

Occupation: Chief Clerk, Cumberland County

INTERVIEWER: Now I'm going to go to the Three Mile Island questions. And if you can try to remember, with a lot of these questions were kind of asking how, if you can remember back, how things were going then. Some of them are reflective things a lot of them are how it evolved and so forth. Can you remember when you first heard about the problem at Three Mile Island?

NARRATOR: Yes, my husband called and informed the county some two minutes ahead of when the first official word came out.

INT: So you heard from your husband. Did you know there was a reactor there before this occurred?

NAR: Oh sure.

INT: How far is Three Mile Island from us?

NAR: From Carlisle, from where I live?

INT: Both.

NAR: Oh lets see, I pay very little attention to mileage. I'm not one of those who does. I would say since I'm some twelve miles, I'd say, Carlisle is twelve miles from my home and I believe its something like 17, 16, or 17 from Hampden to Capitol Campus. We're about some 25 miles from Carlisle, 25, 29.

INT: You live in Hampden?

NAR: Yes.

INT: Now, what did you think about it at that point? Do you remember?

NAR: Which point?

INT: When you first heard about it?

NAR: It didn't surprise me. I was surprised that the first word would come from my husband rather than from some official source. That's the first thing that went through my mind.

INT: Did you feel, initially, that it was a serious situation?

NAR: I felt, its one of those things, the only thing I can make very subjective comment about it, and it's a little ism of mine and I felt that my antenna were up and quivering. It was so something that we better pay attention to.

INT: Did you look for further information?

NAR: Yes immediately.

INT: From whom?

NAR: Tom Lauser, downstairs to see if anything had come in through Civil Defense.

INT: Did you talk about it with friends at that point ?

NAR: No, I was up here.

INT: Or co-workers?

NAR: Yes, right away.

INT: What did you talk about, can you remember?

NAR: I just simply went out and made the announcement that there had been some sort of incident at Three Mile Island, we weren't sure of the nature of it. We were going to be monitoring. I was going to be calling Civil Defense. If anything further develops we might have a few overtime hours, I didn't know. At that point, I'm sure from my demeanor, I was rather calm about it.....

INT: In terms. . . .

NAR: We often do this that was not unusual. In other words when we see something coming I often alert the office force immediately, "hey everybody get ready to go into high gear", whether its over the election, something of this nature.

INT: So this time, though not routine, a routine in terms of responding to something that was sort of unusual?

NAR: Yes. The procedure of alerting the office staff we might have some more work to do in very short order was not unusual.

INT: Then, were you worried about it at this point?

NAR: No

INT: Did that change?

NAR: Yes.

INT: Can you remember when that might have changed? What got you more concerned than you were initially?

NAR: In terms of concern, I think I felt most, particularly if we're talking about Thursday and Friday, was disgust. Disgust at those who were in positions of leadership within the state, within NRC and Three Mile Island itself. I had the same feeling I'm sure many ordinary citizens had, they don't have their act together they're getting conflicting statements and that's dumb.

INT: So you feel at this point at least, they aren't functioning very well?

NAR: That's right.

INT: Do you think they were in control of the situation at the plant at some point?

NAR: Absolutely not.

INT: How about the media, how do you figure they functioned in this?

NAR: I thought they were trying to do a hell of a job in trying to inform the people. If they made conflicting statements, its because of what they were able to dig out. And I feel very strongly that, maybe this is a Mid-western kind of thing, I had a hell of a lot of faith in just good old ordinary American citizens. I think that when they're given enough information they tend to act very responsibly. There probably is no such thing as a

national character, however, over the course of time now that I'm older, I've watched serious situation after serious situation develop in this country and it seemed to me that when the public at large has enough information, they're OK. I was pleased with the media, some people were displeased and they thought that they plumped it up bally-hooded it. I didn't have that reaction, you could at least get the, a smorgasbord of information from the media and I liked that.

INT: Was there anybody particular, over time things develop over here, do you think they got better at this?

