

Interviewee: Carol Anne Shay Shulman
Interviewers: Hannah Nitso and Samantha Rhodes
Date of Interview: October 17, 2018
Location: Worcester, Massachusetts
Transcribers: Hannah Nitso and Samantha Rhodes



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Abstract: Carol Anne Shay Shulman was born in 1943 in Worcester, Massachusetts. She was raised in an Irish Catholic home with three siblings. Carol met her husband Joseph dancing the night away. They had three children together and although Joseph was Jewish, the kids were raised Catholic as Carol hoped. Together they created a loving home and today all of their children are successful with kids of their own. Unfortunately, Carol's husband passed away at the age of fifty-nine and she became widowed. Carol is a very compassionate person, and she displayed her compassion throughout her work experience. In this interview Carol discusses how she felt limited as far as a career path. She believed she could only be a teacher, secretary, or a nurse. Carol became a registered nurse and spent the rest of her time being a mother. She touches on the memories of when she let her husband do the laundry and it came out pink. Carol was a mother who did it all: she took care of the children, while her husband worked; she worked herself; did housework; and still found time to go to sewing class on Monday nights with all of her children. Carol has a kind soul; she truly counts her blessings every day, and assures care for her loved ones and their well-being.

HN: These are just for the recording. Yeah so basically for the project we're just gonna ask you different questions about your family life, education, things you've done in Worcester, contributed, and I think we're gonna focus more around your education and your work background. So, like the first couple of questions we are gonna ask you are about your general family and stuff like and so the first question is, what is your full name including both maiden name and married name?

CS: Carol Anne Shay Shulman, Shay was my maiden name.

SR: Where when were you born and where were you born?

CS: I was born on March 9, 1943 in Worcester, Mass.

SR: Have you ever been married?

CS: I was married, my husband died thirty-eight, when, sixteen years ago, I'm sorry, he was fifty-nine, so I've been alone awhile.

HN: I'm sorry for your loss.

SR: What, what was his name?

CS: Joseph.

SR: Joseph.

HN: Where did you guys meet?

CS: We met twisting the night away [laughter].

HN and SR: [laughter].

CS: At the Pasadena Club [laughter].

SR: Is that around Worcester?

CS: No, that was in Southbridge [Massachusetts], but it was yes. Yes, that's where I met him.

HN: And do you have any kids?

CS: I have three children, I have Kimberly who's a social worker and she's she's married with three children and I have Jody whose married with one one son who just left the nursing program at Worcester State. He changed when I wanted him to be [laughter] and then my son Michael has another Michael who just graduated from Endicott.

HN: Oh nice.

SR: Oh ok. So, you have some grandchildren then?

CS: Yes, I have, I have Katie who is thirty and has given me a great granddaughter, Jackie, who is the light of my life and lets see Michael, Michael Patrick is a policeman of Webster and he's around twenty-nine and Michael Joseph just graduated from Endicott and is working at T.J.Maxx climbing the ladder of success [laughter] and Maddie is at Unum Unum Insurance Company in Worcester.

SR: Oh wow, so all very successful?

CS: Well hopefully [laughter].

HN: [laughter] What cultures or ethnicities do you identify your family background with?

CS: My husband was Jewish.

HN: Mhm.

CS: So when we get married and I was, I, crazy Catholic. I mean I would never ever switch so he was fine with that you know? If I wanted to bring em up Catholic so they all did they all did their Holy Communion, they all did their Confirmation and nobody goes to church anymore [laughter].

HN: Did you have a Catholic wedding?

CS: Yes, but way back then we had to stand outside the railing. We couldn't, we couldn't go inside.

SR: That's crazy.

HN: Because he was Jewish?

CS: Because he was Jewish.

HN: Oh, I've never heard of that.

SR: So, then your entire life you grew up Catholic? You went to like Catholic schools or?

CS: Yes.

SR: You went to like Catholic schools or?

