

Date: July 10, 1979

Occupation: College administrator

INTERVIEWER: When did you first hear about the TMI incident?

NARRATOR: On the Wednesday morning that the first incident took place. I don't remember the date but that Wednesday during the morning we heard there had been a problem.

INT: How did you hear?

NAR: Ah, we had a phone call from Dean Goldberg. I happened to have a radio here and so we turned it on and I guess at that point he had just heard that they had had some sort of nuclear accident. So we turned the radio on and started listening. And that was probably late morning on Wednesday.

INT: Ok, now, some of the questions I'm going to ask you are going to be kind of reflective

NAR: Sure

INT: So if you could think back to the time period and think how you felt at that time.

NAR: Mmm-hmm

INT: Ok

NAR: Ok.

INT: Before the incident occurred did you know that there was a reactor there?

NAR: Yes. I've seen it as I have flown to the airport many a time.

INT: Did you know how far TMI was from us?

NAR: Approximately, just because it's at the airport.

INT: Ok, what did you think about or talk about at that time when you first heard about it?

NAR: I guess at that time I didn't think that much about it because on that Wednesday they kept reassuring us that there was no problem, they had it controlled but that they were just announcing that something had happened. So, ummm, we had the radio on here in the office but I really didn't think that much about it.

INT: Did you think it was a serious situation? A crisis situation?

NAR: Not Wednesday.

INT: Ok, do you remember when you started thinking about it as a crisis?

NAR: When we heard more on Friday. Right.

INT: After Wednesday, when you first heard about it, did you start to seek out further information?

NAR: I remember, you know, listening to the newscast etc. But not really actively seeking out further information. Which later I was sorry about.

INT: Why?

NAR: Just because I think I would... I knew so little about reactors at that point that we accepted what they were telling us on the radio, that it was not serious and everything was going according to schedule at that point. And I can't remember when they first started having announcements about asking people to keep children inside and pregnant women. I think that was on Friday. I would imagine. So, I think probably from Wednesday morning to Friday morning, it was just more of an inquisitiveness about what happened but not any real concern.

INT: And in searching for information, was there anybody that you particularly looked to?

NAR: No.

INT: No, Ok. Did you talk about the situation with family or coworkers?

NAR: Uhh, With coworkers, I can't remember about family. Basically, because we'd heard about it during the day in here. But it wasn't a major topic of conversation necessarily.

INT: What kinds of things did you talk about?

NAR: Ah, I really don't remember. I think we were just keeping the radio on and trying to see if they said anymore. But as I remember they just kept assuring us that there was no major problem.

INT: And you said Friday you started to think that it was a serious situation.

NAR: Yeah. In fact, Friday if I can just tell you about Friday before you ask me anything?

INT: Sure. Go right ahead.

NAR: Ah, my husband was to go into a conference in Los Angeles on Friday morning and I was going to take him to the airport (chuckles) and we decided it was kind of foolish for me to. He was leaving early Friday and come back Sunday night or Monday night, that it was really kind of foolish to make the trip to the airport and back when we have two cars. So, he left for the airport like 8:30 that morning and of course, we hadn't heard anything yet. Well later in the morning, when I heard there had been the additional incident, to use that term, certainly I started having major concerns, and I was kind of anxious to talk to him on the west coast to make sure he had gotten out of the airport alright. And then automatically we started thinking did he fly over TMI as he left the airport. So, umm, I remember actually hearing that there had been the additional problem during the morning, Friday, because I went to a meeting at noon on Friday and I was talking with Professor Light, and Professor Light was in his jovial way, was offering to take me to the airport to pick my car up so the paint would not all fall off.

INT: That musta been really reassuring.

NAR: So that was my Friday morning and I can't remember what time we heard, but it was before noon that we heard that it was a major problem and I think that it was at that time that they were indicating that keeping indoors and the pregnant women leaving the are and that kind of thing.

INT: So it was basically hearing the information after your husband left?

NAR: Right. We did not know about it.

INT: That changed your opinion?

NAR: Yes, right that it was kind of a serious situation.

