



# **Voices**

## **OF OUR REGION**

Interviewee: **Barbara Butler**

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Interviewers: **Athena Aardweg, Judy Barricella**  
**& Tony Buba**

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Voices of Our Region  
Barbara Butler  
June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008

~~Voice 1: The way we start is by you giving us your name and um where you're from and a little bit about your family.~~

~~Barb: OK, My name is Barbara Elaine Butler, I am the fifth child of about six children, um the one who gets the most attention, I'm the one who gets the most gifts at Christmas.~~

~~Voice 1: Wow~~

~~Barb: Ha ha ha. I, uh, have been living in Pittsburgh all my life, other than that, um, I was born here March 17<sup>th</sup>, 1964. Um, like I said I'm the fifth girl of six children, a big family of eight. Um, other than all that. I'm, uh... you want to hear my family?~~

~~Voice 1: Well tell, where did you grow up?~~

~~Barb: I grew up in Penn Hills.~~

~~V1: Okay~~

~~Barb: I grew up in Penn Hills. Other than all that I ended up well, when I was about seven years old I started hearing voices, um they did not start, they told me never tell anybody, so I kept it a secret and I didn't tell anybody. But then when I turned thirteen I started having symptoms and then when I had the actual nervous breakdown in the hospital my mother caught it real quick. And that was when I was fifteen. And my mother I said how did you know that I heard voices cause they told me keep it quiet. She said when you started talkin to the ~~uh-uh~~ Spanish doctor in French, excuse me the French doctor, no, no, when you start talkin to the Spanish doctor in Spanish, when you took French in high school my mother said she recognized the symptoms she took me out of, she took me to the hospital. And like I said I had a nervous breakdown in the hospital. Once I got into, once I became uh, I was schizophrenic the whole time. And like I said she, she picked it up, picked up on that and took me to the hospital and the doctor comes out and says oh your daughter, your daughter speaks such fluent Spanish. And my mom said, "no she doesn't speak Spanish, she speaks French." And he says, "no, no, no, no she just had and ar, very articulate conversation with me in Spanish. So they it was a Spanish voice so they put me in the hospital. Well after that particular day I mean I felt fine. After that particular day um it was around the month of October 1979 and I'm sure you guys all know this term catatonic and I'm not too sure about it because I was a another thing my family doesn't talk about it.~~

~~V1: Umhum~~

00:02:41.610

Barb: Nobody talks about it. So, but they, my mom I don't know how long maybe four days, a little bit, more than one day I was catatonic which means (unintelligable) acting really stiff. I thought I was going through rigamortis, I didn't know. (laughter)

V1: (laughter)

Barb: I was really stiff you know (laughter) I was just, all I can remember was just all I can remember was being very, very, very stiff. And my mom's crying and she come home and my sister said uh, somethin's wrong with Barbara, somethin's wrong with (unintelligable) and then my, my one sister, I call her my smother, she's my sister-mother. After my mom passed she took over. So, but at but this is what I did with her. Now I like I said I was fifteen and catatonic for maybe two more two days or so or maybe four days I can't really know. Like I said they don't talk about it. And so I told my sister I told her I said, she's very close to me now. And after my mom had died and I told my sister, I said you know I can remember you bringing me back to earth and she says sh sh she s I says cause you were rockin me like a baby and she said that's all we could do cause you just laid there. So, I told one of my girlfriends I said "Ho that must have been hard on my family to see me like that. She says, "Well what about you, you the one that went through it." And I said "yeah but still it must have been hard." So now , you know she won't even let me go bike riding. It's you know "No no can't do that." They didn't want me in school. When I came home and (eh) a little bit okay. And my mother says um, "Oh don't talk to her about school. No she can't go to (unintelligable) unless she wants to. Don't talk to her about high school. Don't talk to her about boyfriend and don't talk to her about classes or anything. They're like, ma what are we gonna talk to her about. So I'd walk in the room and everybody got quiet. So, it ended up my problem, my mom was like why didn't you just get C's. I was tryin to be a straight A student for life, wanted to graduate with a 4.0 but I didn't. But I came out with my honors. But uh every institution I've went to I have taught. And I did miss my one, I was I was sick for a whole year and hospitalized for a whole year. So after all that, um, every institution I would tutor this or tutor that. Even the job I'm on now I was tutoring people. But besides all that they recognized (unintelligable) they called it you know the schizophrenia, paranoia. Uh, whatever else. You know usually you get the whole...

V1: Umhum

Barb: The whole all different names, people call it different things. I've been on medication since I've been fif, since I was fifteen. I've been working, I've been out the hospital 23 years. I've been working 23 years. Uh, and since I been working 23, it'll be 23 years this May. May it was 23 years. Uh, but the company has been very good. I, my mother let me volunteer for 9 years. I took care of my grandfather and my father and then my mother. I mean I just got my nails done you know I haven't had my nails done 9, since I was 19, I'm 44 years old.

V1: Oh

Barb: Because my father was on, my grandfather was on oxygen, my mother father before he died he was on oxygen. And then my mother was on oxygen before she died. So I did get my nails done that's like cause I'm living on my own right now. But Western Psyc, UPMC they're the best company and I I just treasure them I'll always be loyal.

0:05:54

Barb: So what ended up happening, that part of the thing, everything worked out. So I did volunteer nine years and at that time I was taking care of my grandfather cause there wasn't nothin else to do. My mom she said well maybe this will make me feel better cause there are worse off then you are. And then I would have somebody, somethin' to do constructive.

Voice 1: Um hum

Barb: So what ended up happening, uh, they had passed on and I never left home. But then I left home later and UPMC, uh, its where I started working and I told you it was like I was volunteering for the nine years. Well, when it came time for me to move they were ready for me. Um, and they R, they have a program for RCS Residential Care Services. They were great. When my mother died you should have seen the team I had. I mean you ever see at the zoo you know they have that little tiger who has a cat well or has a cougar the mother didn't want and the tiger just said go ahead and nurse em all. That's how the people, my counselors, they had a team of women, they flew right in when it was time. Didn't want to talk to nobody but somehow they talked to me. They flew right in. A great support team, about fifteen women. Aboutfifteen women. Okay, so when my mother died, that was real hard, its real hard when you lose your mom. But I was headed for a stroke when I lost my mom.

V1: hmmm

Barb: So, like I said they swooped in and they'd still been there you don't miss your appointments and stuff, things like that. And so what ended up happening after all that and I've been living on my own for about (sniff) maybe 38 months I'm not sure. But I got the diabetes. Now since I got the diabetes they make me a runner at the place uh where I work so I can run back and forth to the hospital. I'm on the outpatient down on Forbes, Forbes Avenue and we go back up to O'Hare which would be 80811 I think for the the patient (unintelligable)

V1: Um hum

Barb: The patients part where the inpatient, I'm down the outpatient and it's so nice cause sometimes I go up there to do in, to do uh deliveries. Okay. They make me a runner so when I do deliveries, I'm on this side instead of that side so its kinda fun. So then another thing, they (th) and I have the diabetes I got the diabetes off my mother, it could be, I was all of the above. I was gonna get it, the way I ate, my mother had it and the and the medicine, so I was gonna get it.

V1: um hum

Barb: Somehow I was gonna get it, I got it yeah I got it.