NAR: Yes, I think they probably realized particularly that weekend, Saturday and Sunday, what their reaction on the public at large was. Its still, I still remember my feeling of disgust that they were not willing to trust the American people in terms of you know the general public. I felt that, in the position I was in, I was (blank) information, at least I felt like I was. That joke you averaged in him, I felt he should have 2 and if the media was providing that smorgasbord with their digging operations, I applaud it. So my feelings of disgust remain throughout.

INT: That pretty much attaches itself to the Metropolitan Edison Company for example?

NAR: Yeah

INT: Can you talk about that a little bit?

NAR: What do you want me to.....

INT: Well what do you feel they were doing?

NAR: Trying to cover their ass.

INT: So you didn't find them a trustworthy sort?

NAR: Not at all just about as creditable as he...well let's see, I'd say as the propaganda machine of an unfriendly country.

INT: And what about the NRC here?

NAR: I felt that there was some flapping around there, but they were, that's a terrible situation for those folks to be in. Hellishly responsible, they wanted to be so careful, mixed with my disgust was feelings of pity for them, that they had this tremendous weight of responsibility, peoples lives maybe for 20 years and a huge chunk of central PA might depend on what they did. I felt for them. There are all kinds of things that go through your mind. I'm a great advocate of detailed planning and it did seem that some detailed planning had not gone on or they wouldn't have been flapping around.

INT: In other words, they weren't ready for it?

NAR: They weren't ready, I didn't feel.

INT: What about the state government?

NAR: Again my feeling was it was overly cautious as far as the general public was concerned. And I realize there, you don't want to panic people but if you put people in a situation where rumor takes precedence over hard information they will react on rumor. The only way you get a rumor mill running, in other words it was a difficult situation enough as it was, you get rumor mills running where you don't have hard information,

where leadership does appear to be flapping around, where there is inherent danger in the situation itself, as there was, I felt they were really cautious in terms of the public.

INT: How about Federal government, apart from NRC, how do you think they were handling it?

NAR: Again my feeling was that the hierarchy of leadership had not been established in a situation like this, some of the flapping was that various folks simply did not whose role was what and who took precedence over whom, and who had the final say. My impression was they were trying like hell to establish that. I did give them credit for that. Again some planning and an s.o.p. in something like this would have been helpful. I think we will have that now all over the country, and the world. Other countries are watching us like Gangbusters and they have their own nuclear reactors with which they've had difficulty.

INT: How about at the County level, how did people respond there?

NAR: I have a very bias point of view, you'll have to understand that, I never saw more people stay calmer, work harder, feel freer with the information, whatever we had we wanted people to know. I felt that in some respects we were in the same situation as all the fellows up the line from us and could probably be viewed by some as flapping around unless we appeared authoritative, knowledgeable, willing to share, calm, and absolutely acting in the people's best interest. That's an art form.

INT: Yes, it's not only that it also says the way you were behaving in the situation is informed by a very strong ethical code.

NAR: I didn't think of it that way.

INT: Well the elements of how you should behave are all there.

NAR: It's a combined ethical and political philosophy probably.

INT: What kinds of responsibilities?

NAR: We discussed when...particularly my husband and I, Friday, naturally as a family you're concerned for survival, what's going to happen in a melt-down. 90 mile radius is not far enough away. What we really decided was that because I do what I do and because we are what we are inside we would probably be what people call bitter and because of the, I don't know, maybe knowledge we have, we're pretty good organizers, both my husband and I. We just felt we should probably be among those who should help the last person get away.

INT: So you felt a strong sense of responsibility to the larger society, given your own ideas?

NAR: Yeah.

INT: So you never made any plans to leave?

NAR: No.

INT: Did you ever think about it?

NAR: If they had said melt-down was evident.

INT: That would have been your signal?

NAR: No what we had decided, if melt-down was eminent, we decided to tell our daughter in State College to go to Rochester, New York which is where Grandpa lives. What we would have done would have been try to get.

INT: Ok we were talking about, you had lined out some things, you were sending your daughter off to Mass?

NAR: Off to Rochester. Then what we thought we would do, I had been previously, assistant Manager of Hampden Township, My husband was a social psychologist. Social psychologists deal with the impact of groups on individuals. His particular line of interest is in persuasion, mob behavior. You can see why we thought we ought to hang around and we felt we'd try to do the best we could to assist Hampden, in terms of the county's goals, in terms of evacuating people.