INT: How did you feel about other people's reactions during the incident?

NAR: At that time?

INT: Yeah, or even later.

NAR: Ummm...

INT: Do you think it changed over the period of time?

NAR: Yeah, I think a lot of people changed, once we knew there had been real releases of radiation and once we were hearing about the, the hydrogen bubble and the possibilities of more major kinds of consequences I think... during the day on Friday, as I just go back reflecting a little bit, we, as the day went on people started getting more tense about it. We had scheduled the Preservation Hall Group for Friday night if you

remember, and we talked to them. They were already here. They had come up on Thursday night and so I talked to them at the hotel on Friday and they were very willing to go ahead and perform and we thought that that was the best thing in the world because we started seeing people having real anxiety and tension about the whole thing. And it was on the news that night, I didn't see the newscast because I was here, but it was on the news that night, but I think it was Walter Chroncote or someone evidently was really explaining the seriousness of it and people were starting to really panic in a sense. Lots of parents were coming to campus to pick people up and that kind of thing. Ummm, we had workshops planned for that Saturday, which would be the leadership workshop that Pam Lanks sponsored, and we had a guest speaker who was coming in from Boston. She came in Friday night and we had people picking her up at the train station Friday night, and she came ahead. It was kind of going through, I remember I didn't even go home because I was here and we were in the middle people kind of panicking and going home and should we have the workshop tomorrow and making arrangements to pick this person up from the train station and we had the Preservation Hall Group getting ready in the auditorium. So as the day Friday went on from the time I left home Friday morning till like Friday night at Preservation Hall, we had gone through a major kind of a change. If I'm making sense there- what I'm saying?

INT: Yes. What do you think about their reactions? Were people over reacting or were they not reacting enough? Were they showing no concern at all?

NAR: No, I think most people were showing concern I think a lot of students I talked to were getting pressure from home to come home. Uhh, I can understand that how a little better if I go back and look at the whole situation, because I don't think I realized what the consequences could have been had it gone the direction of there being a core meltdown or something. And I think a lot of parents as I learned later, had seen *China Syndrome*, I didn't see it myself, until two weeks ago. I can understand why parents in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia were saying get in your car and drive home right now. I know of one person who got in her car and drove to Pittsburg and then flew home to Philadelphia, or got home another way because she didn't want to go past TMI and was getting pressure from parents to come home. So, there were a lot during the day on Friday, there were a lot of those outside influences. And I guess, and I kept saying to people, I was talking to you have got to make your decision what you do. And I also personally felt that the college, at that point, we knew the college was trying to make some decisions about what was best. By that point, Dr. Banks had called in the physics department faculty and they were giving advice on what they thought was reasonable for us to do as a college. And I think probably Friday night was probably our first all-college meeting, no I guess it wasn't Friday night, I guess it was Saturday. Anyway, we were in the stages then of the college reacting in some way all along to it. So, I think people were having to make their own minds up. But there were all kinds of outside influences by that point. Yeah.

INT: Did you follow the newspapers or TV or radio?

NAR: Not as much as I would have liked to because I was up here twenty-four hours a day it seemed like starting then. The thing that I felt badly about is that I didn't ever get to watch the TV news, and I didn't know that much about how a reactor worked and what a meltdown was, etc. But I was really up here from 8:30 Friday morning till after Preservation Hall at like one o'clock Friday night and hadn't gone home in the mean time. I got up early Saturday morning and came up here because we had people, we had that workshop on Saturday. And by that point it had been decided that Student Services was going to be headquartered where we kept phones going and everything. So we had faculty and administrative people by twos stay around the clock in here, and I felt kind of an obligation to be here a lot. So, I saw the newspapers but I really wasn't watching, we had the radio on in here but I wasn't, I didn't get to watch any of the TV news until like Sunday or Monday.

INT: Can you remember which radio stations you were listening to?

NAR: Not really. Local, I mean we were listening to Harrisburg and Carlisle, we weren't listening to National that much.

INT: So you were paying more attention to these than usual?