V1: Um hum

Barb: So I have it, uh so so so since the diabetes is good. I have a A1C of uh 5.2. I've been and (unintelligible) person the whole time. I've only been on medication for my diabetes (tsssss) about two and a half years, they took me off 1:56 in the afternoon, August 23<sup>rd</sup> last year, 2007. And this August it'll be a year on the August 23<sup>rd</sup> on my exercise and diet but guess what, the insurance pays for Curves. Nkay, so I've been goin' to Curves for two years. I've lost about forty pounds, I'm on their honor roll.

V1: Hmmm

Barb: I lost forty pounds, my A1C did go down significantly. You have, I found out in this lifetime you gotta stay focused. And, oh you can have popcorn and ev once a week, I says no you can't.

V1: (unintelligible)

Barb: You can have, no you can't. And I was so proud about myself cause the "wor" at the best I was 5.0. I was always a normal person but I was 5.0 without the medic, no with the medication. I was 5.8 without the medication. And a couple derailments, you know like...

V1: um hummmm yeah

Barb: ...detours like popcorn here and listening to this person. The doctor says just, you know right from wrong. Like I don't think my doc, my phys my physical doctor gonna like me eatin' popcorn. He said, do what you know is right and I was so proud of my 5.2 because I knew could have been better. I was so proud because I stayed focused and I didn't do it. My my my uh motto for diabetes is that and I learned this in high school... I thought I never use it...if it tastes good spit it out it ain't good for you but if it doesn't taste good go ahead a swallow it probably good for you.

V1: (laughter)

Barb: That means no pop...

V1: yeah

Barb: Anything with a taste I threw out, I threw out my ketchup. I threw out my...

V1: Oh, ketchup

Barb: I threw, Uh huh, I threw that's right, my

Second file

Barb: ketchup. I threw out my uh, lets see, mayonnaise. Oh, my mom would use it. I never never liked it. I just put it on my sandwich. And I kept the mustard. But I ate salads, I ate, my my day and there, and there go UPMC again they they had me salads. They you know had this little store they put together.

0:00:18:137

Barb: They have me (s) they have me, they got my salads ready for me. They pay for Curves and like I said they moved me. Western Psych has done a lot for me.

V1: hmmm

Barb: And then they moved, they took care of me the whole time. Its been, its been about 29 years. I've been on my medication. I do, I do take a lot of pills. I do not you know skip much, I only skip about 25 times. And I get a shuttle to work. There's a shuttle in the back of the house, he has to

V1: oh

Barb: he has to (wor), he has, its called Residence Inn the Marriot behind where that

V1: Yeah

Barb: place you know Moorewood Towers. He has to make his rounds so he has to pick me up. And then I get a ride free.

V1: Oh

Barb: So the nine years I feel that really paid off. You know a lot of people (grunt) I don't wanna volunteer nah I don't wanna volunteer. But (unintelligable) paid off. Now when I'm living with my sister waiting on housing, had a 52 month wait on housing and they have uh rehab classes so I took all of them. I'm done with them. Um, other than that uh, uh, so so s uh, living with my brother in law. So I this, now this the, this is close to the end. What happened was um...

V1: (laughter)

Barb and V1: (loud crash and laughter)

Barb: Sorry, what happened, what happened with him he he helped me with my OCD because he would be at the house and I wasn't scared of of you know lockin, you know bein', I would always check my locks and everything.

00:01:35:00

Barb: But with him, and stuff like that cause I have the OCD also.

V1: Yeah

Barb: But anyway, make a long story short with him you didn't, it got to the point one day the first day I spent there my day off Friday and I didn't want to sit around, he's married to my sister and her lit, they have a little boy, and I didn't feel like you know drinkin' tea with him and his boys all day.

V1: Um hmhhh

Barb: (Unintelligible) his boys friends would come over. He works on the weekends or his own boss. And I said you know I won't I didn't wanna you know hang with dem. And I said (unintelligible) I want y'all my (?mornin boss?) I said it would be nice if you know you could just keep me busy cause my sister gets off at five and I get off at ten after twelve and I don't want to be home at one o'clock in the afternoon sippin' drinks or co cocoa or whatever we were doin' with the guys at the house. That happened in one day. And she said okay, so (unintelligible) I'll babe it was like they babysat me. You know I didn't have nowhere to go you know. and then my sister, she be comin' home and (?I wonder?) she come home and see me sittin' there sittin' around drinkin' and lookin' with the boys

V1: um hmhhh

Barb: and stuff, flirtin' and I says you know that's not me. Then I said when I get to work, I want to be somewhere uh productive. You know they have those little uh what dem things, little drop in centers

V1: um hmhhh

Barb: you know you sit around you talk to the (?guys?) you talk to the women.

V1: yeah yeah

Barb: You socialize, I'm not a good person

V1: okay

Barb: socially. And even the diabetes is ruinin' that. But that's okay, I'm comin' around. But what happened was I got four, about three promotions that that month. Okay, now I when I was like I said they would babysit me. Now everybody else (banging noise) they waitin' for a job and stuff. Well the program that I was on, I don't know if you all ever knew it was called the Epics program, I was in it for about seventeen years. It was and Epics program,

computer program. Dr. Hogardy, (Doc) Debra Green(?) (00:03:13) I don't know if y'all know dem people, but anyway it was their...

V1: Epics?

Barb: um hmm. Epics program, it's a computer

V1: for a

Barb: and you play games

V1: okay

Barb: It's a it's just to test your cognitive ability.

V1: oh okay

Barb: and stuff like that. So what ended up happening we we would have that and so they did babysit me. They really literally kept me and I said I want something constructive to do when I come here too. I don't wanna sit in no drop in center. I want somethin' constructive to do. So I'm walkin' all around and you're not allowed to volunteer and you're not allowed to work at the same time.

V1: okay

Barb: Its illegal. Its illegal. So what happened too much of a good thing like diabetes(?) to much of a good thing you know. So you sittin' around and I w I went upstairs I go upstairs and I kept getting' my boss's water. So two of the bosses came to me, I was amongst the workers, okay and there was a water tank you know the you know the what's that you know

V1: polar water

Barb: Yeah, yeah yeah polar, yes ma'am, yes ma'am. So, this, I got caught. After (?unintelligable?) been workin' seventeen years I was like oh my God I ah gonna lose this job. And I got caught, I had the evidence in my hand. I had two water bottles in my hands and so the two bosses said I heard you was askin' for work. I s, she said you're still volunteerin'. Uh huh. She said but I heard you was askin' for work I said uh uh. I said at first ah, not at first I would come get the water. They say what're you doin'. You need you goin' downstairs and I said yeah you need anything. And then they said, Oh okay go get me a candy bar. I said okay. And then the boss, two bosses came and confronted me and I was holdin' holdin' the glass. The two two the two glasses in my the two bottles in my hand cause she would use the same bottle, my boss. Oh, she was somethin'. She would use the same bottle the same, the same bottles everytime she would drink. And I just go upstairs and rinse them out and wash em and get em and fill em back up. Or I go I had the evidence in my hand she said so I heard you ask for some work. I said not at first they ask me and I said later and I said well I'm not doin' anything do you need anythin'. Yeah go get me a candy bar.

