

Jane Arnold 6-23-2017

An Interview with  
**Jane Arnold**

at *The State Historical Society of  
Missouri – St. Louis Research Center*

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interviewed by Dr. Blanche M. Touhill

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**Oral History Program**

*The State Historical Society of Missouri*

Collection S1207 Women as Change Agents DVD 154

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## PREFACE

The interview was taped on a placed on a tripod. There are periodic background sounds but the recording is of generally high quality.

The following transcript represents a rendering of the oral history interview. Stylistic alterations have been made as part of a general transcription policy. The interviewee offered clarifications and suggestions, which the following transcript reflects. Any use of brackets [ ] indicates editorial insertions not found on the original audio recordings. Physical gestures, certain vocal inflections such as imitation, and/or pauses are designated by a combination of italics and brackets [ ]. Any use of parentheses ( ) indicates a spoken aside evident from the speaker's intonation, or laughter. Quotation marks ["" ] identify speech depicting dialogue, speech patterns, or the initial use of nicknames. Em dashes [—] are used as a stylistic method to show a meaningful pause or an attempt to capture nuances of dialogue or speech patterns. Words are *italicized* when emphasized in speech or when indicating a court case title. Particularly animated speech is identified with **bold** lettering. Underlining [   ] indicates a proper title of a publication. The use of underlining and double question marks in parentheses [   (??) ] denotes unintelligible phrases. Although substantial care has been taken to render this transcript as accurately as possible, any remaining errors are the responsibility of the editor, Josephine Sporleder.

**THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI-ST. LOUIS**

**WOMEN AS CHANGE AGENTS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

**JUNE 23, 2017**

**JANE ARNOLD INTERVIEWED BY DR. BLANCHE M. TOUHILL**

Jane Arnold: I'm Jane Arnold.

Blanche Touhill: Talk about your childhood: your mother, your father, your siblings, your cousins, your grandparents, somebody within the family who said to you, "Jane, you can do what you sort of want to do, maybe within certain parameters but you have certain choices in life and you have the ability to sort of make those choices and we're trying to encourage you to do that kind of thing." And I also want to know, how did you play? Did you play with boys and girls? Did you play with dolls? How did you play?

Jane Arnold: Sure. So I grew up in St. Louis in a house with my parents and my little brother and little sister and we were a pretty insular family, I'd say. We didn't have a lot of family friends, we didn't do vacations and barbeques and what not with other families, although both my parents have grown up otherwise. They'd grown up very much kind of hanging out with their parents, friends, big crowd. So I think it was by their choice that we played together. For the most part, I played with my neighbors and, to a certain extent, my siblings although they got tiresome pretty early and they've since redeemed themselves. We're very close now.

Blanche Touhill: How many years difference was it?

Jane Arnold: My brother is two years younger than I am and my sister is three years younger than he and as adults, we're immensely close and they're the most valuable people in my life.

Blanche Touhill: So they're not only your relatives, they're your best friends?

Jane Arnold: Very, very much so, yes. But as kids, I was close to my sister but she was five-and-a-half years younger. My brother and I fought like siblings do. We often, recognizing that we didn't have a lot of tentacles out into the broader community, spent the weekends with my grandparents in

Mexico, Missouri. Both my parents are from Mexico and by grandparents were friends with each other and we would go up on Saturday morning and stay until Sunday evening and it imbued in me that a two-hour drive means nothing. I can hop in a car and drive two hours and not even think about it because that's what we did, I wouldn't say most weekends, but close to half.

Blanche Touhill: Did your mother and father go too?

Jane Arnold: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: And did they spend one weekend with one and one weekend...

Jane Arnold: We usually stayed with my mom's family. They had a bigger house. My mom was one of six children and so we always had aunts and uncles and sort of chaos surrounding us: dogs and...

Blanche Touhill: ...and cousins.

Jane Arnold: Yeah. Well, it's interesting, my mom has five siblings, only one of whom had children and they are my sister's age so we broke down into the big's, that was my brother and me, and the little's, my sister and my cousins. Although I have gotten a little bit closer to my cousins as adults, I wasn't particularly close to them as a kid because I was a big and big's don't play with little's. We have policies about that.

Blanche Touhill: Did they live on a farm or in the city?

Jane Arnold: My cousins lived on a farm. My maternal grandparents lived just outside of town, what they didn't call a farm. There was 40 acres but my grandfather, in his retirement, had become a farmer and had an eight hundred acre farm 20 minutes or so away. It's funny, as an adult, of course I would think that's a farm, but then, no, no, that was the house and the farm was a different place altogether. Then my dad's parents lived in town. When I was little, they still lived in the house he'd been raised in. It was a beautiful Victorian and then they moved for practical reasons, once the children...my dad had one sister, much younger, and when she was grown and gone, they moved to a very traditional split level '70s looking house but it was more formal, I'd say. We sat in the living room with our hands in our laps and chatted.

Blanche Touhill: When did they come to Missouri?

- Jane Arnold: Generations and generations ago.
- Blanche Touhill: And they settled in the Mexico area?
- Jane Arnold: Yeah, but my paternal grandparents and their families for generations have been in Mexico. My grandfather, my mom's dad, was truly from Mexico but he married my grandmother who was from Hannibal which was vastly different.
- Blanche Touhill: That's right, the home of Mark Twain.
- Jane Arnold: Indeed. She was the daughter of a haberdasher and, in fact, had worked on the senate campaign for Harry Truman in '38...'36, something like that, because of the haberdashery connection.
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, indeed, that's right. So, did you play with dolls?
- Jane Arnold: I did. I went through a phase where I was just obsessed by Barbie Dolls. I thought they were the most beautiful and glamorous things in the whole wide world and coveted a couple of friends' vast collections. I didn't have very many but I had something called a Crissy Doll which is sort of like an American Girl doll now and my friends coveted that so we did a lot of swapping.
- Blanche Touhill: Could you swap clothes?
- Jane Arnold: No, Crissy was considerably bigger than Barbie but Crissy had a lot of clothes. The vast Barbie collections had millions of clothes. At one point I convinced my parents, I desperately, desperately, desperately wanted, and probably needed a Barbie Dream House.
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, yes, did you get one?
- Jane Arnold: I did and then within...not a long time, for sure less than a year, I determined that it was taking up too much real estate in my small bedroom so I independently called the St. Louis Democrat and placed a classified ad to sell it.
- Blanche Touhill: Did you sell it?
- Jane Arnold: I did, and when the lady came to pick it up, my mom was so confused, "Who is this lady? How did she know to come pick up our Barbie Dream House? Why do you have \$20?"