NAR: Yeah, sure, very definitely.

INT: How did you feel about the media's handling of the situation?

NAR: Ah, it's kind of interesting ummm comparing the media away from Carlisle to the media right in the Harrisburg/Carlisle area. My husband got back and he brought the Los Angeles papers with him. Now, I don't have those now, we've saved them and have them. Later we saw the Boston and the Philadelphia and the, you know, and the media away from here I think did a great deal of harm. And I say that because people whose relatives were in South Carolina for example, were calling and come to South Carolina. You know that kind of thing. You're all going to die if you stay there. The media outside of here I think didn't do anything to help. They still sensationalize too much. And I can't remember specific headlines to be honest, but you know when I'd see them later they were just definitely blown out of proportion. Ah, I think that our headlines around here, the papers were trying to be realistic but not panic us I think. Because they were still here and a lot of us were still here. And I can remember the *Sentinel* "Evacuation Plans Readied"- they'd have a headline like that. The Los Angeles paper had more, you know, "Reactor at Pennsylvania, Core Meltdown Imminent." That kind of thing, that's not a direct quote, but it was more the thing that would panic the relatives away from here, for example.

INT: How about the government officials? Do you think they handled it well?

NAR: Well, afterwards we learned there were lots of communication mishandlings and all, but under the circumstances of nobody ever having gone through this kind of thing evidently before, I think they attempted to handle it as well as they possibly could.

Umm, You know, they were keeping us informed about evacuation plans, and trying to keep the public informed. I suppose it goes back to, you know, if anybody wasn't acting as they should, Met Ed is the culprit who was not releasing all the information that they should have. So, knowing that our civil defense people in Carlisle were in close contact with the college, and that we were uh definitely planning if we had to be an evacuation center what we would do. And we also knew certain plans in the event that the college had to be evacuated. Ah, certainly would have been all of Carlisle if that had happened. But I think under the circumstances, I can not fault them.

INT: You started to say something about Met Ed?

NAR: What did what?

INT: What did you think about their handling of it?

NAR: Uh, I feel that they did not tell everyone everything they should have, and again that comes from going back and reading things two months later in the newspapers.

INT: What did you think at the time?

NAR: I didn't really think about it that much at the time. I guess you sort of hoped that people in there knew what they were doing. And I didn't really have any reactions to Met Ed as such, and I'm talking about during that Friday and Saturday. A week later we could look back and say different things about it. A feeling like they did not react as fast as they should of in notifying authorities and maybe indicating the gravity of the situation.

INT: Ok, was there anyone that you found particularly reliable during the incident for your information?

NAR: I think probably I did, as a lot of other people once Denton was on the scene, felt like we had a little more confidence when it was umm the kind of reports and information that we were getting from him. We didn't know him before, and as been said since he's probably been built up to be kind of a Pennsylvania hero. But ah, I suppose once he, once the, once staff were on the scene we had more confidence in what was going on as far as though as those people. I, personally found Pricilla Laws and John Luetzelschwab and Neil Wolf were the main people that were here on campus. We sat in college meetings and heard Pricilla explain things and you know, she has two children, a house down the street, some of the same kind of concerns, and I felt that if she felt that we were in danger, she would have, would have indicated it. And I guess I took a lot of sense of security knowing some of her explanations were such that would say, not that it's not going to happen but if it's going to happen we are going to have time to do this, you know, we're going to have time to leave, we're going to have time to make these arrangements. And, ah, you would be hearing stories about if something would happen we would all be killed instantly, that kind of thing. And so you know, umm, we had

some faculty and administrative people, as you are probably well aware, that just packed up and left. And I never felt like I personally had to do that.

INT: What did you think about their decisions to do that?