Oh, well, you're volunteerin' again aren't you and I said uh huh. She said well (stuttering) you, we like people like you, but we like to pay people like you. That's the second, see I got hired by mistake. I volunteered (unintelligible) then they asked me did I wanna get, uh, get paid for it. So then I like I said I still had the evidence in my hand. I was like I don't, Oh God what am I gonna do. After seventeen years I (?) ruined it, so then they hired me okay. Well, one of my best friends was also a coworker her husband was had her husband was in a nursing home. She got ran over by a car. It was in the news. She got ran over by a car and she was in the same nursing home he was in. So I took her job. Then, he died. So then she had to go through that. So I, I wanted to give her back her job I don't know if I took her job or what. But, we're both workin'. We're very good friends. Its like second family even actin' like family. Fightin' actin' just like family. So so so so then after all that, um well the first position I took cause the one girl quit and she said there w there is and opening and we like to pay people like you. So, that was the one, uh this is in April, the whole month I got like three promotions. (00: 06:19.926) Then the next time she said when you move out we will double your salary. That was the second promotion. Then the the (unintelligible) now I'm on phones. So there was like three promotions in this in just one month. Uh huh, its bein' at the right place at the right time. And I was sittin' in the drop in center like one day and the girls, and I said yeah and they made me a runner cause I had the diabetes opened my big mouth. I wanted that job. Well, you can't be sittin' there drinkin' all day and pop you can't afford. Cigarettes you can't afford. People ask me, they want a job, okay, (unintelligible) and I'll say well I've all uh, uh, I don't even get the word out. I've all uh, uh and and I said you know well you know they uh, that's what happened you asked me how I got it and that's what happened. (An unintelligible name) was talkin' to me and Miss Lanford was talkin' about volunteerin'. But then another thing, same thing with the diabetes Oh Barbara I put, I took down uh I was, the biggest I ever was was about 250. Now I do see a diabetic uh educator. I see anybody that can help me. And they're all willing, you know, to find out, but this is such a what's the word, you know, it's kinda like really popular now to be a diabetic. It's uh, what's that word you know uh, I can't think, well anyway.

V1: You go to the diabetes institute there.

Barb: Yes, yes ma'am.

V1: At UPMC

Barb: Yeah and I and I talked to, I talked to, I was in (unintelligible) study but they left me hangin'. Now I'm workin' with a guy named Mr. Marty upstairs where I work (stuttering) in the pharmacy I guess. No, its like a hosp it's a medical office. (stuttering) cause when we get sick we just go upstairs.

V1: Um hmmm

Barb: So the ladies said, for my dia, my um diabetic educator she would be my nutritionalist she said my my my (laughter) she says my cholesterol is lower then hers (laughter). So I be getting' residents coming in...

V1: laughter

Barb: New People to see me and stuff.

V1: Yeah

Barb: Eh eh eh become my new residents every June we get another one.

V1: Um hmmm

Barb: And she like cholesterol she says twice, she says, her cholesterol's lower than mine and then (laughter) it's not funny but it is.

V1: (Laughter)

Barb: So then they're always laughin' at me and I found out, another thing I found out in this world if you can't find, if I can't find it in the store, I will definitely make it. I had to make this because they, there's no black and white

V1: Oh

Barb: earrings to go, you know what I mean.

V1: yeah

Barb: Without payin' and arm and a leg

V1: right

Barb: and it breaks when you get home.

V1: (laughter) yeah yeah

Barb: These ain't broke in twenty years. And then another thing I found out, I found out that uh, in my job situation I do everything that no one else wants to do.

V1: uh huh

Barb: And then you always have somethin' to do. (unintelligable)

V1: yeah

Barb: But like I said, the company really helped me out. Uh, UPMC's a great company. I mean I I rely on them, I mean they got my salads for lunch, a ride home, pay for fares if I don't get a ride home. And and they've just been wonderful and very supportive. And they still are. You should see it, I have a, I have a team uh maybe about twen, I'm always around

doctors and stuff. So I'm always getting the little stuff. (Stuttering) It's just amazing. It is just truly amazing. And in church they uh, I love to go to church, and in fact one of my nurses said you know you better go to church. They're havin' they have a health fair so I can't, they kicked me out of glucose cause I (laughter) I won that one. They kicked me out of uh, what's the other thing glucose, cholesterol I can't do that one. And they (laughter) so they put me in weight so I'm winnin' so far (laughter).

V1: Well good I think that's the goal.

Barb: But like I said I didn't know I had, my mom had the diabetes she kept it a secret.

V1: Oh

Barb: So that's how it was and that's practically a nutshell. I went from being catatonic to gettin' a ride to work everyday and I think it's been good. (00:10:00.040)

V1: So

Barbara – Wave 3

V. 1: What uh, so how many years have you been workin' at UPMC, gettin' paid?

Barb: Mm. I think they got me down for oh like see (?6?) and do da math, let's see...I think I'm down to, let's see, I got a gift. We had to to 7 years for the 5 yr. gift. and I'm down 11, 10 years Maybe 10.

V. 1: Ok, wow, ok.

Barb: 'Cause my sister is like, she's like some people.... some people don't get hired after they volunteer. You know some people'll volunteer the rest of their lives (both talk at once). But UPMC they're good. They, they, they hired their temps and they, well as far as I'm concerned, they hire their temps and day hire their volunteers back in the day, and there's another problem. Back in the day thee that's how we did it, you know you volunteer for awhile and when the job came up you just took it. But they don't do... if I had to find a job today or tomorrow, I'd be in trouble ... 'cause I don' know nothin' bout (unintelligible.). and an st I think we just did thee the uh the uh... the you have to the interview online things like that and I'm not gonna do that... Bidwell School, yeah, Bidwell School told me that I could do anything under the sun, which I think is kinda strange 'cause I missed my...missed a lot of school in being sick... Only reason... one of the questions I didn't know 'cause I just didn't have that class. And I was gonna to go to Bidwell, and but my mother was dying, so the 1<sup>st</sup> day of class.... sshh.... I called the ambulance to my mother for my mother and she had to you know going through the dying process. But other than all that, she... it's um... I could do anything I wanted. Like I said they had me teaching piano, algebra and stuff like you know little things here and there, but I was always teaching and never really enjoyed being a student. And my parent didn't, nobody wanted me to go school, nothing. No. It got to the point, it was just like, uh, like the medication I'm on now. I can practically do my job

is easy (laughter in background), and it's a lot of fun. I can practically do my job with my eyes closed... So you know I (unintell.) You know that after this interview. (laugh) (2:06) So they put me on the phone, so we got about 300 calls to make... And you know I do talk fast. I ss speak very fast. and my boss and my got in trouble and she said you're you're just dis lady says you're just as talkin' too fast. (unintell.) talkin' so fast. and I'm just...I'm sleepy all the time and I wake up around 3 o'clock in the afternoon but da or in when in the morning going to the kitchen, ok. You go into the kitchen and yrrr half there and then you gotta take more pills, so they're tryin' to deal with it, but the problem, they're sayin' my problem may be anemia and I kept (unintell.) the pills. I forgot about anemia (2:39) But other than that, you know, everything's going really well. Dare I mean yuh you know, yi git out the house every day... Yeah, it's different. You know what yu wonder what the (unintell.). She has a good word for it. I tell you 2 words for it. Functioning. You know what I mean? The woman at the place and an I love to clean. and and the woman said da problem would be if you start not wantin' to clean, that's the problem. Nk. (3:08) Functioning. Uhh. Lord have mercy. That's a big word in my life, you know. On the thorazine I was MMhhmm. You wouldn't even recognize me. Thorazine took the voices away now I'm on clozapine (unintell.) and I still don't hear the voices. But when I was on thorazine, you didn't hear nothing. Nothing. You your voices 'er gone and so was a lot a other stuff...y'y'er'y'er do it very emotionalist, you didn't cry, laugh. Y' din smile much. I wake up in the morning wid a smile but not back then. (3:41) Another thing about the uh uh th'th are that th'the voices are there but they kinda turn back. (unintell.) you can hear em day go like, they'll go shhh and I go shhh ...like that. They'll go (unintell) then when I'm busy doin things, that's wha we was talkin' bout out there...Now she gives it a good word. She calls it a passion... Um Miss Lanfry, she calls it a passion, the art work that I like. (?But I didn all that?) I mean uh uh right now the last class I have is the pottery class Maryann Shawnacy ...they is some wonderful stuff, we'd da advanced class... I don' do much."