- Blanche Touhill: So you were always a little independent?
- Jane Arnold: I was always a lot independent.
- Blanche Touhill: You played with the boys then because you played with your cousins?
- Jane Arnold: Well, both my cousins are girls. I played with my brother some but mostly I played with girls. I went to Mary Institute which was co-ed through 4<sup>th</sup> grade but still I was drawn to the little girls in my class and the girls in my neighborhood and then as I grew at Mary I, it converted to all girls in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and that was pretty comfortable for me. It felt very natural. I didn't miss the boys. I didn't dislike them, I just never was as close to them. I think because I was so predisposed to sort of girly things, I liked to do needle work and I liked to cook and all these sort of traditional homemaking chore/crafts. I never missed the boys until about 9<sup>th</sup> grade when I figured out that all my girlfriends had maintained relationships with all those boys during those interim years and I was wondering why I didn't have any friends who were boys who could then hook me up with boyfriends. And I've been wondering that ever since actually.
- Blanche Touhill: Did your mother teach you to cook?
- Jane Arnold: She did to a certain extent. My mom's a very good cook. We were a very ungrateful audience, as I suppose most children are. I know mine are. But she did teach a lot of good basic technique but I took a lot of cooking classes too. The Famous Bar offered one, taught me how to make Famous Bar onion soup. It was delicious.
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, how wonderful, which was well known in St. Louis and people used to line up at lunch, wasn't it?
- Jane Arnold: That's exactly right.
- Blanche Touhill: In order to get their onion soup, downtown and then later when it moved to West Roads, yeah.
- Jane Arnold: Not West Roads, what is now the Wash U West Campus.
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, okay, yes. So who in your family urged you to do what you wanted to do?
- Jane Arnold: Everybody. It was just assumed...it's one of those remarkable things about

my family that I didn't realize was remarkable but competence and ambition were just assumed, as was excellence, I think, and occasionally there would be setbacks and no one was chastised for setbacks but if we wanted to do something, there were just no barriers to it, nor were we very scheduled. So we were responsible for entertaining ourselves. If I said I was bored, my grandmother would find me a quarter, which was high stakes in those days, not a lot of quarters.

Blanche Touhill: And what were you to do with the quarter?

Jane Arnold: Gave it to my grandmother. I'm not sure what she did with it. I'm pretty sure she used it to buy cigarettes.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, so it was up to you to find entertainment?

Jane Arnold: Yeah, absolutely and it is the responsibility of any child to be able to entertain his or herself.

Blanche Touhill: Did you read a lot?

Jane Arnold: I did, I read a great deal. I loved to read. I watched a lot of old movies as I got to be a teenager. I'm not the least bit athletic. In fact, I may be the least athletic person ever to walk the earth or stumble across it and that was a time gap that existed in my schedule because everybody else who was off playing soccer and baseball and on the swim team had time commitments associated with those things and I just never did because I was terrible and hated it. I was never really encouraged to pursue it. I think that my parents believed me when I said I hated it. I mean, I hated it. So, to entertain myself, I would read, I would write, I would do sort of traditional play but that's when I also took up my little homemaking hobbies, of cooking and sewing and needlepoint and I went through an embroidery phase that didn't last long.

Blanche Touhill: Did the school teach any of that?

Jane Arnold: There was a sewing class in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and we all learned how to make a reversible wrap skirt...no, a reversible vest, a wrap skirt and some other sort of basic item of clothing. But it was super useful skills, actually and it's hard to imagine a sewing class in the modern era but to the credit of Mary Institute in the '70s and '80s...in 4<sup>th</sup> grade we had taken wood shop and I still have the bench and the toolbox that I made in wood shop. So, yes, there were still boys there in 4<sup>th</sup> grade but they were teaching us

practical handy work.

Blanche Touhill: Yeah, that was really unheard of in my generation.

Jane Arnold: Yeah.

Blanche Touhill: The boys went off to take one of those woodworking things and the girls went off to take cooking or something or sewing or something.

Jane Arnold: We didn't have a sewing class at school but I did classes at the Mark Twain Summer Institute which was...I've grown up on Wydown and Clayton and there was a Wydown Junior High School. So it was incredibly convenient.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, so you could really walk?

Jane Arnold: I could walk and it was great. One year I took modern U.S. history and one year I took cooking.

Blanche Touhill: Actually, the Mark Twain Summer Institute was very selective in who they brought in. I don't know whether you knew that.

Jane Arnold: I did not know that.

Blanche Touhill: Yes. And by that I mean intellectual. They didn't really take everybody but at least that's what they let it be known. Whether that...how true that is...

Jane Arnold: Yeah, I have no idea how those selection processes work. I was little enough that I sort of indicated to my mom what I wanted to sign up for and she made it happen.

Blanche Touhill: Well, you were in the Clayton schools too.

Jane Arnold: Yes, although I had never taken advantage of the...

Blanche Touhill: No, but you were in the Clayton...

Jane Arnold: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: You were a taxpayer in the Clayton schools.

Jane Arnold: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: So maybe it was people from outside the Clayton School had difficulty getting into it.