CS: Yes, Ascension, yes, nuns for twelve years, they hit ya [laughter].

HN: [laughter].

SR: So, tell me about your parents, like who were your parents?

CS: My my mother was actually what do I want to say a, my father worked at a textile a what do I want to say textile factory. My mother stayed home with us 'til we were five or six and then she got a job at the telephone company and she worked you know random shifts and...

SR: Did, did you have have they were they from Worcester?

CS: Yes, and my grandmother, we lived with my grandmother who was the best person in the whole wide world who I thought, I think I love her more than I loved my mother [laughter] so yeah it was a good life.

HN: Did you have any siblings?

CS: I had, yes, I have I have my sister Patty, my sister Paula and my brother Jacky who died around eight years ago, so.

HN: Where, in, so the next question is where have you lived during your life and is that the only Worcester, the same place [laughter]?

CS: I guess I have I have lived in Worcester. I've moved to Marlborough which is they're all outskirts around here. I lived in Auburn for awhile, I lived in Marlborough for awhile and Worcester from my growing up years and I'm in Worcester now. This is funny because this zip code is like prestigious and I often said oh my mother would be so happy to think I moved to the West Side [laughter].

HN and SR: [laughter].

SR: Oh, so is this area the like...

CS: This area is called the West Side and when I met my husband he wanted to know did I live on the East Side? Which I did [laughter].

HN: [laughter]. So, growing up the neighborhoods were kinda known for like the wealthier side and the...

CS: Well no, not that I knew of.

HN: Mhm.

CS: I didn't know that I mean we we always everybody in the neighborhood watched you and took care of you and you couldn't get away with anything and we all went to the park to play you couldn't play in your yard they kept the yards nice.

HN: Mhm.

CS: And and you would do to the park and play.

HN and SR: Yeah.

HN: The next question was what were your neighborhoods generally like?

CS: It was mostly mostly Irish and Polish.

HN: Mhm, and you were Irish correct?

CS: I was 100% Irish [laughter], we ruled the world.

HN and SR: [laughter].

SR: So, you live here in the city now?

CS: I live here.

SR: Yeah?

CS: Yeah, but no I mean I really don't have a history you know, some people here they've been in Colorado and Mississippi and a lot of people here have actually moved here to because they have a daughter or a son that kind of watches over them. But my daughter actually is a social worker over at Jewish Health Care.

SR: Oh ok, and so then do you have other family members that live other than your daughter live around here?

CS: Everybody does, yeah everybody does.

SR: All your family lives in Worcester?

CS: Jody lives in Marlborough, but Michael lives in Worcester and yeah and Kim lives in Millbury there all you know outskirts towns.

SR: Oh okay.

HN: Since you've been in Worcester majority of your life, do you think there's any challenges that the city still faces today?

CS: The city has changed for the first time in fifty years. It's been the same old, same old, same old and now to go downtown and see the (_____???) buildings and oh my God there gonna start with the Red Sox. It's the first time I'm seeing changes in fifty years I swear, but you know, it's on the move.

HN: How would you describe the city before recently now with all the changes?

CS: Same old, same old [laughter] same old same old and it was you know it never changed we had a big galleria with like fifty-two stores that stayed open for ten or fifteen years and closed. And you know it's just the way it was, but this is the first time I've really seen change.

HN: Yeah, they're adding, what are they adding, just more places to bring in people?

CS: Oh, and apartments.

HN: Yeah.

CS: And yeah you know they're getting you know twenty to twenty-five-hundred you know I mean really, it's amazing. It's amazing.

HN: What distinct characters make Worcester the place that it is you think? [laughter]. Like compared to other places let's say, for instance, like Boston.

CS: I, I hope that Worcester will change but Worcester has been the same old for so many years and I hope it changes that's all I can say.

HN: [laughter].

SR: What do you think women's experiences in Worcester have been generally?

