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Polisar, Dina

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Stockton Immigrant Women Oral History Collection

by Sally Miller

POLISAR, Dina (Russian Jew)

December 10, 1980

Interviewed by Mary Wedegaertner

Transcribed by Robert Siess

**[TAPE 1, Side A]
[Begin Tape.]**

MARY WEDEGAERTNER: Where were you born?

DINA POLISAR: I was born in Russia.

WEDEGAERTNER: What part of Russia?

POLISAR: In Odessa. And I came here, let's see, 1927. So quite a long time here.

WEDEGAERTNER: How many were there in your family?

POLISAR: Well, there was a mixed kind of a situation. My father brought two or three kids with him. My mother got one, and then they had together four.

WEDEGAERTNER: So there were about seven of you then?

POLISAR: Seven, yeah. It was a very close, beautiful family. Which they didn't go into psychologically to know how kids feel and all this kind of stuff. They just gave us very beautiful, physical attention and love, and all this kind of stuff.

WEDEGAERTNER: You were born after the two of them were married then?

POLISAR: Oh yes. Yes. I am the part of the four. [laughs] Very familiar four!

WEDEGAERTNER: Right, the second family then?

POLISAR: Yeah, I'm part of the four. And it was in a way a religious family. My father especially was a very learned man.

WEDEGAERTNER: How much education did he have?

POLISAR: Well, it's not a question education. We are Jewish people, and he had education in reading the big, beautiful things which he read. And he evidently created in his own little way. People respected him a great deal because of his knowledge of all those ancient books. Great big books that Jewish people created at that particular time. So he created a little synagogue, so to speak, because some people didn't like the reforms in Odessa. Which is a beautiful, beautiful city, and a tremendous amount of people there. And of course, there was always reformist people who didn't like this orthodox approach, like everywhere else. So he created that kind of a situation, where people was coming there and teaching Talmud and teaching all those great big things. They have a good time. But the kids were sort of brought up in a big city. But the wonderful part about him, that he wasn't fanatic in any way. He was just religious, and he went his own way, his own life. And the kids were just grown up with a lot of attention, with a lot of physical attention. Good meals prepared, and all kinds of stuff. Well, it's quite a long time. It's very hard chronologically.

WEDEGAERTNER: Right. What was his occupation?

POLISAR: Well, one time when we lived in a small town, he had a factory of making those little papers which you roll up with tobacco. This is just what he told us later on, but I wasn't alive then. But then something happened, and it sort of disintegrated, the whole thing. Then we moved to Odessa, and we just had a hard time. Like usually when you move from one place to another. This is all things that I wasn't a part of it at that time.

WEDEGAERTNER: But you heard them tell?

POLISAR: But I heard them sometimes telling those things. And chronologically, I cannot really at this point. So many things happened that I cannot chronologically point where what, what, what. I just know that we were just religious traditional, but not fanatic. And that helped the kids. Especially me, because I was sort of rebellious, and I don't know where I got this rebellious feeling in me. I didn't want to be a part of it. I was a part of it, but I didn't want to be a part of it. Just being a part of it to understand that you have to follow the trend of the feelings at home. But down deep in my heart, as time went on, I kept on rebelling inside because you couldn't express yourself outside.

WEDEGAERTNER: Excuse me just a minute. [break]

WEDEGAERTNER: Can you remember any ways, or any particular things you started rebelling against?

POLISAR: Well, the Jewish people are not allowed to get into city schools in the czarist time. And I was the only daughter in the four brothers, so my parents were very anxious for me to get an education. I don't know why they were anxious for me to get an education and not for the boys, because the boys just went on in their own way, and they were educated in their own way, not too much. And since I couldn't get into the city school because I was Jewish, I had to go into a private high school. And the private high school had a chance to have teachers who could speak out. Just like you have it here in a way, because at that time it was already dangerous. The czarist, the pogroms of Jews and all this kind of a stuff. It was dreadful things went on. It seems to me that history repeats itself in a very ugly way this time, but that's the way it was that time too. You just can't forgive now in the 20th century civilization that we had such dreadful things happen to us. So we should have learned something. But evidently we didn't learn anything. So I remember, again I cannot put chronologically, but in high school there was evidently one teacher who was... I have an idea that he was revolutionary kind of. And he asked us to write about Martin Luther. And I wrote that composition somehow in my muddling way that I want to express something which bothered me a great deal. But I didn't know what. But still, I wrote something. And evidently he liked it very much. And after a while, I was not the only one, but evidently he pointed out mine. And he invited us to his house, which is quite a way from wherever. All those bits of things, which is very hard for me to recollect, to go back and to see. But it seems to me that maybe that time it was started. Then, just because my mind was working somehow, not even politically at that particular time, but something in me, which I couldn't even express it now, what course, my feelings towards the whole thing. Because when you live in a big city, and all the things that went on in Leningrad and Moscow and all those things. But of course, I was very interested. And I read the paper daily, which is a very famous paper. And I met people who evidently were sort of progressively inclined, and I don't know how I got to them really. But I was vivacious, so they just find me very interesting and something like that. And that's the way it started. And I don't know how and where and what. But that's the way it started. So I had an acquaintance who was editor of *Crocodile*. That was a satirical magazine. I had a Jewish writer who was just across the street struggling with the Jewish paper. And often they would meet, and we just talked. So I suppose those little things here and there, which was in me, and I wasn't even aware of it. I was aware of my vivaciousness. I was aware that people pay attention to me. But I wasn't aware what's what. And that's the way it started. Well, and after a while, you go through all kinds of things in Russia at that particular time. You see, one morning I got up. I reached maybe 22, 23, I got married. And at that particular time, it's beginning sort of to bring into the city, and to be aware of the dreadful things that went on in the small towns. How the czarist regime suppressed the peasants, the Jews. Because we weren't even aware that so many minorities were there. But the main target were the Jews, because they felt that the Jews are very trouble people. They're revolutionaries, and they're all kinds of things. Which maybe it's true, because you start thinking what the Jews went through since they came to the world. They are driven from one place to another, and they want to be better. But I never felt that Jews are the best people in the world. There are plenty of other wonderful people. So this part of Jewishness in me sort of faded after a while, and I felt, okay, we are just... In my own little

way. I'm very disturbed, because I'm disturbed they were treating the peasants the way they were treating them. And of course, I'm very disturbed by what went on, the unfairness of all those things. But again, I couldn't put it in a political kind of a way. It was kind of an emotional thing, my reaction, but not in any way political. Even though I read papers, I followed everything, but nothing that I could have... In other words, maybe they were afraid. The people who I met or whom I mingled with. Maybe they were afraid.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did your husband share these feelings too?

POLISAR: In a certain way he did, but you know old-fashioned people. You get married, you are involved in making a living, and I brought up two beautiful kids. It was very much involved, and it was such a wonderful feeling to have a baby and to have a feeling that you're somebody in this world, and you settled down. Even though I never had pressure from my parents, "So it's about time you should get married," and about this and that and the other thing. Never did I have that pressure. But still in all, the atmosphere is there, and you have a certain time that you get married. So in a way, and my husband was from a very small town, and they had a retail business, the father and the mother. Like Safeway at that particular time. Smaller, not Safeway. But they were very prominent people in their own little town when he came to Odessa. And he was an agent for distributing coal. But again, very far from the political world. And then, as it was, you get involved in your own personal life, and making a living, and all this kind of a stuff.

WEDEGAERTNER: How did you meet him in the first place?

POLISAR: Through a friend. I had very close friend who was married. She came from a small town too, moved to Odessa because she was very comfortable. And I met him there, and after a certain amount of courtship, he went back because his mother was very sick. And his father was very self-centered guy, so he had to take over a little bit. So it took a little time. Then after a while, she died.

WEDEGAERTNER: Were you working during this time or going to school?

POLISAR: No. I wasn't working. I was just a lady of leisure.

WEDEGAERTNER: How far had you gone in school?

POLISAR: I finished high school. The private school.

WEDEGAERTNER: So then you were a lady of leisure?

POLISAR: Yeah. So I was a lady of leisure, and at that particular time, the pride of the husband having a wife and having a child, and myself having a child, and it was such exciting feeling.

WEDEGAERTNER: What year was this that you got married?

POLISAR: Don't ask me.

WEDEGAERTNER: What year were you born then?

POLISAR: Don't ask me that either. Because we were not, you know, birth certificates and all this. We didn't have all those things. Maybe later on, when I gave birth to my own daughter, it was in a hospital not far away from where I lived, and so maybe they have. But when you move from one country to another, which we did, a lot of papers got lost. And I just keep on lying all the time, wherever I am. I have to keep on cheating and lying, because I have no other alternative when I came to this country.

WEDEGAERTNER: How old do you think you were during the First World War? And how did that affect your family?

POLISAR: Not very much. In the big city, you're not really... How many people are aware here what's going on in other countries? We just recently begin to touch that subject. But how many people are aware what's going on? You know, the people are hungry all over the world. How many people know about it? Just recently, something hit them over the head that they have to drop this individualism and think of the world, but this is just a recent thing. So just imagine, when this 20th century civilization look back and we see how much we could be aware. Of course, we heard the pogroms. We heard that people were killed left and right. Once I walked out and I find on the street a dead man, because I suppose he was cold and hungry, and the malaria was at that particular time. You know what kind of things goes on. All kinds of germs, and people get sick. So all those little things was symptoms of something. But you know symptoms. You just disregard them. Just like we have it here. All those things which going on in those small countries was symptoms of something bigger than really things we're aware of. Until it reaches a certain point. Which it reached in there. If I remember, one incident that I was preparing for my husband to come after whatever he was. And I had a loaf of bread prepared. I was so proud of myself. I had to cook something, because I never knew how to cook. My mother never let me in to teach me how to cook. "Oh, you're gonna have enough time." You know old-fashioned mothers. "You'll have enough time. So forget it. Don't mess it up. Don't mess." So one man came in, and the door was open, he just came in. And he was hungry. So instead of asking me, I suppose he's bright or whatever. You know, motivated. But he grabbed the bread, because it was set up, and you married life, you know. In the beginning, everything looks so beautiful. And so he grabbed the bread. And this was a very touching thing to me, and I took it very seriously, thinking about it. What really motivated that man to do that. He was quite a young man. He was very small. But I couldn't just get ahold of him. He jumped out immediately. Now this is one of those incidents that you come across, and they fade away after a while because you get involved in your own personal life and all this kind of things. But it was a very hard time. Well anyway, so I'm skipping, unless you want to ask me something else.

