

An Interview with  
**Maryanna Coad**

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

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interviewed by Dr. Blanche M. Touhill  
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**Oral History Program**

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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.

Maryanna Coad: My name is Maryanna Coad.

Blanche Touhill: Maryanna, would you talk about when you were a young child, and talk about your mother and father and your cousins, if you had any, or your grandparents, or people on the block that you knew. Just talk about your youth, and I'd appreciate it if you'd put in something about how you played.

Maryanna Coad: Okay. I lived with my mother and my dad and two sisters and a brother, and my brother was the baby. I can still remember when my mother brought him home from the hospital and he was a boy and the three girls are, "Oh, a boy!" and my dad was tickled to death, and I can also remember playing outside in the street around the lamp post. It was kind of dusty around there from all the kids playing there all the time, and we had a lot of good times. We went out in the morning and came back at night for dinner.

Blanche Touhill: And did your family know exactly where you were?

Maryanna Coad: Generally, they knew where we were, oh, yes, they did, but we didn't go far. We would go outside to play, and there would be all kinds of children out there, waiting to play. And we had a good time.

Blanche Touhill: Did the boys and girls play together?

Maryanna Coad: You know, I think sometimes we did, but most of the time we didn't. The girls used to play dolls on the front porch, and the boys didn't want to play dolls. We would play house, and we thought there was nothing like house.

Blanche Touhill: [laughter] And your sisters played with you?

Maryanna Coad: Oh, yes, and the houses were close together, and we had gangways. Do you remember those?

Blanche Touhill: Yes, I remember gangways.

Maryanna Coad: We played in the gangway, I think it's because it was cool there, and sort of private, not that we were hiding anything, but we just liked to be there.

Blanche Touhill: Was your gangway, did it have cement on the bottom, or did it have grass?

Maryanna Coad: No, it was cement.

Blanche Touhill: What kind of games did you play?

Maryanna Coad: Outside?

Blanche Touhill: Besides dolls and house and...

Maryanna Coad: We played Kick the Tin Can, Hide and Seek; played ball. I can't...

Blanche Touhill: Did you play softball?

Maryanna Coad: No.

Blanche Touhill: You threw the ball on the steps?

Maryanna Coad: Yes, it was a tennis ball, and we used to throw it on the steps that went up to the front porch. We had a good time.

Blanche Touhill: And then who among your family members encouraged you to be what you wanted to be, or study, or go to college, or...?

Maryanna Coad: You know, actually, I don't remember. I just vaguely remember my mother and dad talking about "when you go to college," but I didn't know at that time what they were talking about. It was all vague.

Blanche Touhill: But they wanted you to go to college?

Maryanna Coad: Oh, yes. Yes. Well, my mother had graduated from high school in St. Joseph, Missouri, from the Sacred Heart nuns, their school there, and my dad was a graduate of University of Missouri Law School, so he wanted all of his kids to be educated. Oh, I know what they used to say: "It's the best insurance you can buy."

Blanche Touhill: In case you got married and your husband died?

Maryanna Coad: Died, yes.

Blanche Touhill: So you knew it was a great protection for you?

Maryanna Coad: Yes. Oh, yes, yes, and I think we all knew that. I don't know how my brother felt. The girls did.

Blanche Touhill: And did they all go to college?

- Maryanna Coad: Jeannie and I, my younger sister and I, did. My brother did. He got a Master's in social work. He's a social worker, but my sister, Patsy, quit to get married. And I can remember my mother making a big fuss and Daddy making a fuss, but she was determined, and she did. But she got the right person back then.
- Blanche Touhill: And she married a lawyer, was my memory.
- Maryanna Coad: Well, he wasn't a lawyer when she married him. He had graduated from St. Louis University, and then he worked for Hussmann. I know this isn't what your point is, but...
- Blanche Touhill: No, but it's fine. Go on.
- Maryanna Coad: But then he went to law school at Washington University after he had his third child. They had six of them.
- Blanche Touhill: Did he go to school while he was working?
- Maryanna Coad: I think they gave him off part-time, but I don't know the details of how that worked out. I just know it took him longer, and he went at night.
- Blanche Touhill: And did he then work in the legal department of Hussmann, or did he stay on the business side?
- Maryanna Coad: He stayed on the business side, I think. Hussmann was purchased by another company, but I don't remember who purchased them.
- Blanche Touhill: Well, it's interesting, because your brother-in-law was a curator of the University of Missouri.
- Maryanna Coad: Yes.
- Blanche Touhill: And that was an important job. And I always thought of him...
- Maryanna Coad: Oh, he loved it.
- Blanche Touhill: I always thought of him as a lawyer, not so much a businessman, but he probably was both. At least when he left the company, he practiced law.
- Maryanna Coad: Yeah. Yes, he did. But he didn't practice law all his life, his working life.
- Blanche Touhill: Well, when you went to elementary and secondary school, did you go in the neighborhood, or did you go on a bus, or...?

- Maryanna Coad: Oh, no, we walked to school. We used to walk up the alley.
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, yes, because it was shorter?
- Maryanna Coad: Yes, I wouldn't do it today, but we all walked up the alley and crossed Oak Hill and then went on up to school. And I don't think my mother— When we first went to 1st grade, there was the old school, and it always used to catch fire, and my mother would be—they finally built a new school, brand new. It was wonderful. It was Holy Family Grade School, and all four of us walked up to school and then walked home. In fact, we used to come home for lunch, and my mother kept saying, "You don't have to come home for lunch," but we liked the food here better. But I don't think they had federal programs for lunch then. You had to bring it in a bag. I don't remember a cafeteria in our school. Maybe I forgot; I don't know. But I remember coming home for lunch and going back up to school. It was a real short walk. But that's why my mother and dad bought that house, because it was close to school, and the kids could walk, which I thought was a wonderful idea.
- Blanche Touhill: So, did your playmates expand when you went to grade school?
- Maryanna Coad: Sort of, yes, about the 6th grade you started to make friends at school, but before that, I didn't have too many friends at school. They was the kids on the block.
- Blanche Touhill: Well, in grade school, did you excel in anything, or were you a leader in any way, or...?
- Maryanna Coad: No.
- Blanche Touhill: No?
- Maryanna Coad: No. No, I did what I was told. I found out that to get along you obeyed the nuns, and I'm sorry to disappoint you.
- Blanche Touhill: No, it's fine. Yeah.
- Maryanna Coad: I remember one time I was late for mass, and I had to sit next to the—we went to eight o'clock mass every morning, and I had to sit next to Sister Hilaria. She scared the devil out of me, and I hardly breathed because I was so afraid she would say, "Sit still. Don't wiggle," and so I just—I think she must have thought there was something wrong with me, but I just

didn't want to upset her and have her yell at me after church. They were very strict. I don't know about the Sisters that you went to, but we had very strict nuns. It wasn't until I got to the 6th grade that I felt comfortable with a nun. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th, I was scared to death of them.

