, hid them like in their cars or brought them from home when they realized there was a good place to store them. Never lost a gun in all the years I was there. And I'll tell ya, the kids had some fancy guns. That was about it.

RM: Now were you there when they gave the gun that was used in the murder up in Big Bay that Broker wrote about, Anatomy of a Murder? Or was that some other time?

WL: Must have been after me, I don't recall anything like that.

RM: Okay. Cause they donated some, now I forgot what it is. The gun was given to, the fellow couldn't pay Broker or anyway, couldn't pay the lawyer so he gave them the gun or somebody gave him the gun and then he didn't want it and eventually gave it to Northern. And I think we still have it over there.

WL: I never heard.

RM: But now before you took over then, what was campus security, how many people employed by campus security?

WL: Well, probably nine, I think I added one or two the whole time I was there. Like to run anything with one person, 24 hour shift you need 4.2 people or something like that. So, all you're going to have is one person because you have people off, people sick, people with holidays. So it was a magic trick making up the schedule. Then what happened too when I was on, and that was turned over to George Johnson too, remember in the library somebody donated the Declaration of Independence, all that, Gettysburg address all plasticized and it was a wall of honor or something. And somebody had slashed it all to hell? Well that was given to George Johnson too.

RM: So, Jamrich saw that the campus police as only the issuers of parking tickets and not into real professional police work.

WL: Exactly. Guys I had, most of them were hired away by the city. Everyone of my officers went through the basic police school and satisfied the requirements of the state of Michigan for law enforcement training. And we didn't give them too much else besides that because I didn't have the numbers, you know.

RM: So then, you're saying that you had nine people. And when you broke these people up you would have maybe one person actually on duty?

WL: Yea, one person on patrol. Then at night I had a student, I'm not counting part-timers, I had a student doing dispatching, answering the phones and dispatching and I had one officer on patrol which that's not good either. If he gets in trouble he's got, well the city would come in to back you up if they heard the call. At that time we were on two different frequencies, they didn't hear our calls. And it was a couple years later when we got new radios through the sate law enforcement that they could hear our calls and we could hear theirs.

RM: So you were operating under primitive conditions?

WL: Yeah. They weren't armed when I started either. And I felt, just going into the back of a dark parking lot, the guys should be armed, because he's not Johnny Weissmuller, he can't beat everybody up that he comes in contact with. And so I asked permission, I got them armed and I wanted to go low key so I armed with a small weapon, detective special stub nose which isn't very good. It will help defend you in emergency. So they carried that for some years and after I left they got, I don't what they carry now.

RM: So you were really at a point of transition of beginning the improvement into the modern era.

WL: I would say so yeah.

RM: And you were there how long then?

WL: Nine and a half years.

RM: So through the 1970s.

WL: Yea, I left in what 1978?

BL: 1979.

WL: 1979.

RM: Now did you see, this was also the time of with the students with drugs and what not. Did you see an increase?

WL: Yeah.

RM: A rise of drugs, use of drugs and then related problems and so on?

WL: Well, there were drugs. Compared to what, I don't know, it was more than when I first started. We made arrests, we stopped drugs and drinking that was the big thing. What we used to do, the party store was over on the corner of Wright street at 553, they'd go over there and buy a six-pick, put it in a bag, cut across to the dorm. All of a sudden I'd see them and say, "What do you have in the bag?" And they say, "beer." We said, "you're under arrest for minor in possession." It got to the prosecutor he said, "you can't ask them what they have in the bag." So we had to stop doing that. The thought of petty larceny, the kids leaving things out in their rooms and then somebody would pick them up.

RM: Did then things change as you got to the end of the 1970s or did they get worse or did it just remain about the same?

WL: It, probably the same, you know. You had good kids and you had bad kids. I guess I changed. I had enough of parking tickets. Anyway.

RM: Were you there when they had the infamous bump thing?

WL: Yes that was Jamrich's idea.

RM: Could you talk about that?

WL: Well, he used to stand up in his office, my wife was with him one day when he complained how fast the cars were going across campus. And I think he said, the difference is seconds from where you start on campus and then you go off, no matter how slow you go. So he put the bumps in. And I had to live with it.

RM: Did he consult with you?

WL: No. He said, we're going to put bumps in, speed bumps. He didn't ask me what I thought of it, he didn't care what I thought of it. He didn't care.

RM: Because the other part of that is that I think,

[SIDE A ENDS]

[SIDE B BEGINS]

RM: So if I remember right, the problem with the big blow up came when the bumps were too high and did some damage to…

WL: Mufflers were falling off.

RM: Mufflers were falling off. And Jamrich, didn't he sort of left town and went on some tour, went someplace and left it in Bob Glen's hands. And then Bob had to deal with the outrage of the students and the mufflers and so on.

BL: I do remember that.

WL: I can't say I do.

RM: So everything was sort of disconnected, I mean Jamrich was doing what he thought was the thing to do and all without a lot of technical advice and didn't really consult with you who might have known about speed bumps or could have learned about them and what would work and what wouldn't work.

WL: But that time I was immune to these things, you know _____. When his house was broken into, do you remember that? Do you remember when there were _____ around the city and a guy was going in and stealing silver ware. And that was in the early-mid 1970s I guess. And he broke into Jamrich's house. And I had started a program for the students. I got money and I bought engraving pens where you could engrave on the side your name.

RM: Oh, that I remember yes.

WL: It was a security effort. So being a diplomat, I gave Jamrich one. And his house was broken into and they stole a lot of silver from him. And I said, "Did you have any of it marked?" He said, "no." And I said, I didn't say it on purpose, I said, "that wasn't too swift." And Jamrich didn't have a sense of humor. I think anybody that ever said hello to him noticed that. So, that didn't go over real big, I mean I wasn't chastised or ostracized, he remembered it. They eventually caught the guy but what he was doing was taking the silver up to Minneapolis and selling it to a place that just melted it down. That's what he was doing with all of it.

RM: So Jamrich lost all of his silver?

WL: His estate silver. Whatever he had at the house, I don't know. Again, it was reports to George Johnson.

RM: Okay, we'll get back to this. So then you retired, we'll kind of finish your part of it, you retired then in…?

WL: I left in…

BL: 1979.

WL: Christmas of 1979. And it didn't retire, I didn't have 10 years in, but I was anxious to leave.

RM: Oh, so it was your move?