- Jane Arnold: I don't know if there was a difficulty but I don't think it was...I think they just rented the space in the Clayton school. I don't think that it was a...
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, okay. Then I'm wrong. Maybe it was the high school Mark Twain Institute?
- Jane Arnold: Oh, maybe, yes.
- Blanche Touhill: The high school Mark Twain Institute was very selective and I was transferring that to the younger age but maybe it was...
- Jane Arnold: Yeah, and I remember, I did it in high school, took classes in high school because I remember being wildly jealous of a girl who had already turned 16 and could drive and I was only 14. There weren't grade striations. It was just summer class and you're in high school and I made up all sorts of ridiculous tales on how I was going to be able to drive a little bit early. What? Who can drive early?
- Blanche Touhill: But you learned?
- Jane Arnold: I did learn but mostly I was just trying to keep up in the most absurd of ways.
- Blanche Touhill: At Mary I, talk about Mary I. Were there teachers there that encouraged you?
- Jane Arnold: Oh, gosh, yes. There were wonderful, wonderful, wonderful teachers, more administrators. My childhood hero and continues to be my hero to this day, although I don't have a close relationship with her anymore, is Eades Gilbert who was the head mistress. She was the most magically glamorous person in the world and had this facility with language that was overwhelming to me and I just found her inspirational and she was incredibly kind of me when I was an incredibly awkward teen and really took an interest in my development and I just worshipped her as a hero.
- Blanche Touhill: Somebody told me that I should interview her.
- Jane Arnold: Oh, my gosh, I think you should.
- Blanche Touhill: I met her a Betty Sim's, one of her wedding anniversary celebrations and I had a brief conversation with her and she was very interesting. Was Mary I, the head person, were they always male?
- Jane Arnold: Well, no.

Blanche Touhill: Up until...

Jane Arnold: Up until her, probably. Oh, yes, it was Mr. Stearns and then her.

Blanche Touhill: Well, I'll ask her when I interview her because she said something about, she was trying to bring Mary I more into the modern society.

Jane Arnold: I think she was.

Blanche Touhill: And especially for women.

Jane Arnold: I think she was extremely conscious of what the school had and could be. It was not a selective school but there were useful sort of striations within the school and I took an insane number of honors classes. It prepared me very, very well for college but there were girls in my class who struggled to get into any college. I didn't think about it then at all, it was just where I went to school. When you're a child, you do what your parents tell you to do and unless it's really anathema, you just kind of roll with it.

Blanche Touhill: When you were in high school, were you a leader?

Jane Arnold: I was very much a leader.

Blanche Touhill: Talk about that.

Jane Arnold: I was a teenage version of my grown up self, a little more fulsomely than most teenagers, I think, and so I was very comfortable taking on leadership roles in the student council and we had a class treasury, I was the treasurer. I was not president of the class but I was the treasurer but the funds weren't invested and that just seemed stupid to me but I don't think most 15-year-old's figure out how to invest their prom money but it seemed something that was very important at the time.

Blanche Touhill: So you did it?

Jane Arnold: Absolutely I did it. I mean, nobody told me I couldn't and so I proceeded. The activity that I was most engaged in was the school newspaper which I started when I was a freshman and there was, at that time, this editor-in-chief, a senior, was a girl that I thought was just wonderful, bright and encouraging and she happened to be a neighbor of ours and we became friends but it was almost a student/teacher kind of relationship. Freshman to senior is quite a gap but I tried to follow in her footsteps and did in the sense that I went on to be the editor-in-chief and then followed

her onto college and we stayed friends in college, although again, freshman and senior, we only overlapped a year.

Blanche Touhill: When you say you started the paper, did you start the paper?

Jane Arnold: No, no, I started working on the paper, yeah.

Blanche Touhill: And so you have great writing skills?

Jane Arnold: I hope so. It's an important part of being a lawyer.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, I know that is. I just think that was...when did you know that you wanted to be a lawyer?

Jane Arnold: I never wanted to be a lawyer.

Blanche Touhill: Then let's come back to that. So you went off to college. Where did you go to college?

Jane Arnold: I went to Harvard.

Blanche Touhill: And how was Harvard? Well, I know your father went to Harvard.

Jane Arnold: Mm-hmm, he did.

Blanche Touhill: Did he go to Harvard Law?

Jane Arnold: He went to Harvard College and Harvard Law School. I only went to the college. I came back here for law school. Harvard was wonderful. I often say now that college is wasted on the young. There were amazing opportunities. If I had worked harder and paid better attention, I'd have gotten a whole lot more out of it but even with my immature approach to...I don't want any classes on Friday...it was extraordinary. The things I was exposed to and...it's America in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. There wasn't a four-year period that wasn't interesting but my four-year person was interesting. The Soviet Union was collapsing at that time and so I was in a political science lecture (Emile?) Huntington who was predicting that the Chinese would reject communism and adopt capitalism far before the Soviet Union would ever fall and six months later, he was proven wrong. That's the sort of context.

Blanche Touhill: When did the Chinese government though, change and begin to become

more capitalistic but keeping political communism viable?

Jane Arnold: In the last 15 to 20 years and this is 25 to 30 years ago. He thought Tiananmen was going to change everything. That's what he was reacting to.

Blanche Touhill: No, but I'm talking about before Tiananmen who was the Chinese chairman...don't they call them the chair...

Jane Arnold: Yeah, they did call him the chairman [inaudible 19:44].

Blanche Touhill: Because I was in England I was in Greenwich and there was a Chinese...I went out to look at Greenwich and various things there. They might have even had an exhibit in those days, I can't remember what it was, and there was a Chinese...the chair of the Chinese communist party with a group of Chinese and people whispered around and said they were there to think about a re-evaluation of China.

Jane Arnold: Really?

Blanche Touhill: And not giving up communism but...later, I'll see if I can remember or find that name.

Jane Arnold: Yes, absolutely.

Blanche Touhill: And I know later Tiananmen Square because I was here at Tiananmen Square. I can see, he made a mistake. He looked at everything...

Jane Arnold: He looked at the evidence that was available at the time and he made a really informed judgment. I mean, he wasn't a voice in the wilderness. It's just he was very famous and I don't know how broadly he published his theory but he certainly conveyed it in an undergraduate lecture and I was mature enough, I guess, that...