Blanche Touhill: What made the 6th grade nun more human?

Maryanna Coad: I don't know. She was so friendly, and she laughed a lot. She was Sister Inez Marie. She had a more modern name, and she wasn't so dominant, so bossy. Everybody liked her. All teachers should be like that.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, they should.

Maryanna Coad: Oh, she was wonderful.

Blanche Touhill: Good.

Maryanna Coad: But my whole...

Blanche Touhill: Did she say anything to you about your abilities?

Maryanna Coad: No. I just got good grades. I had to get good grades at home and good grades at school, and I think there was something innate in me, and I think most girls, they want to get good grades, back then. If I came home with a bad grade, I think my mother and dad would have really been angry. I don't know.

Blanche Touhill: Well, so then you went to high school, but then you had to go on the bus?

Maryanna Coad: No. We...

Blanche Touhill: No?

Maryanna Coad: No. I went to St. Elizabeth's Academy for two years.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, that's in the neighborhood.

Maryanna Coad: Yes, and we walked up to the bus, and we took the bus up to Grand Avenue and then walked.

Blanche Touhill: Yes. And how was St. Elizabeth's?



- Maryanna Coad: Well, unfortunately, it had the same nuns that Holy Family did. My dad did not want me to go there, but Phyllis was going there, and Joanne was going there, and so I wanted to go with them. So I did, and I didn't like it, because it was a repeat of grade school. So...
- Blanche Touhill: So you convinced your father and mother to move you in your junior year?
- Maryanna Coad: Oh, yes.
- Blanche Touhill: Yes, and where'd you go then?
- Maryanna Coad: Ursuline and I loved it. I'm so glad I did that. The nuns were the Ursuline nuns, and they were much more friendly and pleasant and not so strict. I'd guess this isn't very good for your interview, but...
- Blanche Touhill: I never knew the Ursuline nuns.
- Maryanna Coad: You didn't?
- Blanche Touhill: I didn't have...
- Maryanna Coad: Did you know any Precious Blood nuns?
- Blanche Touhill: No, the only nuns that I knew from the Precious Blood order were—they have Incarnate Word School over here near the university.
- Maryanna Coad: Incarnate Word Academy?
- Blanche Touhill: Yeah, isn't that who Precious Blood...?
- Maryanna Coad: Oh, yeah.
- Blanche Touhill: Is it? Or am I wrong?
- Maryanna Coad: I don't think so, but I don't know.
- Blanche Touhill: I don't know either. I shouldn't...
- Maryanna Coad: I really don't.
- Blanche Touhill: Yeah, I shouldn't say that. Well, so how was—you liked St. Elizabeth's. Why did you like it? I mean, the nuns were nicer...
- Maryanna Coad: Ursuline.

Blanche Touhill: Sorry, Ursuline. But what else? Did you like the girls?

Maryanna Coad: Yes, I did.

Blanche Touhill: Now, you were coming in your junior year, so did you make friends?

Maryanna Coad: Yes, very easily, very easily. In fact, I think I made friends better at Ursuline, more easily. I don't know if it was because I was more mature supposedly, or why, but I think the girls at St. Elizabeth's were real cliquey, and that's what I didn't like, but Ursuline was not like that.

Blanche Touhill: Do you still have friends from your high school days?

Maryanna Coad: It's funny that you ask, because I graduated in 1949, and we still get together once a month, ten of us.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, my goodness, ten of you?

Maryanna Coad: Ten of us.

Blanche Touhill: And have any of them died?

Maryanna Coad: Yes—well, nine now; one girl died.

Blanche Touhill: But only one has died in all those years?

Maryanna Coad: Well, one died right after high school, but the last one to die was five years ago, Rita. And everybody...

Blanche Touhill: And did the girls stay in St. Louis?

Maryanna Coad: No, but the ones that stayed in St. Louis are the ones that got together. Actually, they were about 13 or 14, but some of them left St. Louis.

Blanche Touhill: But you still have nine, basically, going to the lunches?

Maryanna Coad: Yes. In fact, we just met last Friday—yes, last Friday—and there were nine of us.

Blanche Touhill: Isn't that remarkable?

Maryanna Coad: And we all showed up for lunch.

Blanche Touhill: And did they all go to college?

Maryanna Coad: They either went to college or nursing school.

- Blanche Touhill: Oh, yes, but they got a certification or a degree of some kind?
- Maryanna Coad: Yes, except Rita. She dropped out to get married, and she never went back. Another girl dropped out to get married, and she went back to school.
- Blanche Touhill: Later.
- Maryanna Coad: Later. In fact, she had six kids and then it didn't work. She said he was an alcoholic. I don't know what he said about her. But anyway, she said, "We can separate, but first I want to go back to school, and I want to get a nursing certificate," and she said, "Then you can leave because I can support the two that are left. I'm comfortable with that." And that's what she did. In fact, she got her Master's. She went on to get a B.S. and then she went on to get a Master's.
- Blanche Touhill: Isn't that wonderful?
- Maryanna Coad: Oh, I thought it was. He has died, but I told her, "That was a wonderful thing that he did," I think.
- Blanche Touhill: Now, where did she go to get her nursing RN? Did she go to the community college, or did she go to a hospital school?
- Maryanna Coad: No, no, she went to the community college. And then I think she got her B.S. here at UMSL.
- Blanche Touhill: [0:15:00] It could easily be.
- Maryanna Coad: But I'm not sure.
- Blanche Touhill: We have reciprocity with a lot of the community colleges. They go two years, get the RN, and then they come over here for the BSN.
- Maryanna Coad: Yeah, that's what she did, but then she went on, but I—Phoenix? She might...
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, yes, it could have been the University of Phoenix.
- Maryanna Coad: Yes.
- Blanche Touhill: For her Master's.
- Maryanna Coad: It was an online course.