INT: And your son was in agreement with that view and so forth? Did you at any point feel any conflict between your responsibilities there and your responsibilities here?

NAR: You mean as far as our family was concerned?

INT: Yeah.

NAR: Only in the sense that it flitted through my mind two or three times that, at bedrock and quote civilized people, not very often confronted with what I call bedrock kinds of things, the need for air, the need for food, the need for to survive, and you began to wonder if you were one of those people who would not simply so others could and if that would be really ultimately serving any purpose, but there are worse things than dying. I don't know maybe we're kind of screw-balls.

INT: Did you imagine the worst that could happen over there?

NAR: Yes.

INT: What did you imagine?

NAR: In case of melt-down, we knew that, the mechanics of melt-down and that in terms of explosions and anything like that this was not the case, this was simply a vast amount of radiation released in an uncontrollable fashion. And we knew the half-lives of the things that were likely to be released in melt down, we knew the area of devastation and how it would affect people, plants, animals as the distance...

INT: How would it?

NAR: Oh well, you know everything within a very short radius would that's it, they'd be gone and in very short order. As you widen the circles out, there would be people with burns, radiation sickness, a big chunk of central Pennsylvania simply would be not be habitable for long, long time beyond my children and my children and my children's children. See how we thought about it, I would say this that my husband stood more in the role of protector of the family, those kind of comments came more often from him than me, which was a nice thing to hear now because he's not terribly demonstrative.

INT: But at this point it was becoming demonstrative?

NAR: Yeah and that was very nice. He may have been a little disappointed in me or in that, that was not as forthcoming from me as it was from him, but then its funny all kinds of things are intertwined and yet I'm sure he felt that that was really his job although he had I'm sure until this time some quaint ideas that most nurturing comes from mommies.

INT: Did you have any mental pictures of this going on?

NAR: No.

INT: Did you associate at any time with any in your past experience?

NAR: Well its rather difficult to we had been in, through physical disasters before, we were caught in a tornado in North Dakota in 1957, which was a very frightening experience and you're aware if you're in the mid-west, they are death dealing storms. That's something you can see, the destruction is something you can deal with, a basement is a place you can hide, there was an awareness that with melt-down or simply uncontrolled releases of radiation, nothing you could get a handle on unless you had the instruments.

INT: You didn't know what was happening in a melt-down?

NAR: Well you have, you simply most rely on technology to measure it for you rather than use your own senses. Aren't something calibrated to receive the information.

INT: Would you judge then that this kind of threat is more or less frightening than something like?

NAR: I think its more frightening to people. Everyone understands a cut on their forearm, it's more difficult to deal with an internal disorder. The tornado is like the cut on the forearm, you can deal with it, the radiation is like the internal disorder, you can't see it, but you can sure feel the affects of it after a while.

INT: Did you associate it with any historical events?

NAR: Not particularly, I didn't think of it in terms of Hiroshima until this minute, till you asked me. That may be a function of my age.

INT: Why, what do you mean?

NAR: Well I was, I'm 42 now, so I must have been about 6 or 7 at that time.

INT: When they dropped the bomb?

NAR: Yeah it probably had, my husband probably did, he's 10 years older than I am. I'm sure in terms of historical associations.

INT: Did you think that anything that happened at TMI might have actually affected your health?

NAR: It could be, it could have affected my husband, he was on campus during the time, now we found out the instruments went off the scale kind of thing. If that's so then that's so, that's the way we both feel about it.

INT: What sorts of affects might that be?

NAR: I think for what we know you simply look down the road in 20 years, 15-20 years and say there may be an increase chance that I'll develop leukemia or lung cancer or

whatever. That's just what goes on. I accept that, I think he does too. There's not a damn thing we can do about it. Except if something does develop treat it when it happens.

INT: Do you think it affected, the event affect the community in other ways?