#### V. 1 This at Bidwell?

4:16

Barb.: No, this is at Western Psych. No, I never did get to go to Bidwell. After my mom died and like the main thing when I like 'n Mrs. Lanford call it 'passion', the passion of it all...And my had bad, we had had interview from one of the doctors and they they paid us some money and gave us our lunch ... and they with the interview was dealin' with people who prescribed the medication but they never got to stalk to people who had initially followed the medication, tha' how you do that? You go I said I have a pill boh...but how d'you remember? Well, you wake up in the morning, you brush your teeth (unintell.) do your ritual and there go the minutes and you gotta go ahead and do it. And we was she was talking about me cutting my hand so when I start her and you.... we were starting with a panel of nurses and doctors and it was my turn talking I said "Did you that schizophrenia has 13 letters?...So and today's Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, right?" And then she said weh and she said I said "Yeah and, uh, because you count."

(5:14) And that's another OCD thing, OK...uh but like I say, but other than that mostly I do take my medicine religiously. There's a if I don' (?there's?) um I mean I do tell somebody. I tell somebody. But I moved out. Usually when someone dies in my family, I go into the hospital. Not this time around. There's been a lot of deaths, but not this time around.

V. 1: Good for you.

5:41

Barb.: When I found out, well I go to church a lot and the kids go crazy. And I told my sister, I said “Don’t get scared.”. Usually they get scared when I say I feel like...like I did before I got sick...I say “Don’t get scared.”, but I do feel like I before I got sick...which is ... my normal self. Okay? And she says “What do you mean, don’t get scared?” Because every time I say that, something goes wrong. But it’s been 23 years. And it’s been 23 years working, too, and that helps, too. When I started volunteering, it’s getting me out the house everyday, things like that. (Other voices in background saying “yeah”) And my family right now, well, none of us are gone. Kids why my... my people my, uh... My family’s pretty small now, it was pretty big. But, uh, so... I have a lot of nieces. Like I, remember I told you I get all the presents for Christmas. But I have a lot of nieces and nephews. And I have a lot... I don’t have any biological children, and my mother never wanted me to have biological children. And another thing, I never wanted them. I couldn’t wait to move to Oakland. I told them, I said. I said well I’m in Oakland now and if the shuttle doesn’t come I can just walk to work and they started laughing my boss is a cracking up. Ooh, Barbara ain’t got no life. Barbara wants to come to work. Barbara (laughs) I never... I never missed, I haven’t missed work in 20, in 20 years straight, the 1<sup>st</sup> 20 years. I don’t think I could do another 20. Well that includes the volunteer. (others laugh) Straight like that. I ain’t never (laugh) I don’t think I could do that again. and I never got a cold or nothing. I just was going, going, going, going. Yeah and I found out I thought it was just since my mom died. She’s been gone since 2002. But it’s been like, for 20 years. Sunday Monday Saturday Sun... So when my when it was time 52 month on wait on housing, I didn’t know how long ...and I filled my schedule up with rehab. I took, I took they have like they have like spirituality class I took about 4 or 5 times. I took cooking class 4 or 5 times, shopping class 4 or 5 time. I everything I did. Now the only class I have left is...uh...pottery on Mondays, which is good ‘cause it we um we worked, we get paid at the end of the... in November we have a schizophrenic conference and I probably seen some of y’all there. And they have the schizophrenic conference down at the Marriott to give us lunch at penna the top of the house the top of the hotel. And we sell our work. I’m the main seller. I sold the most. One time we sold like one thousand. Oh yeah. (7:56) Then we raise the prices, too. (laugh)

V. 1: That’s a good point. (laugh)

Barb.: So, so, yeah, so I’m the main seller. And I would say I was supposed to be... the woman who brought me to this program, she said, well...I was supposed to get, I needed a certificate from pottery. But the teacher refused me. You know why? She said “If I give you a certificate, you’ll have to have a certificate of completion. And I don’t want you to quit the class.” Which is so sweet. It was so sweet. And she said I don’t... but I need you. I don’t want you to quit the class, so, so on, so on. And she had 6 floors. she gets us we, ever have flowering insights? (8:34) We did that. We ...they had a showing over at UPMC (all talking at once).”

V. 1: “ You were in it this year, huh?”

8:40

Barb.: The flowering insights? Mmm mm. I haven't done anything. You know why? We're in the advance class. Girlfriend. My... one of my girlfriends can make a fountain, you know, and then you have the descending, uh... and it's all shiny 'cause of the glaze. ...We're in the advanced class...you know what I've been doing for 2 years?

V. 1: What?

Barb.: Making clay for the next class. Yeah. When I ran out of ideas I started making clay for the next class. Yeah, that's what's happened. So, so I mean, we had we ran out of clay and we ordered but nothing was there. Everybody wants the new clay. And you ever see buckets of concrete? Now my 1<sup>st</sup> job, I've been on parties for like 30 years. 29 years. And you know, you it's better for me. I turned it around. "Oh, I'm been sick 28 years. Bleh, bleh, bleh, bleh." Now I say "I'm doin pottery for 29 years." But I have been sick twenty nine years. You, y'all know, whenever you get sick like that, you gotta... what they do, throw it in your face. Oh ya gotta make a cup. Oh, ya gotta make a (all talking at once) They throw it at you. (Laughing) (9:44) They be throwing every time you go in the hospital there's a pottery wheel downstairs. (Laugh by voices) I could not stand it. And then after my father died, he was the potter, but he had his own recipes. I don't have none of his recipes. And he... I tell you...

Barb: Make a cup.

V1: Yeah, right, right.

Barb: It used to drive me nuts. And don't insult me either. I went to McDonalds one day and I was dirty. I'm always dirty. And and I get it everywhere, and she the girl said "Ooh you're filthy, what you doing here." She said, I said I'm in "I was in pottery class, sorry about my... being inconvenienced." And she said "Oh that's okay make me a bowl." I said don't insult me.

V1: (laughter)

Barb: A bowl, a bowl of all things.

V1: Yeah

Barb: I mean right now I got, who do I got down there I got Yoda.

V1: Oh

Barb: Yeah, Yoda's done he's my second Yoda. And Yoda's down there. And he's kinda cute with his head tilted like this. (giggling) little (unintelligable) He's cute. He's cute. But I found out my my teacher she said I'm a wizard at copying, excellent at sketching. Then I found out that I was also good at physical, the physical stuff like that. But seriously though,

(unintelligible) goin' make me a cup and I was like and then the girl at Curves she said what you, why don't you make uh uh, make me a bowl I need a gravy bowl. I said don't insult me. We into real stuff.