CS: I think way back when I went to school you could either be a teacher or a nurse. It's amazing when I see all these women flying here and flying there and having the world at their fingertips. We didn't have that, there were secretaries, there were nurses, and there were teachers and those were your choices in life.

SR: That's what it was limited to?

CS: That's really what it was limited to or you know go work in an office for somebody or be an assistant, but no, you girls have such great opportunities now.

SR: So, going with that you said you were previously a nurse like what other education do you or have you had?

CS: Well the education I have was I started back to school when my children were—oh my God it took me twelve years to get that BSN. We took a spring course, a fall course, a summer course and we took them all again and yeah, I guess that's it and even now I go the Y's program [laughter].

HN: And you said that you were in the grad was it the graduate program at Assumption?

CS: I got my BSN at Assumption, yes.

SR: Where did you, where did you go to high school?

CS: I went to Ascension, Ascension Grammar School, Ascension High School they were all always Catholic [laughter]. Twelve years of the nuns [laughter].

HN: What do you think your challenges were in education, I know nursing was a hard program?

CS: I always thought I had a harder time learning than other people, I was younger I got into school because I knew my Hail Mary [laughter].

HN: [laughter].

CS: I think I was like five or something but got into school but anyways, yeah. I always thought I had a harder time learning than some of the other people who, you know how it comes so quick to them?

SR: Yeah.

CS: Yeah.

HN: Was your schools' all girls or were they mixed?

CS: All girls, well it was boys and girls 'til the fourth grade and then the boys left and went down to St. John's which is a...

HN: The men's prep school?

CS: Yeah yes and we stayed where we were.

SR: What support networks and mentoring have you been, have been important to you?

CS: I love mentoring new nurses, I loved mentoring new nurses. I loved telling them every trick of the trade, and everything they can forget about, and make them fast, and make them smart. Precepting was really something I really loved.

SR: Oh, can you tell me more about that? Was there anything specific like...?

CS: No, it was just that you had the opportunity to get oh my God you know nurses eat their young they really do. When they come in and there oh I don't think this kid is gonna make it and whatever whatever so it was nice to grab someone, and you know tell them tell them the things to do tell them what makes them work faster or better or yeah so that was great. When I went to UMass first it was because they had a Palliative Care Unit it's just dying patients that was one of the most Oh my God most inspiring times of my life because you could sit with them you could say the Rosary with them it was amazing, but it wasn't a money make so they ditched it.

SR: Oh.

CS: Yeah.

HN: So, was your first job nursing or did growing up did you have like a small job that you first had?

CS: Oh, I worked at Robert Halls as a store detective, [laughter] if somebody stole something. I was supposed to say...

HN: How old were you when you had to do this?

CS: Fifteen.

HN: [laughter].

CS: They could go out with the whole store on their back and I would of never of stopped 'em [laughter].

HN: What other jobs have you had?

CS: I worked for Kindle Catering Company and yeah that's about it. You know once we once we get into our first year of training we were allowed after seven or eight months to work on the floors and you know make a little extra money. It was we were we were green and God when I think of you know the responsibility we had but we did.

SR: Is there anything specific you really liked while working in the hospital?

CS: I I always loved Oncology. I've done Oncology Nursing for oh my God and then I ended up doing twelve years of Radiation Oncology you know doing patient teaching for patients getting ready to get radiation and I loved it all. I loved I loved being invited into someone's life I don't want to get emotional, but you know you're very important to them.

HN: Mhm.

CS: So that's yeah.

SR: That's what you loved about it just being able to...

CS: Just yes and and honoring that you know I mean they're all going through such an awful time and and being part of that to help them switch to the nursing program [laughter].

HN: I think it's too late for me.

CS: Oh, ok. Well what is your major?

HN: Human Services. So social work and that type of thing.

CS: Oh okay.

HN: Do you know Child Life Specialists?

CS: Oh, I do.

HN: Yes, that's what I want to do.

