

July 23, 1979

Occupation: Secretary

INTERVIEWER: When did you first hear about the Three Mile Island incident?

NARRATOR: Well, we heard first of all about the one that happened on Wednesday, was that the twenty, it was two days before the actual bubble. Whatever that was, we heard of that first and we were kind of alarmed but then the alarm subsided because we were told there was no problem. And then Friday, I guess, we heard it over the radio, like everybody else did. And then Monday when I came in to work I even got more of it finding out what had happened on the campus and how, the college and the administration had handled what they had heard and what was to be the result of what they heard. In other words the students leaving and declaring a week of rest, and the seminars that were being set up to handle students that remained on campus, to try to keep them busy and give them something to do. But I would say we probably heard it on the radio, or at least most of the other people had.

INT: So you heard it from the radio first, do you remember what station it was that you were listening to?

NAR: Probably, I don't recall exactly, it was either, I can't even think of the name of it, but the one that Jack Wagner's on, 104 is it.

INT: Is that a Carlisle station?

NAR: No, it would be a Harrisburg station. Either that or a Carlisle station, we kind of move back and forth.

INT: Were you listening here at work, or was that at home, where was that?

NAR: Truthfully I don't remember. I really don't recall whether it was here or at home that I heard it. I don't recall what time of the day this all took effect. It's been that long ago, it's just kind of erased itself from my mind.

INT: Did you know there was a reactor there before the incident?

NAR: I only knew that they were working on some sort of a nuclear energy thing on Three Mile Island, I knew it was down below Harrisburg somewhere, and I knew it was going to have the stack like looking things but other than that I really never paid that much attention to it. It was one of those things that they made some progress and they had people objecting to it, and then there were hold ups, constructing the thing, because people objected, and I just knew they were having a lot of problem getting this going at Three Mile Island, but I really, not being a physicist, I didn't pay that much attention, and I didn't really know what nuclear power meant for the future of the country. 'Cause I'd never really delved into it or paid that much attention to it.

INT: Do you know how far TMI is from us?

NAR: I've been told about twenty miles as the crow flies.

INT: What did you think when you first heard about it? When you first heard about the incident?

NAR: I at first thought, Oh, my goodness, what control we have over it, what's it going to do, and if it bursts what effect is it going to have on us, and of course then we here, if it bursts, people will have only so many minutes to get out of its way. And we really didn't know what we should be expected to do as a result of it. But it's kind of like having a flood, having the creek on the Pine Road just about near flood stage. And especially if you're going to bed at night and you can't see the water, as it's rising but you know that it has to be, because it's still raining and the waters are rushing down from the mountain and building the stream up and you just kind of you're tense, you're nervous, and you just keep trying to hope that this thing isn't going to come to the ultimate, that it's not going to burst, that the flood isn't going to happen near you, that it's going to kind of just move away from you and by tomorrow morning everything will be much better and much brighter. This is my initial reaction. My son is eleven years old he was ten at the time but he's eleven now, and he was quite upset, concerned, not by our reactions but by the things that we began then to hear on the radio, and the TV and the concern and how much of what we were being told could we believe was the truth. But I was rather surprised at his reaction to it. He got, I would say he got, not overly excited, but he was interested in what was going on. Now he tends to lean toward the science situation in life, but more the planet type, not energy and that sort of thing, but I was pleased that he was interested enough to be concerned but I was also concerned that he was so excited about it.

INT: Did you think it was a serious situation or a crisis or anything like that? When you first heard about it?

NAR: I realized, that it could be a serious situation but I am a practicing Methodist, and I do believe that God does great wonders and I was relying on the fact that through prayer that He was going to have a hand in this and the bubble would either disappear or He would control it, that we would not have to vacate and get out of the area because I just feel that He's in ultimate control.

INT: As long as we're talking now about religion, maybe I, or a religious reaction, maybe I could ask you some further questions about that right now, did you pray during this time?

NAR: Yes, sir.

INT: What did you pray for?

NAR: That God would just put His hand, upon it and He would do whatever He felt was right and necessary at this time.

INT: Did any kind of biblical stories or events or sayings or anything like that cross your mind during this time? Did you think of any, did it cause you to think of any?

NAR: No, I can't honestly say that any did, nothing that I really related to this particular incident, or related this to some past incident.