V1: Yeah

Barb: You know but the only thing to stop me was the, the um clay buckets we had about three of them it took two years to get that clay down. I mean like kneading it like bread.

V1: Oh wow.

Barb: That's the fun part. You know one of the girls she said, one of the ladies she said that's a daggone shame she got you making clay. And I said but this is the fun part. I mean you put it in your hand.

V1: Yeah.

Barb: And and its like bread you know.

V1: Yeah.

Barb: It's like a religious kinda thing. You know that's the potter I'm the clay.

V1: Yeah, that's very (unintelligible).

V2: Yeah yeah.

Barb: That's the potter and I'm the and he's and I'm the clay. And it's the and you have to I mean its like the consistency of oatmeal first...

V1: Uh huh yeah.

Barb: Oatmeal. What I do is they throw the rejects in there that haven't been fired and then they add water and so then a week later, I only have it once a week, and at first its consistency is like uh hard burnt Cream of Wheat.

V1: Uh huh (00:01:49.790)

Barb: Hard toast, okay. Then it turns to Cream of Wheat if its too bad, watery Cream of Wheat. And when its real nice its, ah, like oatmeal and bread. And when you're done it should be bread. And I make about, I make 'em about that big. You know about as big as my thumb. And then that that'll work. Yeah so, yeah and then I make about mmmmmm, fifty yards a class. Fifty, ah what'd I call 'em. Fifty rods a class not yards. Fifty rods a class. And that that's what I been doing for the past two years.

V1: Hmm.

Barb: Uh huh. Cause see we had, see they had a new class. She has different type of levels.

V1: Right, yeah.

Barb: Uh huh and sometimes the beginning of the class you go in, you go in the afternoon you can't find nothing. Don't let them clean up. (Laughter.) You ain't gonna find nothing.

V1: Yeah.

Barb: But other than all that yeah I love making clay so...

V1: Yeah yeah.

Barb: So I when I go to the conference but they're waiting on the work and the first (unintelligible) well I'll have some work next year. And I said well this year I just been making clay all year. And then, then in the next conference oh I still didn't make anything cause I been making clay all year. (unintelligible) cute little piano Mary said I made too many pianos. She said you stop so I start making somethin' else.

V1: Um hmm

Barb: But other than that (laughter) I told you if I can't, if I can't find it in the store I'll make it in a minute.

V1: Yeah uh huh

V2: Why not?

Barb: (laughter)

V2: Why not?

Barb: That's funny. The another thing that happened along the way, now like I said I was first sick when I was fifteen. I had the last (unintelligible) alopecia. Which is uh like uh early hair loss in women. I only have half a head of hair.

V1: Okay

Barb: Oh yes yeah yeah, I only have half a head of hair. But, thank God that I look at it this way that God did this on purpose. Now watch this I had let me see about five women in my life. Now you know the hair is it right.

V1: Um hmm

Barb: And I, I was t tellin' (laughter and unintelligable words). It, so sorry but its kinda funny.

V1: (laughter)

Barb: Its hillarious. I mean I can laugh at that. A lot of people (laughter) a lot of people don't like half a head of hair. I gotta run around the house with a turban in the wintertime cause, if you can imagine...

V1: Uh huh.

Barb: Its its like a two year old its right there.

V1: Ohh.

Barb: Okay and then this is all bald and I can work with this part. And so what ended up happening I went to Magee and I had uh, been (th) we don't know what it is. It could be a lot of things. It could be my nerves it could be a lot of things. It could be what I'm eating. It could be what I'm not eating. It could be I don't have this. But another thing, the woman down at Magee she says, "Oh things happen for a reason (unintelligable)" and she said "Things happen for a reason. Your mommy gonna be jealous when she goes bald with her chemo." I didn't have no chemo but I, I went bald. And and so what happened, that's what happened my sister's here is down here and mother didn't have to be jealous of me. She did lose her hair when (unintelligable) had more hair than me. Which I love that that was great cause when her her you know when she had cancer when it came back it was really sweet. And when she died she looked good. But besides all that I had a hanging partner, my number one hanginpartner and she got a cancer eleven years ago and I went bald with her. Well I was bald first, I was bald before anyone else was bald.

V1: Um hmmm.

Barb: So this particular girl was my hanging parner. And I never had a hanging partner. So her, she she she died. And she went outta here bald. Umm, so the next person was my mother, and then my boss and that was kinda sad. And, very sad, we were close we were going to retire together. And she left. Uh, and then my cousin and my aunt. So I always had the hair supplies for the baldness part and my aunt couldn't afford a wig so we I would give her some kind of cage or something I forget what they call it. (00:05:31.291) They call it, it was cute it was some kind of um, hat but it got air to a scalp. And she left out of here with more hair than me.

V1: Um hmmm.

Barb: But I'm still bald and I said that's what the Lord did. I said Lord knew what he's doin' cause I love wigs. You know.

V1: Yeah.

Barb: I do (laughter) I mean seriously though.

V1: (Laughter) Uh huh.

Barb: 'Cause I mean it takes a lot. A lot of people wouldn't be able to live without the fact that they don't have no hair.

V1: Yeah.

Barb: And that's just like taboo. But with me you know like I said I did I went bald with all those people who had the cancer. I didn't never had the cancer.

V1: Yeah

Barb: When they got their chemo, when their teeth come out we were bald together. And there wasn't nothing wrong with my mother's hair. She was hanging in there. Well, put a curler on this side, put a put, give me a curler. And I said "Okay, ma." But it was fun though, it was a lot of fun.

V1: Uh huh

Barb: Like I said when she had me taking care of my grandfather and my father my father was in um you know, Wilksburg I don't know if y'all know about that. There was, it was a hospital, turns it into something else. Uh, ho...

V3: Jefferson, Jefferson (it was on?) Penn Avenue.

Barb: Right and there was the at what's that other, dialysis was like where Family Dollar was. And and the other place was the hospital right. Forbes not Metro.

V3: It was Forbes yeah.

Barb: Yeah somethin' like that. Well my father was in that hospital. He wasn't talking. He couldn't talk. And my grandfather had just well I take I go to my aunt's house pick him up with the cab. I didn't even know if I was allowed to do this. And I hop over to my grand, my father and (unintelligable) I hop back over to my grandfather. His dialysis was done in four hours. And I said ma, um, I said ma Bill's not talkin' today. Maybe he'll talk tomorrow, but granddaddy's getting' cranky and he's getting ready.... Okay I said ma can I get... He wants, he wants um what's not Funyuns. He wants uh, uh, uh pigskins. She said give that man anything he wants. So, I said okay ma. Go back home you know, take you know... So it did help me a lot to help, to help somebody else that was way off. Worse off than I was. So I was playing mother, you know running back and that was the years of the nine years of volunteering. And once my father passed, they asked me did I wanna, you know get paid for it. So and then....

V1: Well, good for your mother making you go volunteer.

Barb: Hmmm.

V1: Yeah I said it was a good thing your mother made you go volunteer.

Barb: Yes ma'am. Yes ma'am

V1: yeah

Barb: Yes ma'am... most people wouldn't do that.

V1: Yeah, yeah.... When you were in the hospital for a year that was when you were...

Barb: About nine months.

V1: ...a teenager?

Barb: Yes ma'am I was fifteen. I was fifteen when I went in, sixteen when I came out. I...

V1: Where was it?

Barb: First I started out in Braddock Hospital. I was there for a month. That's when I had a nervous breakdown in the hospital. Thank God I didn't had (unintelligable). But they had, I was in the hospital for a month. I had the nervous breakdown there, but I really didn't know...