NAR: Well, I think it still had to be a personal decision, and my husband was on the west coast and I think probably tension and pressure and all of this hung around him a lot more than it did all of us here. And I say that from all the media and the TV coverage and that kind of thing. But as far as right here, and I had it worked out, since I was up here so much, with my children that we always knew where to reach each other so that within ten minutes, we could have gotten together if it had been necessary to leave. But umm, I think people had to make their own decisions on that. I personally did not feel... I mean I would have stayed on the basis of what I knew. Nobody told me I had to stay here. I could have gotten in my car and driven away, but I didn't feel... I think the dangers that way could have been worse than staying. You know, as I say, if there's mass panic and automobile accidents and that kind of thing. So, I felt like on the basis of the information that I had, that I was making the right decision.

INT: Ok, you said that you trusted Harold Denton and Priscilla Laws and John Luetzelschwab. Was there anyone you mistrusted?

NAR: Not any just individual. Uh...

INT: Any particular group?

NAR: Well, I suppose after we were in it a couple of days, we were really, I would say, I suppose, I was mistrusting the Met Ed people. And glad they weren't in charge anymore. That it had been turned over to other people. I suppose the thing that kept me feeling like I was trusting the people we've talked about is the reports of the soil samples and the air samples and those things that we got. You know, that our own students were doing with Professor Luetzelschwab and the fact that he hadn't moved his family out and he lives what, three miles from it. Something like that.

INT: Maybe closer

NAR: Yeah, right.

INT: Did you feel that those in charge were in control of the situation over at Three Mile Island?

NAR: Uh, I don't really know. Uh, I suppose at the... like on Wednesday, I didn't worry. I assumed that they were in control of it. When we got into Friday and realized what the consequences could be and realized that maybe they didn't have as much... umm, they couldn't physically control it as much as we would have liked. Umm, then I realized that maybe nobody had control of it. That they were trying to use the equipment

and the kinds of information they had to keep the consequences as minimal as possible. But I guess at that point, I probably realized that they didn't have control of it.

INT: Uh huh. Did that make you uneasy?

NAR: Yes. But I still then would hear Priscilla explain even if there is a meltdown, this is what the worst is. Little things and I know that people were panicking here. Like I talked to some people here at the college, faculty-type people who were going and taking all their money out of the bank. You know; things like that. Priscilla would say, even if we would have to leave, you know, people may not be able to return here to live permanently for a long, long time or whatever, but, you know, you'd be able to come back and get things. We know that there are computer records of bank records, so I wasn't worried that I was going to lose my life savings, and all these things. Some people were really, you know, the banks had runs on them and they had to bring more money in from Philadelphia and all that.

INT: Oh lord. Do you feel now, that they were in control at the time?

NAR: No. No.

INT: Do you think they're in control now?

NAR: No, if they were they probably would have had the problems of the water worked out.

INT: Ok, were you worried about the situation?

NAR: Yes.

INT: What worried you most?

NAR: Umm, just that there would be something major happen. Uh, that would require us to evacuate. And whether it would have been evacuate nothing had actually happened. I was just hoping that they would be able to bring it to a shutdown without any harm to individuals or property or that kind of thing.

INT: You said "if something major had happened." If the worst had happened, what do you think the worst would have been?

NAR: I suppose the worst would have been if there'd been a... I don't know whether it would have been a meltdown or what, but if there would have been lives lost or major health hazards. Umm, you know, lives are always more valuable than property as far as I'm concerned, so the worst would have been if human lives had been lost.

INT: Do you think it would have changed other aspects of your life, other than the possibility that you may have lost your life?



NAR: I suppose it probably could have.

INT: But you didn't think about how it could work/happen?

NAR: I didn't really think about it. At that point I think I was concerned about what we were doing at the college and what we would do if I needed to take the family and also work within the college framework of getting people out. You know, and I guess I felt there were a lot of things I just didn't have control of. So, I didn't spend a lot of time thinking about it. I think I thought more about some of the things after it was over than during it.

INT: What did you think about then?

NAR: Probably what could have happened. Like if you had of had to have left everything and not come back here, what would have happened to umm where you'd live and what your job would be and things like that. You'd just completely had to have relocated. That if you didn't lose any physical lives, but if you lost everything you had, what would you do. That kind of thing. You thought about afterwards and realized, it could have meant that.