INT: Did you think that God had in some way created this incident, that He was sending a message to man or that this was, some people thought about the Last Judgment or something like this, did any?

NAR: No, my first reaction was that it was something that man again had caused and it was going to be up to God to straighten it out. And if He felt the time was right for a judgment then He would use this to His benefit. But all along I felt it as though it was a man caused incident.

INT: If God were to have, or if God did come in and do anything at Three Mile Island, did you think He would come in and actively take part in fixing up the situation or was it more in terms of helping the people who were working on it, giving them better judgment, grace to do something? How did you think about?

NAR: That would be my feeling that he worked through the men that were working on Three Mile Island to help the bubble decrease or to, dissipate, is that the correct word, or go away, or whatever, that He was not Himself reaching in there and doing it but that he was helping man to understand it and be able to do what was right to get rid of the problem.

INT: Did you think that God was in any way using this to instruct or discipline mankind?

NAR: To instruct him, uh, in the understanding of what had happened to try and determine why this had happened and what had caused it, but nothing further than that.

INT: Did you attend any religious services during this time, during the crisis?

NAR: I did not, our particular denomination did not hold any as far as I know, except on the Sunday following it which we had here in a regular church service.

INT: Was there anything different about that Sunday church service, did they talk about the incident?

NAR: The minister mentioned it and said that it was up to us to pray to God and to ask Him to control it and to continue to control it so that we wouldn't have any further, I can't get the word I want, but anyhow, that our concern could then subside and that we

could put our faith in God to handle the whole situation and be done with it if necessary. Now that's my laymen term of putting it, but he put it more...

INT: Were there more people there or fewer than usual?

NAR: Well, our attendance isn't all that regular in the number that attend every Sunday so it's a little hard to say whether there more or less, I would say it was the usual number. I don't know that that many people in our particular area had fled the scene so to speak.

INT: By being there, in attendance at the service, did it change any of your thoughts or feelings on the problem?

NAR: Well, always being in Church and being in fellowship with other people and having a common prayer interest I think gives you a feeling of closeness and there are other sharing your concern and that together the problem seems less large than it had before.

INT: Well does your own faith say anything on the rightness or wrongness of man's desire to use and manipulate something like atomic power?

NAR: Not to my knowledge.

INT: Do you feel, yourself that it should or that it does, that it can?

NAR: I feel that science has made man a little larger than maybe he should be but then I also feel that if man was not supposed to have these talents or these abilities God would not have given him the education and the intelligence to carry it forth. So therefore I feel as though God has given man the ability to do these things but sometimes man misuses what has been given to him. What, if this is the, if this is the way the nation is going to have to be dependent upon, what it's going to have to depend upon in the future – for the energy that we need, then I feel that very definitely God has a plan in it but sometimes as I say, man misuses it or makes the wrong turn.

INT: Do you think that man has misused atomic power?

NAR: I feel that at this point man does not know enough about the nuclear energy that he's working with. And, as time goes on and these things occur, they will become more intelligent but some of us are going to have to pay in order for them to learn and come to the uh, end where they know they can handle nuclear energy and it's going to produce as they want it to produce, but I feel before it's over, some people are going to have to pay with their lives and their belongings in order for man to come to that understanding.

INT: How do you feel about that?

NAR: Well, I feel this way, uh, we all have to go one way or another, you look at the nuclear, the Three Mile Island and you think, gee why do we have a thing like that right

here in the midst of it but we are going to have to rely on that in the future and people say shut it down, but if they do, what are we going to do in the future, so that I feel that it is necessary that man work on these things I wish it didn't have to take place in my particular community but if something happens, then I'll feel that is God's will that it happened.

INT: Do you think that religious institutions or religious people, should take any kind of a public stand either for or against human development and the use of atomic power? Do you think that they should say anything about it?

NAR: I think that human, people should pray to God. I think we all need to get back to the situation of more people praying to God and letting Him have a hand in this situation. It's not all up to man. And I think that a good number of people, don't realize that it isn't man that controls this world, but it's God that controls this world. I think that people are putting their faith in the wrong being there.

INT: But do you think that the religious institutions as institutions should take a stand, either for or against nuclear power? Or is that even the question?

NAR: I would not comment on that because I don't think I'm intelligent enough to give a good answer.

INT: When you first found out about the Three Mile Island incident, did you try to seek out further information, did you try to find out more about what was going on when you first heard about it?