V3: On the fifth floor

Barb: Excuse me

V3: Up on the fifth floor at Braddock

Barb: I don't know it was one of them places... I really don't know that one as much as I would know the latter part of my sickness...around April of Western Psych. That was ninth floor. And then Braddock, Forbes Metro that it? Sounds like what I was talkin' about before. Monroeville.

V3: Yeah...That's where they moved to.

V1: Yeah.

Barb: Okay... and then then I do have that right and then in from about I came out I was supposed to come out around March but I kept gettin' sick (00:08:48.633) Everybody thought I was doin' it on purpose...um...about April I think, I came out of Western Psych. But I was there the longest...at Western Psych. And I had a nurse there I won't mention his

name but I had a nurse and I had this nurse for ever since I can remember. He was...I was...He was my first nurse. And they told me I know him better than his mother.  
(Laughter)

V1: Oh

Barb: Yeah, people grow on you like that. But, so yeah, that's how it is in a nutshell.

V1: Yeah

Barb: It's been a journey. It's been a long journey.

V1: So, uh, when you were in the hospital did they have children's wings or something or were you with adults? Do you remember?

Barb: No, yeah yeah... the adolescence unit. Actually, to tell you the truth I was supposed to go to Woodville and throw the key away. Oh yeah they were supposed to send me to Wood....(stuttering)Well, I never would come out of it. Uh, my s, my a sister my I had a whole bunch of family. Back then we were all... a lot of folks. And they told, my mom said, well they said well she can play shuffleboard and she can ride horses. And she can go swimming. But she don't need watched at all times. She got a lot of sisters she can do all that with them. And my mom, you didn't play with her.

V1: Um hmmm.

Barb: Now, when when...

Barbara – Wave 5

Barb.: An (unintell.) he would go back to my nails, right? They was out here. And when I was catatonic I just stay (unintell.) and went crazy, I don't really remember too much. And...they cut them. First time through they didn't cut em. ... Kay? Then I guess they (unintell.). They cut them. The next hospital said I scratch the nurse, but my sister say Barbara, the way Barbara's hand was, there wasn't... I guess it was like the...there's no way that she could have cut a nurse. ...so they clipped them. ...So that I wouldn't hurt myself. That's what they said, but then they said that...then they, they said well we... she scratched the nurse. But...I don't know. All I know is I ain' had no nails, but besides all that, you know, 'cause, you know, I besides all that, that's what went down with that. But other than that, my mom biiihhh ... She's be and like I say now I now... once my mom passed, we would all go to church together you know and everything like that. And when my mother, when my mother pass... I got this one sister... eh well they're all like that. Even my nieces, and they're younger, much, much younger than me, you know, niece age. (1:05) They're all protective. I mean, I wanted to go bike riding tomorrow and my sister won't let me, and even my uh, Miss Mary she she said, she said "Why don't you just go do it and say 'Oh, I had a great time bike riding?'" and she'll kill me. ... and so she don't want me on no bike. With that and her, I said I betcha... I can understand a little bit. I said I know I don't want to

get sick I don't want to get sick again. And I'm not going to get sick again. I'm kinda determined. That's what I's telling you about that that 1<sup>st</sup> interview the lady said, she said, so when you hurt your hand I said so... she asked me if I was suicide. I say I think it was a call for help. It was be about (unintell.) and my hand got cut, I cut my hand. And... I told her I says "You know what though? I don't think I cut my hand again. This was about 2 years, about a year and a half ago. I say I don't think... The pay's like a hundred dollars to talk for and hour. And I say I don't...think I cut my hand again (1:57) That sounds kinda painful. You know, that's what I'm sayin' today, I mean, it does, like 13 slashes on this hand (talking at same time) It's like a it's like, you know it seem like it would be kinda painful...and we ain't had no pencil sharpener at the time, I we was usin' a very sharp knife with a pencil in it, you know, tryin (unintell.) my hand. ... But other than that I was like mm mm, don't think I'm gonna do that again, you know. And like I another thing the alpha and omega, my mom, when she was dying, her medicine made her antsy, s'cuse me. Her med. her medicine made her antsy and my medicine made me sleepy. Very very very sleepy. And that's what I'm trying to tell you bout these phone calls (unintell.) I'm barely woke. And I still talk (unintell.). I try to work with the fact that I'm ...sedated. and it might be the anemia, too, we found out about that like that sometime this week. (2:48) And yeah, and every job I went to: "Is she coming back? When she coming?" And my mom have to get on and my mom's not with me no more. "Well, well Babraba, she's sick right now." "But we need her, you mean she's not coming back?" Like I do little nurses aide jobs here and there they have me running all over the place. And, but like I said when my my, uh, we all separate when my mom died, went to some churches, things like that. And it got to the point now the one....she wants the daughter I think she thinks I am and she's great. She's like she calls me every night. She's wonderful family support with her. She calls me every night. She um... She's taking me shopping. She takes me shopping. (3:33) And she was like if I die today or tomorrow, you'd be fine. Just remember to take a cab when you go shopping. I'm just making your life a litter easier. And other than that, um, it's been pretty good. Yeah. (unintell.) Very supportive.

V. 1: Who's had the biggest influence on your life?

3:51

Bara.: Hm. Me. (Laugh) No, I'm serious because you know what, a lot of times in my life... You know what really happened in the last ...mmm I don't know, it took a while, took a while... but um, ... I have 5 marriage proposals... and well, really, 2. I have another, the one (unintell.) was a proposal I turned it down. Wendy says like why why didn't you just get married? Then the other one, he proposed 4 times. Maybe she'd come around. He proposed 4 times. But other than that... I coulda chased anyone, you know what I mean? Everybody got married, everybody had kids, and I'm like... I was never one, you know I had to be different. I was never one to follow the Jones', keep up with the Jones'. If I hadn't done that I woulda had some hair right now. But seriously though, I don't remember getting (unintell.) but I had all these chemicals, all these pills in me, and that didn't help either. So anyway, so, so to make a long story short, it got to the point where I had to be different. So when it came time for um, courting or whatever, I had some friends here and there, and my self, they even had self-esteem classes, and they really help. And you don't have to get conceited but you know you wanna, you know, be all right. So, what happened, it got to the point. I didn't, I