WEDEGAERTNER: No. The only thing I could think of was, was your mother a very educated woman?

POLISAR: No. My mother, as a matter of fact, didn't even know how to read. She was illiterate. She was a beautiful-looking woman. Very hard-working, having kids and taking care, and her husband always like to sit around, and you know, these things. But they were so wonderful. They had enough patience, and the religious end of it, that's why she's there. She's there to bear children, she's there to give comfort to the man, and she was so proud of her husband, who is teaching or something. Not forgetting that it would be nice if he would help her out in a way. But that's the way it was.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did she have any household help, or did she do everything herself?

POLISAR: Well, no. At that particular time, it was very easy to get a peasant help. And the peasant girl lived in our house, of course, and was a slave practically. My father [locked?] in the morning, six o'clock, seven o'clock in the morning. She was already prepare the samovar, set up tablecloth, set up the tea. We didn't use cups, we used glasses and saucers. And the samovar was so nice. It was with charcoal, and she kept up. And she had pride of it, that my father was sitting again and studying and learning and something. And I still remember when he was reading whatever he was reading, and the samovar was making little noise, and he's sitting like the world is his. With the tea and everything else. And then after a while, of course mother got up, and she was joined him. So we had a peasant girl working for us. Of course, very exploited. At that particular time, that peasant girl was tickled to death to have a place to live and to have something to eat. So it was a wonderful setup when you look back.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did your mother ever want any of your children to help her learn to read or write?

POLISAR: She didn't involve herself in that. She didn't. She just didn't.

WEDEGAERTNER: What language was spoken?

POLISAR: Predominantly Russian. With the parents, we spoke Jewish. But the kids, of course, and sometimes with father, mother, we talked Russian. But predominantly, we tried very hard to speak Jewish with the parents. But again, it wasn't in any way in a forced kind of a situation. It was understanding. It was sort of an understanding. And all these little traditions were maintained. You know, the Passover. It was a beautiful setup. The kids were laughing inside, because they were ready to eat instead of all those preliminary things. You know how kids are. So in a way, we had a little fun together, and father was aware of it. He just continued. He paid no attention to that. And it was a very wonderful atmosphere when I look back. It wasn't rigid, and it was so much warm, even physical warm. I didn't know to come to my mother and say, "Look, some things are beginning to change inside. I want to be kissed by a man or a boy." Or "I wanna have this and that because something inside, this chemical stuff is beginning to work, because I'm beginning to be an adolescent." Nothing! Nothing. She wouldn't understand what I'm talking about, and I couldn't even understand myself what's going on. I just know that nature is so strong, that this desire was so great, you know? But of course, no boys were allowed to come into the house. But you have ways. You don't have to write books about it, how to get a kiss from a boy. Now we going so crazy about all those things, which annoys me to death. And so I managed to get a kiss here and there, or I managed to have a boyfriend who was preparing himself. He lived in small town and was a very poor boy. He couldn't get to school, again, because he's Jewish. He's very brilliant, wonderful. But he prepared himself in order to get the examinations for whatever he was in. And he got acquainted with me, and of course, he fell madly in love with me, which is fine. But he couldn't come into the house. But still, and of course, this idea that here I want them to touch me, I want them to kiss me. But he felt, he's very idealist guy. And he said, "Well, if I'm gonna start doing that, I will want maybe something more." Which was this wanting more, I couldn't understand what he meant! But whatever it is, that's the way it was approached. But after a while, since I had to go, when we were in high school, we had to take another language. Two languages, as a matter of fact. I took French. And in order for this

beautiful, idealist young man said that... Well, I have a hard time with French. So he said he's gonna help me out. And of course, when I said to my father or mother or whoever it was that I need someone. I can't sort of get ahold of this language, and I have some, again lying, I have this gentleman who would like to help me. "Oh, well, if it doesn't..." I mean, if I cannot help it, and again, because I was the only daughter, and such a pride and joy. So he used to come in. He was allowed to come in. Because again, motivations, whatever. So he came in. Used to come very often, more than teach me French. And I had a chance to take him, when we finished, just to take a walk with him. And this was just so beautiful. You weren't even aware how beautiful those things are. But you didn't have these things that are going on now with parents. In other words, the reason I survived is just because the parents didn't do any pressure. I wasn't pressured by anything. I just wasn't pressured period.

WEDEGAERTNER: Was this normal for the parents to be so proud of a daughter, or was this an unusual situation in your family?

POLISAR: I don't know. I really don't know. I just know about myself, that they were very proud. When somebody asked my father... I have a dark skin, just like my father has. So he's so proud, he says, "I don't worry about it. She's gonna get married. Don't worry about it. Don't bother me," and all these kind of things. So the whole thing, I have to be thankful to the parents that mother gave me things which she is capable of giving. And the father had an influence somehow, some way. Not obviously. But it's sort of, if I would believe in hereditary. So maybe that's the point.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did you and this particular boyfriend ever get to the point where you thought you were going to marry?

POLISAR: Oh yes. Well, it was customary for a girl to get married period and have kids.

WEDEGAERTNER: But this was not the person you married?

POLISAR: Which one?

WEDEGAERTNER: The one that was teaching you French.

POLISAR: Oh, no. No, no, no. He faded away, to my sorrow. But he was too idealistic. So it hang on for quite a while, but then I don't know what really happened. I really don't know what happened. But what I'm trying to say, that all those things you couldn't come to mother and tell her. The drill that you have that he takes your hand and takes for a walk, and he doesn't want to kiss you because if he's gonna kiss me he's gonna want something, hug me and kiss me. This wasn't fashionable. It wasn't that way. It was very restricted, because there was always fear of... Later on, I begin to relate that it might be that I become pregnant or something. I didn't even know how, what. But later one, when I look back, in retrospect, begin to think what he meant by it. That it will cheapen his idealistic love towards me. Very romantic, very romantic. Really, all those little things sometimes, you carry it for so long. Even chronologically you cannot place them. But there's something about that.

WEDEGAERTNER: Were your feelings when you got married then, and your pride in your home, were they pretty much like your mother's? You were very supportive of your husband and proud of your husband, or...?

POLISAR: No. Well, not just like my mother. You know, first of all, you were brought up already in a big city. So it's a little bit different. But still, not the rebellious kind of a feeling that, well, you know that is coming. That everything would be pleasant, to prepare the dinner, but it wasn't wild as it was at this time. Because again, you just established a little nest, and you are a kid, and you're proud of that. Proud that you made a meal, that you didn't know how to do it, but you struggled at it. And then when political things started breaking down with the czarist regime, something was cooking. You begin to realize that something, sooner or later it will come to the big city. To Odessa. So I remember when I was married already, we created a citizen on the block to watch what's going on. Because it's beginning to creep in, all kinds of things, which we weren't even aware very much. But again, the self-preservation. And at that particular time, we lived in a very nice house with three, four families. And I was very active in that. But that's about all that went on. And little by little bit, we begin to realize that something is going on. Okay, you read the papers, but the air begin to feel that something was going on. But still I wasn't a part of it. Maybe one of my daughter's friend, the writer. What's his name? Verdickian. He did an interview on me, wants to write a book. It was an article in the prison situation. He wanted to study prisoners. So that's his book he is writing. So he did an interview. And his wife is a journalist too, both of them. So he did an interview, because he wants to write a book. And he asked me the same questions. And I couldn't give him... He said, "Where did you get these feelings about political involvement?" And I was very much, since I came to this country, very much involved in the political world. Even though I was working very hard. My husband died.

WEDEGAERTNER: Were people beginning to immigrate, beginning to leave the city then, at that time?

POLISAR: First of all, there was a quota and they couldn't. Some of them were very anxious to leave, but they didn't have a chance to leave. It was very hard to leave. Evidently, my husband had family here. But they immigrated long, long, long time ago. By the time he got married to me, they were already doctors and pharmacists and lawyers and all. And they felt he was the only one who remained in Odessa, so they kept on sending us all kinds of fossils and all. Which really, if somebody was hungry, we weren't. The shortage of food at that particular time, that take the city. How it hit it and what happened, I really cannot explain to you. But I knew that the air was full of something. That something is brewing in some place. So they kept on sending us all kinds of things. Flower rice and cocoa and all this kind of stuff. So we were really not very hungry. But they were very anxious for us to come here. For me it was a dreadful thing, because I felt first of all, the whole family left there. My father in particular. And my brother died. He got malaria, because it was very prominent at that particular time. Because they were beginning to be so short of food, and all kinds of things. So it was a very hard time for me to leave my family. My mother, brothers. Evidently, my youngest brother joined the Red Army at that particular time. Because he was young. So that's what I felt. That something is going on. And the Red Army, and the sailor, how do you call it? [Kranstat?], and all this kind of stuff. I beginning to be muddled up because so many things happen, which I cannot forgive myself how I could skip all those things. But nevertheless, that's the way it was. So after a while, they kept on insisting, and people surrounding me. I

didn't want to come. I didn't want to leave the country. Because it's something that you have roots in a country. And no matter how bad it is, just to do something instead of running away. And that was my idea in general. I don't know in that particular time. Certainly not connected with any political ways. But something in me was saying that. And I had tried to save the family. Which is very true. Mother, at that particular time, she was already old. And it's a very heartbreaking thing. But the people around you, when I look in retrospect, I have a feeling there was a lot of agents from the United States who used to come there and say that money just comes down from heaven. You just have to bend down and pick it up. And people were so gullible. Gullible. And they looked at me, when I say I don't want to go. They looked at me, "For goodness sake! What do you mean? If you had a chance, it's a one in a million!" And you're gonna live better, and blah blah blah. And emotionally, I couldn't figure out. And at that particular time, a woman had nothing to say in that matter. You go wherever your man goes. And with broken heart and broken emotional feelings towards the whole setup with friends and family. I left. And my brother, this youngest brother, was so heartbroken over it. Because I was the older one, and they used to come with all their problems. Sexual problems. At that particular time, I was already at knowledge, because I'd gotten married already. So they used to come with all their sexual problems, because they couldn't come to tell Daddy about it or Mother. Well, anyway, it was wonderful. So I was just worshipped. So it was a dreadful feeling. He couldn't part with me so easily, so he went twelve hours on a train with me. All night, to see me off to a certain point or something. I don't even remember where.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did you think you were coming permanently or coming for a while, or did you know?