Blanche Touhill: Well, it could have been true.

Jane Arnold: Oh, I wrote it down like it was true. I just took my notes and, like, well, this is interesting.

Blanche Touhill: That was his theory.

Jane Arnold: It was and nine months later...six months later, he was proven wrong and that was really interesting too.

Blanche Touhill: How did the other faculty react?

Jane Arnold: Oh, think the other faculty found it as fascinating as the rest of the world. No one has a crystal ball but the robust discussion about how this happened and why it happened, and of course, this is the American century, what role we played in all of this, was an incredibly important part of the conversation.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, yes. Then why did you go to law school?

Jane Arnold: Total lack of imagination. My dad was a lawyer. He was a good lawyer and he liked being a lawyer and I had worked on a couple political campaigns while I was in college, I'd work on Dick Gephardt's presidential campaign and even before college, I had worked on the Mondale/Ferraro campaign. That was teenage volunteering in both instances but I was bitten by the bug hard and I spent all my summers in Washington, D.C. and I wanted to live in Washington, D.C. for the rest of my life and it was clear to me that in order to succeed in Washington, D.C. I had to have an advanced degree and I couldn't think of any that I particularly wanted and my dad was a lawyer so I thought, huh, a law degree, that sounds like a good advanced degree to have in my hip pocket. So I applied to law school and decided to come back to St. Louis and go to Wash U and I remember, in April/May time frame of my senior year in college, having an absolute panic attack and calling my dad and saying, "I see you put on your lovely suit and your fancy tie-up shoes and get into your expensive car and drive downtown every day and then you come back and you are not in a bad mood and you seem tired but you...you don't tell stories..."...because he, as I really believe in the legal privilege, we just don't tell stories about our projects. It's hard to keep the privilege intact and so it's better just to...and besides it's boring. We're deal lawyers..."What is it that you do? Why do you like this? Am I making a horrible, horrible mistake in pursuing this career path?" and he said, "I don't think you're making a mistake at all. What I do is I come downtown and I talk on the phone and I work on documents and I interact with my colleagues and it's really great," and that totally unspecific description of the day of a lawyer was enough to give me the comfort to move forward with the rest of my life.

Blanche Touhill: My husband's a lawyer and my brother was a lawyer and I have a nephew and a niece who's a lawyer and they all say to me it's an intellectually stimulating job.

Jane Arnold: It is and I think that there is a little kernel of fear that pops up, not as often now that I've been it for a long time but there's something really invigorating about somebody asking you a question that you just don't know the answer to and being able to frame it and pivot and sort of frame and pivot as many times as it takes to come to not just the right answer, but a fully reasoned answer, the reasoning for which you can communicate in a pretty linear and understandable way. That's the fun part and I like to write and so...

Blanche Touhill: And you can express those ideas in writing?

Jane Arnold: And I think that's right.

Blanche Touhill: And that's...you either have to do that or you have to be able to express them in the courtroom.

Jane Arnold: Yes. If I'm in a courtroom it's because I've been arrested. There's no way I'm ever going into a courtroom.

Blanche Touhill: Yeah, but I think lawyers have to be able to research, be able to come to some conclusion that they think will hold up in court and then they either speak it or they write it.

Jane Arnold: I think that's right, yeah.

Blanche Touhill: Actually, when I was chancellor, the University of Missouri has a legal staff of about eight to ten people but I always had one person that I always called and the reason I liked him is when I gave him a problem, he'd say, "I have to think about it," and I always liked that. I thought, this is a complicated question and I have to make a decision and I need to know from the lawyer, am I going in the right direction. So I wasn't anxious to find a lawyer who could give me an answer right away. I wanted a lawyer who was going to think about it and he always called me back within a day or two and he said, "This is what I think" and I always considered him to be my lawyer.

Jane Arnold: That's great.

Blanche Touhill: So I do think...I'm not saying it's an easy job, I'm not saying it doesn't have tremendous problems in it because you have to wait for the judge to make the ruling.

Jane Arnold: Mm-hmm.

- Blanche Touhill: You never exactly know how they're going, do you?
- Jane Arnold: No, I think that's right and my practice is more transactional so I'm not waiting for judges but I am waiting for the other shoe to drop on deals. Have I expressed myself clearly enough to get written into the document what I think my client wants and am I right in understanding what my client wants enough to know that if the parties forget, that the people who are around the table retire and go their separate ways, is my document clear enough that the intent is protected in perpetuity.
- Blanche Touhill: That's right and that's very difficult. Most people cannot do that. They cannot. They write but they cannot exactly get that meaning for the future.
- Jane Arnold: That's what we all strive to do.
- Blanche Touhill: Yeah. Well, how was law school?
- Jane Arnold: Law school was not a lot of fun.
- Blanche Touhill: No, I never knew anybody who went to law school who could hardly... they said it was intellectually stimulating but it was a grind.
- Jane Arnold: It really was a grind and I wasn't really interested in being back in St. Louis and the Wash U Law School of yesteryear is not the same caliber as the Wash U Law School of today and so there was a lot of reminiscing about the years spent partying in fraternities and sororities and that wasn't my college experience and so I felt a little fish out of water but I made it through and Wash U is terrific in that, for the second semester of the third year, they have a full immersion clinic in Washington, D.C. where I had every intention of living for the rest of my life and I went and worked in Dick Gephardt's office in D.C. during my second semester of third year. I probably wrote a paper or something.
- Blanche Touhill: Yes, but what a wonderful experience.
- Jane Arnold: Oh, it was wonderful and then I just stayed.
- Blanche Touhill: So how long were you in D.C.?
- Jane Arnold: I was in D.C. for three years, January of '93 to September of '95 and then I moved back here to work for Congressman Gephardt.

Blanche Touhill: How was being on the Hill?