NAR: I raised questions with people around here that might be knowledgeable in that area and asked exactly what does it mean, if the bubble bursts. But other than that we all more or less had to rely on the information that was fed to us through the news media.

INT: Who did you ask when you were asking people around here?

NAR: Uh, probably John Luetschjeswab because he is listed as our nuclear energy advisor and I figured that I know he has a great interest in Three Mile Island and has participated in events leading up to its being built and I just assumed that he would be able to tell us what would actually happen if the bubble burst.

INT: Did you talk about this with your friends and your family at the time?

NAR: Oh, yes it was a topic of conversation, it was natural to bring it in to any conversation and everybody was saying what do you think, or what will you do and where will you go and that sort of thing but as I said before we had our bags packed the same as anyone else did, in case we were told to leave and in the event we were told to leave I felt that it was God telling us to get out of the area.

INT: How do you mean that?

NAR: Well, I just felt as though, if He felt that the bubble bursting was what He wanted it to be and the way He wanted to use it at this time but maybe it wasn't our time to go, He was telling us to vacate the area and get out of its reached, if that was possible. But you know it's kind of contradictory because I had my bags packed and ready to go if need be but I was still relying on the Lord to do something about the bubble. So that's kind of confused thinking that I have, it's not uncommon. My husband tells me that all the time.

INT: Did your attitude change at all during this time>

NAR: Towards Three Mile Island?

INT: Or nuclear energy in general?

NAR: Well, as I said before I really didn't understand nuclear energy that well and I'm still not sure that I understand totally today what it will offer us in the future. And I don't I guess understand what the dangers are totally involved but I do feel that man is going to have to use this incident as a learning experience and is going to have to correct the problem if we are going to rely on it in the future. It could happen again, I'm sure, but I don't feel uncomfortable living in this area because it's down here and if this happened before.

INT: You don't?

NAR: No. And I feel that those people who have left the area, and have moved elsewhere, if they checked the map of nuclear stations around the United States, they may be closer one where they are now, than if they had stayed here.

INT: Why aren't you worried about staying here?

NAR: Because I'm, if it be the Lord's will to go, I'm ready to go. And if it's through nuclear reactors, blowing up then that's the way it will have to be. I just hope that it's quick when the time comes.

INT: What did you think about other people's reactions to the incident?

NAR: Uh, well the reactions varied and uh, I guess you just kind of listen to everybody's feelings on it and I don't know. I wouldn't say that some people were overly excited, I wouldn't say that some were not concerned enough. I would just say that we all were concerned and therefore we discussed it but, felt that there wasn't much that we could do about it except pray that God would handle it and other than that I just don't know.

INT: Did you follow any particular newspapers or radios during this time to get your information?

NAR: Well probably the TV gave us as much information when we were home and able to watch it. Of course I had the radio on here in the office and we listened to the news bulletins or the governor's press conferences and things of that sort and when they had what was the name of the guy that was down there from WASHINGTON, DENTON. Denton, when he would have his press conference we would try and listen to see if he had any further word on what was happening and what the progress was.

INT: Was there any particular radio station or any particularly news caster or anything like that you listened to or television station?

NAR: Probably on television we had, WHP on the most.

INT: Why?

NAR: I feel that they give pretty good news coverage to local events as far as Lancaster, they did a good coverage too, I'm not saying that I prefer one over the other, it's probably just that you know what time the news came on so you flipped the TV on to the station that may have been closest on the dial and sat down and watched that particular one. And it depends who turned the TV on.

INT: Did you pay more attention to local news, locally produced news like WHP rather than watching Walter Cronkite?

NAR: Oh, yes.

INT: Why?

NAR: Well I felt that maybe because WHP was closer to the event, uh, I don't know who Walter Cronkite works off the top of my head, but they were only getting information that was fed into them, either by having a news reporter down at the area or by getting it through the local stations. And I just felt as though they were not as on top of the situation as the local newscasters, TV reporters or whatever. It's amazing, we just took a trip to Texas this summer, and when we stopped in Little Rock and in Texas, the first questions were how close were you to Three Mile Island.

INT: This was questions from family or?

NAR: From friends that we visited. And when we told them that we were about twenty miles as the crow flies, oh, my weren't you scared, and we said scared isn't the word for it, concern yes, but not scared but in Texas for instance we were within I don't remember the mile radius right now, but within one that they were having problems with at the very time that we were visiting there. I don't know that it was a similar problem to Three Mile Island, but they had shut down part of it because they were having a problem. So as I say you could be in any part of the country and you might be closer to one of these things than we are around here.