WL: Yeah. And, I went to work for the LS&I railroad and by September of 1980 I was out of work again. So, it's the story of my life.

BL: When you shut that off I'll tell you that story.

WL: For telling him the truth all the time because, but I remember that, when you have a disease, you're going to live that disease. And if I lie to you then you're gonna think one of two things, either I lied to you or I was too stupid to know what the disease does. And I was too proud to do that. I want you to know the truth. You know, this is what you're going to expect. And I've had patients leave my practice, "you're not going to tell me that," and go away. And many of them came later and said, "You know, you were the only one that told me the absolute truth." The truth hurts many times, and it does hurt. Try all day long today in everything you do telling the absolute truth. But once you start doing it, it frees you from all sorts of things and its fun. I used to like to tell the truth when I look at your face, because people were shocked. I'd say to people, "you don't believe that do you," just told it to me, _____, and you don't think that I'm dumb enough to believe it. And people's faces, you'll see the shock look, I love that. That was more fun than a barrel of monkeys. And so, I just got in a habit of that.

RM: Now, you were back to your _____, and now you're at Northern?

BL: Yes and I became the medical director after Darrell Thorpe.

RM: I see.

BL: And interestingly enough…

RM: And that was what year?

BL: Darrel left about 1971.

WL: I would say that.

BL: 1970, 1971. It was either 1970, it was probably the school year of 1970-71. But two weeks after I became director I just walked through the files, you know. I'm looking through all the files, all the history. Well I happen to come across the pays. You know what the pay is of everybody in your department. And you know who got paid what before. I came up here and my pay when I arrived here was $16, 500. And Darrell Thorpe's was $18,500. And Rex McConnell was $18,500. And when Darrell got to be the medical director, they upped him to $20,500. So, I trotted those little pay things and went over to see Dr. Niemi cause, at that time they were going to pay me $17,500. I went to see Dr. Niemi and I said, "see this! See this guy you've just been paying $18,500? Do you know that he was an intern when he came here? Do you know that Rex McConnell was an intern and I have years of residency? Do you know what a resident has an internship, they did all my scutwork. Anything I didn't want to do, they did it for me and they said thank you and yes ma'am. I don't get less than they do, I get at least what they do. But since I was a female, you wanted to pay me less. I don't think so!" _____ right up to 225, right there. You see what I mean? That's what they used to do but people didn't know it in those days and nobody would approach that with somebody, I mean, especially women. Oh, women didn't see, you know, the mouthful of it. I mean, if I was doing the same job, I expected same pay. And I expected more if I was trained more. You know, and so they learned that after me. Dr. Niemi, they tried to get, Niemi was a nice man, he was a sweet man. They went into the years, we were just talking about this, do you remember where it was all the touchy feely stuff, the psychological, every meeting had to be the touchy feely? Well they called me for a meeting and I was really busy. In those days I wasn't full time medical director, I was part-time, I had my practice and all. And, I was medical director until they got someone, Bob White came with us then. Do you remember Bob White? Well he was there, and then Rex McConnell and then Rex went off to the ER. To go with this story, the touchy feely, they had a meeting and it was at the Northwoods Hotel.

WL: Northwood.

BL: Northwood Hotel, and I went up to the meeting and everybody was there with their socks off. Now I always wore orthopedic shoes because I have a bad foot, it's very flat; I walk on my ankle without orthopedic shoes. So, we're sitting there and he said, "Everybody's taking their shoes off." I said, "I don't take my shoes off. I can think with my shoes on, I always think with my shoes on." And he said, "Now Barbara, you have to join in." I said, "I'm joining in, what to do want? You know, what do you want to talk about?" I said, "I talk to people about their innermost thoughts, their innermost things, you know. And I do it with my shoes on, I do not need me shoes off for this." I said, "Niemi I've got a band tied around my ankles," I used to wear these bands, and so. They tried again and I said, "listen, if you guys are gonna play footsy, do this and I'll come back when the meeting gets down to serious stuff," and I left. They weren't used to someone that did that. How could you walk out on a meeting?

RM: But you were up for it – that was your old persona. You were obviously upfront and…

BL: I was busy; I just did not do this. If you want me to come and enter into a conversation or a debate or work on a problem, I'm happy to work. But I will not take my shoes or socks off for you. I don't get undressed for anybody until I get home at night, you know. I'm not this kind of person. I was never a touchy feely, hey I'll hug ya, if you need a hug, I'm here for you. But I'm not here for all this touchy feely crap. And they had to learn that and I think they did eventually, it didn't prove to me anything. We went through a lot of phases. I gave all, most all the lectures on sex. Boys and girls were having sex and they didn't know anything. So we had knock down, drag out, lets talk about it, sex lectures, didn't I?

RM: They say there was a controversy; they didn't want you doing that?

BL: Oh no, they wanted me to. They were afraid. And the pill was coming into its own, you know. And I talked to them all about all the different kinds of, and this is before 1983, before AIDS was out, so at that time. Oh, and when I came on campus, remember I'd come right out of an OBG residency, where we had the job corps girls with us, this is in 1967. Yea, 1967. With the job corps girls and I was doing physicals on them, you know, entire physicals. Well they had terrible looking discharges, which I smeared on a slide and then _____ gram negative intracellular diplococci. Voila!

WL: Better known as…

BL: Better known as gonorrhea. And so, the girls, well hell I've got 30 of the so far, I haven't through the whole 100 and some girls yet, you know. They have gonorrhea. The federal government didn't want this, nobody wanted this. So I said well they weren't dating so much the college boys, they were the dating the Air Force down here. So I called the MOD, the medical officer of the day at the Air Force and I said, "how many guys do you treat for gonorrhea out there?" "Well," he said, "we've only had 2 in the last year?" I said, "You've got 10,000 virgins out there? I can't believe it! These guys are really active. I've got 30 girls here with it." So, the US government job corps, sent a gynecologist, a "famous" gynecologist from Chicago up. And this pompous man came in and he said, "I want 10 slides, 10 slides I'll select myself." I said, "well they're all stained, you can look at them, anybody could look at them." And so he came and he selected 10 at random and took them back to the microscope and he came back and he said, "they all have gonorrhea." I said, "I've already treated them, they're clear now." He left and I was now free of being an idiot, the idiot doctor, you know. So, we did pull that up and the base started reporting theirs. But when, was it Randy Johnson?