Jane Arnold: It was great. It is concerning that the people who work on the Hill are almost...people who work for members of Congress, committee staff is different. But member staff tends to be under 30 and pretty Homogeneous and I don't know if that's as true now, 25 years later, but I never lost sight of the fact that it was sort of silly that I was writing voting recommendations on defense appropriations bills. What perspective did I have? And so it led me to really understand the power of lobbyists because a persuasive grownup was able to be very effective in persuading me. There were a couple of sort of guiding principles that led to the recommendations that I would make with regularity. The first was Partisan. There were more sophisticated and experienced people working at the committees who would sort of articulate the Partisan position in favor or against a bill and that's helpful. That's a good frame. The second was local: are you creating jobs in my district? If the answer is yes, odds are really good we're going to favor it. But then there was also the broader, more sophisticated and interesting arguments in favor of supporting one bill and in favor of denial of another and I was just the horse trading. I don't really care about this. It doesn't really hurt or hinder my constituents. You care deeply about it. I'll give you this if you'll give me that and the this and the that varied a lot. But there was a lot of telecommunications legislation happening, things that were probably incredibly consequential and that's where they had pretty much 25-year-olds in charge, is high risk business. We were not in charge. The safety valve in the whole system is the congressman and the congressman was deeply engaged and he was looking really hard at matters that were perhaps flexible.

Blanche Touhill: But you did the basic research?

Jane Arnold: I did a lot of research and I would give him a one-pager.

Blanche Touhill: That's right, and then he could give guidance.

Jane Arnold: Mm-hmm, absolutely but he rarely pushed back. He was majority leader at the time and he was a busy guy.

Blanche Touhill: But he had come to trust you because he had known you over the years.

Jane Arnold: Well, sort of. He also trusted everybody else who worked in the office. They trust the system and know that, for the most part, if there is a

reason to be deeply concerned, if there doesn't seem to be unanimity of purpose between the party and the local interests and everything else, that gets escalated to more senior staff in Gephardt's office, in the leader's office and the ultimate decision wouldn't be entrusted to my 25-year-old self. It would go over to kind of a grownup.

Blanche Touhill: Did your early years in DC. help to prepare you for when you went back to work full-time?

Jane Arnold: I think my time in D.C. prepared me for living a sort of chaotic professional life. I worked really hard.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, they work long hours.

Jane Arnold: Yes, we worked very, very long hours and you're always on call. It was the early '90s and I carried on with those giant stupid bag phones so that I could be reached at all time because it was so important.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, and they were, they are.

Jane Arnold: Yeah, they were in the purse size, yes. I'd put my wallet in my pocket and carry my giant phone around on my shoulder. But it was invigorating and I always enjoyed it. DC is a very transient city for young people and after making a wonderful group of friends and then having them kind of move on, matriculate, I 'd replace them with another terrific group of friends, people who worked on the Hill, people I'd known through college or some other endeavor and then they moved on and by the time the congressman asked me to move back to St. Louis because he needed somebody who could handle large projects in the district office, I was ready to not go through a third cycle. And so I moved home and bought a little house and decided I was going to work for him for a while and working in the district office is boring. It's just not the same sort of fire brand, 24/7 commitment to...

Blanche Touhill: No, I can understand that.

Jane Arnold: ...everything.

Blanche Touhill: That's really working with individual constituents who have a problem.

Jane Arnold: Yeah, and I wasn't doing the casework kind of thing. At that point...it was right after the flood of '93 and so we were working on what is now NGA but then was the Defense Mapping Agency and making sure that it stayed

in Arnold and so that was a very big project and I had a million meetings. In 1995 there was the Base Realignment Enclosure Commission and they determined to close the facility in North St. Louis but there was a little tail on that that was actually in the Robert A. Young Building but it was 75 or so jobs and they were experts and they were local at that point and we lost AdCom. That wasn't going to be changed but I could argue that this...I mean, I was basically lawyering, I just didn't know it. I could argue that this separate unit that was aligned with AdCom didn't have to move with AdCom because it wasn't (co-located?) in the first place and if we're all about creating real estate efficiencies, what's the point? And I succeeded in that and it was big news. We saved a bunch of jobs. We'd worked really hard with the union. I mean, it was everything that I was supposed to be doing. It was the day of the OJ Simpson verdict and so we got no coverage. It's been 20 years. I'm not over it.

Blanche Touhill: How many years was it when there were women who did what you did in Congress?

Jane Arnold: I don't know because they were there when I got there. There are things where I felt like I'm a bit on the cutting edge but working on the Hill was not on that list. The people that I worked for were men but the senior most person in a congressman's office is the Administrative Assistant system which is a terribly misunderstood title. But the AA, Administrative Assistant, before the guy who was in charge when I was there, had been a woman and when I'd interned when I was in college, she had been in charge. So I had always perceived...

Blanche Touhill: There were women there?

Jane Arnold: ...that women had sort of unlimited capacity to rise as staff and I've never had any interest in running for office and so everything I...and I looked at the career trajectory that I might aspire to, there were women above me every place I looked.

Blanche Touhill: Why did you decide to leave that job?

Jane Arnold: It was boring as hell.

Blanche Touhill: And so what did you do?

Jane Arnold: So I worked through the election in '96 because I committed to do so and within three days I had an interview with Bryan Cave and that was the

only firm I wanted to go to work for because at that time it was led by Walter Metcalf who is another of my great heroes and he had done so much in the community and used the firm's resources to differentiate Brian Cave as a really important citizen of St. Louis and everybody knows and continues to know...I still think it's true...that it's just chocked full of wonderful lawyers. The quality of the legal services you're going to get are great and (it's such a great?) citizen, that was it. That was the whole list of things that I wanted and so I bought a computer because it was 1996, I didn't own a computer and I got my cover letter and resume and I sent it off to Walter and Congressman Gephardt called him and my dad called him and he brought me in for an interview and I got a job and that was the whole...

Blanche Touhill: And how long were you there?

Jane Arnold: Fifteen years.

Blanche Touhill: And are you still there?

Jane Arnold: Uh-uh, I'm at Polsinelli now.

Blanche Touhill: Now Walter has left Bryan Cave?

Jane Arnold: That's why I'm at Polsinelli now.

