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ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

LEIGHA RUTHERFORD

Interviewed by Maria Green  
4 April 1989  
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## INTRODUCTION

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I, Leigha Butherford, hereby give  
Interviewee (please PRINT)  
my oral history interview with MARIA GREEN,  
Interviewer (please PRINT)  
which was conducted on 4/4/89, to Indiana University.  
Date.

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<u>Leigha Butherford</u> Donor	<u>4/4/89</u> Date
<u>Maria Green</u> Interviewer	<u>4/4/89</u> Date

PAOLI PROJECT  
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Biographical Data Sheet

has gotten married -  
new last name  
(Becht)

I. INTERVIEWEE/NARRATOR DATA

Full Name: Leigha Rae Rutherford  
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Address: RR#1 Box 125 RI Box 363 C  
Paoli, IN 47454 Paoli

Phone: (812) 723-3862 5315

Date of Birth: 1/18/69 Place of Birth: Louisville, Ky

Sex: Female Ethnic Origin: Scottish / English (?) Quaker

Education: High School, & I am a college Sophomore  
at IUS.

Occupational History: car hop at the Chat-N-Snak,  
waitress at the Pizza Hut, Secretary at the  
Paoli Chamber of Commerce, & full time student.

Special interests, hobbies, etc.: Swimming, reading, tennis.

Father's Name and occupation: Max Ray Rutherford

Mother's Name and occupation: Louanne Jones Rutherford

II. INTERVIEWER DATA

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Association with the Paoli Project: INTERV. OHRC SPRING 1989

Subject of interview: Growing up in Paoli, work history, high school,  
community spirit (basketball), family values

Number of Tapes: ①

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## RUTHERFORD, LEIGHA

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INDIANA UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

INTERVIEWEE: Leigha Rutherford  
INTERVIEWER: Maria Green  
SUBJECT: History of Paoli, Indiana  
DATE: April 4, 1989  
TRANSCRIBER: Norma Olmer

Green: OK. I'm Maria Green and I'm interviewing Leigha Rutherford. And it's April 4th, 1989 and this is for the Paoli Project.

So (laughs).... You were born here?

Rutherford: Yes.

G: When were you born?

R: January 18th, 1969. Well, I was born in Louisville, but three days after, you know.... I was born... does that count? Is that what you want?

G: Yes.

R: OK. I just wanted to make sure.

G: I just wanted to know about growing up in Paoli. How it was. Your whole family is from here?

R: Yes. My mother was born in... well, she's 42, and she was born here at the old hospital. And her parents were born here. Her grandparents, my great grandparents, came here from... my grandmother came from... my great grandmother came from Oregon. My great grandfather... I'm not quite sure where he came from; maybe it was from the state of Indiana.

And then my father's parents were both born and raised here, and my great grandparents were both born and raised here -- in Stampers Creek. Which is... you head towards Paoli and then there's like a little... "burg," I'd guess you'd say. That's Stampers Creek.

G: So you're 4th generation?

R: Yes, I guess so. (laughs) I never thought of it like that, but yes.

G: Are there a lot of families in Paoli that are...

R: Yes.

G: ...such old families.

R: Yes. The Lindleys and... the Lindleys... I'm trying to think. That's really all that I can think of right now... that I know that goes back as far as that. But I know a lot of people whose grandparents live here, but I don't know about their great grandparents.

G: Yes.

R: But... the Lindleys are... founded Orange County. Jonathan Lindley.

G: Yes.

R: He was one of the first to come to Orange County. So... Quakers.

G: Is your family Quaker?

R: Yes. Yes. Well, my mother's side is, but my father's side is, well... they were Baptists but now they're Quakers.

G: Why did they...?

R: I don't really know. It was... I think it was just something that they just did by just changing churches. I don't think there was a reason, but my mother's family is Quaker all the way back to my great grandparents. So....

G: Has your family always lived in town?

R: My mom's family has. Yes, they've always lived... they live right in town. That's where she grew up, so she was in walking distance of everything. Then my father lived out in the country and he went to school out in... in an older school and... with some of the Amish...

G: Yes.

R: ...when he was littler. And, you know, people come from miles around 'cause there'd be just one school located in the vicinity.

G: Is that school still there?

R: One of them is, but the other one they made into a house. They reconstructed the inside and made it into a house. But

it's the same building; it's still there. So it makes it pretty nice. And they still have elections in the older school houses; and they have club meetings and maybe some reunions every once... well, they did. I think they still do but I'm not positive.

G: So, your father moved into town when he married your mother? or...?

R: Yes. Yes, basically. They were living about a mile out; that's still in city limits. So, that's in town for him. So, that was a big adjustment but he really likes it. He really likes it.

G: What do your parents do?

R: My mother is Deputy Treasurer of Orange County and my father is a truck driver for Hall Brothers Trucking in Orleans. So... he has been for a long time. And she just got a job a few years ago; I can't even remember how long.