NAR: Well of course we were concerned about the economic impact, both immediately and long range up here and also as far as our family was concerned we were concerned that about the long term affects on Penn state, Capitol campus. Would people want their children to go to school anywhere near this. We were concerned in terms of what it might do to folks in terms of their attitudes toward technology, now and in the future, would they be mistrusting? There's a good bit of mistrust of government quotes any way and the officials, there are all kinds of ramifications that we felt that it had and would have. That's one reason why up here we were particularly concerned with whatever you do for God's sake you can't give the appearance that you are holding back from the people. Even the appearance of that is going to cause people not to believe you when you really have something to say. And all we could do is share with them what the heck we had at the time in the least frightening terms possible, you know and trust.

INT: Would you say that your ordinary routines were affected by this? In here or at home? In here?

NAR: Absolutely, you bet. Sure.

INT: What happened?

NAR: Everything else was put on a back burner and we concentrated on that. I'd say even ninety per cent of the effort.

INT: What hours of work?

NAR: They didn't exist, we worked around the clock..

INT: You were just here all the time?

NAR: As long as, you know, the old bags were going (laughs). Right. Then we did go to - that was at first - then we went to a shift situation. The problem is that there, some folks you feel are more vital than others, but they're human beings, too. And they must sleep and they must eat, or their judgments going to be affected by fatigue, and you can't have that.

INT: You came at this a little indirectly earlier, now I want to ask it a different way. Did you ever during all of this think of your own death or the possibility of your own death?

NAR: Um, hum (yes).

INT: What did you think about it?

NAR: That is something again, maybe this is the way I was raised. I accept death as a part of life. I intend to be a very old lady. And I guess I have a feeling of tough, sturdy, stuff. My grandmother and my grandfather are still alive at ninety six and ninety five, sharp as tacks, been through a hellish life, but never through radiation, but the possibility was there that I might die and I accepted that. Again part of it may be that among the humans on this earth I have been most blessed, in terms of luck health, family, you know.

INT: You thought about the possibility. Would you say that you, even when you thought about it you mostly believed you would survive?

NAR: Yes I did.

INT: What reassured you of this?

NAR: That I would?

INT: Uhm, hum. You said your stock and your background and so forth?

NAR: But the main factor that assured me that I would probably live would be that I knew that as far as this country is concerned once something like this is motion, in other words a major nuclear accident, the best damn brains and computers, not only in this country but probably in others, were at work on it. And there was a I guess a fundamental belief that they are going to get a handle on it.

INT: OK, you felt that they, the confidence in those people who were really engaged at that point, that they would be able to?

NAR: Right, that they might be puzzled, they might not know what the hell is going on, but that they would get a handle on it.

INT: Did you think about God during the incident at all?

NAR: I don't remember. If I don't remember, um, probably not. You'd have to probe my religious belief a little on that. I don't see God as an interfering kind of being, having once created things I kind of feel he gave them their natural lives, set them in motion and things develop from there.

INT: So you did, did you pray?

NAR: I do every day. I view praying as sort of as an open telephone line. I dialed the number a long time ago and I never hung up.

INT: But this didn't particularly?

NAR: No, not any more sense than – I don't know. I do some funny things. I'm opening up to you like I really don't to most people. These are some very private feelings. I might just be driving along and see, I don't even know the name of the weed along the side of the road, but if it strikes me as beautiful I might say, "Hey, that's a nice thing. Once things got in motion I enjoyed looking at it. It's good." Or a little private comment to myself, also on the open telephone line, I think I'm going to have the strength to get through this. I know you're up there somewhere. You may not be able to interfere but at least you know. That's the kind of thing I do in my head.

INT: So you didn't see this as a message of some kind, or...

NAR: No.

INT: At anytime during this did you have anything that you might call daydreams that you remember?

NAR: I don't daydream much. I'm pretty direct and matter of fact. Never did.

INT: Any sleeping dreams that you can remember?

NAR: No, and that is something of. It is interesting that you would ask because my husband and children report funny dreams all the time. The only dream that I can remember in the last two or three years was just recently. It was funny, but not at that time. I usually go, it's probably a function of my working habits and my general eating, sleeping, you know, rhythm. But I keep long hours and once I go to bed I have always viewed the bed as a place to zonk (snaps her fingers) and I sleep. I sleep deeply. I need about seven hours and I wake up and that's it. Occasionally when I really burn the candle at both ends I will sleep like 14, but then I know it. My body gives me all kinds of singles. Leave me alone! Leave me to bed! Drop out and go away world. That doesn't happen very often. Every three or four months, depending on the work load and the pressures and this kind of thing, but no. I'm really not a remembering dreamer. I never have been.