INT: Did you come up with anything you might have done, if the worst had happened?

NAR: Not really. It was just one of the things you thought about, we were pretty lucky, that kind of a thought.

INT: Did you make any plans different from what you normally would have made?

NAR: During the time?

INT: Because of the incident. Yes, during the time.

NAR: Not really except just kind of being in more constant contact with my kids. Because you couldn't make them sit at home twenty-four hours a day, and I as up here. So, I suppose the only thing we really did was have a check-in where we knew where each other was at all times. That was really the extent of it. Bought an extra supply of cat food in case we had to leave. Take the cat.

INT: Take the cat. Did you, well you did change some of your ordinary routines. You said that being here at college...

NAR: Yeah, and that was more because of my role here than if I'd have just been somebody living in town, I think. I really felt an obligation to be up here as much I could.

INT: Did you find that you had any conflict of responsibilities?

NAR: No.

INT: No?

NAR: Not really.

INT: What did you think about leaving the area?

NAR: What do you mean by that?

INT: Did you feel that you should leave or that you might have to leave?

NAR: I was hoping we wouldn't have to leave, but we knew for a long period of time that they could call for just an evacuation and you wouldn't have any choice. So, I was sort of ready if we would have had to have, cause since I was up here all the time, as I said, I didn't really pack stuff or anything like that, but we just had the constant check-in so we knew where each other was. The two kids and myself since my husband was in Los Angeles. So, I was just ready in that way. And I, to be honest, some people I think, spent hours packing what they were going to take and the whole thing that was important to me was that we get out alright. Not having, you know...and I hadn't packed up or anything like that.

INT: Did you have any ideas of what you might want to take with you?

NAR: Not really. I think I remember thinking later that you, I would want to take things, if I knew I were not coming back, you would want to take things that couldn't be replaced, which would be things like photographs and that kind of thing. Not uh, but I really to be honest, if we'd have been given five or ten minutes warning, it would have been just us and a change of clothes. I think it wouldn't have been anything else, because I guess having lived through a flood once, you realize that no material goods are that important to you. So you know, as long as you get out alright. That's the thing that was crucial.

INT: And how would you compare this to a flood? Would you think it was umm more or less serious than a flood?

NAR: Well, I would say more serious in that umm, we didn't know, there were so many unknowns in this. Umm, at the time we lost a lot of things in a flood, we were away. And we were getting a house redone and everything was stored in the basement, including things like artwork, photographs, pictures, things like that cause they were redoing carpeting and painting upstairs while we were away. So, we just lost everything that was in the basement. We weren't even here, so there was never any threat of physical harm out of it or anything. The worst that could have happened is when they pumped the water out, the wall could have cracked or something. Well, this, I mean you could have stood to have lost lives, property, our whole area could have been

uninhabitable. So, I would say the tremendous... you know, if I were comparing this to a flood of ravishing waters, a flood of ravaging waters, that you might stand to have your house knocked off its foundation or something, then I don't know. But I would say the consequences could have been extremely detrimental here. Yeah.

INT: So you found this more frightening because it was the unknown factor?

NAR: Right. And it could have been such a major... you knew the worst could be such a magnitude that it could have meant lives and property.

INT: Was there anyone in your life that you were watching in order to decide whether you should leave the area or not?

NAR: Priscilla Laws. (laughing) You've probably heard that answer before. Yeah, I was going to be right behind her.

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

NAR: Not really. No, not really. I think part of it was because I didn't have time to just sit around and think about it. And so everything I knew was stuff I'd heard on the radio or seen on TV. So I was not sitting thinking, no not really. None that at least seem that important to me, no.

INT: Ok, do you think anything that happened at TMI may have affected your health or that of your children?

NAR: I personally don't think so. I don't know if I'd answer you that way if I lived five miles from it, but living twenty-five and hearing the reports of the amount of radiation and that kind of thing, I don't feel it has affected us. Hopefully I'm right.

INT: Or in the future?

NAR: Yeah, I mean that's why I say hopefully. Twenty years from now we may find out differently.