- Blanche Touhill: Yes. Yeah. Well, wonderful. So she supported herself for the rest of her life or working life?
- Maryanna Coad: Yes, she did. Oh, she was very happy that he was so willing to do that, and I think that was a good thing.
- Blanche Touhill: Yeah. So he helped watch the children while she was at school probably. No?
- Maryanna Coad: No, I don't think so.
- Blanche Touhill: But he just supported her while that was going on and paid her tuition or something like that?
- Maryanna Coad: Yeah. I think till she got her nursing certificate. Then she went back and got the degree.
- Blanche Touhill: Yes, of course.
- Maryanna Coad: She worked hard.
- Blanche Touhill: How old was she when she went back to school?
- Maryanna Coad: Oh, I can't remember.
- Blanche Touhill: But she probably was 35 at least?
- Maryanna Coad: At least, yes, because her last child was born—I don't remember.
- Blanche Touhill: Well, it doesn't matter. But she had a lot of gumption.
- Maryanna Coad: Oh, I think she did. Yes.
- Blanche Touhill: Well, so when it was time to graduate from high school, what did you decide to do?
- Maryanna Coad: Well, I wanted to go to college, and truthfully, I wanted to go to Missouri University at Columbia, and my dad had a fit. "No, no," he said, "you can go to any Catholic college in St. Louis that you would like to go to." Well, I was tired of girls' schools, so I said, "I'll take St. Louis U." So I got in there.
- Blanche Touhill: So he said yes?
- Maryanna Coad: Oh, sure.

- Blanche Touhill: Yeah. And what did your mother say?
- Maryanna Coad: She didn't have too much to say. She agreed. Daddy was sort of the dominant one.
- Blanche Touhill: Okay. And so you came to St. Louis U. Did you like St. Louis U.?
- Maryanna Coad: Oh, yes, I did. I did, except for a few things that I didn't like about the teachers, but that's picky stuff. I mean, I'm sure you had some teachers that you...[sighs]
- Blanche Touhill: Yeah. There was something about the nursing school, you went to Arts & Sciences for a year?
- Maryanna Coad: I matriculated in Arts & Science, and then I thought, "Okay, what am I going to do? I got to have something to do," and at that time, Marion [spelling?] and Rita, my good friends, were in nursing school—at St. John's—and they loved it. So I said, "Well, I want to go to St. John's, to nursing school," and my dad had a fit. "No, no," he said, "you're going to St. Louis University School of Nursing." I don't know how he knew about it. So that's what I did. I transferred from the [Arts and?] College School to the nursing school.
- Blanche Touhill: And you lived at St. Mary's Hospital?
- Maryanna Coad: St. Mary's Hospital, yeah.
- Blanche Touhill: For three years?
- Maryanna Coad: For three years.
- Blanche Touhill: Well now, did you come back to the St. Louis U. campus on Grand Avenue at all?
- Maryanna Coad: Yes, we came back for anatomy, we came back for physiology, and we had to minor in philosophy. I'm sure you did, too.
- Blanche Touhill: Yes.
- Maryanna Coad: And I took logic there. I can't remember the name of the man. It's terrible. And we took philosophy of Thomas Aquinas. I just don't remember. But I'll never forget Father Bannon, the history teacher.
- Blanche Touhill: Yes, he taught the freshman history course.

- Maryanna Coad: Oh, I thought he was wonderful. He made it very interesting.
- Blanche Touhill: He was a wonderful teacher.
- Maryanna Coad: Yes, he was.
- Blanche Touhill: And he was a very fine scholar. When I was over there, he had published 17 books, and he was a Latin American scholar. He was not only a good teacher, he was a good writer and publisher, too, and he was chair of the department forever—of the history department.
- Maryanna Coad: Yes. Well, that's where you got your Master's.
- Blanche Touhill: I got my Bachelor's and doctorate from the history, but my Master's is geography. That's how I knew Jim. Jim was a geographer, your brother-in-law.
- Maryanna Coad: Jim McCue?
- Blanche Touhill: Uh-huh. Well, that's where I met him. He was in the geography classes.
- Maryanna Coad: Oh, for heaven's sakes.
- Blanche Touhill: That's my memory. I could be wrong, but I think that was it. Well, did you make friends at St. Louis U.?
- Maryanna Coad: Yes, I made a lot of good friends. Yeah. And I know, at that time, there were some girls who were all gung ho to join the sorority, and for some reason or another, sororities didn't appeal to me, and so I didn't. So then we were down in Des Peres Hall where that cafeteria used to be. A group of us used to eat lunch in the back of the building, on the ground floor, and we were back there, and we just all sort of congregated there to eat lunch every day, or almost every day. So those of us who did not join the sorority formed our own club.
- Blanche Touhill: *[laughter]* And I was a part of that club.
- Maryanna Coad: Yes, yes, yes, and you still are.
- Blanche Touhill: Yes, we still meet. We still meet, that's right. So you meet with your high school friends and your college friends?
- Maryanna Coad: Yes.

- Blanche Touhill: Now, what about your nursing friends? Did you develop friendships there?
- Maryanna Coad: Not really, not as close because by that time I was running around with my high school friends and my college friends, and they were—I don't know, they were sort of—well, I think there was a troublemaker in there, in that group, and I think that's the worst thing that can happen to a...
- Blanche Touhill: ...a group.
- Maryanna Coad: It was a small group—to any group, and some of the things she did were unbelievable. She told this one girl that I couldn't stand her. I never said anything like that, real petty little stuff, and we didn't realize what was going on until we graduated.
- Blanche Touhill: Yes. I remember that you had to work so many hours a day, or...
- Maryanna Coad: Yes.
- Blanche Touhill: What was that?
- Maryanna Coad: Well, it was the clinicals—they call them clinicals—and you have to work so many hours a day on each department, like in the psychiatric department, the OB-GYN department, the delivery room, pediatrics, surgery, medical floor. You had to put in so many hours, and so we worked a lot. You could never have had another job. You could never have worked at [Wellex?] or Styx or anything because your hours were very different. Sometimes you worked seven to eleven or eleven to three, although they didn't do that very often because it was too hard to get up to go to school. And we had some of our professors came out from the university to the hospital, and they had classrooms there.
- Blanche Touhill: What area did you like best of all those areas? Did you go into that form of nursing, or...?
- Maryanna Coad: No, I went to public health so I could work nine to five.
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, when you graduated.
- Maryanna Coad: Yes, I worked for the city health department.
- Blanche Touhill: I didn't know that.