POLISAR: No, no. I knew that it's forever. I knew that this is the end of everything. And I came to this country, being an immigrant. At that time I had two kids.

WEDEGAERTNER: A boy and a girl?

POLISAR: A boy and a girl. He was three years old and she was eight years old. And when I came to this country, not knowing the language, and being surrounded with people already made it. And they felt that here is a poor immigrant who doesn't know what. You know, we gonna teach her...

WEDEGAERTNER: You're talking mainly about family?

POLISAR: Family! Speaking direct of family. And so, at that particular time though, you accepted it, because you are so helpless. Especially if you cannot speak the language.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did your husband speak the language at all?

POLISAR: Well, in his youth he was chasing a love affair, and he just learned a little bit English. But not much. It was when he was very young. But he forgot. You know, language, when you're not exercised, you will just forget it. But it was a very tough time.

WEDEGAERTNER: What part of the United States did you come to?

POLISAR: I came direct to Brooklyn. And you were facing, of course, with two kids, getting them to know the language. And since I didn't know any English. I knew only Russian language, and a little French, which of course I didn't use it. Forgot it too. The only thing I could do is to find out somehow, some way, a library where I could introduce the kids to, especially the girl. Her name is Zoia.

WEDEGAERTNER: Z-O-Y-A?

POLISAR: Z-O-I-A. And I'll tell you about Zoia. When I was a youngster, I read a novel. Zoia was her name. So here with my innocence, with my youth, say, "When I have a little girl, I'm gonna call her Zoia." And that's where Zoia stems from.

WEDEGAERTNER: Well, it's a pretty name.

POLISAR: Yeah. Anyway, so coming back to this. So I learned somehow, some way, that there's a library in the East Side of New York. And there was a Russian librarian. And I used to come and get the kids, especially my daughter because she's older, and get and explain to her in Russian that I would like very much that the kids should learn English. Because when they....

[End of Tape]

[TAPE 1, Side B]

[Begin Tape.]

POLISAR: ...am an immigrant, and all this kind. She was a beautiful little girl. Very beautiful. Very intelligent. So she gave me some books for them to read. And while they were reading, I was involved myself with it. Little by little. And I felt that's the only way. And the tears in my eyes when I listen to a Russian song. I weep like a baby because it was so dreadful for me to. At the same times, I felt I left Russia. I have two kids. I have to bring them up here. And that's what I have to do. So I struggled myself with reading. And the French evidently helped a little bit. And the rest I tried to learn from the kids. At that time she entered school. And when she entered school, evidently the paternalization to kids come from other countries hit the principal. She was a woman principal. Was a very wonderful lady. And she immediately got ahold of my daughter and took up terrific interest in her. And by the way, she played the piano too. Later on. And she kept on feeding her, introducing her. And at that particular time, they were skipping. And if she had intelligence and got hold of the language and kept on reading. Because the house was always full of books. And so she kept on skipping her. And before you know, she finished public school. And I kept on feeding her the Dostoevsky, the Tolstoy, with all kinds of classics. Because that's the only thing I knew. It was a little bit too early. I assure you, it was a little bit too early. But that's the classics I knew, and many other ones which was not as... But she kept on reading even that. And she got something maybe out of it or not. It doesn't matter. But the most important thing that she should have read in English or something like that. So she had that effect, backfeeding so to speak, from the librarian and from the principal. And she was not sixteen, practically, or sixteen in three months or

something, and through already high school. And they immediately recognized she had a thing for writing, and a very serious kind of a kid. What else do you want to know?

WEDEGAERTNER: Well, did your husband have trouble getting a job when he first got here?

POLISAR: Well, of course, financially. That was really the problem too. But the only thing, which I was thankful to him, that he had so much belief in me that I'll take good care of the kids, as far as bringing them up. Because he was really very busy establishing himself in the competition. He wouldn't even get the competition with the family, because he came so late already because of children. So you know, the basic thing, you just go and become a peddler. Oh, this killed him, and it certainly killed me too. Because I couldn't see him taking a pack and just go from door to door. Well, this period of my life wasn't very... Not in any way I was snobbish in a way. It wasn't a snobbery really that hurt me. But it was a combination of many things. He wasn't a very healthy man to start with. And what psychologically was destroying him, that he couldn't make a living, seeing how the women, the wives of the family...

WEDEGAERTNER: Did you get financial help from them at all when you first came?

POLISAR: He tried very hard to borrow some money, you know, in order to start something or other. But he never came to tell me what he's doing. They never did that.

WEDEGAERTNER: They just handled everything?

POLISAR: They just handled, yes, everything. And it was later on, again in retrospect I see how [] is, because now I'm modernized, and I feel those things should never, never be that way. The woman should know what's going on, should know. If he borrows money, she should know it. But he loved the family so much, and he loved me so much, that he was just trying very hard to hold down to the way of life more or less. But it collapsed, and then 1929, he invested so much money. Not even his money, because we didn't have, but the family's money. And this... Oh!

WEDEGAERTNER: And you came in 1927 did you say?

POLISAR: Yeah. In 1929, by that time, everybody had carpets. I didn't. Because it was an installment business, everybody had diamonds practically, but I didn't. I didn't have a vacuum cleaner. I didn't have nothing.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did you have your own place to live, or were you living with relatives?

POLISAR: No, no. No, no. I didn't live with relatives. I lived in my own place.

WEDEGAERTNER: A small apartment?

POLISAR: A small apartment on the top floor in the building, and there I lived. And I didn't live with relatives, even though he had Dr. Polisar, who had by that time reached the top. He was the first surgeon who didn't [mastoid?] on ear. He was a hear and nose []. He hadn't even... Having a beautiful corner house, and he had his own hospital, even though he was attending physician many hospitals. And

he had nurses and []. But I wasn't connected. I wasn't a part of the whole thing. And I didn't push myself to be a part of it.

WEDEGAERTNER: All along, you felt an outsider from these relatives.

POLISAR: Yes. I certainly did. I certainly did. The difficulties of writing, the difficulties of speaking, the difficulties of my own way of bringing up kids. Because they laughed at me that I couldn't take the kid in the car and go to a party. And I said, "No. I'm not gonna do that. I'm gonna stay home," and I could be without a party. Because I wouldn't leave a kid in a car. And so they kept on basically laughing at me.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did you feel they were laughing at your husband too, and looking down at him too?

POLISAR: No, no. They were laughing at me much more, because I was involved with the kids. Whether they were laughing or accusing or something or other with my husband, I didn't know anything about it. And he didn't, you know, kept coming and telling me those things. And after a while, I was a part of it, and they begin to realize. They begin to know that I am a human being, even though I am not materially. Or not taking their customs of living. They just should give me a chance. So it was a certain amount of misunderstanding, or looking from top down. And at times, it annoyed me, but I kept on doing my own things. When Zoia entered high school, and there were book reports, and during the day I was free in the morning, I was busy preparing everything, and then I jumped to the high school to listen to the reports. Somebody read a book and came with... And the English teacher knew me by that time, and I used to go there. In other words, I kept on living and learning the kids. When Zoia was sixteen, even though I didn't have a pair of shoes on me, we surprised her and bought her a piano. It was a surprise. She took piano lessons. Paid five dollars a lesson. Even though I wasn't, as I said, didn't have a decent dress on myself. But I felt this is very important. It's very, very important. And so many a times the teachers called me to ask me, what is it that she's so wonderful, that's she's so interesting. But she's driving herself, and she's not satisfied if she gives a report, and the report was so beautiful or so interesting, and she still is not satisfied. I said, "I don't care. Just you solve your own problems." But then before you know, she was in college by sixteen. In Brooklyn College. And there she made a place for herself. All the Brooklyn College editors. My house was open. I had to feed them, those damn kids. They were so interesting. Brooklyn College especially, if you know something about Brooklyn College, it was a nest of progressive, radical things, and all those kids were fascinating. And they used to come and raid my refrigerator, whatever I had. "Come on, get it!"

WEDEGAERTNER: Was your husband still alive at this point?

POLISAR: Oh yes. Yes. He was still alive. And he evidently went along very nicely, even though he read *Forward*, which was a Zionist... Not a Zionist, but a Jewish paper. But I respected a great deal his intelligence. Politically, we were completely on opposite sides. I don't know where I got it. I don't know why. But that's the way it was. But he enjoyed the company of those kids. Those beautiful boys, who were a part of our life practically. And they kidding around, and the more they kid him around with the paper, with the *Jewish Forwards*, the more he liked it. So it was such a beautiful life. We didn't have anything. Nothing, you know. We just struggled.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did you work at all during this time?