INT: Umm, did you have any concern about food or milk from the area?

NAR: I didn't because we kept hearing reports that it was safe. Umm, in fact, I had bought milk right before it had happened and had quite a bit, so we for like a week, were using milk that was from before TMI. I think probably some of the people living in New York City who were getting reports of it may have been. I just figured they'd tell us or take it off the market if it was a major health hazard.

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

NAR: Not really, no.

INT: No, ok, did you think of your own death?

NAR: Not really, again. And I think part of that's because I was kept so busy up here plus the fact that we were talking about that we would have ample time to leave the area. It might have just been us, nothing with us, just us. But I really didn't, didn't think about that, that aspect. No.

INT: So you felt that you would survive?

NAR: Yeah. I felt that we might be left without anything. That it would be, you know, I guess part of it's because of the way a lot of it was explained, that if we'd lived close, we wouldn't have had the time to do some of that, but that we were far enough that certainly we could travel faster than the radiation could (chuckles) to get out of the area.

INT: So it was basically the distance element that really reassured you?

NAR: Yeah.

INT: Ok, did you think about God during the incident?

NAR: Not much. A little bit, but not much.

INT: Did you feel that he was playing any kind of a role in this? That maybe he was the avenging Angel come to teach mankind a lesson or something?

NAR: No, no. I didn't really.

INT: Ok, did you pray?

NAR: Yes.

INT: What did you pray for or about?

NAR: Just for our family and all of us involved in terms of what was best for us to do. Not any, not any real specifics, but just more that.

INT: I sort of asked you this before, but did you feel that you had certain responsibilities during the incident?

NAR: Yes. And it was more that I felt a responsibility within the college because I personally had wanted to stay. I hadn't had any personal desire to leave. To be, to be of help in any way possible, and so I was here as much as I could be. And uh certainly had responsibilities to my own family at the same time. So those two, yeah.

INT: You've indicated that your job was indicated that your job was affected by TMI. Could you elaborate a little more on that?

NAR: Um, a lot of calls from parents. Just, you know, being around and talking to people. I mean, students were not with their families and I think a lot of us just felt it's good to be around, we're all in this together. There's no immunity for faculty and staff just because we happen to live here, that kind of thing. So, basically as I indicated, Friday through uh Sunday and then of course, Monday I would have been around anyway, I was just around an awful lot. And we had lots of calls and it was just spending time talking to people, that kind of thing. And there were so me interesting facets to it. I for example, took a call from a Danish newspaper. Who was, they were very interested in what had happened here and wanted to talk to ... wondered if we had a student from Denmark and we did. And I got a hold of him and he talked to them. And in fact he got his way paid home to be interviewed on Danish television, but they were on strike so he never got interviewed. But anyway, I mean calls like that. The Harvard "Crimson" called and they wanted to know what it was like here. It was just more availability. We often had three and four people on the phones in here just talking to parents. And many students had gone home Friday night or Saturday and then Sunday they were calling back to say "Are we going to have classes? Should we come back?" And of course by that point, it had been decided not to hold classes, basically because we couldn't assure people that the faculty members would be there. So just an awful lot of time spent on the phone and talking in person with people. And uh I had gone into the airport on Sunday, by the way. I called in there. Umm, I couldn't get through because one of the airlines had gone on strike and it was just unreal to get through to the umm airlines to talk with them. Finally, I had to call the baggage department at Allegheny in Harrisburg because of the speaker we had coming for the workshop on Saturday had to get back and we didn't know whether to rent a car or send her to Washington or take her to Harrisburg. We couldn't get through o the airport to find out if the planes were flying. So on that Sunday... I talked to the baggage people at like 9:00 that morning, and they said the airport is operating normally. So, I drove into the airport on Sunday and I did not feel threatened by any... It was interesting because things seemed fairly normal to ... they seemed normal to a little under-busy. But the airport was operating, people were coming and going, you would have never known anything was wrong. It was an interesting feeling to be driving down that road that goes to the airport, that new road, that you overlook TMI (laughs). So we parked and saw our visitor off. A student and I took the guest speaker in. And came on back and I didn't feel in any danger during the time.