CS: Oh my God they oh let me tell you. They used to come down to radiation with the kids I mean way back kids got they had such a hard time but then they would come down with the puppets.

HN: Yeah.

CS: And all the stuff oh wonderful.

HN: Yeah, so not quite, nursing. I don't think I could do the nursing, but...

CS: Oh my God what a need for that because oh my God it's all so frightening and to be in a hospital and everything and they oh [clapping] yay [laughter].

HN: [laughter].

SR: Was there like a specific like an experience you had like while working in the hospital that like stood out to you the most or that was the most impactful to you?

CS: I, I when I was in Palliative Care. I, I loved the fact that one time while I was able to stay with the patient while he was dying and his last breaths and everything and you know how they tell you the spirit is gonna rise so you go to see well I didn't see any spirit rise. But it was just so nice to say that oh my God, I was here and that I could tell the wife you know, I I called the wife and I said you know I didn't think it was going to be I thought it would be longer and I'm so sorry I didn't call you I was waiting 'til like six in the morning to call her and God just always every time she sees me she hugs and kisses me that I was there.

HN: Yeah, to comfort him?

CS: Yeah, yeah it is.

SR: That's good.

CS: Yeah.

HN: In terms of your house and household, when you were raising your children and when you were married what were your like responsibilities, were you in charge of like the house work? Or did you...

CS: I was in charge of everything [laughter].

HN: [laughter].

CS: My husband turned the wash pink.

HN and SR: [laughter].

CS: And I was I worked nights.

HN: Mhm.

CS: I did when I had one child I worked one night and then two two nights and three three nights but yeah and then you know starting back at school and always having books open and studying and everything it was yeah. It was...

HN: So, was your hus like husband a lot of the things we talk about in women's studies are the role women have in the house where they had to do it all?

CS: Oh yes.

HN: Mhm. So that was you?

CS: Oh my God yes. Yeah and you know what I didn't even expect him because my father never did it and I never expected him to do it.

HN: Yeah that's so funny. You didn't expect it because I feel like nowadays it's very much balanced.

CS: And it's so wonderful. I love going on vacation and seeing the husbands walking the kids.

HN: Mhm.

CS: You know at seven or eight in the morning, it's really, is it's you know.

HN: Yeah. Mhm.

CS: A new world and it's a good world because they're gonna know their fathers.

SR: So, you so you did both, had a full-time job and you took care...

CS: No, three nights.

SR: Oh three nights?

CS: So I worked eleven 'til seven you know?

SR: Yeah.

CS: And you just have a love affair with your bed and oh my kids were in Catholic school also so at one-thirty I set the alarm clock to go pick them up from school so crazy.

HN: Very busy [laughter].

SR: So, so what did your husband do?

CS: My husband had a towing company.

HN: Mhm.

CS: And he had a towing company in Marlborough so he was gone from seven to like five. Yeah yeah that was you know at that time the men earned the money...

HN: Mhm.

CS: And the women stayed home.

SR: What did he, what did he do when he got home from work?

CS: Asked where supper was [laughter].

HN: So, you had dinner ready?

CS: No, he got better

HN: [laughter].

CS: He got better like when he was fortyish but yeah asked where supper was anyways.

SR: Did he help out a lot with the kids or?

CS: No, isn't that awful? I hate to say that. No, I didn't expect him to. I, I, I went to a sewing class on Monday and I would have them all in their pajamas and practically, [laughter] euthanized.

HN: [laughter].

SR: Did he do any work around the house or no?

CS: Not after he turned the wash pink [laughter].

HN: Was he in charge of taking, was his job mowing the lawn that type of thing?

CS: Oh yeah.

HN: Yeah. Fixing things around the house?

CS: Yeah and he did lawn work and stuff like that, but you know what we just didn't expect it back then.

HN: What do you think are the pros and cons of the path you have chosen in life? That can be family, careers...