INT: Were people very concerned there about what was going on?

NAR: Yes, they were concerned because they realized that these things are all over the country and that what happened here could possibly happen to one that's located near them. They were concerned enough that they gave us a call during the weekend of the activity here to find out how we were, but it's, that's what the news media is there to do, is to spread the word, and they do a fantastic job of getting the word out, whether or not it's the truth you never know.

INT: What about local radio, or national radio or did you listen to any particular station?

NAR: There again I would say it was probably a toss up between WHP and the one that Jack Wagner's on, I can't, I think it's, I just can't get the call letters right now but it's about 104 on the dial FM? Uh-huh.

INT: Did you have any preference for newspapers?

NAR: Well, the only one that we get is the local Sentinel so we looked at that at what was available and tried to keep up to date on it but mostly we relied on the news media TV and radio and what was being fed back to us by the people on campus that were making visits and feeding information into the campus as to what was happening.

INT: How do you feel that these news organizations did their work? What kind of a job do you think they did?

NAR: Uh, I would say that they had a very good coverage of the situation and probably got as close to it as they were allowed to get to it, there again I think that we only are told what the news media wants us to hear, or what they are told that we are allowed to hear by whomever, I don't know who would have the ultimate charge over them, but I just don't feel that in any situation whether it be the Vietnam war or whether it be a crisis in Laos or Lebanon or wherever, but we never get the whole story, we only get what they want us to hear. And I feel certain that this takes place in any situation, it's not just a crisis, it's in anything that happens. Uh, plane crashes we hear how many are killed and we hear some ideas of why it happened, but we never really know whether we hear the true story.

INT: How does this make you feel, what do you think about all this?

NAR: At first it kinda makes me mad that they don't tell us everything, but then sometimes I feel too that they were better off not knowing everything. If we are concerned over what they've already told us, we may get pretty darn excited over if they told us everything that there was to know. So I feel that they do a very good job, and I don't know where the fine line of distinction is between what the truth is and how much they tell us.

INT: I remember during the incident that some people were thinking what a terrible system it is for getting information, because they said look at all these reporters are out there trying to get scoops, and they were just trying to manufacture stories in a way and some people were thinking that it would be a good idea if there was just one source of news and then we would all get the truth, but then they were worried that perhaps it wouldn't be the truth.

NAR: Well, it's a lot like selling books or selling newspapers, you put a caption or a heading on it to draw attention and then you set about to try to explain it in the columns below. And sometimes that heading is very misleading from the information that they're actually giving you than in the write up. And I think that's a lot like the news media and I've thought they come on like these, what do they call them, these special reports, they come on maybe in the beginning of an hour or something and they give you head lines and then they'll say tune in at ten or eleven o'clock for further details. Well, it's all in what they give you in that five minute special as to whether or not you listen to the full report later on.

INT: What do you think about the way the government officials handled this incident?

NAR: Well, everyone looked about Denton as the savior in this all, but I think he was just being used, by I would say God. That he was the man put there in charge of the whole situation as God's representative. And, as I say a lot of people are praising are Denton, for the one who actually took control and dropped this thing under control down there.

INT: Do you think that the government then was working with God in a sense then trying to bring this under control?

NAR: The government as far as I'm concerned never works with God. As far as I'm concerned God is very much among the missing in our government structure today. There are very few people who rely on Him. There are a few men in our Congress and in our House of Representatives that feel that God should be included but apparently it's among a very small minority.

INT: What about the industry, what do you think they handled it? I guess it would be.

NAR: What do you mean by industry.

INT: Metropolitan Edison, the people that run TMI?

NAR: Uh, the people that I heard being interviewed on the radio and TV as representatives of Met-Ed I thought were very obnoxious in their behavior and their mannerisms. In this whole situation. I realize they were upset because this had happened within their area and probably it was one of their employees that caused it to happen, but, I felt they were very nasty to the people who were interviewing them and asking them questions. And in their total attitude toward the public in that because after all I feel they

did owe the public an explanation and as contributors to their well being, by paying my bill I felt as though they owed me an explanation.

INT: You buy Metropolitan Edison power then, where you are?