G: So, when you were little, she didn't work?

R: No, not at... I think I was a... I'm thinking I was a freshman or a sophomore in high school when she got a job, which was... you know, my brother is 4 years younger than me. And then my sister is 8 years younger than me. So, it was OK for my brother and I because we had had her at home when we were, you know, little. But Mom was worried about taking away from Lindsey, my little sister, who's 12 now, because she wasn't there with her, you know, like she was with us. And she's really felt guilty about that which, you know, understandably.... But it wasn't a problem for my brother and I.

G: Why did she go work?

R: Why did she go to work?

G: Yes.

R: Well, we needed the extra money. Basically. And it helped out a lot. And she's met some nice people, and has a good boss, and made some connections. So it really worked out for the best, you know; it gave her a peace of mind too. So, I think it's good for her. She says she'd like to go... she'd like to go back to being a homemaker, but then, again, she wouldn't either. So, she's kind of split, you know.

G: Yes.

R: Now that she's had a taste of both things, she's kind of undecided.



G: What about you? What do you think you want to do?

R: I want to be an elementary-school teacher.

G: Do you think that when you have kids, you'll keep working? or...?

R: I tell myself that after I... I want to teach for about 4 or 5 years... well, hopefully, you know. I say this now; it could be just 3 years but... and then after I teach for awhile, then take off --if it's financially possible-- until those kids get in school. And then go back to work, so then I'd have the same hours that they did. If it works out, you know; that's a big... that's a big dream, I guess, because it may not work out that way but... I don't know. I'll get my Masters between the time I'm home, you know, in summers or something. So, hopefully, (laughs)....

G: Oh, you mean you're going to... when are you going to get your Masters? After you start teaching?

R: Yes. I think probably in the summer. And then maybe work, because I don't think you have to have it now, do you?

G: For teaching?

R: Yes. I think it's just...

G: I don't know.

R: ...I think it's just....

G: I think you need a certificate.

R: Is that what it is? We were already talking about it in class that... just gradually work towards it. I mean, I really like school now, but I'll get to the point when I'll get really burned out, and I can't imagine going, right after graduating, and then getting my Masters. That's an extra 30 hours, so I think I'll just have to gradually do it.

G: What year are you?

R: I'm a sophomore. I'll be a junior, I think, in August -- if I take some summer classes. So, I'm almost halfway (laughs)... halfway there.

G: You told me you're getting married in May?

R: Yes.

G: Is it to a guy that you grew up with?

R: No, he's from North Harrison... Harrison County. And he moved here when he was in the 7th grade. And he's a year older than I am, and we've been going with each other it must have been... God, when you hear this... for five years. \_\_\_\_\_ a really long time. And he really likes Paoli, though; he likes it better than North Harrison, I think. He misses something... he misses his old friends; he talks to them; every once in awhile but....

G: So his family moved down to Paoli...?

R: Yes, from Harrison County. That's where most of his... most of his family is either in Harrison County or Floyd County, down by New Albany. So....

G: Yes. So, you plan to stay in Paoli?

R: No. Right now he lives in Harrison County, and I think we'll live down there, and try and look for a place around Floyd County -- in the Greenville area? So it'll be closer to school, 'cause I go to IUS and he works down there by Huber Winery. So... but we hope to come back to Paoli for our kids to go to school here. And maybe for me to teach. I'd love to teach in Paoli.

G: Why?

R: I just... being brought up in this area, and knowing the school system, and knowing the people, and... Paoli's got a really good school system; an excellent school system, I think. 'Cause I've been to some practicums in other school systems, and they're good. But when you come back to Paoli... 'course it's your home, but you see things that they're doing is so much better than other places that it just... well, I've been impressed with all schools. But Paoli being your home town, you kind of want to come back and, you know, make it... your old Alma Mater, for kids to go there, you know, and graduate, and play varsity sports. It is kind of,...

G: Yes.

R: ...I don't know, I'd like to. And Paoli is a nice community.

G: What do you like about it?

R: I think it's just the right size. I think it could grow... I think it could expand economically better. But as far as the

community and the people itself, I don't think you could beat Paoli for living, you know... for living in this area, I really don't. They... like I said, they could expand more, but besides that, I think it'd be a wonderful area.

G: So, why? what is it that you like about it?

R: Just... just... it's hard. You live here all your life and you get to be kind of prejudiced. You know, you see things that you like about Paoli better than.... I don't know, I think Paoli's... I think Paoli has a lot to offer. I think there are... like I said, their school system, and then they've got.... They've got Ski Paoli Peaks, which, you know, brings people from all around. And their Square, itself, is... it's historical.

And the people are so nice here. I mean, yes, you have run-ins with some people who aren't so nice, but overall the people in the community.... It's just hard... I know what I want to say, and I know what I feel; it's just hard for me to get it out, you know.

G: Yes.