INT: Any disturbance in your sleep?

NAR: None. Just like I said. Bed for me has always been for me you hit the pillow and you (snaps fingers) wink out.

INT: Let me ask you think about others for a little bit? Did people around you change during this?

NAR: Oh, there were some things I noticed. I took them as either exacerbations of already present personality traits or of a heightening of latent ones which I'd maybe got glimpses of. There were some folks whose stamina, sturdiness, surprised me. I guess that would go with the latent things, but there were some I hadn't even noticed. In terms of irritability or something like that, I really didn't note that. I think I remember telling you that the nurturing kinds of concerns for the family came from my husband. And I became aware even though my son was sixteen and my daughter nineteen and those are almost full blown grownups, they still looked to us for what do we do now. And although you feel no calms at telling a six year old what to do, you do once they are that age. I felt an even heavier responsibility of what advice I was about to give them. I know Jim did, too. So yeah I did notice some changes.

INT: Do you think it changed them in any lasting way?

NAR: I don't know. I haven't probed it.

INT: How about you?

NAR: Well, heavenly days, I don't know. I really haven't probed. I hadn't thought about that, that much. I will, if you want to check back with me I will think about that.

INT: What about you?

NAR: I don't know. I haven't thought about that either. I think a couple things. I gained a little more self-confidence.

INT: Did you?

NAR: I think I did.

INT: What do you think did it?

NAR: The feeling that an awful lot of people were depending on you. The relationship between Jake and Nelson and Ray and myself. They have always given me just a tremendous amount of leeway, the position of chief clerk varies in as many as there are counties. In this county, in some places it is strictly paper shuffler, O.K., you take the minutes you do the filing, its kind of file clerk. They have given me the leeway of literally a fourth commissioner. And they do listen. They have never reacted to me as female, or put me down in anyway. That made me way my words when, you know, the tough decision kinds of, times were going on. It made me aware that they do listen, really do listen. That gave me the self confidence to see that they were really attentive and I felt a major input and it was worthy, of consideration. It made me feel good. But I did feel the weight of a hundred and seventy thousands citizens out there for the first time. I really did. The funny thing is that it changed me in a lasting way. With the attitudes I have and the reason I'm here, the reason I wanted this job, alright, or even got into it when I was back in Hammond Township, and the getup probably goes back to what we were talking about in terms of the ethical-political philosophy religious kinds of things. There is a paradox in that the kinds of things I see want to do and the way I want to behave and the way I want the government to be, not only behaving and doing but actually perceived as behaving and doing. I didn't feel about (blank) on the higher level. Now some of that may be have been a faint air superiority because we thought we was doing such a great job, some of it is undoubtedly bias and the things you do to protect your own ego in term in what you are involved in, the things you do have to be worth while other wise you loose worth to yourself. So it will be hard to sort out. But....I did feel like I gained a little self confidence. I think I became more aware, again by just breaking (blank) in our family. I'm probably little more grateful for a lot of little things. They come across my open telephone line a little more often. That sounds a corny, like don't forget to smell the roses. That's really kind of...I guess...I'm really probed around at it. I've been thinking it, feeling it, doing it being rather than analyzing it.

INT: Now there is going to be a good shift here. During the incident did any books you read, movies you have seen, television programs, did any of it occurred to you?

NAR: Oh sure. But then you are talking to an old science fiction book, when she was eight years old.

INT: Can you expand on that a little bit?

NAR: Sure, what do you want to know?

INT: What occurred to you?

NAR: Oh I guess, I thought I'm on the beach. Let's see I did not see Hiroshima more and more. But that flow through...I didn't flow through ok...its funny, it's the different pleasures the less illicit different memories. I guess I thought of my (blank) in science fiction in what I really enjoy most are some of Asamault (?) stuff. I particularly thought of the foundation trilogy. In terms of psycho history how would we look back and how would a social scientist look back and, would they will be able to sift and weigh and I hoped that there were enough of them on hand and here you are. Because some things are very hard to establish far in the future and looking back...and I just didn't know if we had enough talent around who were really home in on it and that's what about what I thought of

INT: Did you find yourself singing any songs?