Maryanna Coad: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: And how was that job?

Maryanna Coad: It was wonderful. At that time, they had a high infant mortality rate, which is very bad for a city. You don't want that, and so these ladies would come up from the bootheel in Southern Missouri, no pre-natal care, and they'd come to St. Louis to City Hospital to have their baby and then they'd stay here for a week or two weeks. Then they'd go back home and no care for the baby. So we would get these referrals from City Hospital that Marybeth had a baby, her address, and we had to get out to that—and most of them were tenements—we had to get out to the tenement and talk to the lady, "Bring your baby into the Well Baby Clinic." So the pediatrician was there, and she would say, "Okay, you give this..." It's like pediatric care. You get your immunizations, and if the baby has any problems, and...

Blanche Touhill: And did the mothers bring the babies in?

Maryanna Coad: Yes, most of them did. Once they knew about the program, and if we could get them before they left to go back to the bootheel, they would stay with their friend or with their mother, not so much [the?]...

Blanche Touhill: Oh, they would? And get the baby cared for?

Maryanna Coad: Yes, it was very important, to get those babies immunized.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, yes.

Maryanna Coad: And to make sure that they stayed well. I remember one time going out to a—I'll never forget it—going out to the top floor of the tenement, and here was this lady with this baby, and she said, "He's not doing too well," and I looked at him, and you could just see he was really sick, and the poor woman, she didn't know it. Or if she know it—She was watching the television. And I said, "Oh," I said, "we have to get him to the hospital right now." Well, at that time, there was no 9-1-1. She didn't have a car. I didn't have a car. So I said, "Well, I'll tell you what I'm..." and she said, "I can't take him to the hospital." She said, "I don't have any bus money." I said, "I've got some," so I said, "We wrap the baby up." His eyes were in the back of his head, and he was hot. She said, "Oh," she said, "he's been having diarrhea." [sighs] He was dehydrated. So I said, "Take the baby."



So I gave her the car fare, and I walked her to the bus—no, it was a Grand Avenue streetcar, and I said to the streetcar driver, “Take this lady and her baby to City Hospital.” She didn’t know where to get off. I said, “Do you know where it is?” “Oh, yes.” “The conductor will tell you where to get off,” and so the doctor called my boss, Mrs. White, the next day and said, “The baby made it here just in time.” Oh, he was in the hospital for two or three weeks. And so I’ll never forget him. Maybe I shouldn’t say this, but his name was Danny Little, and I can still see that baby, and I can still the mother, and so—“Well, he’s a little sick.” A little sick? But you can see why they had to have public health nurses.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, public health.

Maryanna Coad: Because otherwise he would have been another statistic, and you don’t want that. Well, you don’t want a baby to die like that, so and she told me, she brought him into the clinic at 13<sup>th</sup> and Wyoming, and she said to me, “Oh,” she said, “the doctor said that I got there just in time.”

Blanche Touhill: So she knew?

Maryanna Coad: She knew then, yeah, and she kept bringing him in. Frankly, I was surprised.

Blanche Touhill: Did you have any other cases like that? Did you go in the schools?

Maryanna Coad: Well, that was later.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, okay. But you were still working for the public health?

Maryanna Coad: No, I went to the county public health.

Blanche Touhill: Oh.

Maryanna Coad: What happened was—oh, we also did TB follow-up. A person would get tuberculosis, which, at that time...

Blanche Touhill: ...was deadly.

Maryanna Coad: ...was a bad thing.

Blanche Touhill: Yeah, bad.

Maryanna Coad: And they would be out in the community, spitting, coughing, and hacking; and so we would have to go tell them, “You have to come in and get an x-

ray,” and then so they would, and they would be diagnosed, and then, if we could get them to the sanatorium at that time...

Blanche Touhill: Yes, Mount St. Rose, was that Mount St. Rose?

Maryanna Coad: That was the Catholic one. There was another...Koch.

Blanche Touhill: Koch! That’s right, Koch Hospital.

Maryanna Coad: Koch Hospital. Then that was good. They would be well taken care of, but so many people didn’t want to go because they knew that it was going to be a long time in bed because at that time, that was the only answer.

Blanche Touhill: Bed rest.

Maryanna Coad: Bed rest, right. So it was sort of sad. Then we had to go; they had to name all their contacts. And then we had to go and have them come in for a tine test, which is a test on your arm. I don’t know if they still do this today. I was telling my granddaughter this story, and she said, “Oh, yes!” She had a tine test at her school.

Blanche Touhill: Well, teachers these days have to have a tuberculosis test before the school starts. I don’t know whether they have to do it every year or every five years or whatever it is, and I think they take a blood sample or something. And so I don’t know what they do, but they test, and they don’t let the teachers in the classrooms unless they can pass the test or bring a certificate that they’ve been tested, yeah. Well, what I’m amazed at is when you tell somebody that they’re sick like that, that they’re willing to go to get treated. Don’t some of them refuse to go?

Maryanna Coad: Yes, and then that was a problem. In fact, one time I went to the home of this man to check on him and he was obviously...

Blanche Touhill: [0:30:02] ...sick.

Maryanna Coad: Had lots of sputum, and, oh, it was terrible, and I didn’t know what to do. So I came back to the office, and I told Mrs. White, the supervisor at that particular health clinic, and she said—I don’t know what she did. I can’t remember. I think she called the police, and they hauled him off to Koch, but he didn’t want to go: “I’m not sick; I’m not that sick.” Oh, yes, you were.