R: I just really like Paoli; but I'm prejudiced. (laughs)

G: Well, a lot of people... well, like people you went to high school with, or the people you grew up with, are a lot of them staying in Paoli?

R: I think about half and half. I've had a couple of friends go to IU, and then they transferred to IUS, a commuter college, and live at home, because they like it a lot better. Because, you know, when you come from a graduating class of 91 up to IU, with all those thousands of people, it makes it kind of hard, you know, to fit in and to adjust. And they feel more comfortable at home.

But then again, I've had other friends... I've talked to a friend of mine's mother today and she goes to Hanover. And she's going to England from... you know, for a class. And I think that's great. You know, the experience will be wonderful but.... I think it's about half and half. Some either want to come back, or some don't have any desire. It just depends on the type person they are, you know.

So it's about half and half.

G: Hmm. So the community isn't really shrinking, is it?

R: No, I'd say Paoli is growing. Slowly, but I think eventually it'll be better. From working in the Chamber of Commerce, you have a lot of letters coming in saying: "How pretty your town is", and "Would you send some information, because my wife and I want... with our kids, plan on moving in

this area, and we are really impressed with Paoli." So, you know, I... this is the first year I've had a lot of those letters.

So, as I say, slowly but surely, it's growing.

G: What was it like growing up here?

R: Well, when you're in high school, you think: "Oh my God, there's nothing to do in this hick town." That's exactly what you think. But then, after you're... \_\_\_\_\_ for me, after I graduated, I realized how important Paoli was. You know, having a theater and a mall is nothing, you know. You don't have to have that to have a good time, you know, and for it to be a good community.

But I think it's just a matter of growing. Growing up and becoming more mature about.... You know, like I said... you know, you have so many stages in high school that you go through; and you have this one stage where you just want to get out and you don't even want to look back.

But I think, after people get through that... I think that's when they start to realize: "Yes, this isn't too bad." You know, once they see, like, my friends going up to IU, they had all the advantages up there. But what happened to them; they came back to Paoli. So, I think it's just... I don't know. Just the type of person you are.

That's another hard question; I just.... I wouldn't... I want to get away from Paoli right now, just to see what it would be like to live some place else, but I know I want to come back. You know, I just want this to be... just to be like an adventure or something, just to see what it would be like not to live in Paoli -- but I know I want to come back.

And I can say that for a lot of my friends. And they are back; from Florida... I have a friend that went to college in Florida, and she's back. I've had two; only one of them is in Louisville now, but she stays close with Paoli, so....

That is a really hard question. It just... (laughs) I don't know. I guess you have to come to Paoli and see the people and look around and go to the school system and see how good it is, before you can... you know...

G: Yes.

R: ...make up your mind.

G: So, have you done any... have you spent much time at all outside of Paoli? You know, traveling at all or...?

R: Not really. I've... the farthest south I've been is Tennessee. 'Cause we have family that live in Nashville and Memphis, which is really a good experience because I love Tennessee. I thought the people down there were really nice. I

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like the accent down there, you know. But I think we have the same accent. I don't. (laughs)

But then, I've been to the Michigan/Indiana border. And I've been to Illinois and Ohio. But that's it; I haven't really got to travel too much. But that doesn't bother me. I would like to, but it doesn't bother me that I haven't, you know.

G: Yes.

R: But hopefully, one of these days I'll get a chance to.

G: Do you think that the way you grew up here was much different from how your mother, or your grandmother, grew up?

R: I think of... I think Yes and No. I think that... kids are supposed to have the same ideals that my mother and grandmother had. But I think there's a lot of factors changing that, like drugs is a big.... You know, that's a biggie... and alcohol. You know, that's a lot bigger now.

G: What ideals did you have?

R: You know, like... well, this sounds crazy but: How you're supposed to dress to go to school. Actually, it infuriates my parents to see kids with long hair, you know, and holey jeans and raggedy old T-shirts because, you know, when they were in school... as well as my grandparents.... You know, there was a dress code, you know: Short hair and so-and-so type clothes.

And education and sports. Education: you were supposed to get your education and go on to college, and do good in school. Which is still the same now, I think; I don't think that's changed.

G: And sports?

R: Sports is as big now, for Paoli, as it was in the 1950s. You know, people are at the... people are at an all-time high for sports right now.

G: Really?

R: We've had a taste of a sectional victory, a regional victory, and going to semi-state. So, Paoli's... has hometown pride, I guess, you'd say, now. I mean, there's something... I've never seen it. I told you that last year....

G: What... I forgot what you were saying?

R: Last time Paoli went to the sectional for basketball varsity was... was 1978. This year they went again, and won.

Then they went to regional, which is in Washington,

Indiana, and they won the regional -- for the first time in Paoli history. And then they went to semi-state, which was a major (laughs)... was a major deal. I mean, that was unbelievable. They called it "the Cinderella story."

G: Really?