WL: Potter.

BL: Potter, Dr. Potter was the County health department. Now listen to this one! I called up and I was reporting these. He said, “Barbara, there have only been two cases of gonorrhea in the Upper Peninsula in, I don’t know 10 years.” I said, “Dr. Potter! They’re all virgins up here? These men don’t look, they look a little Harold to me. Somebody’s got it.” So, anyway, it went on like that. These people were, gasp, how could anyone? Well I came out Philadelphia and California and I saw it, you know. And I was trained to treat it. You do not have to be ashamed of any disease you get, you need to treat it, you just swallow and treat it. I never look down on any patient I treated, no matter what. Leprosy was not a dread disease. It’s a disease you treat, you separate them from their children so their children don’t get it and you treat it till its gone. You don’t look down your nose at a patient. When I first came up here, Jean Phillips came to me. She was head of Psychology at the college.

WL: Counseling Center.

BL: Counseling Center, and she said, “How do you feel about homosexuals?” I said, “How should I feel? They’re people. I treat them when they’re sick.” She said, “Would you see some?” “Well of course I would!” Aren’t they people? I’ll treat them. If they’re animals they gotta go to the vet. I just didn’t understand the thinking. So, what had happened was a homosexual or two that lived over in Negaunee or Ishpeming, I can’t remember which, had committed suicide. And I said, what the hell for? Well they couldn’t deal with it. You know so, these are incongruent things that were happening, that were terrible because people lied about stuff and hid stuff and tried to keep it under the covers, and that’s wrong. Its just wrong for everybody and especially for doctors. Once people got the notion of what I did, people came to me. They knew that I’d be flat out, but if I treated a person and their spouse needed to be notified, you either go home and tell them or I’ll call and tell them. And then, it changed in the public health, then they finally got a nurse that was going around, getting the people that have venereal disease. And she and I used to laugh, the Holiday Inn when it was built had a boat, a Nordsman boat for the bar. And when you’d go in they played this record that was rushing water and they’d hit the lights and the boat would move. Do you remember that bar? Yea, well she came in one night, Bill and I were waiting for a table to have the fish fry, and our kids were there, and she came up to me and she said, “did you ever notice when you and I walk into a room, half the heads bow and don’t want to look at us.” And I said, “gee, I wonder why?” So we used to laugh because later on in time, I started taking care of, covering for the psych doctors, the psych ward. And when Larry Brock and Doug Shook and I were together, we’d cover the detox unit, we were the detox doctors. So I took care of the drunks, the druggies, the psychs and most of the rest of the people. So, anyhow, and then Bill was still in law enforcement and I said, “you took care of the bad guys and I took care of the rest, no wonder the whole place _____.” You know, you take care of what you have to take care of. Do you teach a student if they’re a homosexual or not? It’s none of your business in the first place. In the second place, they have a brain, that’s what you’re teaching. Not their sexual preferences. I just couldn’t get over, but Jean was a very wonderful person wasn’t she?

WL: Yup.

BL: She treated everybody and treated them with respect. Jean Phillips was very good. When I came up here, I was working at the university, they ask us if we'd cover the ER on weekends cause the doctors didn't like coming. Now there were two ERs. We had one at St. Mary's, which is now the VA Hospital. That part that juts out to the front used to be an ambulance area where the ambulances went in. And two rooms behind the ambulance entrance was the ER at St. Mary's. The ER at St. Luke's was in the basement, two rooms in the basement, not attached to any entrance where you came in. You had to come in and come down an elevator to get to those two rooms. That was what it was. And then it became the area that, in the back of the building it juts out. Not the one that went underneath now but it was more open and you walked in from a parking lot, similar to what you do now. They built that one and then they built the one that was underneath and then they built the one they have now. I remember _____. We had ambulances then and ambulance drivers were either Catholic or Protestant and they'd take them to St. Luke's or St. Mary's. The problem was when they'd get a fight from one of the bars, a lot of people busted up. There was one doctor on! So they'd take half to St. Mary's and half to St. Luke's. And some of them are college kids, they were at the health center, so we were going to all three places, which got to be ludicrous, take them all to one place where the doctor stayed. One night it was such a fiasco, just St. Luke's and St. Mary's, I had been to both places and there was a terrible storm, a real bright out storm. And I went to St. Luke's and the nurse on was Mrs. Cook and I called her Cookie. So I said, "I'll see you Cookie when I get back." And I headed off for St. Mary's. Well, I went to St. Mary's and the nun was there with me and they helped and I got them out. And I went home and I was just crawling in bed when the phone went off again and the person said to me, "well you might as well come right back." Well I thought it was the nun. So, I got in the car and I drove all the way to St. Mary's, which was a real, it was awful. And when I got there, I walked in and the nuns were all looking at me like, "what are you here for doctor?" I said, "you told me to come back?" They said, "We don't have anybody?" So back, in the car. After that I had them say St. Luke's or St. Mary's. I drove all the way back and treated them, you know.

RM: Let me get back to, when you came up here you would say you worked at Northern…?

BL: Exclusively.

RM: Exclusively?

BL: Exclusively.

RM: Then you developed your own practice and worked?

BL: In 19….

RM: Well, wait a minute, okay but you were then working in the ER at the two hospitals?

BL: Yes I was on call.

RM: But that was because you were working at Northern?

BL: Yes, Northern, and they asked us the three of us if we' cover the ER on weekends, when we covered Northern, and we said yes and that's how we got started in the ER.

RM: Oh, and so Northern's health center was open over the weekend?

BL: Yes. It was open 24 hours a day then.

RM: Which is not the case today?

BL: It isn't, I didn't know that. But it was open 24 hours a day. And we had an infirmary, where the kids were sick in an infirmary. There were 16 bed infirmary there.

RM: And that was in the…?

BL: Vielmetti Center.

RM: Vielmetti Center, they moved over there by that time?

BL: Right. A matter of fact, Vielmetti was just opening. Mrs. Vielmetti was there, bless her little heart, she was a sweetheart.

RM: Would you talk a little about her because we don't know, really don't know anything about her?