- Blanche Touhill: No, I think they could force you into treatment. I've always heard if you lived in a house, and you had somebody in your family who had tuberculosis, an active tuberculosis, they could live in a room if they took care of the spitting out and everything and they watched the food didn't get contaminated by anybody else or something. But maybe if you got so bad, they would come in and get you. I don't know.
- Maryanna Coad: Oh, he was a disaster. For anybody who...
- Blanche Touhill: And spreading the disease. And spreading the disease.
- Maryanna Coad: That's what they're concerned about, yeah, and I understand that now, with AIDS affecting the immune system, that you have more people—it's coming back. I read that.
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, my.
- Maryanna Coad: Yeah, that's why I think they're still having the teachers take the TB test because you don't know who they're living with.
- Blanche Touhill: Well, and also, it's so contagious. If you're the teacher and you'd have tuberculosis, you...
- Maryanna Coad: Oh, that'd be awful.
- Blanche Touhill: ...you could spread the disease.
- Maryanna Coad: Especially the young children.
- Blanche Touhill: Yeah, yeah. Well, what other diseases were rampant in your time? Was it polio? Were you around when the polio scares...
- Maryanna Coad: Yes, yes, but I was older then. That was in the—no, I guess it was.
- Blanche Touhill: But you weren't practicing?
- Maryanna Coad: No.
- Blanche Touhill: You weren't a nurse in those days?
- Maryanna Coad: No.
- Blanche Touhill: But when you were a nurse tuberculosis and, really, childcare...
- Maryanna Coad: Well baby care.

Blanche Touhill: Baby care. That's right, baby care, and was there anything else that was...

Maryanna Coad: Social diseases.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, yes, of course.

Maryanna Coad: But I didn't get into that part of it. But they...

Blanche Touhill: Were you afraid to go into some of these houses?

Maryanna Coad: Well, you know what's really interesting, we used to wear a uniform and have a bag, and we would come into the neighborhood, and they'd say, "You looking for Marybelle?" and I'd say...

Blanche Touhill: Oh, they knew.

Maryanna Coad: They knew what you were—not always, but a lot of times, say, "Oh, she's on the second floor of that brick house over there."

Blanche Touhill: So they were out to help you?

Maryanna Coad: I think so, yes, but I wouldn't want to do that now.

Blanche Touhill: No, but I'm just saying: in those days, you weren't afraid...

Maryanna Coad: No!

Blanche Touhill: ...and people greeted you, and...

Maryanna Coad: Oh, yes, it was wonderful, when I think back, and I was not afraid at all. And sometimes...

Blanche Touhill: And you went to these addresses on the buses and streetcars?

Maryanna Coad: Yes, yes, yes, incredible.

Blanche Touhill: Yeah. Well, now, when you transferred to the county, though, you couldn't go on the bus or the streetcar?

Maryanna Coad: No, no, uh-uh, and the reason why I transferred to the county was because I always wanted to go to Europe, and there was a group going from St. Louis University. In fact, I think you went.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, I did go.

Maryanna Coad: It was too expensive, and I didn't want to go.

- Blanche Touhill: Yeah. I had been teaching schools a couple of years and I had saved my money.
- Maryanna Coad: Same here.
- Blanche Touhill: And I had just finished my Master's Degree.
- Maryanna Coad: Oh.
- Blanche Touhill: And then I was thinking of getting the doctorate, and I could get six hours of credit toward my doctorate if I went, so I went, and it was a wonderful experience, yeah.
- Maryanna Coad: I went with a friend of mine...
- Blanche Touhill: Later.
- Maryanna Coad: No, June the 4th we left. The boat left, about the same time.
- Blanche Touhill: But you went for lesser money.
- Maryanna Coad: Yes, but I couldn't go, but my dad said he would loan the money to me, so I said, "Okay," so I borrowed \$900, which today sounds like peanuts, but—no, it doesn't. But...
- Blanche Touhill: Well, my first job, as a teacher, I made twenty-eight hundred dollars.
- Maryanna Coad: I don't think I made that much. I can't remember, but I saved it.
- Blanche Touhill: Yeah, I lived at home, and I saved my money. Did you live at home?
- Maryanna Coad: Yes. It never even occurred to me to get an...
- Blanche Touhill: Women didn't live in apartments by themselves when they got a job, no.
- Maryanna Coad: It never even occurred to me to do that.
- Blanche Touhill: You stayed then, basically, unless you moved to another town. If you moved to another town, then you could get an apartment, but if you were in your home town, you did not go out and get an apartment.
- Maryanna Coad: Oh, it never even dawned on me to even think about that.
- Blanche Touhill: But you were allowed to sort of save your money too?

Maryanna Coad: Oh, sure, yes, and so we left June the 4th, and we bicycled all over Europe.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, how wonderful.

Maryanna Coad: We went on a hostel trip, America Youth Hostels. Oh, it was wonderful, and we came home the end of September.

Blanche Touhill: Oh.

Maryanna Coad: Yeah, we were over there a long time.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, my goodness!

Maryanna Coad: And we went from hostel to hostel, and when we were in Germany, we met some Irish fellows, and they said, "Oh, when you come to Ireland, you must come to our house."

Blanche Touhill: And did you?

Maryanna Coad: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: *[laughter]* But you didn't marry one of them?

Maryanna Coad: Oh, no.

Blanche Touhill: No. Did your friend marry one of them?

Maryanna Coad: No. She came home too.

Blanche Touhill: And where all did you go?

Maryanna Coad: Everywhere: Italy, Germany, Yugo—no, we didn't go to Yugoslavia—Italy, Germany, France, Belgium, England, Ireland—What else is there? Switzerland, which was beautiful.

Blanche Touhill: Did you go up and down the mountains on a bike?

Maryanna Coad: No, no, we went...

Blanche Touhill: No, you went on a truck or a car or something.

Maryanna Coad: Yeah.

Blanche Touhill: And then did you take your bike with you, or did you rent a bike every time you...?

- Maryanna Coad: Oh, no. The ship docked in Cork, Ireland, and we had ordered these bicycles, Raleigh bicycles, and we picked them up in Ireland, and we had them when we got off the boat in England.
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, so they shipped them for you wherever you went?
- Maryanna Coad: Well, one time we took our bicycles on a train from Paris to wherever we were going. I can't remember.
- Blanche Touhill: But, I mean, you had the same bicycle as you [inaudible 0:36:50] around.
- Maryanna Coad: Yes, I came home with the same bicycle.
- Blanche Touhill: Yes, that's what I'm asking. Did you go on a boat? You went on a boat; you came back on a boat?
- Maryanna Coad: Yes. Did you go on a boat?
- Blanche Touhill: No, no, we flew.
- Maryanna Coad: No, we didn't fly, but it was a cheap trip, and we met different people in different hostels who would say, "Oh, when you come to Switzerland, you must come by and see us," so we did. And I have a little red book at home with all those addresses in it still.
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, isn't that wonderful.
- Maryanna Coad: Yeah, but I don't know if they're all still alive.
- Blanche Touhill: Now, was there much bombing in Germany and England?
- Maryanna Coad: They had cleaned it up—but this was in '54—but it wasn't like it is today, and I don't think it was as bad as it would've been in '45 when the war ended.
- Blanche Touhill: Yes, yes. Yes, yes.
- Maryanna Coad: But you could tell that they were very frugal. Could you pick up on that, too?
- Blanche Touhill: I remember that—Germany, I was in Cologne—and Germany was still bombed, but the streets were clean, and the rubble wasn't on the streets or the sidewalks. It was on a piece of property. But I remember one time there was a group of us out, we were walking along, and we needed