told my spirituality teacher, I said...it is the rest of the class, I said hers is great, but she goes through all the spirits, she don't, she only just doesn't talk about Christianity. She talks about all of them. And this is a spirituality class. It's not a Christian class. And she's basically Catholic, I think, but anyway so what happened, she say, I say, I told her, I say, "Man!" I was living by myself for about a month or 3 months or so and I said, I like living in you Barbara, you're a lot a fun. And she said "Oh, you got the gist of the class." And I said, "Okay". But, see, I could have followed any of my guys friends, got married, had kids like everybody else. But you know what I finally found out? I found me. You know? Yeah, and a lot... I wanted to be a chemical engineer, so I would... when I went to school for that. And you know you get the nice guys or whatever I not gonna say (unintell.) I mean, it gets to the point ... sometimes things that used to bother you...they don't bother you anymore. I'm 44 and I found that out. And I found out th you gotta stay focused, and then another thing I found out ... I found...me. I found but it would have to be when you really wanna see somebody else beside myself. ....mmm... probably my mother. (6:19) Yeah, and I have a lot of mothers. I have a lot of brothers. I have a lot of mothers, and you know what I mean I always wanted to be the mother that a ...a the child a mother a daughter that the mother would always want. Why would I do that? I've got so many I mean I most of the guys that I know... Me and my mom, we are like this, like this, but you know it, they like...kids. They like grandkids. I'm I'm my mom was like, you know, I personally never wanted kids (unintell.) (laugh) I really never wanted kids, I like it just like it is now 'cause I wanna to be close to the work and woll on they've got a cold today, miss work. They be they be got a headache next week miss work. I never have to miss. I never and they won't even let me... I wanted to go to work today. I wanted to go on Fridays. They won't let me and and ...um on my day off they don't want me in on my day off. They don't want me to come in. But seriously all, I always want... You know what I mean uh. The shuttle's not running I'm like "If I walk it's in the snow and might take me and hour, but I'll get there." I'll be the only one there, but I'll be there... Nnn...so that's I always never wanted children. That was from day one. I always want...they were like "Oh, you're the best..." I just got an honor. Well I hate to brag but I get nominated every year and I win every year. You know, you know (laugh) the one that goes you know the most you know go out your way to do... goes above and beyond, you know how they always do that? Yeah, so we we I got nominated just this month, just this month and I always do. For they got I did have another...the 1<sup>st</sup> job...before I 'on't oh, I's tryin to think I was a way I love waiting on people, I love helping people. I'm a people person...an he calls me in his office and everybody in the office is like into everybody's business. I usually stay to myself. Even me, I was like "What did I do wrong?" He said "Ms. Butler we need you in the room, now." They're like "What she do? She didn't do anything wrong what she do, what she do, what she do?" He called me in there and he said "Ms. Butler, I hear...you been findin' a lot of wallets...since you been here." I used to find something every year. (8:29) They give it to you if you turn it in, after no one comes for it. He says "Ms. Butler I see you uh ...been finding a awful lot o' wallets. Your'e getting uh um...MOT" The lady said "I'm givin' her MOT?" I'm just like, when I found the wallet , you're also takin' the chance when anything's in there...that wasn't in there, it could be blamed on you.... So I'm like, "Ooh my god." It's, what they call it, a moment of truth. They put your name up on a star. My mother wanted it but she couldn't have it. And they put it in your file so if you and me are goin for the same job and you tend to have like a MOT or a couple of them, you'll get paid a little better. But and so what happened, it's sitting up

there and I says, um “Oh god, I really did it this time. MOT. Oh, lord, and I’m havin’ a fit. I’m havin’ a fit.” MOT was the moment of truth. and they hang you a little star up, put you up there. But so that was ‘til th’that’s most of my work I, like I said uh...my life (unintell.) (9:29) That’s my life. I reveals around work. Yeah and I, um, I’m like I said just doing like what I was doing on the volunteering, (unintell.) I’m on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor now, instead of the 4th. That’s the only difference, and the other only difference is that’s it’s a lot more but it’s real basic, real simple, like I said. (9:46) And ain’ it’s true, I basically I mean I have the easiest job and this fun, and uh it’s just like it’s just that I can practically do it with my eyes closed and sometimes I do. Yeah it’s just... I mean seriously. (Laughter). It’s just like I’m on I’m on like 25 pills.

WAVE 5 ends at 10:00

Barbara – Wave 6

Barb.: Now, maybe 23. They took me off a half a blood pressure pills, but they also took me off of uh the (unintell.) which is a diabetic pill. So that would number it put it down to about 23 pills a day.

V. 1: A day?

Barb.: A day, yes ma’am. It’s a lot. It’s a lot, and then with the anemia it’s even worse, so, I deal with it though. I deal with it. I deal with it, I let it go ahead and relax me. (Speaking very quickly.) I don’ want to be talking real fast ‘cause you won’t be able to hear what I say...(laughing) No, I am like that.

V. 1: But it’s like slow it down (laugh).

Barb.: That’s like to calm me down. I just try to work with it. Yeah, ‘cause like I said you wake up in the morning, you’re like... you wake up in the morning...

V. 1: Balance is really...

Barb.: Yeah, but and but it worked. They don’t know what messin’ with the medicine... and once you wake up and and then you gotta hurry and you gotta take like 7 more pills. Now I’m gonna take all 23 at the same time. I take some in the morning, yeah, still in your system. But it’s much... I take anything over thorazine. ... Anything over thorazine, oh my god! It’d knock out everything. Yeah, you don’t hear nothing, you don’t see nothing, you don’t do nothing, much of anything. (1:07) I said like they took that thing. Oh but they still use it though I think it still works. I’m... now I wouldn’t say I try it again but...I mean ... oh, lord, for about 10 years oh, yeah, for about 10 years, oh, yeah, you woulddn’t even recognize me... N...tih...well, not too much withdrawn, but just...

V. 1: ...knock at this door? I don’t know I...

Barb.: Just about (all talking at once)...

V. 1 & 2: like that. What time we what time we supposed to leave? Yeah 4. It's quarter to. Yeah we have to...

1:35

Barb.: Oh is it?

V. 1: Um... Let me um ask you this. Now what do you do here at Working Order?

Barb.: Working Order, we've been working with... I's workin' on Miss Lanfry... um, there's a woman... ok, one of the classes was an entrepreneurial class. And that's what we were workng on. Now I's...we're trying to, what she's going to do is she's gonna is she's... When the time is right,'cause right now I'm in the middle right in the middle of doing something. ... Uh in that order, uh, so, with Miss Lanfry we are trying to... Well, at church, they they're they need teachers. (Softly) It's my purse, thought I kicked you. (2:21) (Laugh.) Sorry. (Laugh.) And, and right now it's like kind of uh... confidentially thing right now, but...we, we're... the church that they want I got a meeting church tomorrow and Ssss., one thing about church, they keep you busy. Something constructive. (Both speaking at once) I go to Sixth Mt. Zion out it out in uh Homewood. And close to (unintell.) Lincoln Ave. area. and so what we're trying to do... Well I'm want to teach a process to the, the kids at church. And that's what we're workin' on. And they need teachers and they singled me out and I told em I love to teach it. You know, and... My sister calls me a walking encyclopedia... seriously, she does. (Laugh). 'Cause I like to talk. I love to talk ... and share my life's experiences... a lot of people wanted me to write a book. That's what I thought y'all was talking about, but then I found out it was the interview. (3:16) But it was on the same order, you know, this is like the 2<sup>nd</sup> one I done. But other than that, um, that's what we're working on at Working Order now and, uh, getting paper work...for a procedure. But besides all that, uhh ... I've been waiting for a while and the church right now doesn't have VBS Vacation Bible School. So you see there a definitely next year I'm on a time schedule. Definitely next year and really it should be the everything should be done at least I hope by August...or...something. Because you don't want, you know, you don't want the kids, I've already had one of the little... I'm her tooth fairy. I had one of the little kids, she, you know, back in the day we get what 10 cent for a tooth? Uh, she say, I say "what do you wan for you tooth?" She said "A dollar." I said "Okay, since you're such a good little girl and you didn't lie. You don't know what inflation is, but I we gotta have some inflation." I give her 5 dollars a tooth. (Laughter in background) (4:16) I'm her tooth fairy so the day of the showing, I had a showing at uh... over at the church and they liked it, even the grown folks want to take my class... and so we're sittin aroun' she's telling me how she loves school, little 5 year old. She's like, Miss Butler, next week can you please bring your 2 little girls and I says I don't have 2 little girls and she says "Well why not? You're so nice." She's lookin' at me. "You're so nice." (Laughter in back.) I's supposed to say I have 2 little girls? So then, we're sitting around and she got me to bring her a gum every week. So and I don't have any kids but I got a lot of kids, got a lot of kids. So we're running around, I don't go to no... I let them come to me. "You have to wear that wig? Why you gotta wear that wig? Huh? Why you gotta wear that wig, you have to wear that?" And then I deal with them... (Laughter) But then see that's just the ones that are nerve-wracking enough to bother me. (Laugh)... So she says, she's