NAR: I do only because it's the only thing available. Right here in Carlisle, right in Carlisle, it's PP&L.

INT: Was there anybody that you found particularly reliable then, or anyone's word that you trusted more than anyone else's during the crisis?

NAR: I wouldn't say that I put much stock in anyone's word because man does not know that much about this particular thing that he is dealing with to really be an expert and know exactly what you can expect and what is going to happen as a result. It's like anything else, you ask advice or the opinions of a lot of people and that's exactly what you get, opinions.

INT: Well was there anybody that you particularly mistrusted?

NAR: No.

INT: Anybody who was talking on television or around here or anywhere that you felt really was trying to deceive the public about what was going on at TMI?

NAR: No one that I was aware of.

INT: Did you feel that those who were in charge over there were in control of the situation?

NAR: Uh, in as much control as they could be, considering what they were dealing with. There again I would have to go back to say that God's hand was in it and man was doing just what he could at the time.

INT: Do you think that they are in control now?

NAR: Uh, according to the news reports they apparently don't have it under full control and there again we just don't know what is coming away from that place or is being emitted out of it. Every once in a while they give you these little statements that they had a slight problem but it's been corrected but we don't know what the problem was or to what extent it was. So, no I don't think they have it under control but they are trying hard to get it under control and to understand it.

INT: Are you nervous about it at all?

NAR: No, I'm not.

INT: About what's happening now?

NAR: No, I'm not.

INT: Would you be more nervous if you lived right there say in Middletown?

NAR: Uh, there again it sounds contradictory, probably if I lived within five miles I would be a little bit more nervous and yet as I say I believe that God has His hand in it so if I believe fully in God then I shouldn't be concerned about it, but I think it's a human trait to have some concern.

INT: During the situation did you make any kind of plans that you wouldn't ordinarily have made? Did you do anything out of the ordinary?

NAR: Nothing more than to put a few things in a bag to take along in the event that we would need to vacate. Some food products, and mostly clothing, just something to carry us over if need be. But where we would have gone at the time, how we would've gone would've been by car I'm sure, but you didn't know whether to head south or which way to go. So, you had this plan in the back of your mind, well if it should happen, where should we go, what should we do with the dog, for instance, would we take him along, or would we leave him behind. It would be cruel to leave him behind but he's such a big dog, what would you do with him if you took him along and these things naturally played on your mind and they have to cross over your mind and you give them some consideration.

INT: Did you have your gasoline tank topped off for instance?

NAR: No.

INT: But you did have bags packed?

NAR: We had bags packed. I can't honestly say whether the tank was full or was it half full, I just don't recall at this time but we made no attempt to go out and make sure it was full.

INT: Did you have anybody in mind that you would stay with or a motel or hotel?

NAR: No one in particular because as I say we didn't know which way we would head, whether it would be west or south and we don't really have relatives or friends that close in either direction that we would head for anyone's house in particular so we'd probably just go until we felt we should stop and we would pick our motel at that time.

INT: Are most of your relatives then right here in this area?

NAR: Right in this area.

INT: You wouldn't have thought about all leaving together for instance?

NAR: Well, that would depend on when they decided that we should vacate. My parents live in this area and I have sisters and brothers and so does my husband but we would not coordinate plans I'm sure to go together we would just, when the time came we would all leave and maybe hope that we headed all in the same direction but we had not discussed it to say not only if such and such happens where are you going.

INT: At what point would you have left? Do you think you might have left before an actual evacuation order?

NAR: No we would not have left until we were told that it was necessary that we leave.

INT: Here on the campus for instance, we lost 1400 or so out of our 1600 students, they left well before...

NAR: A lot of that was because of the parents' pressure for them to leave, parents' concern. But my husband and I both have responsible jobs and they weren't telling us neither on the news media nor at Dickinson that we should leave and therefore we felt obligated to fulfill our responsibilities until we were told to leave and then at that point everybody would be leaving. So therefore we, not that we would've left sooner than that, but we did feel responsible for our jobs to stay around and on our jobs until everyone was told to get out.

INT: Are you glad you didn't leave at this point or do you think that maybe it would've been a good idea to have left?

NAR: I'm glad we didn't leave because there was not need to leave. I mean the fact that the bubble broke or dissolved there was no reason to leave.

INT: Was there someone in your life that you were watching in particular that would help you to decide what to do. Was there anybody that you were sort of looking at or sort of watching throughout the crisis that you were using as a kind of model? For how to act?