directions, because it was hard to know what street was where and everything, and we stopped an elderly man and woman, and the man spoke English, and we asked for directions, and the woman said to him, "Don't talk to them." I think she was afraid. She didn't know who we were, but I thought, "Isn't that..." And the other thing I remember were the Russian students. The Russian students were grown men. I mean, we were, what, 23-, 24-year-old young Americans, men and women, and the Russian students would come into some reception or something, and they were, like, 45 years old and bald and big and heavy...

Maryanna Coad: Oh, my gosh!

Blanche Touhill: ...and I think the Russians just sent people who were...

Maryanna Coad: ...as students.

Blanche Touhill: ...as students in to talk to other students. But we shunned them because we didn't know who they were. It was...

Maryanna Coad: Oh. We didn't run into too many Russians, from what I remember.

Blanche Touhill: Well, I guess the students—I came with a student group.

Maryanna Coad: Oh, yes.

Blanche Touhill: And I think then we met other students, supposedly other university students, and we were greeted very warmly. Do you remember that?

Maryanna Coad: Yes, oh, everywhere we went.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, everybody. Everywhere we went.

Maryanna Coad: Even in Germany.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, yes, even in Germany, yes.

Maryanna Coad: "Here comes the Americans." [sic]

Blanche Touhill: "Here comes the Americans," yeah, and they would thank us for...

Maryanna Coad: Oh, yes.

Blanche Touhill: It was a very—the Americans were loved in those days.

Maryanna Coad: I wonder if it's like that now.



Blanche Touhill: I imagine it's a mixed bag, don't you think?

Maryanna Coad: It's bad?

Blanche Touhill: No, it's a mixed bag, don't you think? Some people and other people...

Maryanna Coad: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: Well, how long did you work before you got married?

Maryanna Coad: Well, I graduated in '53, and I got married in '55, a little more than two years.

Blanche Touhill: Did you work after you got married?

Maryanna Coad: Yes, not long.

Blanche Touhill: You got pregnant?

Maryanna Coad: No.

Blanche Touhill: You just quit work?

Maryanna Coad: We moved to Washington, D.C.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, that was it. That was it. Yeah, that was it.

Maryanna Coad: And then I got a job up there at NIH.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, how was that?

Maryanna Coad: Oh, it was interesting.

Blanche Touhill: What did you do there?

Maryanna Coad: I was in pediatrics, and at the time we had two small boys that we had adopted, and I couldn't go to work and see those sick kids when I had my own...

Blanche Touhill: ...healthy ones.

Maryanna Coad: ...healthy ones, yeah.

Blanche Touhill: So it affected you?

Maryanna Coad: Yes, it did, more so than the Danny Littles and the other children, but they were in the hospital.

Blanche Touhill: Yes. These little children.

Maryanna Coad: Yes, and they were dying.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, my!

Maryanna Coad: And I thought, "Ugh, enough of this." I would come home really sad, and I had dealt with death before, and I just couldn't do it. Jack was supposedly working for National Security Agency, and he didn't work; he went to school to Catholic University. They sent him there to get a Master's in engineering at Catholic University, and he was home during the day—And he studied, and he took care of the kids, and I would go to work. It was kind of a different arrangement, but I didn't work full-time. But I did go.

Blanche Touhill: Who did the cooking? And who did the cleaning?

Maryanna Coad: [*nods*]

Blanche Touhill: Okay, but he was the babysitter.

Maryanna Coad: Yeah.

Blanche Touhill: Which allowed you during the day to work some hours?

Maryanna Coad: Yes, but I couldn't work at night because he used to go to school at night.

Blanche Touhill: Yes.

Maryanna Coad: But that was all right. But...

Blanche Touhill: But that's why you quit nursing, really?

Maryanna Coad: Yeah.

Blanche Touhill: Did you ever work after that, in nursing?

Maryanna Coad: No. No, I never did.

Blanche Touhill: Well, then you had a little girl, too. You had another baby?

Maryanna Coad: Yeah, well, Anne joined the family, and so—and no, I never went back.

Blanche Touhill: So you had three small children?

Maryanna Coad: Yeah.

- Blanche Touhill: Was Anne born in D.C.?
- Maryanna Coad: No, she wasn't born until 1965. We were married 10 years.
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, okay. Well, how did the boys receive Anne?
- Maryanna Coad: Oh, she was a baby, and they liked her, yeah, but we found out later on that they used to call her "the natural."
- Blanche Touhill: *[laughter]* Well, let me sort of change the topic: Did you miss not working?
- Maryanna Coad: No, because I didn't get that much help from Jack. I had to cook breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and he did read to the kids every night before they went to bed, but other than that, I did everything. I washed his shirts and ironed them.
- Blanche Touhill: So you were really the homemaker? You became the homemaker?
- Maryanna Coad: Yes, full-time, and he didn't do anything, and that's why I'm sitting there thinking, "How do these women work today if they have a family? But certainly—one time I told my good friend, [Challenge?], this because she was a teacher. "Oh," she said, "Paul's in charge of cooking so many days a week, and I'm in charge of it so many days a week," and she said, "He does all the vacuuming and the dusting." My mouth fell open.
- Blanche Touhill: Well, the man's role was beginning to change.
- Maryanna Coad: Then.
- Blanche Touhill: Yes, it began to change, but the man's role prior to, really, our married life, was the man did certain things, and the woman had certain roles, and it didn't cross over.
- Maryanna Coad: No.
- Blanche Touhill: So Challenge's husband: that was probably a condition of her teaching. That he had to do something.
- Maryanna Coad: Oh, I'm sure it was. Yes, and she didn't go back to teaching until the baby was in the 2nd grade. But she was able to do that. But when I looked at her, and I said, "How do you do all that?" I couldn't do it. Then I thought, "Oh, there must be something wrong with me. These other women are."