BL: Oh, she was a sweetheart; she was a lovely, a real lady. And she wasn't used to a boisterous old poop like me, which I wasn't, I was a young poop. She did a lot of, "oh my," "oh dear." Anyway, I loved her; she was really quite a gracious lady. We had her and Lila Whitfield and Mrs. Warum, Martha Warum. And we had Mrs. Zeeny, they were all older nurses. And they were really professionals. You know, in those days the nurses wore the little hanky and white hat and they were really professional, I got a kick out of them. But they were older than me. Mrs. Whitfield, her husband was a professor, she was married to somebody else at the time, that husband died and she married Dr. Whitfield. Anyway, she was more my age, younger.

RM: Whitefield, he was in Munising, George?

BL: George Whitfield. Yea, she had four boys I believe, I don't remember her other name, Hanson? Mrs. Hanson that became Whitfield. Marvelous lady, very good nurse, very good nurse. She tolerated me and she didn't take my guff, which is what you need. But Mrs. Vielmetti was the kind of person that, in a summer's week on Friday for everybody she would go over and buy ice cream cones for the whole staff and bring them back. And we'd eat ice cream and sit around and talk, the end of a Friday. She was just a sweetheart. Bill Green was the head of the job corps. And he was the one that was instrumental in getting that, that wasn't named Vielmetti Health Center at the time. He was the one that was instrumental in getting that named after her, after she retired or passed on. Bill Green was a great guy, do you know him?

RM: No.

BL: He's still alive; he's down in Escanaba. Bill and Chetty Green.

RM: So he was in charge of the…?

BL: Job corps. They were here for a while in the 1970s. 1960s and 1970s, yeah.

RM: He's retired in Escanaba?

BL: I believe it is in Escanaba or near by, maybe, what's that little town? Rapid River, Escanaba or right in that area. He might have gone south but that's the last I heard. Where are we going now?

RM: Well, you're talking about the Health Center.

BL: And that's how we got into the ER, the Health Center itself. The Health Center had an infirmary and we took care of college kids that were sick. We sent them home if they had long-term illnesses like infectious mono, that's a long-term thing. But if they were sick with severe tonsillitis or anything, we put them in there. Or if they need IV medication, we could give it to them, or anything like that. They didn't have to the hospital and pay the hospital fees, which compared to today, were nothing but, they saved the kids money. Mrs. Warum was Finnish so she spoke Finnish if the kids came and they didn't speak good English cause we had a few that didn't speak it. She was good. And that's about all that I know. The health center was, I thought, a great place. I don't remember who came after me. Do you remember Bill?

WL: A woman. Another woman.

BL: Okay, I don't remember.

WL: I don't remember her name.

RM: Okay, we probably have it in the NMU encyclopedia because I've listed the heads of departments.

BL: Would you like a Coke?

RM: No, no, I'm fine.

BL: You sure?

RM: I'm good. Now, when did you then develop your own practice?

BL: In 1973. Larry Brock had come to the practice when Darrell Thorpe left, and Bob Blythe came first and then Larry Brock to the health center. And then Larry and I, Bob stayed, he became the next director didn't he, Bob?

WL: That's right.

BL: And then Larry and I decided to go into private practice. We decided to take a practice here. Now we had a little bit of trouble. The inters were not happy with us. We talked firs to Dr. Castler and Dr. Howe, Dr. Castler wanted us to takeover his practice but that was up across from the…

WL: Christian Science.

BL: Christian Science _____, on Ridge St. And that was a nice house and he was a wonderful man, Castler was a wonderful man, really a good man but we felt we would like to be in the medical center if it was at all possible. The medical center was stand off to us because the inters didn't want us, did not want family practice in there. The Inters at the time were John English, whom I'm very good friends with, Charlie Wright, Huffman, the Dr. Huffman now, his father and Wilson.

WL: George Wilson.

BL: George Wilson and Ed Imami, Dr. Imami. Imami left town. And there was Wally Pierson and Lambert were the OBGYN and what was the other guy? Somebody else, I can't remember his name. And then there was doctor, surgery, Dr. Bennett, Dr. Linke and in orthopedics was Jim Lyons, E. Elsinga and when I came to town, Don Elsinga, that's E. Elsinga's father. There was two Lyons in town and two Elsignas. And we were the last two doctors to be put on the board. When you went in to St. Mary's, you pressed the button that said you were on the St. Mary's grounds. And so we were the last two names up, it was a bulletin board about this long and the doctor's light would show up in the hospital, B. Lyons is in. That's how I became Dr. Barb instead of Dr. Lyons because its switch board was calling Dr. Lyons and Dr. Lyons, while I'd answer and he'd

answer. And the same with Elsinga. So the switch board called me and said, “since you’re the youngest, would you be upset if you called me Dr. Barb,” I said, “hell no, go ahead call me Dr. Barb.” And Don was Dr. Don and Dr. Barb. And patients later on, Jim Lyons and E. Elsinga retired, they still called us Dr. Don and Dr. Barb. All the other doctors are being called by their last name and I was still Dr. Barb. My patients would say, “why don’t they respect you and call you by your last name?” And I’d tell them the story and I’d say, “I don’t care. Just don’t call me late for lunch.” I don’t know where I was going with this, this is the terrible part of getting old.

RM: You were talking about the names.

BL: The names, yeah, so that’s the story of the names on the bulletin. Marquette General did not have a sign in thing, you just went there. There were a few other doctors on the staff, psychiatrists, Dr. Bruchard and Dr. Wall, Dave Wall. They didn’t have the physical therapy at the time that was just people help. When I came to the hospitals, there was no cardiac care unit that was made up. There was an intensive care unit, but that was just a couple of beds outside of surgery. You got taken care of in your room. Dave Wall asked me, when I was working and went into practice with Larry Brock, if I would cover on weekends, the psych unit. No, the hospital asked me. Would I cover the psych unit to do physicals on them because a lot of times we got psychiatric patients in who had medical problems and nobody knew it because the psychiatrist just talked to them, they didn’t put a stethoscope on. So I said sure. They say would you do all the work. So I did, I got the phenomenal sum of $6 an hour. Now, everybody says, “Oh that’s terrible, I wouldn’t work for $6 an hour,” that’s cause you’re not as bright as I am. When you get paid $6 an hour, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, that’s a lot of money after a while, whether you’re awake or asleep, you’re getting paid $6 an hour. And that’s what I got. We had got out house on Magnetic St. and paid the fantastic sum of $33,500 for it, which was a lot, a terrible, a lot of money to us. And I had still some school, a few, did we have those to pay?

WL: Yeah.