NAR: I whistle and sing all of the time.

INT: But you don't recall clicking on any particular...

NAR: No. I do everything from eighteenth century, you know, Gregorian chant to the latest disco. I'm a... I like music. I can't think of a thing. Maybe some other question will elicit something that I might have.

INT: Did you hear any jokes about radiation or Three Mile Island?

NAR: Oh sure. There were all kinds of jokes around.

INT: Can you remember any of them?

NAR: I am the world's poorest – that didn't change my habit at remembering jokes. It's one of those things, "Oh my God. So and so told me a funny, buuumm." Enjoy it at the time. I have never been a very good story teller nor remembering. I'm an enjoyer of.

INT: There was a fair amount of it though?

NAR: Yeah, yeah. This is a, um, I remember it, although I may not remember good punch lines or things like that. But I remember thinking when I'd hear one "Here's a way in which people deal with fear." They try to laugh at it. It's a little bit like whistling in the dark.

INT: Did you see it coming from what you call – did some kinds of people tend to be joking more than other kinds of people?

NAR: Um, hum (yes).

INT: Can you tell me...

NAR: The general office force up here, tended to come up with those, repeat them, hear them more than I think we did.

INT: More than people who were working in administration were?

NAR: Yeah. I remember enjoying them, but I, you know. And they, where in the world did they hear it. I don't hear jokes except if they tell me! And I don't think that I've got a no sense of humor, but I'm no good at inventing them or. But yeah, but it seems to me this was one way which people deal with fear. The jokes that were around in the administration were not related to, but we do these kinds of things to each other all the time in that we, there's kind of a general attitude there's a fair amount of what I call self deprecating humor. And those, the kinds of jokes that I remembered administratively were those which poked fun at ourselves and how we were dealing with it. And again, that's a way for dealing with fear, are we adequate. Are we being adequate? Should all those folks out there really be depending on us? You know, that's spooky.

INT: Yes, it's a big sense of responsibility. And then... Have you developed an opinion about nuclear energy? And what we ought to do with it, and about it?

NAR: Yeah, I see it as a useful form of energy. I am impressed with the technology of it. I think in some cases...we should have it. It should be part of our energy lexicon. O.K. I still am basically a believer in the scientific ability of this nation. What I really

would like to see happen is to have leadership at the national level say, “That’s it!” (slap sound). The equivalent of the Manhattan project of Kennedy’s statement, “We are going to put a man on the moon by the end of the decade, but this is it. We are now going to simply found energies and we are going to find a synthetic fuel. Period. And that is the goal for the next five years and we are going to throw talent at it like gangbusters.” I don’t see that yet so the other day I was suggesting that if Carter wanted to pull this idea, I have no objections to that. I think it would be a hellish thing to coordinate. I think it would be much easier to simply start it right here, in this country. It fits with Carter’s philosophy, and as a citizen of the world I don’t object to it. I just see that it’s a terrible organizing task.

INT: You mean worldwide?

NAR: Yeah. And I think if we’d hunker down to it, we’d do it. And probably quicker than we think, thirty six months maybe.

INT: Has this taught us anything?

NAR: The whole thing?

INT: Um huh.

NAR: I think it has taught us a whole bunch of things. About nuclear energy, the regulation of it, design factors in plants. It has simply, it is simply going to make us better at managing nuclear energy as part of our energy lexicon and make people more confident in the future that they can live near nuclear plants. That’s the way I see it.

INT: You feel it would help to make us safer then?

NAR: Oh, I do. Absolutely. It...I do think there probably was, there were some things because they have come out now where some things were just kind of shoved under the rug, hidden a few little inspections. Maybe somebody wasn’t doing things quite right. Human beings are imperfect. We are all subject to all kinds of things. You know, different pressures and different days and things. You feel well some days and some days you don’t. And what you have to do recognizing that is have your procedures such that when you are dealing with a death dealing phenomena that can bring great good to people, you should have to have your procedures down such that it allows for all those human factors and our fallibility as human beings. And checkers checking on the checkers checking on the checkers. And I think we’ve learned that now, I do. So really I guess I have come away from it with more confidence that, “O.K., all this has come to light and we have been through a harrowing time. I feel that we’ve escaped kind of by the hair of our chinny chin chins. And lessons won’t be forgotten, at any level.