R: Oh, it kind of... you know, you thought of "Hoosiers," if you ever saw the movie "Hoosiers." When we were semi-state... it was like this little small town against big Floyd Central, you know. Well, we lost, but we left with a good feeling; we weren't disappointed or discouraged or anything, because Paoli went as far as we knew we could, basically.

G: Yes.

R: And farther than any other team. And it was just a big... what they call Hoosier hysteria. And Paoli really shined with Hoosier hysteria; the whole town got excited. It was unbelievable. I've never seen anything like it.

G: Because of the things that people do?

R: Balloons on all the meters. Signs. They made a Paoli Ram Day... or Paoli Ram Basket... something like that. Just the day they... for winning the sectional. And T-shirts and pictures and people going crazy at the ballgames and the fans. Like, there was 36-hundred people in Paoli and over 15-hundred were at regional and semi-state. And everyone was teasing: Well, if there's a fire, you know, Paoli's going to burn down because (laughs) everybody's going to be at regional or semi-state. But it was just... it was just a good feeling. Everybody had a really good feeling, and like I said, even when we lost, Paoli went out of there with pride. People from Floyd Central were coming up to us and saying, "Hey, you've got a really good basketball team and your fans are unbelievable."

So, it was just... it was a good time too.

G: So that was like the first time you'd really seen anything like that?

R: Yes. We were talking here, one day, at the Chamber office, saying: "Paoli people have got the spirit and the pride in them when something good happens, but it takes something good to bring it out," you know. And the \_\_\_\_\_... so now we know, Paoli people have the pride -- just when they want to show it. (laughs)

G: Hmm. So, do you think that your life here, you know, other than how you dress for school, is different from your mom's or your grandmother's?

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R: Yes, I think... well, you know, getting back to the obvious about drugs and alcohol, but other than that.... I really don't know. But that's the main thing that sticks in my mind...

G: Yes.

R: ...because that's a major factor.

G: Is there a lot of that here?

R: I'd say just as much as anywhere else, you know. I don't really know. Honestly, I do not know. But, you know, when you're... in the '60s, you know, there was alcohol and kids drank. But now there's so much more. I just don't... I think that's the major difference.

G: \_\_\_\_\_. I wondered if you see much distinction between people who live in town and people who live out in the country; people who are still farming?

R: (laughs) Mainly by the way they... by the clothes they wear.

G: Really?

R: They have their farmer hat on, you know, or their overalls and their boots. Or, then, most of them drive pick-up trucks, you know. Just distinctions like that. But as far as, you know, personality and talking to someone: No, not really.

But you can just tell, you know, about... this is very obvious, like a banker from a farmer. You know, it's just by what they wear usually.

G: What about kids you went to high school with?

R: Well, Paoli's a small town; you pretty well knew who... what kind of name people had... you know, not saying it was a bad name but, you know, where they were from and who their parents were. So that's how you knew. That's what you grew up with ever since kindergarten, and when you graduated, you just knew, you know. And you knew who their brothers and sisters were, but nothing major.

G: Yes, so there's no real separation in school between town kids and country kids?

R: No, I don't think so. No. Not unless, you know, they're both bad groups or something, but that's very... that doesn't happen very often. I don't think there is.

G: Hmm. (pause) So right now you're working at the Chamber of

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Commerce?

R: Yes.

R: Have you worked any other places here?

R: I worked at the Pizza Hut, and I worked at the Shake Burger. Well the Shake Burger and Chat and Snack, but they're both the same owner; they just moved me over to the Shake Burger after the Chat and Snack closed. And the Chat and Snack was a carhop. So that was interesting. My mother did that and I... that was really interesting. It was fun.

G: You mean you worked with your mom?

R: No, my mom was a carhop. And then I, you know, I was a carhop for awhile and then.... So that was (laughs)... that was interesting because, you know, you feel on happy days or something like that where... about carhops, and people would say... would come into a tent saying: "I don't believe you have carhops."

"Yes" (laughs-

G: Where was your mom working then?

R: I'd say... I don't... 1965 or '66, somewhere around there, when she was a senior. Oh, it was funny.

G: And you worked there when you were in high school too?

R: Yes. Yes, it was fun. And all my friends worked there. My friends were seniors and it really made it fun. I had one friend and she was a... they call her... on "Three's Company," Chrissie. The message, you know... a blonde, you know, just the same kind of look and everything. And she was all thumbs; she was so neat. She'd run into a pole. Fall into a trash can. I mean, it was hilarious.

G: Did you wear roller skates?

R: No. No, that's what was so funny about it. (laughs hard) First thing, you'd turn around, and there would be the pole or the trash can or something, and... yes, it was hilarious. We all laughed about that but.... And she laughed too; you know, it didn't bother her. It was just as funny to her as it was to us; that's why we called her Chrissie because she wasn't even embarrassed about it.

G: Ye gosh.