INT: Ok, did you have any ideas about how it was best to behave in a situation like this? Moral, moral, ethical type of feelings, religious ideas?

NAR: I suppose, as I said earlier in the interview, each person has to make his or her own decision on, you know, whether they're going to stay or leave. I think no matter what, a person should think through what the possibilities are and all. And make their own decision for how they were going to act. And as I said, I felt safe staying. I didn't feel... not that I would have stayed if there had been a major catastrophe. I would have

hoped that we would have had the warning and been told to leave. But, I really felt it was important not to panic and try to act responsibly. And umm, I hope that's what I did.

INT: Ok, at the time, did this event bring to mind any past experiences of any kind?

NAR: Not really.

INT: No, ok, did anything like this ever happen to you before?

NAR: No.

INT: No, do you think it happened in history?

NAR: Well, I'm sure that there may have been things of this type. I mean, not a nuclear accident, but times when people felt in danger by some type of natural thing like one of the volcano eruptions or... I suppose, I've lived through some close calls in tornados and uh in some ways I suppose it did bring a little of that feeling. You had no control of the situation. You hoped that it did not affect you personally. When I say "lived through close calls", I've seen tornados, they've happened where I've been. I've never been in the path of it, I've never lost property or anything, but maybe spent a couple of hours in a basement, that kind of thing. In a sense, it's a little of the same feeling. Go back and retrieve what I said earlier. Umm, so, I think I haven't had those feelings in this area, this geographical area, but the Midwestern area I grew up is in the tornado belt, so I've had some of those feelings there I guess you'd say. Well, there's a feeling of being frightened. You don't have any control of it and I guess in the tornado sometimes I've felt more life threatened than in this situation because in the tornado you can't go out and get in your car and drive away and here I was hoping we'd have the warning, we could go get in our car and drive away.

INT: Mmm Hmm. Did any TV shows or movies come to mind?

NAR: No. And I enjoyed hearing some discussions, you know, of this kind of project that week when we had sessions. They didn't really to me, no.

INT: How about books or stories?

NAR: Not really. Mmm-mmm

INT: Did you find yourself singing any songs?

NAR: Not that I remember (laughs).

INT: Did you have any daydreams that you remember?

NAR: No.

INT: How about sleeping dreams?

NAR: No, not either. Uh, I found when I would go home and go to bed, I would just click off like that. And then the alarm would go off and I'd get up. I didn't... It surprised me that I didn't have trouble going to sleep. I think I was physically very tired. And part of it was just awfully long hours. And probably some, some tenseness and emotional strain, but no real daydreams or dreams or songs or stories, no.

INT: Have you had any since?

NAR: No.

INT: No, and your sleep was not disturbed?

NAR: No, I didn't get as much of it. And I'd wake up very tired in the morning. I can remember waking up that Sunday morning knowing I had to check and what was I going to do about getting that person to the airport. And kind of dreading feeling like how are we going to get her back, she's got to get to Boston. But I reacted in this like I have in some other crisis situations, in that umm I just keep going until I get very tired and then I just go to bed and go to sleep and then I get up and start going again. There's not the time to relax and let off the steam kind of thing.

INT: What kind of changes happened to the people around you during the incident? Did you notice any?

NAR: The umm main thing I found was really here in the week after or the week I should say, starting Sunday or Monday.

INT: During the "radiation vacation"?

NAR: Yeah, right. Once we were kind of feeling like there was not a real imminent danger, which sort of was on that Tuesday I remember. The people who had stuck around, people were enjoying each other. And we had things like those T-shirts and faculty and administrative people were in the dining hall and I think in a lot of ways everybody had sort of weathered a real crisis situation together and that was a common bond. And umm so it was that kind of a change I guess I would say was... As far as at home and all, I didn't notice anything that different.

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

NAR: No, I don't.

INT: How about do you think it changed yourself in any lasting way?