INT: Is there anything else you would like to say about all of this?

NAR: Yeah, I still think about the men and women and the families of those who worked there during all this time and, you know, are they our energy martyrs. And if, you know, I feel for them. I admire them terrifically in some cases I think they were in the dark. And they coped as best they could. I really do feel that. The feelings of disgust I had at the flapping around. Again, you know, as I mentioned some of the jokes that went around in terms of the self-deprecating humor that happened to them too. That happened to the people that were working in the plant. They’ve, were coping the best

they absolutely could. And if, in some cases, the judgments were shallow, or faulty or misguided or whatever, that has all come to light too. You know, and it's the most worth can come, I think of where error has been committed. O.K., whether by design, in terms of the plant itself, or whether by management decision on the part of Met Ed, NRC not inspecting enough. Wherever those errors might have occurred. To me, this is something I learned long ago as a kid, if you stub your toe you admit it, but you don't do it twice. You know, nothing is ever, ever made better by lying about it.

INT: So we need to know everything that occurs?

NAR: We need to know, and we need to face it. And I think in large measure that has now gone on. It is still going on, part of the flapping may have been "cover your rear end" kind of thing. And I understand I guess that way up there in management of a large concern facing the probability of lawsuits, and God knows there are now lawsuits. It comes down to us again. What is your real responsibility?

INT: Do you think they are in control of that situation over there right now?

NAR: Where at Peach Bottom, or?

INT: At Three Mile Island.

NAR: Better than before. Everybody has their antenna up and quivering in it.

INT: Anything else?

NAR: I can't think of, what have I missed? It takes some time I think for people in an interviewer situation to loosen up, to warm up. I am used to being interviewed. I also feel I'm probably, maybe a little more open than some people because I am used to being interviewed. There are probably some very private things I haven't told you.

INT: Do you want to tell me?

NAR: I don't know.

INT: Are you thinking particularly in terms of fears?

NAR: No.

INT: How do I convince you that I am trustworthy?

NAR: You have convinced me. There is a portion of me. No, this is what I wanted you to understand, and I am like this with everyone. Dear friends, long friends, that will forever be a private I won't talk about.

INT: And you want to keep it that way?

NAR: Yeah I do. It's a, maybe, what do you call it, a sense of self in terms of fears, which you mentioned before. Those were some of the private things, no, probably, I'll tell you the areas which they would deal. Were love kinds of things, in terms of extended family. We didn't probe around those at all. Those will have to remain my private thoughts. That's really about it. Those were some of the things I didn't get into.

INT: One think I might ask you is?

NAR: You're a good interviewer by the way, very good.

INT: Thank you.

NAR: Lovely technique.

INT: One thing I might ask you, did you hear from people outside the area, since you've come from away from here, did you?

NAR: Yes, oh sure, yes. You bet. Grandparents, parents, friends, and apparently the farther away they were the more dangerous it looked to them. They felt, their reaction to me was very different from mine. They felt there was a lot of sensationalism. I get this from every phone call I had. And we tried to assure them that that I, we didn't feel that was so. That there was a terrific attempt on the part of all media, radio, newspaper, TV, to simply convey information or at least put out a smorgasbord for people and that. But they felt that the screaming headlines were a bit much, and it served to heighten their fears for us. So we were really in the role of soother to all of them. And they would touch base every other day or so. There was only one incidence of, my mother, urging us to leave. And that was on Saturday and I have to admit I fibbed to her.

INT: Did you? What did you do?

NAR: I told her that she need not worry and that survival of the children and ourselves would be paramount, and we had already decided that it was not.

INT: Did that come from the two of you?

NAR: Yes, it did.

INT: Do you have anymore?

NAR: No.

INT: Well thank you.

NAR: Sure.