Blanche Touhill: Yeah, that's what I'm saying. Let me go in a different direction for a couple of questions and then I'll come back: Have you ever received an award or awards that you're particularly proud of? It doesn't have to be a real award. It can be something where you got sort of...somebody said, "This is a significant person"?

Jane Arnold: I think my role within Polsinelli has made me feel that way pretty consistently over the last couple or three years. I say with all humility that I'm the most powerful woman at Polsinelli. I run our St. Louis office, I'm on our board of directors, I run the National Women's Initiative and some of those are term appointments and so I know that this is not a permanent perch but I have felt genuinely appreciated by my colleagues and one of the nice things about being a lawyer is clients get to pick you and so being selected and having people say that they've heard nice things on the basis of work that I've done in the past feels really good. The award that I hungered for, which is a little humorous on my part, was

that I very much wanted to be not just in the Business Journal's Forty Under 40, but I did not want to be 39 when I got it.

Blanche Touhill: So what happened?

Jane Arnold: So I was 37. It was a long time ago.

Blanche Touhill: I didn't know they listed...

Jane Arnold: Yeah, they list the name and they tell the age.

Blanche Touhill: It's not alphabetical?

Jane Arnold: No, not in order. It was age 37.

Blanche Touhill: Oh.

Jane Arnold: I wanted to be in the Forty under 40 but I wanted to be pretty young for it.

Blanche Touhill: That's right and as you approached 40, you got in at 37?

Jane Arnold: Yes, exactly. They don't do a Fifty Under 50.

Blanche Touhill: What's the theme of your life?

Jane Arnold: I think the theme of my life is...it's a terrific question, Blanche. My immediate visceral answer is motherhood. Everything leads to my children and I know that so much of my external focus and where people see me in the community has to do with my job and board obligations and trying to give back and being involved in politics for all my life, since I was too young to vote but all of that is to make the kids have a better life and to be somebody that they can look up to. It doesn't occur to them as weird at all that I'm the boss, not just in the family but at the office. I made some reference the other day to the office managing partner of our Dallas office and they said, "What's her name?" and I...

Blanche Touhill: Oh, my goodness. They don't understand...

Jane Arnold: It never occurs to them and we had a dinner about a year ago for...I'm the vice chair of our National Healthcare Group and the chair is a man and his boss is a man so in that hierarchy, I'm in the third tier but the other vice chair is a woman and the head of our national recruiting is a woman and so what they saw was a dinner party with three women and two men and

they don't see a difference and they knew and I told them in advance, "Be good." They're little, they need some very specific instruction about the days that they can be obnoxious and the days that they have to be good. This was a "be seen but not heard" dinner party and they knew my boss and my boss's boss was there but they didn't really know who among the people was what and they don't make any assumptions. They just assume that when they grow up they can be anything except president. They're not natural born U.S. citizens.

Blanche Touhill: Talk about your children.

Jane Arnold: It drives them crazy. So my nine-year-old daughter, Dasha, was born in Kazakhstan and I adopted her when she was 20 months old and my seven, almost eight-year-old daughter, Molly, was born in Russia. I adopted her when she was 23 months old and they are thick as thieves and as different as night and day which is, I think, the essence of sisters, right? That's just how it works in every family. But Dasha is an old soul, oldest child. She thinks a great deal about what she's going to be when she grows up and she determined when she was six...five, something like that, that she wanted to be president. I had to break it to her that she couldn't be president and I said, "But there are so many things you can be. You can be Secretary of State, you can be a senator, you can make a lot of really, really incredibly meaningful contributions. Please don't worry that you can't be president." She was not interested in any of those. If she can't be president, she doesn't want to play. But she determined to be president of Kazakhstan so she's thinking about pursuing that.

Blanche Touhill: And the other girl?

Jane Arnold: Molly is good at everything. I'm a little hard on her because she exudes excellence. She's an amazing athlete, she's a very, very bright little girl. She's so social that it makes me laugh. We were walking through the hall at school one day and she was greeting people like a salesman might: "Oh, you look good. Is that a new scarf, Joyce?"; "Oh, nice tie." She's four years old and Dasha, my older daughter and I are naturally much more reserved. It's not our inclination to ask a waiter to come over or certainly not to walk through the halls high-fiving folks and so we use Molly. She's an incredibly valuable member of our family: "Molly, we need some more water. Could you tell the waiter we need some more water?" "Sure." And both girls are really little, as is the case often when kids start out in

orphanages but Molly's particularly little. She's the size of about a typical five-year-old and she's almost eight. So all of this personality and all of this intelligence and all of this crazy athletic ability in this tiny little package just forever amuses me. She's a lot of fun to spend time with.

Blanche Touhill: They go to the Clayton schools?

Jane Arnold: No, Dasha's got some significant learning challenges so she's at Churchill and doing wonderfully there. It couldn't be a better fit for her.

Blanche Touhill: Churchill is a wonderful school.

Jane Arnold: It is.

Blanche Touhill: But you don't go there forever.

Jane Arnold: No, no. She's just finished her second year. She'll be there for a third, for sure. I'd like for her to transition, if she's ready, after this next year because I'd like for her to have one year at the elementary school in Clayton.

Blanche Touhill: Before going to...

Jane Arnold: Before going to the big middle school. If she's not ready, then it's not the right choice and I won't push her but I think socially it would be easier for her, but again, only if she can be comfortable academically.

Blanche Touhill: And the other one?

Jane Arnold: She's at Glenridge, Clayton public school.

Blanche Touhill: When they came, was it hard to teach them English?

Jane Arnold: They were little enough and there's a somewhat mathematical formula, I don't know how scientific it is but for every three months in an orphanage you can assume that a child is at least one month delayed. So they were almost two which makes them almost eight months delayed which makes them sort of the developmental equivalent of a one-year-old, rough numbers.

Blanche Touhill: Is that because people don't have time to pick them up and give them individual attention?

Jane Arnold: That's right, that's exactly right.

Blanche Touhill: Talk to them and cuddle them and...