BL: We still had school loans to pay. I took that job and that’s what paid our house off, the loans off, everything. And then I stayed on just to cover the pysch unit on weekends, which was really good. And it was funny because I went to Dr. Wall soon after I started working there and I said, “you know on weekends, I don’t know what _____ box to put the patient in.” Are they, and I would name a few psychiatric illnesses or are they this. And he said, “the only thing I want you to know is a little crazy and crazy as hell.” And he said, “Those are the 2 boxes you put them in.” “A little crazy,” he said, “you just let them run around the unit, crazy as hell, put them in a padded cell.” And in those days, if you were really crazy as hell and raised heck with us and the nurses, we could give you the wonderful drug called sodium anatol. Grain 7 and a half put a grown man asleep for the weekend. We woke you up every four hours, we pottied you, we fed you, we hydrated you and we’d let you go back to sleep again. Now if you were a small

woman, we'd give you 3 and ¾ grain and you slept through the weekend. We didn't have any crazy people, we had wonderful nice people. And the other thing with Dr. Bruchard was he would get upset, Bruchard was a man that was a heavy jaw man, and he'd get all upset with me. The next guy that came was Dr. Lucas, he was a wonderful guy. He said, "Barbara, when you're on, I never worry when I come in Monday morning. Everybody is eating their meals, nobody throws food, nobody says bad words, nobody treats the nurses bad, everybody behaves themselves and they get dressed." If you walked out in the hallway, totally naked like psych patients do, I'd say, "don't you every walk out like that, you get in your room and get dressed! What the hell is the matter with you?" Most of them go right in and they'd get dressed cause they didn't have a mother to talk to them like that. He said, "psychiatrically they have all the same illnesses they came in with but they certainly know how to live together well." Which they did. And I used to say to them, "if you do that again, you won't go to the show on Saturday night! By golly, I'll see to that!" I didn't do anything, I never put my hands on them but, you throw food you don't get you're next meal. You'll be hungry for the third meal. I would write NPO. Nothing by mouth except water, you're very hungry for the next meal. They may be insane, but they're not dumb. You must remember, their mind may be confused but they are definitely not dumb. And I think that's good, it must make them behave. And I came from a family, my mother had eight of us and we all behave she'd said, "now none of you will see the inside of this jail, I'll see you dead first." And I used to think she meant to dig us out. So anyway, that's basically what happened. And we had our family. Fortunately for me, we had Nancy when we moved up here, our oldest and Cathy came along three years later in 1970. A woman walked in my office just before Cathy was born and she said, "you need a housekeeper and a babysitter, and I need a job. My husband died and I don't have any pension coming in." And her name was Francis Deroche. My kids called her Doshie. My youngest graduated from college and 27 years later she nudged me cause she was sitting with us she said, "we did a good job didn't we Mrs." "We sure did Dosh, thanks to you," I said. She would come to the house and stay as long as I was working. Or he came and wanted to take her home, that was alright but she would stay there. She did the housekeeping, the cooking, took care of the kids and she'd shake a wooden spoon at them, but she never laid a hand on them. She _____ and she was a very good woman. She was Croatian, wasn't she Bill?

WL: Yeah.

BL: Made the best pasties in the whole wide world.

WL: And had one eye.

BL: She had one eye. She had a needle put in her eye when she was child. And she was a very clean woman. Dr. Saban, I forgot the ophthalmologist, Saban and Kubland were here then.

WL: Dr. Bush.

BL: Dr. Bush, Ahmed. Soleri was here, he was a family practitioner also. She needed a place to live after her husband died and they just had built Pineridge. I talked to Saban, he was on the board and miraculously they had room for her. See it's not what you know in life, that's why those guys play poker together, it's who you know. If you want a job, you need to, what do they call it now?

WL: Network.

BL: Networking. You need to network. And that's important to people and its important I think there were very few women doctors in the area. Ann Puladi came about the same time, Elder's wife, Jean Elder was a doctor in Education. Peggy Frazier was here and Jean Phillips, the five of us used to go to lunch once in a while. Sometimes there would only be the three or two of us but we'd have lunch about once a month.

RM: And that was the female?

BL: Yea, I don't know what other PhDs are with the college. Jean Phillips was there, Peggy Frazier, Jean Elder, she taught the children that had disabilities.

RM: But this is also the corps of the medical women?

BL: Yeah, Jean Elder and Dr. Puladi. There was Dr. Cooperstock who was the pediatrician, he was here and I don't think there were any others, was there? Cooperstock, that was it and Puladi. Cooperstock, I took my kids to Cooperstock, he was a jolly old man, looked like St. Nicholas without a beard, big chin, cherry cheeks. And my daughter, my oldest daughter, said, thank you Mr. Dr. Cooperstock, cause I'm German and I taught Nancy that in Germany it would be Frau Dr. or Frauline Dr. You gave all the titles to the person and then said their name. You never just said, doctor. So she called him Mr. Dr. Cooperstock, cause that's the proper way you say it.

WL: He stopped his car by our house one day. She was taking off after our oldest one who was like three years old, she had a yardstick, hitting him on the ground and Cooperstock came by and said, "very good. I haven't seen anybody use a yardstick in a long time," it was something to that effect.

BL: I was going after him. I think that butt is there for a reason, give him a shot. I used to give my girls a whack on the butt, go to your room till you are a lady. When I got older, teenagers, see my hands? I wore rings, they're there for a reason. I used to go like this and I'd say, you better watch your mouth cause my hands are getting very slippery! I know people don't do that now but it stops the talking back.

RM: Now you then continued with your private practice and you left Northern?

BL: Yes, I left Northern in 1972; I think it was, completely. In 1973 went into private practice. Larry Brock and I in 1973 or 1974, we were board certified, we became board certified. Very few doctors were board certified in family practice. A lot of places needed a board certified doctor. That was one of the things that helped us get into the medical center. They pushed on us, well you have to be board certified, we said, well we are.

RM: You mentioned earlier you had problems with the board?

BL: Right, they didn't want us in. Dr. Howell, Dr. Castler and Dr. Soleri were general practitioners and they weren't because they were GPs and they weren't board certified and the medical center was going to be all board certified. So Larry and I were board certified. Now what do you do with the miserable family practice doctors?

RM: Could you explain, for the record here, what is involved with family practice as opposed to general practice?