Blanche Touhill: [0:45:01] Well, but they have help in some way or the other. In some way or the other.

Maryanna Coad: But I didn't have any.

Blanche Touhill: Yeah. If you had been born 50 years earlier, would your life have been different?

Maryanna Coad: Oh, yeah, I think so. I do.

Blanche Touhill: How?

Maryanna Coad: Well, I don't think that we would've had the conveniences that we did now and all the help, vacuum cleaners and whatever, in terms of keeping a house. And I think the husband probably paid all the bills then. I paid all the bills. I'll never forget: we were living in Washington, D.C. area, in Bethesda, and the bell rang, and I answered it, and he said, "Water company," and I said, "Yes?" He said, "I'm here to turn off your water." I said, "Why?" He said, "You didn't pay your bill," and at the time I had diapers in the washing machine, and we were getting ready to go to St. Louis. You had to wash your diapers. There were no Pampers. So I said, "Well, I don't have any cash but," I said, "I can get some." So I said, "Wait here," and so I went across the street to my good friend, Marsha, and I said, "Can you loan me twenty dollars?"—or forty, or—I think it was twenty—and she said, "Sure." I said, "I'll give it back to you tonight." I told her what happened, so she gave me the twenty bucks, and I gave it to him. I said, "Now will you not turn off the water?" and he said, "No, okay." He said, "That's fine. All we want is our money." So when Jack came home, I said, "Why didn't you pay the water bill?" "Water bill?" He's terrible at that. He said, "Oh," he said, "well, they can wait for their money," and I said, "No, they can't. They came out here today to shut it off." So...

Blanche Touhill: So you took over...

Maryanna Coad: That's when I took over...

Blanche Touhill: ...the check writing.

Maryanna Coad: ...the check, and I've been doing it for 59 years. I pay all the bills. But I didn't trust him.

- Blanche Touhill: Well, he had his mind on other things, too.
- Maryanna Coad: Oh, sure. Well, I've learned, in the past 60 years, he is not interested in finances and paying bills. And I pay them on time, and he said, "Well, what's the hurry? Let them wait." "No, no, no!"
- Blanche Touhill: What else would have been different? Would you have gone to college if you had been born 50 years earlier?
- Maryanna Coad: I don't think so. Do you?
- Blanche Touhill: No, I don't think so, either. I don't think there were that many places to go to college for women born 50 years before we were.
- Maryanna Coad: No.
- Blanche Touhill: There were a few places but not very many.
- Maryanna Coad: I agree. In fact, I told my dad I wanted to go to law school after I graduated from St. Louis University, and he looked at me, stunned, and then he started to laugh, and I never saw him laugh so hard in all my life, and I said, "What's so funny?" He said, "Girls don't go to law school," and I said, "Why not?" and he said, "You just don't!" And so I just thought, "Well, I guess I won't go." But I think if he had said, "Sure, let's sign you up," I would've, and I think I would've done very well. But that's water over the dam.
- Blanche Touhill: Yes, it is. Well, it was a different world.
- Maryanna Coad: Yes.
- Blanche Touhill: You could be a nurse, a secretary, a teacher, or a homemaker. That was really sort of the list of...
- Maryanna Coad: You were very limited, yes. And I'll never forget: he couldn't stop laughing. He thought that was the funniest thing he'd ever heard of.
- Blanche Touhill: And he ended up as a judge.
- Maryanna Coad: I think...
- Blanche Touhill: Your father.
- Maryanna Coad: Yes, and today, there are many women judges.

- Blanche Touhill: Yes, yes.
- Maryanna Coad: But when he was a judge, it was the good ol' boys' club. And I just...
- Blanche Touhill: Is there any prize or award that you've received that you really treasure?
- Maryanna Coad: This is terrible: I ran for the Board of Aldermen of the City of Greendale, and I served there for about 10 years, I think, before we moved. And they had a big to-do at the country club, Norwood Hills Country Club, and I did get an award. However—this is so typical—today I would have said, "I'm not going to be your crew today to race on the sailboat. I'm going to get the award," and I didn't. I went sailing with him and told him I couldn't come. So I didn't get the award, and that is a true story, for service to Greendale.
- Blanche Touhill: Well, it was a different world. It really was a different world.
- Maryanna Coad: Oh, yes.
- Blanche Touhill: Now how does Jack—his daughter teaches school—his granddaughter teaches—no, his daughter teaches school.
- Maryanna Coad: His daughter teaches school.
- Blanche Touhill: So how does he react to that? That's fine?
- Maryanna Coad: Oh, that's fine.
- Blanche Touhill: So he's moved with the society.
- Maryanna Coad: Oh, today he does most—he and I cook together.
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, so he's become sort of the housekeeper in a way?
- Maryanna Coad: No.
- Blanche Touhill: No, no, no, but he cooks?
- Maryanna Coad: He cooks. And he'll pick up the papers, but I wouldn't even ask him to dust, wash windows, vacuum, but he does make his side of the bed [*laughter*] because I'm not going to go around there and make it. I know that sounds funny. And he will put the dishes in the dishwasher, but he won't wipe off a counter. And he is a messy cook, and I clean up after him, but I don't say anything.

Blanche Touhill: Yeah, because he's a good cook?

Maryanna Coad: Yes, he cooks Japanese food and American food.

Blanche Touhill: Yeah, yeah.

Maryanna Coad: But you're right, he's still—and the front porch I have to sweep off, and it's full of leaves, and I was thinking to myself the other day, "I wonder how long it'll be before he'll see the leaves?" He won't.

Blanche Touhill: Yeah. I think he's just not interested in it.

Maryanna Coad: I think so, too.

Blanche Touhill: Yeah, it's not his...

Maryanna Coad: No, it's not his...

Blanche Touhill: No, it's not his thing.

Maryanna Coad: No.

Blanche Touhill: Do you want to talk about your children or your grandchildren, or...? You have three children.

Maryanna Coad: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: And you have how many grandchildren?

Maryanna Coad: Seven.

Blanche Touhill: And are they all in college, or...?

Maryanna Coad: Most of them have graduated.

Blanche Touhill: By now?