Jane Arnold: Yeah.

Blanche Touhill: I mean, they may cuddle them but then they have to put them down.

Jane Arnold: Then they have to put them down and I spent a lot of time in both girls' orphanages which was wonderful. I was really happy to see where they were from and really encouraging. You have this sort of Oliver Twist thing in your mind or I did and it wasn't that. They were bright, cheerful, spotlessly clean, reasonably well resourced facilities but in a room with nine or ten children, it would only have two caregivers and these are infants. At the time I met Dasha, she was 19 months old and the kids were placed by age regardless of physical abilities and so there were some disabled kids, physically really challenged kids in the same room and so that just took a lot of the caregivers' time and attention. But there's something about surviving in an orphanage too. I think that's why Molly has her big personality. She used that to attract attention at a very basic visceral level, even when she was an infant, she knew that if she were charming, she would get picked up more and Dasha, I think, uses her kind of sweetness in the same way and I didn't interact as much with the professionals at Molly's orphanage. The rules in Russia and Kazakhstan are just a little bit different. So I don't have as much perspective into how she...

Blanche Touhill: What were the rules? You had to go twice?

Jane Arnold: I had to go twice. They were opposite so for Dasha, I went in July of 2009 for a month, came home for a month and then in August went back for a week and picked her up and brought her home. For Molly, I went in March of 2011 for a week, met her, filled out lots of paperwork but I met her twice, each meeting 20 minutes and she was terrified, poor little thing. I mean, here are these big loud Americans who don't speak any Russian. It was just hard but then I didn't go back until June. It was a much less regimented process in Russia and when I went back, I was there for a month because there's a waiting period between a court date and a finalization of the order. We visited her for long visits every day during that month so by the time I took her out of the orphanage, she recognized us as people who are going to be kind to her. But it takes both

girls, it took some period of months to understand what it was to be in a family.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, oh, of course.

Jane Arnold: That hadn't been their experience before.

Blanche Touhill: When you brought the second child home, how did the first child react?

Jane Arnold: She was with me for that month in Russia, which was a challenge but one of my better decisions in life.

Blanche Touhill: And I know your father went with you both times?

Jane Arnold: Dad went on the short trip for both kids and Mom went on the long trip for both kids.

Blanche Touhill: So you had help on both trips.

Jane Arnold: I did and so on the long trip for Molly, Dad went with me to meet Molly but then on the long trip for Molly, Dasha was with us and my Mom took care of Dasha when I had to do official paperwork things, including going away for a night. I left my...how old was my mom then...a 68-year-old mom in a third floor walk-up hotel room at literally the Hotel Siberia. It sounds like I'm making that up but I'm not. It really was called the Hotel Siberia. No one within a radius of 10 miles or more spoke a word of English and I left her there with a three-year-old and I went off for a meeting. And I had to go to the meeting. It was my court day. It wasn't like I was being flippant.

Blanche Touhill: How were the Russian courts or Kazakhstan?

Jane Arnold: Well, each were good. I felt like Russia had better information. I felt like the file that I had in Russia, it was presented to the court, was more transparent and honest. The judge was fully engaged, asking me a lot of questions, wanted to confirm that I could afford to care for two children, that being a single parent was something that they're not completely unfamiliar with, it's permitted under their adoption scheme but she was fully engaged. She wanted to be sure that that child was going home to a place that would be safe and comfortable for the child. Kazakhstan seemed a little more corrupted. The paperwork I had for Dasha vilifies her birth mother in a way that suggested it was drafted to a purpose and

doesn't feel honest and transparent to me, which is unfortunate because I'd like for her to be able to learn more and I think we'll just have to hire somebody to learn more at a future time. I won't share it with her until she's old enough to understand that she has to sort of read what she sees through a filter of the purpose for which it was written.

Blanche Touhill: Why did you choose Russia?

Jane Arnold: Because Kazakhstan closed. I originally had planned to adopt from Vietnam. Vietnam closed to international adoption and I promptly pivoted to Kazakhstan because my agency had a program in Kazakhstan and they had a good reputation and there were some sort of broad sociological things that made me more comfortable, not least that Kazakhstan was largely Muslim and so it seemed that there would be less fetal alcohol exposure in a country that makes illegal alcohol. It's theoretically true. It's actually silly. In real life, alcoholics drink alcohol and Russia had a terrible reputation because where we have the opiate crisis in America, alcoholism is a public health crisis in Russia but I've been absolutely blessed. There's no way of knowing what my children were exposed to prenatally but they are healthy, strong, great kids and I have friends I have met through the international adoption process who have had children with some significant fetal alcohol exposure that it led to meaningful long-term disability. They love their children and they're doing very, very well but that's hard.

Blanche Touhill: When you leave Russia, are they adopted?

Jane Arnold: They are adopted for Russian purposes when I leave Russia. When the plane lands in America, they're American citizens.

Blanche Touhill: If you had been born 50 years earlier, what would your life have been like?

Jane Arnold: So profoundly different than it is, it's hard to even imagine. I hope I'd have married. I still can't quite figure out why I haven't married now and I hope I'd have had children. In that sense, there'd be duplication but beyond that, it's truly hard to imagine because all of the external things I do would have been unavailable to me.

Blanche Touhill: Did the federal government actions in the Civil Rights Act and the Reauthorization of 1972 affect your life?

Jane Arnold: Oh, sure. It's a little chicken egg to figure out whether it was the legislation that led to the change in society or the change in society that led to the legislation.

Blanche Touhill: I agree with that.

Jane Arnold: And women were an after-thought for all of those Civil Rights advantages and, in fact, intended to bring it down because it was such an absurd idea.

Blanche Touhill: You know, I've always heard that, that the Civil Rights Act, they put in women in order to encourage people to vote against it.

Jane Arnold: Exactly.

Blanche Touhill: You've heard that too?

Jane Arnold: I learned that in college so I have always assumed it to be established truth. I don't know. You were there.