R: Yes, we've had some good times. Just like what you'd see,



you know, in a movie or something about a carhop and... spilling shakes on somebody. I mean, the exact... getting their trays mixed up.... It wasn't funny at the time but now that you can reflect on it, you know, think back, you know, it was pretty funny. (laughs)

G: And you're a full-time student too?

R: Yes. Yes. I've only got 9 hours this semester, but I've had 14. But they still call me a full-time student; I've just got 2 hard classes and I didn't... I wanted to concentrate more on those than take another class. So, yes, I'm a full-time student.

G: Did your folks go to college too?

R: My mother went to Indiana State for a year. A year or a year-and-a-half; I'm not so sure. She was going to be an English major. But my father, no.

G: So, are you one of the first in your family to go?

R: On my mother's side, I'm the first grandchild to go to college. And on my father's side I'm the third. So....

G: Do you think that your family's life changed a lot when your mom went back to work?... or when she went to work, rather?

R: I think we had to take on more responsibility to help, but nothing drastic. Which we should... we, I mean... what we do now, and what we did do, we should have been doing all along when she wasn't even working, you know. But now we knew it had to be done because we couldn't rely on Mom as much because, you know, now she was holding down a job and helping us. So we had to... just more responsibility. Just, you know... nothing, like I said, nothing drastic.

But after I got my license, you know, I didn't drive too much, but I tried to help. Babysitting. After she got home... after I got home from school. We'd get home at 3:30 and she'd get off at 4, so it really wasn't too much, you know. So it really wasn't a big deal. Which was really nice because I had friends who, you know, their mother would leave at 7 o'clock in the morning and they'd have to get themselves ready for school. And wouldn't get home till 5 that night, and they'd have to cook supper. So compared to what they had, we had it easy.

G: Hmm.

R: No complaints. Except on the part of my mother and my little sister, you know. My mother feeling guilty for not being there; for the parties and everything, like she should have been.

G: Yes.

R: But that's it.

G: So, what do you think about women working?

R: I think it should be their choice. I mean, I don't think that... I think if they want to, that's great. I think if they want to stay home with their kids, I think that's great too. So I think it's their choice.

G: And your fiancée, how does he feel?

R: I think he feels the same way, only he feels that the mother should be there with the child until it starts school, at least. At least, if at all possible. 'Cause that's how he was raised. And I was too. But I think, you know... he knows that: if you have to work, you have to work, you know, and you do the best you can. But if we had a choice, waiting would be the best.

G: That makes sense.

R: (laughs)

G: So, what would you say your best times in Paoli are?

R: Right now?

G: Is that your answer? Right now or...?

R: Yes, I mean, the best time that I have in Paoli right now, or in my past?

G: In your life. In your life here.

R: Oh my. Well, I'd say: when my friends and I get together. You know, everybody's \_\_\_\_\_ with college or wherever they're at, and we all sit around and talk. And when my family gets together. I'm very family oriented.

G: Yes.

R: So I guess you'd call them both "reunions."

G: So, what are some of your best memories, then?

R: (sighs) Oh boy. (pause) I really liked working at the Chat and Snack. I mean, the carhop with my friends. That was a good memory. And being a senior is a good memory.

G: Why? What was that like?

R: Just... we were a unit, you know. It's like... when you're a senior, you're above all the rest. You know you're not... I mean, you know. But there's something about being a senior that just dominates the rest of the high school. And you feel like you're a unit; your class is a unit. And... I had a great time on my senior trip.

And graduation was something else. You feel... people who you thought in elementary school were, you know, at that time, "jerks" or something, you know, just.... When you're in elementary school, you know, you have all these things going on in your head about this one certain person. When they go up on graduation day to get their diploma, they look totally different. You know, it's like: That person's OK. You know, he's really a nice person and I can't believe I said it when I was in the 3rd grade. I can't believe all that stuff that we did, you know.

END OF TAPE ONE, SIDE ONE

R: And my family is very important to me. I am very, very family oriented. I think, sometimes, too much.

G: Why?

R: Because, like, when I get married, I'm going... I'm not scared to leave home, but I've never been away at college, you know, and I've always been at home except, you know, give or take two weeks. But I knew I'd be back. So I think... I'm ready; it's just going to be a new adjustment.

G: Well, how far away is where you're going to be going?

R: Just 18 miles; you'd think it was 3-thousand miles (laughs) the way I'm talking, but it might as well be. I mean, you know, the first couple of weeks.

G: Do you know any people up there?

R: Oh yes. Yes. I don't know... it won't be bad at all once I get used to it, but like.... I see my dad now before he leaves, you know, and we talk. And then, sometimes, nights when my brother and sister go to bed, it's just my mother and mine... my time. You know, we talk about just whatever. How her day went, how my day went, just stuff that happened. You just can't talk about it in front of your little brother and sister. I'm going to miss that.

G: Yes.