POLISAR: No! How could I work? I had kids. I had a house. And I had to wash everything, and I have to press everything, and I have to cook everything. You know, money was very scarce, very little. So no, I didn't work. I start working when my husband died. This was a history in itself.

WEDEGAERTNER: Right. We'll get to that pretty soon.

POLISAR: So that's the way it was. And this was the happiest days of my life, being surrounded with those beautiful kids from college.

WEDEGAERTNER: So that was one of the most important things to you about being a mother?

POLISAR: Yeah. And it was beautiful in a way that I begin to grow up sort of, politically. I begin to be awakened, which see, things bothered all my life, and I didn't know where and why. But this gave me sort of complete... In other words, because I was with them. I was constantly with them. And they brought literature and all this kind of a stuff. And me myself with the broken language, and they kept on laughing at me left and right, but they adored me. Because they didn't feel that they have a mother that they could just... I was ahead of my time. And this helped a great deal.

WEDEGAERTNER: Was your son like your daughter much?

POLISAR: My son was a complete opposite. He was a very sensitive kid. He evidently was involved when he was twelve years old. He was involved in the American student union. And from then on, I did have no jurisdiction of that kid. He was very much involved in that. He was very intelligent. From three years on, I had trouble, because he was sick and broke his leg. And I had a hard time. Well, I'm not gonna go into that. But from then on, though he was wonderful. I used to come and see him off, and he was very much involved in this American union, student union body. It was in high school, but I don't remember the age or anything. And they gave him responsibility on the leadership, all of them. They went to Washington, a busload of kids, to fight for something. I don't even remember for what. I'm sure for a good cause. And I went to see him off. A proud mother. Mommy was standing and having a good time looking out. He has to, on the bus and seeing if the kids are here, and had a piece of paper in front of him. I was so proud of him. And he went to Washington. But he went sort of in his own way. And he was very sensitive. And I remember when he was already about seven, eight years old, and I used to take him to the library. To the same library. Again, I skip from one thing to another. And he, because the Bowery, and where all the derelicts are. They are drunk and lying on the floor. Miserable people. And he stopped and looked at it, and I saw his face is expressing such sympathy, such compassion for those people. He didn't say anything. He just didn't say anything. But you could see that it's right there. Russian salt. And it was really very touching to look at him. And he said, several times he said, "Mother, I don't want to go there anymore." "Oh well." I understood very well. And by that time, we already had books. He already had... You know, Zoia was older, then she had people coming in. So he already got into a field which is his field so to speak. But he kept on growing in his own way and his own interest. And he just didn't want to have this motherly feelings. And I respected him a great deal for that. He just

didn't want to. He had these friends. He had his work. He wasn't a great big student, because he was involved in political world, so to speak, in his own way. And he had this kind of a sense of leadership.

WEDEGAERTNER: When you first came to the United States, were you able to find a woman friend, or were you and your husband able to find a couple that you could socialize with or turn to for help?

POLISAR: No. We were sort of loners. You see, I was the loner, because I didn't have anybody here. I didn't have a family here. And he had a family. So I went with him to the family. And then the life was very tough and very busy. So okay, you have a neighbor, so you were small talk with, all kinds of things.

WEDEGAERTNER: Would you consider this librarian as one of your friends?

POLISAR: Well, she lived in New York, and she was a working woman. And I was very thankful, very pleased that she took such an interest in Zoia. Because Zoia knew already a little bit music, so she told her to go down the basement. There is a piano that'll play. Then she took dancing lessons in the settlement, and I took her there. I was too busy. I was too busy. I could not involve myself in looking for friends at that particular time.

WEDEGAERTNER: Who helped you with basic things like shopping when you first got here, and things like that?

POLISAR: Well, I did it all by myself in a way. You know, struggle. Look how many people struggling now. I struggled. I struggled very hard. And many times, I cried to myself inside not to be able even to show that I'm lonely for my own country, or I'm lonely in basic things. But life is very strong, and if you want to survive, you survive.

WEDEGAERTNER: Did you at any point find, say, a woman with a Russian background or anything that you could relate to?

POLISAR: No. That's the point. I didn't have any around me. And that's why the Russian language I begin to lose. And I felt, basically, that there was no sense of holding on. If I came to this country, that means I might have been unhappy, but this is the country. And I have two kids to bring up. And I didn't want them to be pointed out at, finger that they are, you know.

WEDEGAERTNER: So they didn't learn Russian?

POLISAR: So we spoke Russian in the beginning, and then little by little, when they start speaking English, the Russian language was beginning to die. In a way, I feel very bad about it.

WEDEGAERTNER: I was wondering if, looking back at it, if you would've...

POLISAR: Oh, of course. It's another language, just like Chinese language or Japanese language or Spanish language. Of course, it's a very heartbreaking thing, but it's one of these cold realities. You cannot hold down to a language if you're not exercising it. You haven't got the time to look for people who speak Russian, because you're busy with your own adaptation to the country that you're adopted. So it was very busy to give all the education and all the books and everything else to surround the kids,

and to myself, and to my husband. He couldn't, of course, be busy with reading books. He had a big task on his hands. But a wonderful thing that, in retrospect, you appreciate, he just tried not to interfere too much with my ideas of bringing them up. And he didn't go for assistance to his family, because they were already Americanized, so they had to adapt.

WEDEGAERTNER: What did he do after he was a peddler for a while?

POLISAR: It was until the last thing. 1929 killed him. No question about that. He was basically not a healthy man. You know how those kids were brought up. Mother had to help out in the big tremendous retail store, and she gave birth to kids right on there, and bleeding to death, and had about thirteen kids, which remained three or four of them. So you know, other kids were neglected in a way. In a small town especially. We were brought up in a big city, so it's different. It rubs off, certain things.

WEDEGAERTNER: Right. I was just wondering, it seems like in order to afford all these books you were talking about, he must have had a pretty good-paying job after the Depression.

POLISAR: No, he didn't. He struggled until the last minute. And then of course, he died in 1941. And then life starts for me.

WEDEGAERTNER: A big turning point there, huh?

POLISAR: The turning point. Do you want another cup of coffee?

WEDEGAERTNER: That would be fine. Let me just stop this. [break]

WEDEGAERTNER: I think we were about at the point where you said that your husband had passed away, and that you were starting on your life really.

POLISAR: Well, first of all, he had a heart attack. And psychologically, I feel that if he wouldn't have those knocks, maybe he would have survived. But he didn't. In a way, it's good, because he couldn't make peace with himself. And it was very hard. And having the breadwinner for family, which his aim in life is just to make comfortable the kids, it weighed upon him so much that he finally was just getting sicker and sicker. Well anyway, what really can I do? I was wondering. Here I am. My daughter, at that particular time, is about to get married. She had a boyfriend who was a chemical engineer. And he was finished one of those beautiful, really good colleges in Brooklyn. And was about to get married, but that's the way things are. I didn't want to be a burden on her. I didn't want her to feel that just because father died, that she has to start life with the mother in it. And you know, daughters and mothers always fighting. It's a very psychologically thing to see why daughters and mothers don't get along. And more and more, I begin to realize that it's one of those things that daughters, looking at their mothers, fearful of seeing them when they get older, it frightens them. The mother, on the other hand, look at the daughter, want to still think this childishness, and seeing her getting older. And there's something that I really cannot understand, but more and more I hear and listen, that the mothers and daughters, instead of feeling that we all go through the same thing. We should be sympathetic to each other. But it doesn't work out. And since I was always ahead of my time, I said no. At that time, poor kid, she was making ten, fifteen dollars working the Woolworth or another record store selling classical records or something like

that. And he was starting out too, making fifteen bucks or whatever. I figured out that I cannot possibly go to any family. Because as soon as I'll go in, and I needed it so badly. Somebody to warm me up and somebody to give me a chance to think what I'm gonna do. I will accept this warmth and this maybe affection if I'll get it. And I will not gear up and go and to make a life for myself. So I poo-pooed that too. I said no. See what I could do myself. Well, anyway, somebody somewheres, of the clear blue sky, a woman who was a very religious person, but at the same time a very intelligent woman. I don't know who actually acquainted me with her. But she evidently was the mother-in-law of a director of the orphan asylum in New York. The big place which is across the stadium. Lewison Stadium. And the daughter was a very radical kind of person. Worked very hard in political world. Well anyway, she took me, and I don't know how and where and what. Don't ask me, because I cannot relate where I met that woman. But she was very generous. And gave me a room, and gave me a plate of soup. But this wasn't arranged. She was very energetic, and she had all friends, and she was religious. Well, religious in a way. Not too much. Because she already had kids. Daughters who were much ahead of her.

WEDEGAERTNER: Was she a Jewish woman?