Blanche Touhill: Well, I believe that but someday if you have a research moment, I would appreciate you telling me that, yeah, go on.

Jane Arnold: The world has changed considerably in the sense that there are vastly more opportunities for women and a big part of that and the part that does go back to that legislative piece is that the hard barriers are now rendered illegal so what we deal with now is not the sort of blatant sexism of 50 years ago that was unselfconscious. It's crazy, you watch a show like Mad Men and it's sort of funny and sort of horrifying at the same time, that that behavior was just 100% okay, unquestioned, normal behavior. But we're not finished and the fact that the barriers, the hard rock-like barriers have been removed doesn't mean there aren't more insidious barriers that will take another generation or two to address and maybe they're never going to address. I mean, there really are fundamental differences between men and women, some of which are incredibly great and you don't want to lose the difference. I think back to the fashion trends. When I was first trying to look like a grownup, when I was in high school, it was the early '80s and it was the broad-shouldered jackets and pussy bow-ties. Nobody looked good in this but it was manlike. It was professional because that's what the men wore so we were just replicating. I look around now and two things have happened,

and I'm not a big fashionista obviously, but I think that it's reflective of some pretty basic truths. Business casual became the norm because fundamentally because men didn't know how to deal with what women were wearing to work and there were so many women at work, they had to figure it out and now, even formal dress for business women is feminine. Women wear dresses when they give speeches. They don't feel compelled to put on a suit and I think that reflects a comfort with their femininity in the workplace that wouldn't have existed sometime ago.

Blanche Touhill: Talk about your father. I knew your father and he did some legal work for the university and so I did work with him on a couple of projects and I know he was a very thoughtful man and rather quiet in some ways, although personally he might have been more relaxed with you, but he was always around me, he was very quiet and thoughtful but I knew what he said was the right thing to do. So I'm sort of interested in his going to Russia with you and his support of you and I'm sure both your mother and father were very proud of you. So talk about both parents but you might want to talk more specifically about your father because he was a well known lawyer in St. Louis.

Jane Arnold: Yeah, it's a privilege and an honor to be Fred Arnold's daughter in St. Louis. He passed away about a year-and-a-half ago and the outpouring of support when he passed was overwhelming because I think everybody understood that he was exactly what he presented himself as all the time. He was a genuinely kind person. He was committed to the community and to giving back.

Blanche Touhill: He was, he was on a lot of non-profit boards.

Jane Arnold: He was always on non-profit boards and loved that service. He moved to St. Louis as an adult and so for him to be able to move in the circles where he was able to make the sort of influential suggestions that he was able to make was something he was very, very proud of and he imbued me both a commitment to the practice of law and to ongoing community service. I don't have a lot of free time. I've got a pesky day job and I'm a single mother of two elementary school-aged kids but I'm never not on a board and that's because it's the right thing to do and it would disappoint my father if I weren't. My mom was a perfect balance for that when we were growing up. She was very involved in a number of activities and my mom's a very bright person and really gave her all to some places that

could take advantage of her intelligence. Probably her favorite community activity was that she was a docent at the art museum and give incredibly detailed lectures about the collection. But that was something that she could do in the time allotted to that project so she was always home and available to take care of us when we were growing up. And that sort of traditional allocation of responsibility worked terribly, terribly well in our family growing up. And then their marriage fell apart when that anchor wasn't there anymore, when we kids grew up and my mom's really come into her own and was very happy in her later life and my dad remarried and was very, very happy with his second wife. So it's sort of a happy ending with some bumps along the road.

Blanche Touhill: Well, I used to deal with your mother in her business too and she was very thorough and I was so disappointed when she went out of business.

Jane Arnold: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: We used to just send our healthcare forms to her and she would tell us what you paid and what you didn't pay.

Jane Arnold: No matter how complicated it was, she could sort it out.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, she could sort it out and it was just wonderful. So the day I went over to take a lesson from her in order to...my husband and I went, both, and when we left we thought, well, we'll try to do it but, you know...

Jane Arnold: There's no easy path.

Blanche Touhill: No, there's no easy path. She knew it, she knew what to do.

Jane Arnold: Yeah, she did and healthcare is purposefully obtuse, I think. They make money on the market and I think the services she provided through her business was really thoughtful.

Blanche Touhill: But it was wonderful the way both your parents supported you in going to Russia and Kazakhstan.

Jane Arnold: Yeah, they definitely did. Right before I had proceeded with the adoption of Dasha, my older daughter, I ended a long relationship with a man who was not very popular with my parents and so where it might have been a little controversial to have children on my own, my parents were never anything but supportive and they saw the alternative. The traditional

alternative to your earlier question would have been that I would have married him. I mean, it would have led to my having the family that I wanted but because of the opportunities that are available to women now, I was able to walk away from an unhappy relationship and proceed to the happiest phase of my life.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, you did mention earlier that the theme of your life was really being a mother and helping your children fulfill their potential.

Jane Arnold: Mm-hmm.

Blanche Touhill: And that's a wonderful goal to have.

Jane Arnold: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: Talk about, what kind of law did he do and what kind of law do you do?

Jane Arnold: Well, my dad came of age before there was great specializations so he did a little bit of everything but for the last probably 25 or so years of his career, he was a real estate lawyer and he was a very well-respected one. I started wanting to just do traditional mergers and acquisitions and quickly sort of danced over to the healthcare arena because doing deals in the healthcare industry is sort of a Ginger Rogers experience. It's backwards and in high heels. You've got this regulatory overlay on traditional deals and if you can make both kind of marry up, it's an incredible client service opportunity and my clients appreciate the fact that I speak the language of their industry and it's been a great career.

Blanche Touhill: Well, I guess your political background helped.

Jane Arnold: Mm-hmm. I bring my political perspective to everything that I do, including how healthcare is regulated but I think having worked on the Hill, independent of the Partisanship of it, there's a human element to why is the government prosecuting this instead of that or why did they pass this law in the first place? What were they trying to protect against? And I think it's a little bit unique the way I do it, that I think about that and explain it to clients and that provides the context.