R: And when I come in from a date during the weekend, about 11 or 12, she might be up reading, you know. And that's when... that's our time together. I'm just... just little stuff like that, I'm going to miss, you know. But I feel good about leaving home, because they've given me the strength and the stability all my life to where I can leave home and have a good feeling about it, you know. So I guess it's a... it's part... some people call it a grieving period. For awhile, you know, after you leave home you have this grieving period. I don't think it's bad but I just.... I keep telling myself: The only difference is: I won't be staying all night there. That's the only difference, you know. I'll be there; I'll call her; I'll talk to her. I just won't be staying all night in the same house I have been for the last 16 years. So... I don't know. I have a good feeling about it now.

G: Yes.

R: It's just going to be hard.

G: A lot of adjustments to make.

R: Yes. Yes. I've never been out on my own, and I'm going from depending on my mother and father to depending on my future husband. And that kind of worries me. Like, I have responsibilities that I know I'll have to be taking care of: financially and otherwise. But I think it's just the fact that: You go from one extreme to another, you know. You never really know if you can do it on your own. So....

G: Well, did you think about waiting?

R: Yes. That was... (pause) I wanted to... at first, I wanted to get my education. And then, I did. I mean, I always wanted to get my education but I wanted to wait until after I got my education to get married. But then, halfway through, you know, it gets to be to the point where you just want to be with that person all the time, you know. And you just know that the time is right, and it's OK. 'Cause I'm going to get my education no matter what.

G: Yes.

R: He's told me that, and I've told myself. I have too much to lose. And I want it, so I think it's just a... I think it's just however you feel about it. I don't really know; it's kind of hard. That was a big decision. A big decision.

G: How long have you been engaged? Or, when did you guys decide to marry?

R: I got engaged in September of '88, and we set a date. I think October or November. So... I guess, what..? maybe 6 months; a little over. It hasn't been too long.

G: Have a lot of your friends from high school gotten married?

R: Yes. My maid of honor, my best friend, is getting married the July, '89, after I get married the May of '89, which makes it kind of nice.

G: Yes.

R: And then I have 2 friends already married. And....

G: Are they still in the area?

R: Well, one's in Ohio and one's in Mitchell.

G: So, did they marry local guys?

R: Yes. Well, the one in Ohio did. The one in Mitchell married a guy from Bedford but.... That's not local-local but, you know, it's in Indiana (laughs).

G: I was just wondering: At your high school graduation, is that another thing where half the town turns out?

R: Yes, it was pretty... of course, you've got a lot of out-of-town people there too, you know. Family. But yes, there was... our gym holds, I think, five thousand? And there was quite a few people there.

G: So a lot of people come who don't have kids who are students graduating?

R: Yes. And then, there's a lot of kids that graduated a few years ahead of us that come, you know. So....

Like I said, everybody knows everybody in Paoli. So you just... that's just something that you just do. It's... which is nice, you know.

G: Yes. Well, that could also mean a lot of gossip too.

R: Oh definitely. Definitely. Yes, your small-town community and... as far as gossip too, that's.... My grandmother had the saying: "When they're not talking about you, they're talking about somebody else."

G: (snickers)

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R: So, but... I mean, you know, that's just part of it, you know. That's just part of it. Which is OK, you know.

G: Yes.

R: Some of it gets kind of bad but you've just got to know that that's just your small-town community, and that's just the way it's going to be, and the way it has been and the way it's always going to be. And there's nothing you can do about it; you just go with it. I mean, as long as you know it's not true, that's really all that matters.

G: Yes.

R: Of course, I've never heard anybody talk about me (heavy laughing) before, so here I am saying this now but, you know....

(both laugh)

G: They may have and you don't know it.

R: Yes, and after this is over with, I might. (laughs)

G: Well, where... do a lot of people come into the Square? Would you say it's pretty busy?

R: Yes, I definitely..... A lot of... we see a lot of semis, you know, from everywhere.

G: Yes.

R: And then, every once-in-a-while you see a car from Florida or Arkansas or some place like that. You know, Orange County is so central... so centrally located that we do have a lot of incoming traffic.

G: I was just wondering if there's any place like, around the Square, that people would come and sort of meet or...

R: You mean like...

G: ...gather; or like, hang out and gossip.

R: ...on a Friday or Saturday night, you mean?

G: Yes.

R: Yes. A lot of people park on the Square because there's nobody, you know; the businesses are all closed. And then....

G: A lot of young people or just...?

R: Yes. Well, mostly kids in high school, but then there's a lot that, like, graduated 2 or 3 years ago that, you know, still live in Paoli. We did hang out at the Pizza Hut parking lot, but we can't do that anymore because throwing bottles and stuff got to be so bad that people at Pizza Hut and other stores around there thought, you know: "That's just too much. We can't have it." Which, you know... which is true.

G: Yes.

R: So.... But it's OK. On the Square's really nice; you get to see everybody going around.