tellin me how she loves school and she loves um ...church, telling me how she loves school in church and she's a good kid. (5:11) She asked her grandmother to watch if I... if she could watch me, I put her in the show. I wanted her to draw the doll. She say that's what we're dealing with, the dolls and pianos. And she say...And I say "Well God don't like you, and I thought you liked God" and she says "I do." I say well "God don't like you being bad like that" and she switches around real quick, so I calmed her down and she start drawing her doll. She put the face on both sides. (5:35) But anyway she started... that's how she got quiet. Anything (unintell.) you were mad at me, she says "I'm gittin me a new tooth fairy." I said "I am your only tooth fairy." But the kids love it and it and so... what's like goin back to ch... the older kids are supposed to be doin pianos and, not radios, what them thing, telephones, stuff like that. I did a telephone. They went crazy. You should see them people at that conference. I say, I had done a little jeep. I say "You, you want me to hold it?" "No! My jeep. I'm paying for this." And it, the one, the showing at church. (unintell.) "Put a price on it!" I say we're not we're not selling at this time. We're just lettin people know what's out there. "Put a price on it. I wanna know." I don't want to do... I don't want to... I want to put some money on it. And I say "The proceeds are goin back to the church." "Well, I don't care what you do with the money. Put a price on it." They, they fuss. They was like they were like the ones at the conference, at the conference it's like a ...flea mar... Goodwill, you know what I mean? (6:40) "No, mine!" (unintell.) They're fightin' they're... You should see the women at that conference. They're nuts. They're the ones that the nurses and stuff. You think the patients... the patients provide, we have like 10 tables or so over at the hotel. We get like a whole section about as big as this room, but the wall, wall to wall. So when in the same... would I call it enthusiasm at the church. (7:03) "I don't know why you don't put a price on, you were we were sitting in here with Miss Lanfry and she said "Barbara did you ever think of a price for that?" I'm (unintell.) I can't say what I make it out of but I say... she says "You never put a price on it?" And I said no. A lot o' things (unintell.) I did like 20 birds you have to do this. And what's that thing I was tellin you? Oh Yoda the thing that's he's a gift. He's a gift. And they're making I'm gonna draw him, and then I'm gonna get them a wash rag about the color of that green and he's already got the I got the, I got, he's just sitting there we're not gonna have class this month, this week. But he's just getting ready to get fired. He's just drying. And what I'm trying to tell you is... you know I don't get paid for that, it has to be a gift. Yeah, you're talking copyright law. Then I told Miss Lanfry we's talking... I write poetry, too, she say "Wait a min. That's (unintell.) no, No, no! One thing." I guess she was thinking one thing at a time. But seriously though, and like my mom you know, once I got all the... I wanted all straight A's, you know. And she's like "Why don't you get some C's?" And I was like, you know, it made... My father said I was just too good, too good at everything and didn't pick one thing. And when she mentioned it, and that's it, the passion of it all, but I tell you then the functioning, that's a big part of my life. To just be able to wash the clothes and enjoy washing the clothes? (8:23) Ahhh.

V. 1: Can I take your picture?

Barb.: Mm ah. Lipstick (unintell.) My hair okay? (laugh)

V. 2: Where you from originally?

Barb.: Pittsburgh...hmm?

V. 2: Pittsburgh proper? They said you went to the Hospital in Braddock.

8:42

Barb.: Pittsburgh. Penn Hills. Oh and there, uh, wait, wait, wait ...well, where is my lipstick? But seriously though, I'll be out in a minute. What happened... Now I gotta tell you this, now I'm a big kid. Now you see this doll, right? I'm a big kid. I can't find my lipstick...hm...in here. Oh, here it is. I'm a big kid, right? Now when I was, they had this thing. They had this uh thing at church, one of those service one of the, uh, sermons was "Ain't you glad you threw that doll away, 'cause if you didn't throw it away you'd still have but you wouldn't have what the Lord had in store for you after it." This little guy, my mom bought this one, my 1<sup>st</sup> doll. See her? Ain't she cute? She real cute, right? My mother bought me that. Whenever I get sick...my mother, the apartment's full of dolls, and when it's time for inspecting, lady said "Put them dolls...let them dolls go to sleep." She said "Put them to rest." (9:38) So what happen, it was when I was, I was the 1<sup>st</sup> mother in the whole family. Everybody... I was the mother as well as the (unintell.). I was the mother. I got it out the (unintelligible) out the, um, library. And that's when I started, um, thinking about dolls, making dolls, right? So my nephew, well I was living with him. He was 3 years old ... He was 3 years old. And I said this was...

End Wave 6

Barbara – Wave 7

Barb.: ...between me and him. I never told his parents. And I think I was watching him one day, he was eating breakfast of something. Well, I was living with him, you know. I said "Robbie. Who's this?" And he says... You know how kids get into it, right? ... He says "Barrbar!" He's bouncing his head and I flipped it and I said "Who's that?" And he goes "Barrrrbrra!" And he thinks, he thinks I'm a doll. (Laughter.) I got this other neice, I got this... the new, the youngest neice now. She's about... 3 or 2 and she never can remember my name. And I say, well I have sisters with, our names are all with the B's and I said "Well, you wanna learn how to spell my name?" I said "Can we be friends?" I'm real good with the kids. (0:42) They eat me up. I thought it was just my family. These church kids is worse. And I "You spoil me, Miss Barbara." Then the next one "I wish you were my godmother, Miss Barbara." So I bent down and talked to the new girl, the youngest baby in the family. I bent down and I said "Can we be friends?" And we were talking about, and I said "You wanna learn how to spell my name?" And I have a sister named Bertha, and she and I said "Okay (unintell.) around here." And I said I said my name "B...A...R" and she goes "B...E...R". And I says "Noooo! B...A...R..." And she goes (1:16) "B...E...". So I seen again at one of the outings, uh, my family had a outing, a memorial celebration. And then she got it right this time. I said "Okay, can we still be friends?" She said, "Uh huh. My name is Suzanne." I said ok, and I (unintell) spell my name, it goes "B...A...R..." and she goes "B...A...R" and I said "B...A...R" and she goes (1:37) "B...A...R..." and I say "A" and she goes "ok". And I say "What's my name?" And she didn't know it. and I say "Okay,

you just called me Barbara doll.” And that’s what my father used to call me. I say “Call me Barbara doll.” So when we left that night, she’s like “Bye, Barbara Doll!!” (Laugh.) Then when I, uh, Miss Lanfry say when I look at look at something I see it different. And I didn’t I didn’t learn of eBay or anything. So we um... so like I said, I can’t find it, I’ll make it. You know what I’m saying? (Laugh).

V. 1: Good for you. Well, thank you so much.

Barb.: Thank you.

End Wave 7 at about 2:14