NAR: No, not really as I said before, I was watching my son because of his interest and his curiosity and his concern over what was taking place but not using his excitement or his concern as a level of determination of whether you leave or whether you stay.

INT: Did you have any mental pictures of what was happening at TMI? Of what might happen?

NAR: Uh, I can't say I developed any of course after they shot these things on the television and you saw these three stacks you naturally, my mental picture would've been that when it went the whole top of the stack would go, I didn't know if it would just burst

and stay within or if it would spread like most bubbles do. But other than that I can't say that I really gave it too much thought because they kept you so aware of it on TV.

INT: Well was there anything that happened on TMI that you think might have affected your health?

NAR: I am hoping what did come into the air at TMI has not spread this far but I haven't really given it that much concern that I am scared that it is going to affect my health. I feel that those things are already in the plan and if it's to be then that's the way it will happen.

INT: Do you think that anything that happened there might affect you in the future?

NAR: It's, very possible but there again we don't know.

INT: Are you actively worried about it for instance?

NAR: No.

INT: Do you think about it at all? Very much?

NAR: I can't say that I give it a lot of thought I do worry about the possibility if it reached this far what the future will hold for my son. And what his problems may be as a result of it, but there again we don't know that it reached here and we don't know if our bodies absorbed any of it so it's one of those things that you think about the same as what's it going to be like when my son is twenty years old will they be flying around in objects in the sky like the Jetsons or will they be driving electric cars or will they have the energy or will the world be ended by that time just natural concerns I think anybody thinks about and I'm sure my parents thought about it when I was a young girl growing up.

INT: Do you have any concern about the food or the milk that's produced in the area?

NAR: No, and I'm not concerned about that either because uh, if there is poison in our food there are so many things these days they're telling us are bad for us that are going to cause cancer that I'm not going to worry about it a little bit of energy that might have nuclear power that might have entered into it because one of it's going to get you sooner or later.

INT: If the worst possible thing had happened at TMI, how did you envision it happening or what do you think might have happened?

NAR: I envisioned it happening similar to the atomic bomb that there would be an explosion and then you would see this large mushroom of, you wouldn't see it, but you could visualize this large mushroom of movements going out into the atmosphere and

spreading as it moved just like a rolling cloud or a tumbleweed or something. That it would just keep rolling across the area. It's as simple as I can put it.

INT: Well did you picture in your mind any kind of the effects of the radiation on life around you?

NAR: If it was going to burst and it was going to be as heavy with nuclear or whatever the term is, power as they suggested I felt that there would be no life, that whomever was in its path would no longer be. Whether it be animal or whether it be human being.

INT: How would it effect these animals and human beings, what would radiation?

NAR: I have no real knowledge of that except what has been told to us by either people who are knowledgeable or in the news media that if it were to happen, everything within its path as it moved would be wiped out. And that's as far as I can go with it because I was relying strictly on somebody else's knowledge of it to tell me what would happen.

INT: Did you think at all about your own death during this time?

NAR: Oh, I'm sure that it crossed my mind by I was more concerned about my husband and son, and you know whether one would be taken and the rest left and that sort of thing. The same thing you worry about what if my husband dies today, where will that leave my son and I and things of that sort. I think it's just human nature for it to cross your mind.

INT: Did you think that you would survive this particular incident?

NAR: If it burst and the power was spreading as they said it would then no, I didn't feel that we would survive, but they didn't know within how much mile radius it would spread and how potent it would be as it spread so I just assumed being twenty miles away we had a very good chance of not coming out of it alive.

INT: Well was your job or your work in any way affected by TMI?

NAR: Well, I would say not, maybe you work with one ear tuned to the radio to listen for any special reports that were coming across and maybe you took time out to discuss it with someone else but no more than you would in a normal working day when nothing in particular was happening.

INT: Well when it was going on did you have any idea of how it would be best to act or to behave in a situation such as the one that we had?

NAR: I tried to behave in a normal manner because I felt that my son was looking at us as examples of how he should react and here at the College there were so many more intelligent people around me that I didn't feel that I had to act anything but normal. That I could discuss it with them and felt that maybe because they were more intelligent that

maybe they were, I could rely on them to tell me the truth if they in fact knew the whole truth. They were sharing what they knew or understood.