G: Well, what... you were saying earlier that even without malls and movie theaters, you still have a lot of fun. What kind of things would you do? Or what kind of things do you do?

R: You just go riding around, and sit on the Square and talk. Which, you know, to some people that may not sound like it would be an exciting evening but, you know, when you're with your friends, time goes by really fast -- before you even know it. And you have a good time. I appreciate this now, more than I did in high school, because.... I do more now than I did in high school, I think.

G: You do more what? Come into the Square?

R: Socializing. Especially with my friends. But, you know... and then there's something else. Where you could go to Orleans and see a movie, or Bedford to eat --or Bloomington-- and still come back by 9 or 10 o'clock and everybody will still be in town. So, I think... I think people realize -- more now -- that, you know, you can do whatever you want to. You can always come back and people are going to be on the Square.

But then there are some weekends that there's absolutely nothing going on. You know, just nothing. But I think, you have that anywhere, you know. But you always see some place better. So you compare it to Paoli.

G: What do you mean?

R: Like... well, you know, like if you go into Bedford or Salem.... Salem, there's all the time there, is a traffic line in Salem like you would not believe. And Bedford. So you know... and then you come back to Paoli where there's not hardly any traffic at all and, you know, people compare that. "Well, there's all kinds of things going on in Salem." Which... you just go there and, you know, you're not used to being there, and it does seem like it. But I think they have their still nights just like everybody else.

G: Does your family go to church? You know, do you socialize there too, or...?

R: This is terrible. (laughs) A religious question. (pause) My family does not go to church like they should. I believe that my family is very, very faithful and very religious as far as God and praying and everything. We have a lot of faith. But as far as going to church, we don't go to church like we should, at all. But then my fiancée, he's Catholic, which is a big difference... Quaker \_\_\_\_\_. He goes to church every Sunday, and if he knows he's going to miss a Sunday, he'll go on Saturday.

G: Hmm.

R: Which is very devoted to me; I can't even imagine because his church starts at 9 o'clock on Sunday, and I think it's "sleep in." You know, (laughs) "Sleep in." I mean, (laughs).... And that's terrible on my part, really.

G: Yes.

R: But, he just... he is very devoted, which is good. I'd give anything to... if I could be. I guess it's just a... want to.

G: So, are you going to have a Quaker ceremony? or a Catholic?

R: It's going to be both. It's going to be in the Quaker church but there's going to be a priest there. But the Reverend Walters, our Reverend, is going to give the vows, so.... Because... I would have a Catholic wedding if there was a big-enough Catholic church in Paoli. But I have lived in Paoli all my life; my family and my friends are oriented, and whereas he's from another county.... And I said, you know, "I want to have a wedding in Paoli." I said, "which just happened to be there wasn't a Catholic church big enough, so my church is next." Which is OK with me but, you know, if there's a Catholic church big enough, there would be no big deal. It's just the fact of getting married in Paoli. So....

G: Yes. Well, when you have kids, do you think they'll be raised Catholic or Quaker?

R: They have to be.

G: Catholic?

R: He signed a paper, and I was a witness. (whispers) Maybe we shouldn't have \_\_\_\_\_. But....



G: You can take it out if you like.

R: Well, everybody knows that though, I think. I mean, I thought I had to sign the paper. But it doesn't bother me at all. That's fine, because I feel like he is more devoted and faithful than I am, and he'll take them to church. (laughs) He'll take them to church. (laughs hard.) No, I'm teasing.

G: Somebody has to get up at 9. (laughs)

R: Big breakfast and get the kids ready for church. (laughs) No, I'm teasing you. No, I'll probably go too because, you know, that would be setting a bad example, really, if one did and the other didn't. But I kind of think within myself that that's OK, you know. I have no problem with that. That's fine. But if they get older and they decide they don't want to be Catholic, then what do you do? Yes; you know.

G: Yes. Wait and see.

R: Yes.

G: So, do you have any bad memories of Paoli?

R: No, not really. Well, except for the small-town gossip, I don't think people should like they do but, you know, that's just part of it. But that's really the only thing that I can think of. Not really.

G: Hmm. Try to remember when I asked you a question earlier and it was hard to answer, I wonder if now having talked more, maybe you...?

R: What would you like... why do you like living in Paoli? Was that it?

G: Yes.

R: I know; I don't even know. (both laugh) I mean, that is really hard.

G: Yes, a lot of things are hard to put into words.

R: Yes, because I know what I want to say, and I know what I feel about Paoli, but getting it out in words... yes. I guess you could say I love Paoli, in a sense, you know. 'Course, you know, that's where you're brought up; that's all you know. But... I really... I don't know. Honest to God, I don't know except for the... just the community and the town people and just the combination of everything.

G: Are you pretty close to your brother and sister? Do you think they might stay too or...? Hard to say?

R: Yes, it is. I... because my brother is 16 right now, and he's at that stage where he wants to just take a... do a little bit of everything, you know. He doesn't want to stay in Paoli, but there you go. There's that stage like I was talking about earlier, where you just don't want to stay in Paoli, and you don't want to look back.