POLISAR: Oh, Jewish woman. Yes. Jewish woman. And I needed it at that particular time, because I was very stubborn, and I didn't want to go to any relatives, even though all of them are very wealthy too. That was a good thing on my part. I figured this out myself. And I don't know. I have the tendency to helping people in a way. I don't know where this has originated either. And I decided I'll pick up, and I heard over the radio that there was, since the war, lots of nurses that were very anxious to make money and very anxious to travel, so they left the hospitals a great deal. And the YMCA? YWCA. Opened up courses for practical nurses. And the courses were a certain, oh, I don't even remember. At the same time, I didn't have any money either. So at the same time, this Jewish woman with whom I lived tried very hard to place me some place to make a little money. So I told her what I intend to do. And she asked me to come into for old bachelor man, or his wife died. It was next door. To make a dinner for him at Passover, or something like that. Here I am, I'm such a great cook. But the heck with that. I made it. Whatever, I made it. But he begin to... touching. You know how old people are. Not old. He's young. This annoyed me. But I made fifty bucks anyway. Because I suppose he want to have me with him or something like that. I didn't even want to ask. I didn't even want to get into that. Anyway, it disgust me to a certain extent because, not you think that I am a great moralist, but there are certain times that you have build in some kind of a morality in you that you cannot falter. Even in those dreadful circumstances that I was, I didn't want to sell myself, and I maintained my dignity. Well anyway, as long as I made fifty bucks, I went into the YWCA, and I spoke to the main person. And I told her, with crying at the same time, telling her my story. And she evidently recognized that she could take a chance with me. And she said to me, "Okay. I heard your story, and it's very touching. And sign in, and whenever you have money, you'll give it to me." I entered this course. To tell you what pain I had, not knowing the language... I mean, it was school, after all. It was a school. And it was a very important school. It was needed school, because nurses left the hospitals left and right, and it was a necessity to create this kind of a school. So I start the school. It was in New York. And I traveled every day from Brooklyn to New York. It wasn't very bad. And I had to write reports. I don't know how to write reports. I don't know how to spell. I don't even know how to spell now, because I didn't go to school here. But evidently, my practical approach

when I entered... Well, we stayed in the school for so many months. Then we had to go to different hospitals to intern. And every time they had the evaluations in different hospitals, so that I went to, how do you call it? In Brooklyn. Zion Hospital at that particular time. At this time, it's already Brooklyn Medical Center, and it's a big hospital. Then I had to go to the chronic disease hospital in New York. Stayed there for three, four months, every month in a different department. And of course the teachers were there to see what you're doing, in order to give you a future license. Evidently, even though I... And the reports have to be written every week, and I was miserable. I can't explain you. This is the worst things in my life, is to write those reports, which I didn't know how to spell, my handwriting was miserable, everything. But evidently, they watched me. I wasn't even aware they're watching me. But my approach to the patient. How make the bed. And the most important thing, how I handle certain situations. And they evaluate me on that point, which is fine. And so nurses who were in charge of the floors were asked after a while. I was sort of a freak in this respect, that my approach to nursing was an ideal approach. Because basically, I have some kind of an idealism in me. And that's just the way I am. As I said recently, that I'm a little idealist. A big humanitarian in a way. And big, big naiveté about it. This is the most that is giving me trouble. Anyway, I finished that one. So the charge nurse used to ask permission for me to stay a little longer, because she really was very friendly and liked me as a person, the way I approached the people with compassion and everything else, which I had. Sounds like I'm bragging about myself, but that's what it is.

WEDEGAERTNER: No. You're just telling it how it was.

POLISAR: Well anyway, I finished that, and then I came back to Brooklyn to be in this hospital, where I stayed for thirty years. But nobody ever went to complain about me. But that time, we were underpaid very much. Because sometimes we had to take charge of the floor. And I myself had to make charge of floor of 46 patients, because the nurse didn't come in or the nurse was sick or something like that. And I was compelled to do it, because that's the only way. I mean, you had to save the situation. And little by little, they felt that it's time, since the practical nurses were carrying the burden, that they should... After I finished all this, you have to take license. You know, from state license. And the state license, they send reports, and I have to... You know, there are examinations in order to get the license. Well, again, the evaluation of the teachers of the school, of the hospital, was much more important than my miserable... But they couldn't let it go, so they failed me once. Okay. Since they gave it every three months, they had a chance to give me to take it over, I took the second time. And of course, the same thing happened. But this time, they decide the hell with it, we're gonna give her the license because she's a good nurse. Anyway, that's what happened with that situation. Well anyway, I was in the hospital. Then they felt that they are really exploiting us in a way, so they decided to give a six-month course, so the interns would come and give us a little medical background about certain illnesses. And I was of course recommended for my floor. We had to give up our days off, because we had two days off. And we did that. And they used to come and give us some lectures and everything else, and we had again to write reports, but in the hospital I wasn't even worried, because by that time, my reputation was established. But I cannot write and I cannot write, I mean read the doctors'. Which was more important than the rest. And this really, Mary, was the happiest days of my life. Is the nursing profession. And I could say I did a good job, because it was in me. That's all. I couldn't do it any better. I

couldn't do any different. Well anyway, so we got this over, so we got raise in the salary, which makes it more comfortable. I'm facing this problem that my son's still in the war, so while I was busy in the hospital and busy with all the activities what's going on, with all the miseries and everything else, when I went out of hospital, I was just like a black cloud over me. And my shift after a while was from three o'clock until eleven, so I used to come home at eleven thirty, twelve o'clock, and coming up and seeing once that they sent the clothes back when he embarked – just going a little bit back – embarked for Germany. Well, what can I say? Nobody's around, only the four walls. I cannot scream at anybody. I cannot express what went on in the hospital. How many miserable situations are there. But that's the way it is. And nothing you can do about it. And little by little, they begin to pile up more responsibilities on me, because the recognized that I could sort of... It was very hard. And then a lot of elements came in from different countries, and they established a nurse's aid. So you were taken away because you were a capable nurse. Again, the circumstances were such later on, that you are capable of doing, so the class of nurse's aid took over the custodial care of the patient, and the nurses were capable, well, thank you very much. Because I really liked the nursing situation much more than this. So the last few years of my life, I was put on medication. It was a terrible big job, too. It was a terrific responsibility. So until the end of my being in a hospital, after thirty, thirty-two years, I was on medication. And after a while, things got a little bit very hard, because the all element, the all situation in the hospitals, changed. And it began to be a job... Not a job which involved a little compassion and love or something like that. A lot of black people, a lot of other people came in, without very much training. And maybe some kind of a hostilities, too. The Jewish people say, "Don't send me in a black nurse." Which hurt me terribly. And I used to respond to them. And I said, "Of all the people, *you*" – Jewish, because I am Jewish myself – "you should understand this thing, because you were driven all your life, and you should understand that. And don't tell me that. I'm gonna send you a *nurse*. Never mind the color." Which I did, because I was...

[End of Tape]

[TAPE 2, Side A]

[Begin Tape]

POLISAR: ...so the whole thing changed. And I got older. And I took some part time. So I was very friendly with that supervisor, who was a black woman, and we became very friendly. And I asked of the situation. Because one night, I was supposed to give an injection, and I came over to the person, who was about 48. Maybe less. A young man. And I didn't realize what his illness was, but I had to give him an injection. And when I came back to put on the chart what I gave him, I read the chart. Because something struck me. And he was a lung cancer patient. Which of course related to me, and I was so disturbed that I just bust out crying. Call the supervisor, and she send me with a nurse. She send me home. And I stayed away for a few days. But then she called me. "Mrs. Polisar," she said, "this is not the solution to the problem. You have to come to work, because that's the only way you will forget your troubles." Because it's so fresh. My son was to Cornell Anniversary. He took sick, and they took him with a plane. He had very

wonderful friends. They took him by plane, a special plane, to New York. Which Cornell Anniversary has a hospital there. They took him there, and of course they couldn't save him. I was with the kids, because my daughter-in-law kept on running back and forth. Well, that ends that. And the doctor called in the morning. And being a nurse, knowing if a doctor calls to the house, that means it's lots of trouble. And he told me that if she didn't left yet, she should leave, because it's something or other. And I had the two kids. Three kids. This is his three kids. And I played cards with them. My heart was bleeding inside, and crying inside. But I up a front. Well anyway, okay. This is finished. Where I was before?

WEDEGAERTNER: You were talking about towards the end of your career, you were with the medication.

POLISAR: Yeah. And then I was a part-time. And the part-time was even worse. Because when you come into a floor, you don't know the patients. And the patients are mistrustful because they see a new person. And they don't trust you very much. But I don't blame them. They are sick. They cannot figure out things. So you have to grope with the cards, or sometimes you have to dilute penicillin in the bottles, in the intravenous bottles. And this one cries, you have to immediately give up a painkiller. Patient goes up to the operating room, you have to premedicate, and all this kind. I was a nervous wreck. And they send you wherever they need you, you see? You cannot stay in one floor when you are on, you know. So this was really ended up my career, but not only I regret, but I look at that period of my life. The most interesting. The most giving. The most everything in my life. And I was a person that I didn't go to any... People used to tell me, "You're still so young. You could, you know, go on vacation. Don't run to the kids. Just go..."

WEDEGAERTNER: On a cruise or something?

POLISAR: Cruise. And I said no. And I didn't. And now I look back and I feel, well, was I really so smart? Because at this particular point, you really need somebody with you. Because you're constantly surrounded with four walls. And nothing is so empty. When you come in and you cannot express your feelings what you had during the daily routine of your life. But it's too late. That kind of a person I am, and I don't, you know, can't. So I have to turn to something which stimulates my mind, which is a very important thing. Now, when I came to Stockton, in the beginning I was so miserable that I wanted to go back.

WEDEGAERTNER: How long ago was that that you came to Stockton?