INT: Did you have things to do which you otherwise wouldn't have had to do?

NAR: Yes, during the week that the College was shut down, we were of course setting up the seminars for people to be involved in or to be the person speaking at the seminars so therefore there was some phone contact work as well as typing up the schedule and getting it out to the campus. So people would know what was happening and at what time. What, these things happen all the time and in a secretary's position there's always something entering the picture that wasn't there before so it's not uncommon but the speed with which it has to be, might be, in this incident, might have been a little more demanding.

INT: There's one question I forgot to ask you here, when you were thinking about the way you should behave and the way you tried to behave during the crisis, was there anything that made it difficult for you to carry on the way that you thought that you should?

NAR: Nothing that I can pin point.

INT: There wasn't anything that made you feel uneasy about continuing the way you were or that drove you bananas or anything in turn?

NAR: Not that I can remember.

INT: Well at the time of the incident did this particular event bring into your own mind from the past from your own past, any kinds of experiences that you might have gone through, past events that had made you think of something?

NAR: No, I can't think of anything in particular.

INT: Did it make you think that should this experience is just like some other experience?

NAR: The only thing as I did before, relate it to is the possibility of being flooded out and knowing that it could occur but praying that it wouldn't occur.

INT: Do you think that this experience was in any way different from something like a flood or fire?

NAR: It definitely is because you can't see it happening, you don't, you can't see it nor feel it. It's like the wind you can feel the wind on your face but you can't touch it and with nuclear power it apparently moves through us and among us and you don't even know it's there. Whereas floods, you can see the water and you can see the results of the disaster that they cause.

INT: Was this incident more frightening do you think or less frightening than something like a flood?

NAR: Having gone through three or four possible floods, I would say they are kind of equal. In my mind they're kind of equal.

INT: So you weren't any more afraid of this than you were of say a flood?

NAR: No.

INT: Even though the effects of this were undetectable, you said in the beginning, that you, you were saying, you couldn't see the thing coming at you, that didn't make it more scary to you?

NAR: No.

INT: Well when it was going on did you think of any television shows or movies?

NAR: Only because they planted it in your mid The China Syndrome.

INT: Did you see The China Syndrome?

NAR: No, before that I knew there was a movie out called The China Syndrome and from the short previews that they gave you on TV, they didn't tell you exactly what they were dealing with, but it gave you an idea that it was an earth shattering situation that was occurring but other than watching that and thinking, wonder how they came about that, that's about the only reaction or connection that I had at that point, but of course we all made a connection once this happened down there.

INT: But it didn't bring to your mind any other movies that you may have seen in the past? Or anything on television?

NAR: No.

INT: Or any books or stories or anything like that, you didn't start thinking about *[mumbled]* like Japanese monster movies or?

NAR: Monster movies I don't watch. Those scary hairy things I don't watch.

INT: Well did it make you, did you find yourself for instance just singing or humming songs, any particular songs?

NAR: Uh, I'm a singer and a hummer from way back so I do this as a normal practice so I don't recall that I did it any more so at that particular time.

INT: You don't remember that there was any particular song or anything like that?

NAR: No, whatever pops into my head is what I'm humming or singing. It might be a Christmas song in July who knows.

INT: Well that's all right, did you have any daydreams that you can remember from that time? Any sort of fantasies or imaginings just during the day that you started thinking about.

NAR: Oh, I'm sure as I sat around I probably thought what if, what if, and had things cross my mind but then something would usually occur on the job or at home to take your mind away from it, and that was as far as it went.

INT: Did you have any sleeping dreams about the situation or did you find that your sleep patterns were in any way changed by the incident?

NAR: I didn't notice that they were changed in any way.

INT: But do you remember any dreams from that time that?

NAR: No.

INT: What about changes happening to people around you during the incident? Do you think it changed them in any way?

NAR: The only reactions that I saw around here and I wouldn't say it was changes it was just people's reactions to things, was the feeling that we weren't being told the truth and their immediate reaction was madness or being angry at the fact that they were only telling us what they wanted us to know and that they weren't really giving us the whole truth. But this is a human reaction and I can't say that people changed that I work around as a result of this whole incident. But I'm sure that people, well it's the same as the Watergate situation and now the gas situation, people immediately get mad because we feel they are not telling us the whole story about the availability of or the lack of gas situations these days. They keep telling us there is a problem and yet everybody says as soon as they get the price up where they want it, there won't be a problem which is happened in the past. So, it's only their fault that we mistrust them or misbelieve them, because they're doing things like they've done them before and it turned out to be false.