Maryanna Coad: Yeah. Three are out, and four are still in, but they all went to college except John, our oldest son. He didn't want to go.

Blanche Touhill: Yeah, well, if he didn't want to go, he didn't want to go.

Maryanna Coad: No, he likes to work with his hands. He always did, and I can't see him sitting at a desk or organizing anybody.

Blanche Touhill: Well, and he earned a living all his working life.

Maryanna Coad: Oh, he still is, yeah. He's getting ready to retire. Ugh, I can't believe that. That seems incredible.

Blanche Touhill: What do you think about the women's movement?

Maryanna Coad: I think it's great, and I think this Pope Francis is a blessing, finally. We're getting some fresh air and new ideas. He sounds just like my mother used to sound. My mother would say different things: "They shouldn't be having all those riches at the Vatican, and they shouldn't be wearing all those fancy clothes," and my dad used to say, "Now Loretta...Now Loretta..." [Those] were his favorite words, "Now Loretta," and she'd keep up, and pretty soon Daddy would leave the room. And I used to think that my dad had more influence on us, but I don't now. It was the mother, my mother. I came around to agreeing with everything that she said, and I thought, "Well, I don't care what they say; this is what I think." And then this Pope Francis came out with all these—not new ideas, but freedom for people.

Blanche Touhill: Pause. Can we pause? Talk about the new pope, why you like him.

Maryanna Coad: Because I think he's a realist, and I think he loves the people. He's not interested in the hierarchy and rank. He's interested in the common man, and I'm saying I think it's about time, and I think he's interested in their problems.

Blanche Touhill: And that would've been your mother's point of view?

Maryanna Coad: Oh, yes! And it's been my point of view for a long time. I can't understand: Jesus didn't have Monsignors, anybody titled. He was a very simple man. That's just my idea.

Blanche Touhill: Okay. What about Joey? You've mentioned Joey before?

Maryanna Coad: Oh, yeah. We used to get teased by the boys in grade school, something terrible. One time I was out there sweeping the sidewalk, and he came down, "Well, well, well, if it isn't little Maryanna," and I just glared at him, and he was sneering at me. So I took my broom [*laughter*] and I shoved it right in his eyes, the bottom of the broom, and much to my amazement, he went home and cried. He started crying, and he ran home. And I thought, "Oh, I'm going to get it. I'm going to get it." And I went in and told my mother what had happened, and she said, "Well,



let's just see." "Oh," I said, "Mrs. Alberts is going to be calling and she's really going to be screaming and mad at me," and she said, "No, no," she said, "we'll just see what happens." Nothing happened, but he left me alone, and those boys used to push our sleds—you know how you used to do sleigh riding in the street? They'd push us and try and push us under the cars! And so we just quit sleigh riding there. They had great fun pushing the girls, but only the girls, under the cars.

Blanche Touhill: Well, did Joey ever bother you again?

Maryanna Coad: No, he didn't.

Blanche Touhill: And did you learn something from that?

Maryanna Coad: Yes, I did: stand up for your rights.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, stand up for your rights.

Maryanna Coad: Stand up for yourself, yeah. But my father used to say that, too, but then, I didn't stand up against him ever. You figure that out.

Blanche Touhill: Well, I think that's normal. You loved your father.

Maryanna Coad: Yeah.

Blanche Touhill: And really, you agreed with him that in those days women didn't become lawyers.

Maryanna Coad: No, you're right.

Blanche Touhill: I remember when we went to St. Louis U., one of our classmates, Cynthia, went to the counselor and said, "I want to study to be a doctor," and the counselor said, "Women don't become doctors." And she said, "Oh?" and she said, "You should become some other medical thing like a medical technician or something or a physical therapist." I forget what Cynthia became—and so she studied that. I mean, it was an era where you were told you can't do those things you can't do.

Maryanna Coad: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: Now, I know some people did them but, very few.

Maryanna Coad: Very few, and they were looked at as odd people. Different.

Blanche Touhill: Actually, I had a cousin who was, like, 15 years older than I was, and she became a lawyer, but she never went to court. She worked in the back room with the law firm, and she wrote all the reports or all the preparation for the man to go to court, and she didn't make much money, and so I'm not saying there weren't some lawyers or some doctors, but they weren't treated the same way.

Maryanna Coad: No. In fact, my dad said that if I did go to law school, I would be like Doris Banta in their law firm...

Blanche Touhill: And she...

Maryanna Coad: ...who did just like your cousin. She was treated just like—yeah.

Blanche Touhill: She did the work but could get none of the credit and none of the salary.

Maryanna Coad: Yeah, and she was brilliant.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, yes.

Maryanna Coad: That's not fair.

Blanche Touhill: No, but it's been rectified—mainly rectified, I...

Maryanna Coad: I think we have a long way to go.

Blanche Touhill: Well, talk about that. Why do you think we have a long way to go?

Maryanna Coad: Because so many girls don't think of other opportunities for them, and when they do, I don't think they're encouraged. I've got a granddaughter—and I hate to bring up relatives—Allison, she's really bright. I think sometimes they're their own worst enemies, because she gets—well, it's a long story, but she's a freshman at Missouri State, and she could do anything she wanted to do, and I keep telling her, "Why don't you go to medical school or law school? But you're good in science; why don't you go to medical school?" "Oh," she said, "it would take too long and I want to have a family." I said, "But you can do both." They don't see it. She can't see it. Why?

Blanche Touhill: I don't know, but I think there are some girls have seen it.

Maryanna Coad: [1:00:05] Have what?

- Blanche Touhill: Have seen the path to being a doctor or a lawyer, but some don't see it. I agree with you. Some don't.
- Maryanna Coad: But why?
- Blanche Touhill: I don't know why. I don't know why. Can't answer.
- Maryanna Coad: This girl could do anything she wanted to do.
- Blanche Touhill: Maybe it's that they believe you have to do one or the other.
- Maryanna Coad: Yes, or it takes too long.
- Blanche Touhill: Yes, but that's unrealistic because anything you decide to study is going to take a long time.
- Maryanna Coad: A long time, yeah. I think you're right.
- Blanche Touhill: Well, is there anything else you want to mention before we sign off?
- Maryanna Coad: No. I hope that the women of the future can do what they want to do and get some ideas for the possibilities that lie ahead of them.
- Blanche Touhill: Well, I think that's a perfect place to end the interview. So thank you very much.