POLISAR: I'm here the fifth year. So figure out yourself. And I was miserable. So the first six, seven months, I was about to just pick up and go back. At the same time, I spent all my – at that particular time, I will not do anything now to buy bonds, but that particular time, we need the government, because we have to save the world, you know, from Hitler. So they deducted from

the... So I was sure that they gonna deduct, because I'm very loose with money. I hate money. It's just a commodity which you needed. So I bought bonds, and they used to. So I have some bonds, and finally got rid of them. Because seeing what's going on, I don't want to support the military establishment. So it cost me so much to move here that I can't go back. So then I decided, well, since I am a political animal, and since I cannot be with not being associated with people, and since I'm basically an atheist. I don't believe in any god. I don't believe in any of those things. It's just a camouflage. It's just to make the people think of something which is so unreal, and takes them away from reality, and it's another drug. So I said, since I don't believe it, because all through life, I developed my own philosophy in life. And I didn't want any crutches. And I didn't get into anything as far as leaning on someone. But I decided, but I need people. I need something to put me in action, and to be stimulated. And to have a chance to talk. So I decided, well, I knew something about the Unitarian church. Now the word church is just, in a way, annoying me. Because I never went to churches. I didn't go to synagogues either, unless there was a wedding or memorial, you know. And at the same time, I was ostracized from the family, because the family, my husband's family again, are sort of traditionally Jewish people. And since they made it so they were in temples and they were in all this kind of stuff. And many times I pointed out the Jewish problem with Palestine and everything. Not realizing that Israel is just as bad as anybody else, because look what they did to the Arabs and everything else. So even though I am Jewish, I am constantly criticized, and very unhappy about the Jewish situation at the present time. And so I decided, well, compromise, my friend. That's the only way. So go to church and see what you can do there. And I didn't like what I've seen, because I haven't seen black people there, I didn't see a Chicano there. And it's one of those things. It's a vehicle to something else, you know. But if you come to the conclusion that you have to compromise, and if you want to change, then you have to compromise and keep on changing if you want to change. So I begin giving them trouble in a way. With my honesty. With my approach to things. With my understanding what's going on. So I was a novelty for them, because usually they all so closed in and all this stuff. And I sort of, in a way, kept on shaking up a little bit in the summer. And little by little, I find a group which don't go to the church, because they don't like the church. They don't like the minister. They don't like... And I am constantly fighting with, okay, if you don't like it, change it. But not staying away. By staying away, you're not changing. By facing, then you could change. At least you have an opportunity to change. Well anyway, so the fight is still going on. So the traditionalist, which there is a group, traditionalist. Don't make too much connection with me, except shaking hands and say, "Oh, I'm so glad you're here!" Which I don't fall for that. I understand. They are the originator of the church anyway. They are supporting the church. You have to give them credit that they create this institution. But it's their trouble that they don't grow with the institution. That's another story. They are very fearful. Each and every one of them has houses and beautiful silver and beautiful all those things, and this is their life. And the husbands were dead, and they

remained with pension and all kinds of... They are former teachers, former lawyers, former doctor, blah blah blah. All kinds of things. And here I am. I didn't go college, I didn't go to... I just have my mind. So I have problems with the church, but still I know. Because I can see myself, the word church annoys me, and the word hymns annoyed me. It's something that doesn't come impromptu, but it comes just organized. And I like an organized house, but I don't like the organized institution. But still in all, that's where I am. So I am in the National Organization for Women...

WEDEGAERTNER: I was going to say, how did you get involved with that? Did you get involved back in New York?

POLISAR: No, no. Right here.

WEDEGAERTNER: That was all after you came here?

POLISAR: Oh yes. Right here. In New York, I was busy with...

WEDEGAERTNER: Too busy just working?

POLISAR: Oh yes. I was busy working, and I was busy with, again, if there was a call in United Nations, how do you call it? Vigil for the antiwar against military things. We were there until twelve o'clock at night. As a matter of fact, at one point there was a terrible demonstration. There was police on their horses, and they're charging at the people, actually. Bottle throwing, all kinds of things. I was there!

WEDEGAERTNER: Right. You were very active, besides your nursing, very active politically.

POLISAR: Oh yes. Oh yes. On my days off, there I was. And my days off, or if the hospital had a strike of the... Not the nurses at that particular time, God forbid. But the clerical workers and the kitchen workers. Well, I gave a day's pay, but I couldn't picket. Because that's not the right way to do. First of all, lots of people were involved, and they didn't come because they were busy with something else, you know. Oh, interns were striking. The double work of nurses and everything else. Sympathetically, I was with them, you know. Didn't call them, and I could handle the situation myself. Because there's all this skeleton help. Later on, the nurses were striking, which is lovely. So I was participating, or call for Washington to go. Buses, six o'clock in the morning, winter time, to go and catch the train. It's dark. And we were there. Tremendous amount of, just like a wave in the Atlantic, so to speak. Around there. Oh, it was a good feeling. It was really a good feeling. Such camaradereship.

WEDEGAERTNER: So when you moved out here, did you also leave a lot of friends back there that you had made?

POLISAR: Oh yes. Of course I left friends. Yesterday I received a call from a friend of mine who's in Brooklyn. They still want to keep an eye on me, but you know. Their life is not my life anymore. My life is not theirs. So even though they still had such warm feelings towards me that they call. But otherwise, I feel I'm here. I have to do something here. So I organized, about two, three years ago, I organized a group to go to Garamendi. To McFallon. Talk about the military situation. I was in charge of about six, seven people. To bring up this point. This prison situation. Talk to him about prison. He asked me advise what to do. And all of a sudden somebody called Nieto, drop the whole thing. So I'm here.

WEDEGAERTNER: How did you get involved with NOW here?

POLISAR: With NOW? Because I find a group, which NOW came alive here in Stockton. NOW was a lifelong-time ago. Look at what's her name. Bella Abzug. It was their vigil too at that time. In New York. Organizing the picket line on what's his name? The Senator. The Jewish senator. You know who I mean. Was picketing them, him, because he was "military establishment." So we went there. We went to his office. So I was visit there. But they are busy in their own, you know, it's a completely different way. And they are much more progressive than this... Stockton is really... Not only Stockton. I think Not only Stockton, but the whole state here will have a bad time. And they are the one, the multinational organizations, and all them who support, will bring down a bloodshed. And the terrible thing that the racial problems, the Ku Klux Klan sort of petition, that they say they want a white American. They don't want a black American. They don't want Chicanos. It was on KUOP. Somebody interviewed one of the leaders. I'm listening to KUOP. I'm giving them as much as I can, because I live on Social Security, with a little help of my daughter. And they will bring... And the small countries, whom they supported only the reactionary government in power, will free American. But it will take lots of bloodshed. Because we're running into very bad situation. I hate to be pessimistic, because basically, I am optimistic. And it's a very interesting era of the present time to live. I think it's wonderful. I only wish I would be young again and throw myself in. Because it's frightening. We are a completely dehumanized society. We got drunk with this industrialization. We got drunk with those scientists who hide themselves in these little cubes. And then realize that all those dangerous things that they went could get into the wrong people. They should know America much more, because the other countries have a rich culture. America hasn't got it. Instead the cowboys. I hate to tell you that, because maybe you were American-born.

WEDEGAERTNER: No, I want to know your... Well sure, but I'm interested to hear your things.

POLISAR: I hate to tell you that.

WEDEGAERTNER: It doesn't bother me.

POLISAR: But I had to. I had to tell you. I had to tell you. And the more we know ourselves, our part in this world, the more we become human, and to understand that people, that we live on the world's hunger. We live luxuriously on the world's hunger. And when I see those kids with the big bellies and the spindly legs, I'm ready to scream. That people should awaken. But this state especially. I don't like California. I like the beauty of the country. But it's so corrupt. And the madness of money got in so badly. They're insecure, no matter how much they have. They're insecure. Yet they're afraid. They're so afraid they're gonna lose the drapes. We're gonna lose the silver coffee pot. We're gonna lose the carpets. Not realizing that there is a world who's hungry.

WEDEGAERTNER: Just self-centered.

POLISAR: Obscenity. We're getting involved. Everybody writes books about, we got involved in sex. That if you want to have better sex, page to 255. Here we are, all our lives, in our own way, in our own natural, simplistic way. We find a way to like sex. But somebody wants to make a buck. And it goes so far that instead of seeing the world of hunger, we talk about sex. Which is the most natural, beautiful thing in the world. And no books will give you the satisfaction of sex unless you yourself make things go beautifully.

WEDEGAERTNER: Have you been involved in any organized way in groups that combat world hunger or anything like that?

POLISAR: Yes, I was involved. I am involved even now. But the problem is, Mary, that it reached the point at the present time. I recently went through an operation of the right eye. I have a detached retina. And evidently, though I didn't expect too much, but it's something that when it comes to you, you push away reality. And you think maybe you could be helped. So I went to Stanford University because my daughter lives in Berkeley, and it was just an hour away from Palo Alto. And she said, "I want to take care of you, and I want you to be with me." So she made arrangements to go there. So I went there. And I learned something about Stanford University too. I felt it's a teaching hospital. And it's worthwhile to go and to see it. But, well, I have to attack the whole medical profession, which I am always ready to attack. But anyway, I wouldn't go into that. It's too much. I just know that I know the medical profession, because I was with them for thirty years. And I was alert enough to watch. So I have something in here. It's really worse. It's much worse. I couldn't accept that, and I learned something, but even here, it's much worse. The Medicare is a wonderful institution. The Blue Cross started a wonderful institution. But something happened. Money comes in, and they forget completely. And them, how do you call this insurance? If something happened to the patient, there is a certain word, you know.

WEDEGAERTNER: Oh, I know what you mean, yeah. Liability or something. That's not the word, but yeah.

POLISAR: So you could see what even the medical profession, who gives allegiance, who pledge allegiance to be a human being, becomes a machine. And they so dehumanized that they want to have a report. It sounds good in the medical journal. Drive you crazy with pills. Lots of chemicals you swallow. And the attention is just motivations, what you gonna get. They're ruining the Medicare, they're ruining the Medical, they're ruining everything. So as far as the medical, that's what I said, Mary. In every facet of life, there's a decadence. And you're ready to scream your head. Especially when you know something. And for thirty years being in a hospital – more than thirty. Thirty-three, thereabout. I learned something. But it's not half as bad as here. Here it's completely dehumanized. It's money. They go on yachts. They go on all kinds of things in order to make connections. In order to maintain the establishment going. And as far as the human being is concerned, it's just an experimental animal. Experimentation. More machines. The more machines they have, the less human touch they create, the machine will do things for them. And they make believe that they are working very hard. So I have a chapter on the medical profession. You want another chapter?