INT: Do you think that the incident changed you in any lasting way?

NAR: I don't believe so. None that I'm aware of anyhow.

INT: You didn't change your attitudes on anything at all because of?

NAR: Oh, I can't say that I have, as I said before I knew Three Mile Island was down there, but I really didn't know exactly what its purpose was or what dependency we may

put on it in the future and at this point I'm sorry that this happened but I don't know that it won't happen again, but still I feel it's something they're going to have perfect if we're going to be able to live in the future and continue to use the things that we're used to using.

INT: Did you hear any jokes at all during this time?

NAR: Oh, of course, when we were in Arkansas, Texas, I don't know which one, people were asking us about Three Mile Island and they said, no, you don't glow, and this is the type of thing that was popping around at the time. Everybody of course was getting their slogans ready for their tee shirts and there were many jokes that came out across the news media or in the newspaper that people were coming up with. Man is very ingenious with things like that you can always, there is always somebody around that just that quickly can come up with a comment or saying regarding a situation.

INT: Why do you think that's so? Why do people joke?

NAR: Oh, to relieve tensions.

INT: How does a joke relieve a tension, relieve tension?

NAR: Uh, if you can laugh and joke about something it relaxes the muscles and the nerves and it keeps you from becoming so tense that you might be so tightly drawn up that it could lead to a heart attack or something. Some people get that concerned over some problems that they can encourage a heart attack to happen. Where joy, laughter, singing even praying can be a release from these things. And I think it's good that people can laugh at themselves, with themselves, about situations because too many people keep these things bottled up within them. And we need to have releases.

INT: Do you think that the jokes were effective then?

NAR: In most cases I would say yes, uh, a lot of people felt that the tee shirts were an unnecessary kind of joke but it was a way of keeping people involved in doing something and getting their mind off the situation. So even though their immediate reaction might have been, I think that's terrible, in the long run then they felt maybe that was good because it did relieve tension.

INT: Why do you think some people objected?

NAR: Probably because of their basic mannerisms and their own feelings within themselves, I think it's an individual situation, it's, I can't say how you're going to react to something and you can't say how I'm going to react something.

INT: But why do you think that some would object to joking for instance about TMI or making the tee shirts, did they think they were making fun of something or do you think that?

NAR: Making fun of something that was very serious, that could be very, control what the future of this country might be.

INT: Why do you think they were against joking about something like that?

NAR: There again I would say it's a trait within themselves. I can't say why one individual would feel that over another.

INT: Did you think that the jokes were funny?

NAR: Some of them I felt were in poor taste. Some of them were funny, yes I could laugh at them. But there again it's my personal reaction to somebody's comments.

INT: When you said that some of them were in poor taste did you think it was again because of this business about laughing about something that was very serious?

NAR: No, the choice of word usage is more my objection.

INT: Okay that's, just the type of thing I was trying to get out.

NAR: Do you want my height, and my weight or my color of eyes *[laughter]* I feel as though I'm baring my soul here.

INT: It's funny you know I finally felt after doing so many interviews that I had to be interviewed myself, I just had to do it, and finally last week I got Martha Thompson, in our project to interview me, and I just felt like I had to do it, I had to get it off my chest. Do you feel this way at all, do you feel better about talking about this because I certainly did. I really felt like I had to get it out and tell everybody or tell somebody what I felt during the whole thing. It was very therapeutic.

NAR: Well I'd have to say that during the time of it, the weeks that followed there was so much discussion of it that you felt as though you had already gotten your point across as to how you felt and how you reacted to it. So when you asked if you could interview me my first thought was oh, my, of course, I'm never at a loss for words, I'm very good at word usage, trying to get my point across sometimes, it's my crudeness.

INT: Well just as a last couple of questions here, have you developed any opinion about nuclear energy or changed an opinion about nuclear energy?

NAR: Well as I said before I didn't understand what nuclear energy was, what it meant for the future of our country, I'm still not certain that I understand it totally, but I understand it enough to know that this is what we're going to have to rely on in the future and therefore I accept it as something that's coming into our livelihood but I'm hoping that man can learn to better understand the workings of it and how it can be and should be handled to be effective for our use.