But then my sister. I don't know 'cause she's only 12. It's really hard to say. I think... I think... well, you know, after you graduate from high school, it's grownup time.

G: Yes.

R: You've finally got to decide: How I'm going to do this, or I'm going to do this. 'Cause I can't be going to school every day now; I've got to do something. Well, most people should say... I think after they graduate, really, that's when they decide what's going on.

G: Did you start working when you were 16? You know, when you were legally allowed to? or...?

R: Yes, I think I did. I think I... yes, I was 16. I worked at the Pizza Hut, which was a good experience. But, if I had it all over to do again... 'cause I took a job at Pizza Hut and about a week later the Chat and Snack called me. And if I had it all over to do again, I would have worked at the Chat and Snack rather than the Pizza Hut.

I mean, I had some good experiences at Pizza Hut, but it also took away from my high school time. You know, like sports activities and stuff like that, which was just as much my fault as anything because... (telephone rings). Excuse me.

G: OK. MACHINE TURNED OFF.

R: The only problem I had was... which was my fault by working at Pizza Hut. I wanted the money and I wasn't thinking longterm down the road about missing basketball or football games. I was just thinking, right then, that that sum of money....

G: Yes.

R: So, you just get your lessons, you want a car..... But I have no regrets about working because I think it made me more responsible, but if I had it all over to do again, I would have really thought about it.

G: You mean you wouldn't have done it?

R: I just don't know. I really don't know. I think I would have quit... this sounds terrible too but, I wouldn't have worked at Pizza Hut; I would have worked at Chat and Snack 'cause that's where my friends were. And even though I was working, I was still having a good time...

G: Yes.

R: ...with my friends, and this was... at Pizza Hut was a good place to work. They had good people there and the customers were really nice, and I really enjoyed working there. But I was the youngest one, and it made a difference, you know.

G: Hmm.

R: 'Cause there were people there having to support their family, and here I was... just extra money, you know. So it just makes a difference.

G: So working wasn't something that your folks wanted you to do? Something you....

R: They told me that it was my decision. You know, they told me... they told me what would be good about it and they told me what would be bad about it. And I think they're glad that I did, because now I know... well, that first year that I worked at Pizza Hut, I did not save any money at all, you know. And now I know. And that taught me early, you know, that if you want something, you have to save... save for it. So I think that was something that they are glad... you know, that I learned early in life. But, I just don't know. They say that Pizza Hut was good for me...

G: Yes.

R: ...but then I see where it wasn't either.

G: Well, you say that sporting events are really big, like... attending games, that was your big social activity too?

R: Well, you know, when I was in high school, we really didn't have... we had good teams, but nothing like this.

G: Yes.

R: But everybody goes to the game, and they go to the dance afterwards, you know. Which was nice. But this year was different because we had a winning streak, and all of this stuff happened. So, it makes a difference when you have a winning team than when you've got a pretty good team, you know.

G: Yes.

R: Paoli, in my opinion, has never had anything to be ashamed of as far as athletics. Never. But just this year, they seemed to prove a little bit more than everybody... than what they had in the past.

G: Yes. (pause) Well, this is, you know... this project to do a community's history, what kinds of things... I mean, what do you think is some important events in the communi... in Paoli?

R: Well, we have an Indian Summer Festival in September the Chamber of Commerce sponsors. And that's real nice. That brings people from all over 'cause they have arts and crafts booths on the courthouse square. And other extra activities; carnival.... But... that's one thing.

G: What about past events?

R: (long pause) Not... not anything that I can remember. Our band was good; they went to state... which is state champs. Stuff like that. But as far as activity, no, there's nothing that really.... I can't think of anything... that has affected me as much as (laughs) probably it should.

G: Hmm.

R: \_\_\_\_\_ I don't know. Now, my mother (laughs) can answer a question like that going back.... (both laugh)

G: Hmm, yes. I just wondered. Well....

Do you think that Paoli has changed much since you were a little kid?

R: I think that people take better care of the community, you know. There have been some projects... well, you know, the clean-up and... put flowers on the courthouse. I think stuff like that. And there have been some...(deletion) was in Paoli, and now they're out; their business went bad a couple of years ago. And now there's another big business coming in. Bigger than 3D, along that line. And stores like that, because usually you have to go to Bedford or Jasper or some place like that. But that's really the only main thing I can think about.

G: Well... let me see. (long pause)

Well, I guess that's really about all I want to ask you. I'm sure I'll think of a lot of things when I leave here.

R: (laughs)

G: I mean... you talked about some of the advantages and

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disadvantages of a small town. (long pause)

OK. I think that's about it. Thank you.

R: Oh, you're welcome. Hope I helped.

G: Yes.

END OF TAPE ONE, SIDE TWO

END OF INTERVIEW

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