WEDEGAERTNER: [laughs] When are you going to write your book, huh?

POLISAR: Oh, I wish I could write a book. I wish I could. Them senior citizens. Now here, we were there for so long, just like the black people were so long. And now, because we're killing off young people. Future sciences? Well, the hell with the sciences. We need sciences only to create to better our life, not creating bombs. I'm very upset about them. I would curtail them if I had power. There's a limit what you could do. Don't hide yourself and get big recognition, big money. Everything's a human being. You cannot trust too much human beings. What did I start?

WEDEGAERTNER: We were talking about you writing a book, for one thing.

POLISAR: I wish I could write, but I can't. But there's lots of chapters. I could think about it. How about the senior citizens? Here we created senior citizen because we losing 55,000 Americans and taking the... Raised patties, the necessities of life, of those people. We burned them, and they couldn't get it for God knows how many years. We could reincarnate, so to speak. But 55,000 people we lost only in Vietnam, that useless, crazy war that I was so involved in running. So now the senior citizens become a big ship. And what did we do? We create programs. Every time we create a new program. Because we want to help them out because we need the votes. We need votes. But we don't get any place. So we create homes, elaborate homes, with the multinational corporations having their own way, even the carpeting. Because nothing, once you go into a home, you should feel, you should know that this one person did it. It's a

combination of many, many things, which in a way it's fine. But the motivations are completely different. So the one who makes those big halls with big carpets, with big chandeliers, with big, big everything. \$400, \$500 a month upkeep. You look at them, you say, okay, why do you need those things? Why does an older person like me, at the present time, needs it? I need a little living room, I need a bedroom, I need a toilet. Which they have a comfortable bathroom. I need the warmth in the toilet. I shouldn't go into a cold toilet. And I need a little stimulant. And I haven't got the \$400. What should I do? I haven't got it. I haven't got pension. I have nothing. I have just Blue Cross, which is again, doesn't belong to the Blue Cross. It belongs to the medical profession, to the pharmaceutical industries, lots of people are involved. Building things, all kinds of things are involved in it. And that's what they have to cost. \$500 a month. I come into those homes, and what did I see? I see those beautiful, tremendous places. Now what do we need it for? What did they do? They wait everything is organized for them, instead of those women should be able to help out each other, and should set the table. They shouldn't have to wait at the chair and wait for next meals. And then wait for the bingo game. Nothing else. In other words, a living death. And they cry about programs of them. Needless to say that the black people haven't got a chance to get in there. The Chicanos haven't got a chance to get in there. But they are senior citizens. What do you provide for them? A cup and a pot. And you push them away. They shouldn't be seen. So you see, there's a lot of chapters I could write about. I could write about prostitution, what's going on. It would be nice if they would legalize prostitution. Wouldn't it be nice if those miserable people, who slided some place and cannot get up, and need support. They should be recognized that they are human beings, and should have Social Security or whatever. Or if they cannot work anymore and to sell their bodies, they should have a place to live. Now here's another chapter. Could we look at it? We recognize that this is a profession that has been going on for centuries, okay? Do we do something about it? No. The police drives them from one corner to another, or they land in jail. The most dehumanized thing you'll ever, ever encounter. Now those are the things, Mary, that bothers the hell out of me. And those kids, 14 years old. I saw a program yesterday, Phil Donahue comes in, wants to know why. Just want to break up the reading or something like that. I listen to his program, and he's daring to that. Yes, he has a program about the kids, 14 years old, running away. Twelve years old. And their pimps who cash in on them with beating them. Not paying them anything.

WEDEGAERTNER: When you say you can't write a book, why do you feel you can't write a book?

POLISAR: I can't write a book. I can't write, because even if I want to write a letter, which I can't write, things move so fast in my head that I get fumbled up. I get mumbled up.

WEDEGAERTNER: You could dictate it on tape or something.

POLISAR: Well, if somebody are there to do it, fine. If it makes sense for those two hours or less or more. Maybe I'm taking your time, but I always have so much to say. And I feel so deeply. This Sunday, I was in church. And he handled it very nicely. There was an article. The war situation, what we are accomplishing. It was very good. I have a good influence on him too, because he feels that... First of all, he's a Jewish minister, and he's a very intelligent guy. But he has to play a game, because there are still a lot of traditionalists in that church, you know, conservative. So he has to play a game. So I am trying very hard to support, and punching him sometimes. Recently I punch him at that he should take about the ERA, and he's gonna deliver. Because he tries to word it. He didn't like the way it was worded. I said, "Never mind, you're theologians. Never mind that. It's more important that you should just talk about." Never mind your interpretation that it's parliamentary and not the proper way to say it, or he didn't like the amendment, the way it was worded. Anyway, there was a girl, and she was screaming something. I don't know. I didn't have a chance to go near her. But here she was, holding this sleeping bag. I don't know. Maybe she wasn't so young. But I would say, even I looked at her, maybe she was about 18, 20 years old. I looked at her. The coat was open, and she was in jeans, completely torn pieces on the knees. Evidently mentally disturbed. Evidently something is bothering her about the chemicals or something like that. I didn't have a chance to talk to her. But when I looked at her, I glanced at her. And here is a kid who was loved by mother. What happened? Where does she live? What does she do? To whom does she belong? I came home, and I can't get rid of this. I just can't rid of seeing this kid. In a big country like this. And I couldn't forgive myself, why I didn't come near her. But I was involved, I don't remember in what. And such things, at the moment, they disturb you. Because they disturbed you, the things which going on. And you forget completely that there's a human being in front of you. Unless you go away from these things that you are doing and look at her, and then you come home and you think, why the heck didn't you go over to her and asked her, where does she live? How does she live? To whom does she belong? Which is wandering, hugging her sleeping bag. Dreadful shoes. Smelly from urine. I'm sure she didn't take a bath. Now, there are institutions for her, but why doesn't she go there and asked? She could have gotten dressed. I brought this attention to somebody, and somebody tells me, "But look, she could go anyplace to find a pair of jeans." Okay, but she's sick, okay? If she doesn't do that, then there is an indication that the kid is sick. To whom does she belong? And I feel there so deeply. And many times I condemn myself. Why didn't you go and ask? But she's so muddled up that I couldn't. Because people were talking to her about it. As a matter of fact, I want to find out, what was she talking... She was talking to the minister's wife, so this Sunday I'll come and I'll ask her what was she talking about to her. At least to know what she was annoyed with, evidently with chemicals. What chemicals are doing to people. Because she came over when I was at the kitchen helping out to finish up washing the dishes or something. She came up with a jar. "Read to me what the chemicals are in this." And I said, "I can't read, because my eyes. I had to take other glasses. I

cannot read." So she walked away. So evidently there is something that she's bothered with. And it brought her up. So she has the hostility for something. And the hostility is there. And she's looking for an outlet to talk. And very strong voice. Very alarming voice. So here you are. So there's a chapter on that. What else?

WEDEGAERTNER: Well, I know that you have been or still are associated with the women's center in some way. And I wondered how you'd been involved with them, and how you got started.

POLISAR: Well, I was involved with them because I fully believe, of course, in the women's... The only thing which I feel, the National Organization for Women, especially when I see the chapter here. They are not politically educated. They feel politics, it's not their cup of tea. And that's why they feel sometimes... In the beginning, I was just a beautiful novelty for the chapter. Because I came out many things in the open. And I said, "If you would only realize that the air you breathe is politics. The bread you eat is politics. The clothes you did politics. Everything is politics." Wake up and see that only by political understanding the world, you could create this movement. So stop being hostile to the men, because they are there, and they are a part of your life. And in order for you to free yourself, you have to free them too. Because you are a part of something, and they're a part of their mommies. Well at that particular time, a man was born was a big thing. A girl was born was nothing. But that particular time that it was. So instead of fating your parents, because they didn't know any better. They didn't know any better. That was the scheme of things. And instead of aiding them now and pointing out a finger at them, educate them. They need education just as much as you do. And the more you're pointing finger at them, the more you create another class, to whom you hate. It just...

[End of Tape]

[TAPE 2, Side B]

[Begin Tape]

POLISAR: I see, if you're politically aware of things, you don't start from little petty things. You know very well that men are there. They will be there. You dress yourself all the time to get attraction. That means they are a part of you. And they're a wonderful part of you. They're son of a bitches, yes. But they're a product of their life, just like you are a product of your parents, who maybe mistreated you. But they didn't know any better. They're a part too. So for us to ostracize them, and not to create a class to fight together for the freedom, to free yourself and to free them. So this is the start, it seems to me, in those chapters which I'm wrapped around. So the novelty was wearing off, because I am too political. I want to encompass the world. They

don't want to encompass the world. They want to do just this, this, this. They want to hate man.

WEDEGAERTNER: Is it a very large group here in town?

POLISAR: No. A small group.

WEDEGAERTNER: Maybe twenty or thirty, or is it larger than that?

POLISAR: I don't know how many. I really don't. Another thing, with the sexist language. I agree with them. They need changes. But you're not ready. There is prostitution to fight. There is hunger to fight, right here. Not even the world. Right here. There is racism to fight. Don't get busy with the sexist language. The sexist language will do it. You don't eradicate a language with piddly few people. It will take a broader way when they will be ready to do it. It will be done. And this, at the present time, when the country's in a mess with so many things, you don't start with the sexist language. So if you come to the church and you see, Aristotle said something, a good saying. "And just because it's a man, they don't want it." And I said to them, "Look, my friends, I want to support you in every way possible, because you're women. But I cannot support you in that." So they made, how do you call it, a banner to cover up. They have a meeting. Now, it's childish. I said to them, "Look, I came to the church, I paid no attention to it." And if it's there for so long, and there is a group who created this institution, and they feel comfortable with it, let them. You making animals out of people, because you don't come to the church anyway. You come only when there is a religious, you know, how do you call it? Women in religion. I would fight, if there is a job for a women minister, I'll fight for it. But the hell with it. I'm not gonna fight for that. If you want to have a banner, just go ahead. Just like a flag. You come and bring the flag with you. Because the other people don't want the flag to be permanent there. So every time they have a meeting, they have to carry the flag. Just like we have a demonstration, they have to carry the flag. Now what does the flag means? What does this piece of cloth means?