NAR: Umm, not really, except to...uh, I guess I can't point out how it would have changed me. Umm, on the whole, I guess as I look back, I felt like I did the right things

during it and that there are certain things you just have to accept and do a certain way. And as I said, I feel like you ought to act responsibly especially if other people are counting on you. I mean I think it would have been bad if I'd have just panicked and left, just because umm other people were trusting things and were staying. So, in that way, it may have. But I can't just pinpoint how. I suppose it makes me question nuclear energy and all that. But I don't know how that's a change in me really. Maybe the one change would be not just accepting blindly people's explanation of things, uh especially when it comes to things that are of a magnitude that none of us have any real background in.

INT: Ok, did you hear any jokes about radiation or Three Mile Island?

NAR: There were, but I can't remember them.

INT: Did you see any posters or graffiti or anything like that?

NAR: No, I enjoyed helping judge the t-shirt contest, but I can't... and there were some very clever things there. I think everybody was kind of umm ... once the tension was over, say on Tuesday, a little bit, people were making jokes and relaxing a little bit and all. But I can't just, I'm sure at the time I could have probably repeated some. I remember some of the t-shirt slogans, but...

INT: Which ones do you remember?

NAR: The ones I remember were the "I survived Three Mile Island" and "Gone Fission" and those four or five winning ones. "I'm Radiant" was the one. But that's it. There were probably fifty, seventy-five of them that I hope were turned over to you.

INT: So do I. Did you hear any new words or funny sayings?

NAR: No, that one I mentioned, that "Gone Fission" was kind of cute. The F-i-s-s-i-o-n on a sign instead of fishing. Umm, probably new nuclear terms that I ... I mean we didn't walk around talking about "core meltdowns" and now we talk about that like it's anything we've known about for years. Course the *China Syndrome* movie had come out and so people were using those words all along. But I just can't pick any out of the blue. I probably could have closer to the time, but...

INT: Why do you think there was so much joking going on?

NAR: I assume it was a release of tension and once it was, looked like the things were not going to be a catastrophe scope.

INT: Do you remember any joking from other crises like maybe umm Kennedy assassination or that type of thing?

NAR: I... basically I can remember from other kinds of things that once the crisis passes, it is a tension release. But I can't give you examples, yeah.



INT: Have you developed an opinion about nuclear energy?

NAR: Well, I've developed a questioning attitude about it. Uh, yeah, I have some real concerns about it. I still don't feel like I know a lot about it. But I do have some real concerns about it, just as we read what's happening with other... They had problems with the Peach Bottom plant which isn't very far from here. They found a crack in the other, I say the other reactor, I'm not sure where the crack was at TMI even. Uh so, uh, and again, I've seen *China Syndrome* since then and I think that's a very realistic movie. So I do have some real concerns about nuclear energy. So I would say not that I'm pro or anti. Before, I just accepted it as a way of life. I don't do that now. I would have real questions about safety factors and all of it.

INT: Is there anything else you'd like to say or that I may have forgotten?

NAR: Uhh, no. I guess a couple things. I don't know if whether you interviewed Diane Ronnigan at all. Diane had an interesting experience. She was rushing back to help us with that workshop on Saturday and I really appreciated her dedication to come through when she agreed to something because she could not get a flight from Pittsburgh to Harrisburg. She'd been in Canada for a workshop and she came, flew into Pittsburgh. She could get to Pittsburgh, but she couldn't get on to Harrisburg because she was returning on Friday when the things were really up in the air. And the, you know the, flights were cancelled for a while and everything. And she rented a car and drove on back just feeling like I'm going to go do what I'm supposed to do. But it was interesting the reactions that she got from people. Like why would you go back to Pennsylvania and that thing. And the same thing happened to my husband who came back on Sunday night. People could not believe that he would come on to Pennsylvania. And he said, "well, my family's there. I want to go on back and be with them." Umm it's interesting how it was perceived outside of us and it goes back to things I said earlier in the interview about the media and what people in Boston and Philadelphia and Los Angeles were reading about it. So I think those are, are reflections I have. Uh, I can't really think of other things I want to say.