BL: Nothing except the boards and residency, you have a residency. You have to have three years of residency. Nowadays they come out of medical school and they had three years of family practice residency. In those days you could have an internship and two years of residency in any field, surgery, OBGYN, whatever you wanted, and I happen to have residency in general practice, only two years and one year of OBGYN. I had three years of residency and one of internships, so four years and they accepted me to take my boards. You're allowed to sit your boards, if you have enough training. I did. What else.

RM: So then when you were certified?

BL: Yea, our certification in family practice was the first board that made you re-certify, you had to re-certify every six or seven years. You could redo it in six years but if you didn't do it in seven years, they dropped you. I recertified five or six times.

RM: So then the rest of your career was…?

BL: All certified.

RM: But in the medical center?

BL: Right, in the medical center except in 1993 we left there and we moved to Las Vegas and then we came back when I retired in 2004.

RM: At that time, how did you see, during your time, the development of female doctors?

BL: The men really didn't know how to take us. They weren't used to dealing with women. Ann Puladi is a very professional lady, who wouldn't saw anything with a mouthful of it. She doesn't. I was not always nice, I grew up with these brothers and I learned, men don't respect you unless you back them to a wall sometimes. And I was happy to do that. A matter of fact Bill used to say to me, "Sick it Barbie, that way you'll leave me alone when you get home". If you crossed my path too often, I had no problem with saying, "you listen you SOB, back off or I'll…" Should I tell you a story that happened, well I probably shouldn't.

WL: Don't use names.

BL: I won't use names. I had a sick patient in the hospital. And there was a rule sent down from one of the pathologists that if a blood culture had already been drawn, you had to get the permission of one of the pathologists to get a second culture. Well it was ate at night, two or three in the morning and this patient spiked a very high temperature. When a patient is ill and you're treating them, and they spike a high temperature, beside the antibiotic is not working and you need to get another blood culture and see what's growing there. I called down to lab I said, "listen I need this." They said, "we have to get permission from Dr. X. and we can't draw it." I said, "Listen and do me a favor, do him a favor. It's two or three in the morning just come up here and bring this stuff and I'll draw it and give it to you. We'll plate it and get ready to grow it." And I said, I always walk in that hospital six in the morning. I usually was on the top floor making rounds at 6 am. I said, "I will meet him a t 6am or whenever he gets here and I'll tell him you know to go ahead and grow it and we can culture it out." I told them, I said, "Now you didn't want to do it, I'll cover for you." It was drawn and I said, "don't worry about it, I shall be here." Well everybody knew I made my rounds at 6am. I went home and again I'm crawling in bed and the phone rings. And I picked up the phone and said, "hello." And this person is screaming at me. I couldn't figure out what they wanted, I thought somebody was ill as home and dying. They are screaming and screaming. And finally I discovered it was Dr. X, I had usurped his authority in his lab. And this man is going berserk. I will never fight with you unless I'm at arms length from you. I want you be able to reach me and I want to be able to reach you, in case I don't like what you're saying. I said, "Where are you?" And he said he was at home. And I said, "good, stay there, I'll be right over! Nobody talks to me like that!"

[TAPE 1 ENDS]
[TAPE 2 BEGINS]

RM: Tape two, Lyons interview.

RM: Okay, you may want to back up to where we left off.

BL: This person is screaming at me on the phone and I finally figured out it was Dr. X and I had usurped his authority and he was furious. I said, "Where are you?" And he said, "I'm home." I said, "Good! Stay there. Nobody talks to me like that unless I'm within arms length. I'm coming over there and if you yell like that I'm going t knock you on your ass." And I threw the receiver down and I started to leave. I'm in the car and I'm at the end of the driveway and Bill is there motioning me to come back. I said, "What do you want?" He said, "He's on the phone and he wants to talk to you." I said, "What for? I'm going over there now." Bill said, "I don't think he wants you to come." I said, "Good cause I'm in a mood to get really angry." When you hit somebody the first one, that's the good one. That's the one that everybody remembers. I come back in and he apologizes profusely. I said, "I was only trying to do you a favor. This patient needs this; I wouldn't order something they didn't need. I was at the hospital, I drew the blood." We got along well after that, I didn't fight with everybody all the time but I wasn't gonna take their crap. The guys are very good to me. Dr. Lambert and I used to fish together. Wally Pierson and I were dear friends. I feel very friendly to all of them. John English and I, I feel very friendly to him. Charlie Wright, they were all good men, very good men. This town has been blessed with good doctors. I don't know if they know that but they have excellent doctors. That's one of the reasons we left Las Vegas and came back here for our final retirement. I said to Bill out there, "If anything happens to you, I'd be landing in Las Vegas." If he was buried out there, I'm going to live in Marquette. So we made up our mind and we were coming back. The hospital was growing at that time. Dan Muzuki came along, sometime in the mid 1970s. He's the one that started the cardiac care unit and he was a nephrologist. We had internists and surgeons but we didn't have specialty. Then we started getting the other specialties. Huffman was a very good guy to help you when you had a really sick patient, Dr. Huffman. He was a tough old bugger; he was ornery but not mean. He knew his medicine and he expected you to know it too. I admired him. He was a good man. As a matter of fact I admired all of the older doctors we had, they were good men. I can't think of anything else. The emergency room grew. Peter Zente went into the ER.

WL: Snowden?

BL: Don Snowden and it grew from there. The hospital board was interesting. It was a public hospital but the board itself never changed much, did it. It was Harley Larson and…

WL: Self perpetuating.

BL: Self perpetuating board. The board came together when they decided to combine the hospitals; they combined the boards and got rid of a few. These men did a lot for the hospital's growth.

RM: Is there anything you might want to add about the situation with St. Mary's hospital and then it was St. Luke's hospital? Like you were saying with the emergency room situation.

BL: It made it hard for doctors to be in two places at once. When they decided to merge, they brought everything over to St. Luke's and then it became Marquette General. St. Mary's was an ancillary. I think they were hoping to get rid of it, which they eventually did by selling it to the VA. For a while, they kept the rehabilitation at St. Mary's and a few minor things. The hospital at St. Mary's, when it was two hospitals, was really run by the nuns and they were very good. Surgery was capable but not as capable as it was with St. Luke's. I think Adam Brischt came in. For a while we used to have to send all our neurological patients that needed neuro surgery, down to Green Bay. We had a good relation with the neurosurgeon in Green Bay. We had a good relationship with a lot of the doctors in Green Bay. He had a relationship with the specialists at Mayo's too, they were very good. I used to know the head of cardiology and the head of pulmonary, psychiatry and neurology at Mayo's.