WEDEGAERTNER: Not enough to some people.

POLISAR: So here I am. In my reading room. Does this bothers me? I don't even see it. I saw it in the beginning, when I walked in. I want to see? Forget it! Who cares? It will take cardinals how long to change the literature? You want to change the literature on reading Thomas Mann now? On reading Lenin's autobiography? Man! How could you handle this situation? So you, you're a piddly little bit of thing fighting the conservative... I'm talking to you. I don't want it to go any place, because otherwise I'll be out. I'll be crucified! As I am, is, I'm crucified already.

WEDEGAERTNER: I think I share your feelings about the language though. It just doesn't vat.

POLISAR: Bothers the hell out of me. At the same time, you know, you can't quit. Because that's not the solution to the problem. Okay, they want to have a flag, they want to have a banner? Let them have a banner. But don't get involved only in that banner, because there are burning things going on. And at the present time, Mary, I just can't do too much. So many times, it'll come to the UOP, and there is meetings in a little place over there. And we have an anti-draft. I'm very much concerned by the anti-draft. I would like to sit and get signatures and everything. I did it. But I'm limited at the present. First of all, the car. And I'm limited in my eyes and my health. My eyes mostly. But mentally, I'm very much alert and functioning.

WEDEGAERTNER: Very much so. Did you get interested in the women's center from being part of NOW, or just through a friend or something?

POLISAR: I got interested in this group that I finally find, in the Unitarian Church, and I'm with them all the time, see? Regardless of many things which I disagree. But my motto is that if you want to change, you're just in it. I'm a member of the women's center. I don't go there very often, but I'm a member of that. I pay my dues, I see those people, and they are having a hard time too.

WEDEGAERTNER: Now they've been organized for about, what, four or five years I think? The women's center have been operating?

POLISAR: Well, they were in a church. They were in a church in the beginning. But they were evidently some militant people in the need of battered women, battered children. So they worked very hard on it with their city fathers, and they pushed and pushed and pushed, and they finally got a place of their own. Not their own. They're a part of something. It's some little shelter or something.

WEDEGAERTNER: Yeah. I've been down to their new building.

POLISAR: Yes. Yes. I was there just once. And we gonna meet there. We used to meet in every house, but now we gonna meet there, and we'll try to help each other, and maybe to pay a little rent.

WEDEGAERTNER: Have you been on the board of the women's center?

POLISAR: No. No, no. I wasn't on the board. Look Mary, at this point, you know your limitations, you know your place. They're a much younger element over there. And I'm too tiresome for them. I really am. And maybe they don't want to hear what I say. And maybe they think that I am senile with my ideas.

WEDEGAERTNER: [laughing] I doubt that.

POLISAR: No, no, Mary. But you know, maybe some of them don't want to see these things. Maybe they want to advance themselves. Maybe they see just this. They don't see the whole thing. But they are accomplishing. So they created this women's center. Now if here I come and I... They don't like it. They really don't. I have a feeling, it gives me a feeling, them out of there.

WEDEGAERTNER: Do you think if they tried, they could have more of an outreach though, to women your age and women who share your feelings? Do you think that's something that's missing in their group maybe?

POLISAR: They're missing in their group because they don't want to hear political speeches. They want to socialize. They want to play roles. Now, I can't play roles. They want to socialize. They need for socialization. I don't blame them. And here I come, constantly injecting something. And they're tired of me. They are. There are times that they were just... I was a new person who opened up lots of things to them. But the daily routine, the daily push, tension, everything else, gets them that they don't want to listen to me. They just don't want to listen to me. They want to socialize, they want to play roles. And I never played roles. We never played roles in the East. Either we'll see the things right or we don't, or we didn't. But we don't play roles. We want to socialize? Yes, it was a socialize evening. But if it's not socialized, maybe we talked about something.

WEDEGAERTNER: Don't mix the two, yeah.

POLISAR: So they are tired of me. So they meet me and they love me, but they would rather be away from me. And so I find myself, more and more, that it's their world. Because they don't want to hear. And they're too much pressure all around them. They have families, they have jobs. I'm a freelancer. I have nothing to lose. I could go out and scream, and if they will send me to jail, I'll go to jail. But they have jobs, and they cannot, in economics, place of they grow. See? So I fully understand it. And they are young enough that they want to push themselves, and everything becomes a vehicle. If I'll support this one... I supported very much, how do you call it, [Sirney?].

WEDEGAERTNER: [Anne Sirney?].

POLISAR: I was involved in that. I didn't parade, but I supported her twice. Measly month of money that I could afford to do. But when I come with those meetings, I become disillusioned, because every time they find a new era, which they want to sort of push that era in order to get where they would like to get. Some of them. I don't know. Am I mistaking or am right?

WEDEGAERTNER: It sounds like you have a very good philosophy to me.

POLISAR: I wanted to fight me. I no wanted to agree with me. Fight me.

WEDEGAERTNER: I'm not much of a fighter is my problem. [laughs] It's just, you know, you've lived so many more years, and you've seen so much more than what they have.

POLISAR: They don't want to listen. Darling, they don't want to listen.

WEDEGAERTNER: Well, I know they don't, but...

POLISAR: I was less time in the women's center. And there were a few people. And all those people are having jobs to control this little group, which doesn't advance in any way. It doesn't get in momentum. And I was completely out. Completely out. And I went home, and I said, "I don't know. Why should I go?" And yet you want to be a part of something. But I cannot be... They are too disturbed, and they are too insecure when I opened up something. It brings them to reality, and they don't want it. They still want just like cocoons, want to live in their little place. Play a game. But the game is over. It's a dangerous world.

WEDEGAERTNER: I think it's very interesting for me to hear you say these things though, because I have a few friends who have been members of the women's center for a while...

POLISAR: Don't say them what I said!

WEDEGAERTNER: No, no, I won't. But what I want to say is that, you know, I listen to them talk, and not being a member, I think, oh, their vision is so great, but yet when I hear it from you, that you feel their vision is not at this point that great...

POLISAR: Mary, at the same time, let's face it. They accomplished a great deal. And they will not die. The women's movement will be alive, and it will go forward. How muddled they are... [clap] that's there. And if they would only see the political things in it, they could have done much better. For instance, look at the game they played with Carter. First of all, I realize that there's no president who could rule this country. Because multinational organizations ruling this. They're just puppets. They're sitting up there and just pulling strings. So no president could rule this country. At the same time, in the beginning, he came with such a humanitarian kind of a selling, humanitarian things. As the time went on, he began to realize. First of all, he's a Southerner. And they don't want to give too much. The establishment. They don't want to give the Southerners a big deal in governing the United States. And then when he came, when he began to realize that it's a tough thing... Well, I'm sure he knew. He was a politician too. He's a rich man too. Little by little, I begin to feel that he's slipping. No question about that. He's slipping on his own. He's slipping that he wants to be reelected. He's slipping because he has to please everybody, and it's not easy to please everybody. He has to please the money madness. He has to do that. And he comes up with the slogan of human rights, when at the same time they're sending military help to the reactionary governments in other countries. I realize that. I knew it. I know it. At the same time, at least they knew where they stand with Reagan. With

Carter. They knew him already for four years. They knew that he is playing games. They knew that he is beginning to getting to this mill of thinking. But at the same time, you knew it. At least you knew it. So it would have been a smarter idea, to my way of thinking, at least you know the guy. And if you know them, you gonna fight 'em. You gonna fight 'em! When he comes out with something, you gonna fight him. So what did they do? No Carter. So what happened? Now they have to start all over again with this bastard. Not only Reagan himself, but the whole shebang. The all few liberals who were in Congress or in Senate who kept on pulling strings, who could easily sort of have communication with those people. So they were out. So here they are. But Mary, again, it's a revolution. And the women in general. In every revolution is ups and downs. Making mistakes, putting there, and that's the way it is. So they made a mistake, and now they had to start all over again. I voted for Carter, knowing very well that he is not the guy who is. Did you ever have a president in the United States that you should know, we were worshipping Roosevelt? So what happened to Roosevelt? He maintained the capitalistic system. He did everything. He was smart enough. And at that particular time, the small countries were still asleep. Now you could see history pushed Carter out, because there's a lot of the Iran, Nicaragua, there is El Salvador, and all this kind of a stuff. So historically, if President Roosevelt would be here now, he wouldn't have done much better than he would. And we worshipped him. Even worshipping now. But some people who are smart enough, who are cultured enough, who know history, say that if he were here now, he wouldn't have done much better than Carter did with the Iran, and Carter, we didn't got excited about the Russian went into Afghanistan because it's not your business. It's right on their border, and since we live in that kind of a world, we always try and protect our borders. We didn't come to the United States. Here we have Cuba just 90 miles away, and they don't do anything to us. That's another chapter.

WEDEGAERTNER: Right, it definitely is. I've kept you a long time past what I said.

POLISAR: No, no, it's fine. I can relieve myself from all the pressure of my thinking. So I'm very thankful to you.

WEDEGAERTNER: Well I'm so pleased to have been here and talked with you today. And I hope that sometime maybe Pat and I and you could get together for coffee or something, if you would like something like that.

POLISAR: Anytime darling. Anytime.

[End of Tape]