RM: When you talk about sending a patient with neurological problems to Green Bay, that meant they had to go by ambulance?

BL: They either went by ambulance or the base would give us a helicopter. They would transfer them out to the base and they would helicopter them down. The base was very helpful to us because we took the base's problems.

RM: So it was give and take then?

BL: Yes. A matter of fact, the base flew out Mrs. Jamrich, myself and a few other women, we were the first women the US government ever took on a VIP tour to one of their bases. At the time the B-2 Bomber was coming out and they wanted to promote the B-2. I got a thing in the mail that said, "Would you like to Barksdale Air Force Base for a weekend?" I said to Bill, "Yea, whatever, I'm not going to join the service." He said, "I think they want to entertain you for some reason." So I know nothing about the service, absolutely nothing. My brothers were in but I wasn't. My brothers got up to be sergeants in the Navy. I knew the stripes for submariners were red, but I didn't know the different ranks. So I said to him when we were leaving, "How can you tell high-up people?" And he said, "The guys with stars on their epaulet, they're generals. The more stars, the higher up they are as generals." So when I got off the plane and one of the guys that shook my hand had three of those up there. And I said, "Holy cow! You've got three of those stars on your epaulet, you must be really high up as a general!" And he looked at me and started to laugh, nobody talks to generals like that apparently. That night at dinner I found out how high he was. We had tables of twelve and I was sitting at his right hand. For whatever reason he put me there. The rest of the people had been in the service, all different people from the area except me. The only letters I knew from the service was, my dad would say, "You better get your ass back to the base or you'll

be AWOL." I didn't want to be AWOL. They would talk about BYKs and all these letters and I didn't know what these people were talking about. I just sat there and listened and I thought, "Well surely I have to say something to the man." Here he is entertaining us and I haven't spoken a word to him. So I thought, my husband gave up a lot for me to be a doctor and I was aware of that so I turned to him and said, "Boy, I bet your wife gave up a heck of lot for you to get to be a general." Well they must have had one hell of a fight before he came to that dinner because he turned and he spilled his guts to me. All the problems she had, all the things they did, all the times he gave up. All I had to say after that was, "Oh, really. How about that." Your spouse always gives up things. We had an entire evening of conversation and he said, "Would you like to meet my wife?" And I thought, "Not necessarily." I said, "Yes I would!" He said, "I'll have a car pick you up. What time to do get up in the morning?" I said, "I'm always ready to go do anything at 6 o'clock, I'm up early, 4 o'clock I usually get up." He said, "My car will pick you up at 7." We went to their house for breakfast. I met her and went shopping. Everybody else had to go to the base and had to look at those B-2 Bombers, I went shopping with her that day, it was fun. That was a wonderful day cause I didn't want to look at B-2 Bombers. I said to him before I got back on the plane, "General, any plane you want, you get cause I paid for it." But you get what you need to fight wars. They entertain the public to keep them on their side. I didn't know anything and I don't think these other people did either. We got to sit in a simulator of a B-2. B-2s at that time could hover over the earth at 50 foot and miss everything, they were below the radar. It was nice; we got flown down on a C-130 transit that had seats in it instead of bombs. It was a lot of fun.

RM: Coming to a conclusion, its sounds like your honesty, forthrightness, being upfront, you sound like my wife. Everybody might no agree with her, or particularly like her but they know she's right on target. No lying, conniving and this is it, I like you or you're full of it.

BL: If you go into the entrance, what is the back entrance to the medical center?

WL: Waldo.

BL: Waldo Street. That is where the pictures of all the presidents for the medical center are. They're all men except one woman. Do you know where that is? Go in there sometime, there's only one woman on the wall. Do you know who she is?

RM: You.

BL: Yeah. You know why? They were getting into trouble financially. I kept saying the problem is that you guys didn't come from poor. I came from poor! I know how to get out of trouble like that; I know how to save money. Medical doctors are famous for spending their money, the problem is that they don't know how not spend their money. They always had the vice president serve two years under the president and then they

made the vice president, president. Well I served three years under Carl Hammerstroup. Carl is a great guy but I didn't need three years of tutoring to be the president. I said, "I don't need another year of tutoring under Carl, I can be the president, I've got it down." In my day to get in you had have better grades than the boys, higher scores on your tests and everything. They did not want you. It was a very low percentage about 6% of doctors was women, very low. They didn't want women because you took the place of a man. They kept telling us, "You're taking the place of a man, stay and work." I took a week off for work when I had Nancy and another week when I had Cathy and one for normal spontaneous delivery, it was a C-section. I went back to work right away because I didn't think you were supposed to take time off. That was foolish, but I did it anyway. Going back to the medical center, when I became president I realized we were having some nonsense going on. Someone in the administration of the medical center was taping the doctors' phone calls and working as a private detective for the insurance companies. Women stick together too. The secretaries told me. I said, "Do you know one of these phones that are tapped?" They said yes. I said, "Good, show it to me." And I stole it and I put it in the trunk of my car. If anybody ever wanted it, they'd have to ask. The powers that be knew that someone had taken it and another phone was put there but there was no tape, and I had it. That's a federal offense, to tape someone. We suggested to the powers that be that they could come to the next meeting and bring their resignation and then see that they got their retirement but if they didn't, we would fire them anyway, no retirement and I'd report them to the authorities. So we got their resignation.

RM: These were people connected with the medical center?

BL: The administration of if. The board stood behind me. We made one of the secretaries the director and we changed things which was really good for us. I said, "There will be no more friendships when you make bidding." We hired a retired architect to look at our plans for the medical center and have us bidding oranges to oranges and apples to apples. We put the bids out and any contractor could bid. And we put out the date and time and we would open them in front of you. Everything was open. In business there is no friendship. I don't care if you go into business with somebody who is your friend, put everything down on paper because where money is concerned, there is no friendship. So we did that, from there on in the medical center was run as a business. It saved us a lot of money. When I left, we were out of debt, we had a $100,055 in the bank, we had increased the salaries of the whole staff, increased the amount of money we were putting into retirement and we had a computer system for the whole building in place. You can do that if there are no shenanigans going on. I wasn't loved by everybody but also no one was being taped, there was no more undercover taping of doctor's conversations.

RM: When Bill started and you started at Northern in Marquette, there was a lot of that friendship, family connections, etc. which led to hard feelings and financial problems.

BL: Yes. At that time Bill was out of his job and everyone thought that I was going to make him the medical director over there. I wouldn't wish that on a dog!

WL: I had enough problems with one doctor!

BL: I said, "Dear, you don't want to be dealing with a hundred of them." Judy Boyle became the medical director, excellent woman, very conscientious. Contrary to Obama's statement before he became president he said, "I will go line item by line item through our budget and get rid of what's unneeded." Well I did do that at the medical center, that is a heck of a job. Judy and I met night after night after night and went line item by line item and we threw out what we did. I can't tell you how much you'll save but I can also tell you that is a terrible job in a big company. And the night he said it I said, "no way in hell is he going to do that for the government, cause I almost died doing it for the medical center!" You need to go line item through your budget and throw out what you don't need. We were buying Wall Street Journal for the medical center's office and nobody was reading it. The manager from the radiology department would come down everyday and get it from us. Do you know how much that cost? At the time it was like $250, now its about $400-600. You don't need stuff like that. Those are the things we did; we threw stuff out like that. We didn't change the world for the better. There were a lot of doctors that came after us and before us that did many things, a lot of security people that did many wonderful things. Remember, when you have remembrances, you only remember the good things that happened, the battles you won, not the ones you lost. Thank God he wipes out those other memories.

RM: It sounds like the two of you in your careers did a lot of good and improved life in Marquette.

BL: We hope we did. We love Marquette. Marquette's a wonderful place, you betcha by golly!

WL: Jamrich, as of last year, still plays the piano in the atrium in the Mayo Clinic.

BL: In Jacksonville.

WL: Friends of ours got a tape of him playing and they sent it to us. Really great, they guy play a piano. I said, "Barb, send him an email saying how nice it was etc." He sent an email back saying, "Oh, I remember you. _____." I thought my God!

BL: He was very nice to me. Rarely do people tick doctors off. As a child I realized that, at about ten years old I realized I wanted to be a doctor. They don't tick doctors off, they just don't. That's been the hardest thing I've had to endure from retirement, I think the second hardest. The first is that I'm forgetful now. The hardest thing is when you are practicing its, "Yes doctor, thank you doctor, of course doctor, I'll do it right away doctor, etc." Now its, "I'll get to it, don't worry." You don't have that same feeling you

have. The priest comes here every month to give us communion. I was telling a young priest that's its really terrible when that happens to you. I said, "I don't like retirement." He said, "Well Barbara, when you're getting ready to die, God humbles you a lot before he takes you." And I thought, "Well, he's doing a great job with me, could he cut if back a little."

RM: Is that the priest from…?

BL: St. Michaels, Father Ben and Father Larry. But it was Father Ben; Hoz was his name, Ben Hoz, the younger priest. And I thought that was very good coming from a young priest but I've learned over the years you don't learn sage information only from the sage individual, you can learn from any individual, you can learn from your dog if you watch him close enough. I used to like to talk to the janitor. Matter of fact, I used to like to talk to all the janitors and cleaning ladies because you must understand that they have the keys to everything: every building, every corner. And if you need something late at night sometime, you want to be able to call them by name. That was something I made a habit of, not for that reason though. When I first started out I talked to them because I was lonely. In medical school I talked to the engineer. We had engineers in our family that were school engineers but my father was a plant engineer. And I went down and said, "Hi, what kind of boilers do you have down here?" What kid in medical school walks down and asks about the boilers? And he started talking to me. He's bring lunch for both of us and he was a nice old guy. He knew everything in the buildings. I made it a habit to talk to all the maids and in my internship at the graduate hospital; I talked to all the cleaning ladies and maids. We had days off and you didn't always have something to do, a black lady asked, "Would you like to come to my house for dinner on Sunday?" I said, "Yea, that would be great," cause I was going to eat at the hospital. Remember, black people get all dressed up for Sunday. Her entire family was there when I came. The house was immaculate and it was the best chicken dinner I'd had in all my life. My mother is a good cook but that was a great dinner. Once the word got out that I went her house for dinner, every maid in the building was asking me to dinner. I had to break it up because I had weekends off, but I would go and eat at their houses, they were marvelous to me. I couldn't have asked for better people. I grew up in a neighborhood with only two black kids at our school; we didn't have a lot of black people. I learned that black people are no different than white people; they have the same feelings that we do. They may be on a lower socioeconomic level but they certainly are not different. They were wonderful people. We got $26 a month; remember I told you I could save money? I would take the $6 out and bank the other $20. Every payday, every month, I would go in the bank and put my $20 down. In those days they wore the Ben Casey outfits with the high collars and I wore a skirt, and they'd button down the front off to the side? I'd walk in with my white shoes and all and they'd say, "Let the doctor in, she's a busy lady, let her right in." Everybody would step aside. We were in South Philly, that's a rough neighborhood and they didn't bother me at all. I never was afraid. I drove a little Volkswagen that had a soft roof and it had _____ on the side instead of lights in the back, these sticks came up on the side to turn, normally you're car would

be broken into, my car was never touched. Just like this little Scotty here, the female runs the roost, trust me, in the black neighborhood it's generally run by females. I know there's more drugs now then there was, but they ran the roosts. I felt perfectly safe all the time because they were wonderful people. A black nurse taught me everything I needed to know when I first got on the medical floor, that was my first day out of medical school and I knew nothing. Her name was Mrs. Green, I called her Greeny, and she taught me everything I needed to know. I do a lot of things correctly and Greeny would say, "Don't you know anything?" You can never say anything bad about somebody before you walk in their shoes or listen to what they have to tell because everyone can teach you something. They may not have your degrees but they know something that you don't know and that's what I wanted to learn from her. And Bill and I have had a lot of laughs, haven't we?

WL: Yes.

BL: We've had a lot of good fights too.

RM: Very good thank you, thank both of you.

BL: You said thank you to us, well I say thank you to the community for letting us in. They had to tolerate us and sometimes I was tough, Bill was always a gentleman, but I was intolerable. I appreciate this community and I'm glad we're here now and I'm glad we came here and I'm glad when we had the opportunity to go to Ft. Collins, we didn't go, we stayed in good old Marquette and the UP, you betcha by golly!

END OF INTERVIEW