CS: I, I love my life, I live in gratitude every day. I honest to God, I think if you can live in gratitude my children have all turned out so lovely. I, I joke when I say they're not in church but they're all good people and you know that's important. And yeah, I love, well okay so that I've lived in Worcester my whole life. I have all my high school friends, we just went out yesterday there were ten or eleven of us my city hospital friends we have gone to the beach we have gone on five-day trips together, but everybody is here it's so good you know when people move away.

CS: Ah.

Assumption Photographer: Sorry, surprise.

CS: [laughter].

Assumption Photographer: Don't mind me.

CS: Ok. I'm not, I'm going to look this way.

HN: [laughter].

CS: I'm going to look at Sam.

SR: [laughter].

HN: So, do you think your faith has made an impact on your life and your life decisions?

CS: Absolutely. I mean I just totally believe that, I don't I'd never miss a Mass [laughter]. I, I could kill myself. I do not miss a Mass and I'm there every Saturday at four o'clock, and I think I'm crazy, you know?

SR: Do you go to church close to here?

CS: Christ the King. It's on Pleasant Street and so I go there and I yeah. I've faith and oh my God I think that's why I have had such a nice life.

SR: Have you gone there for a really long time or...?

CS: No, I moved. I moved from Burncoat Street, so I had to change. I didn't have to, but of course I changed churches to be close to the church on near, so that's Chrysler King.

SR: Oh okay.

CS: Yeah.

HN: Growing up did you make your kids go to church every Sunday?

CS: Yes.

HN: And did your husband, did he, did he go or no?

CS: No, he went Easter. And do you know what he said? Is it Easter again? [laughter].

HN: [laughter].

SR: Did your kids grow up Catholic or Jewish?

CS: Catholic.

SR: How did you, how did you and your husband decide on that? On what religion you would raise your kids on...

CS: My husband was staunch in his religion and I wasn't. I probably wouldn't have got married if you know that was really a strong point for me, so.

HN: So now we're going to ask you politics questions. Have do you consider yourself active politically?

CS: [sighs] What can I say? I'm sick of it. I have a sister who watches television twenty-four seven. And is so crazy crazy crazy crazy. I don't like what's happening. I don't know how you take a stand. And, you know I don't know where you start.

SR: Have you been involved in the community politically in the past?

CS: No, I come from a very political family. You know my uncle was a rep. and we did go out house to house and you know so you know for him. But, no.

HN: Have you ever volunteered or done community work?

CS: I have, well I did hospice for visiting nurses, so that was another thing I really liked. I used to, when I was in Marlborough go to a person's house two days a week. The patient was bedridden and helped rub his back and pull him up in the bed for the night. That was great. You know? I'm not telling all my good things but that was that was nice. I loved it because it was easy to do, you know?

SR: Before we continue with the volunteer work, I, I meant to ask you an earlier question. So, you said your uncle was a representative? What were his ideas or like what or how did that impact you? What were...

CS: I was busy raising up raising my kids. I didn't have too much to volunteer. When I could help, I did, but I you know it was a busy time for me with my kids.

HN: Has there been any, has there ever been any health issues that impacted your life or those in your family?

CS: Losing my husband was very sad you know he was only fifty-nine. Fifty-nine to you guys is like ooh but it's you know it's young. And you know to think how am I going to get along or we used to learn in nursing that you'd probably die two years after your husband [laughter]. So, I was like oh my I can't believe.

HN: Like a broken heart?

CS: Yeah, a broken heart that's an Irish thing. My grandmother would always say, she would never tell us what ran in our family, "They died of a broken heart".

HN: [laughs].

SR: If you don't mind me asking, what how did or why did he die? Or...

CS: He had a heart attack. In the morning I found him on the bed and he was gone [teared up]. It was very abrupt and sad.

SR: Well, I am very sorry.

CS: Thank you.

HN: Do you think there was anything that helped you get through those tough times with your husband?

CS: I practically went to church every day. Not every, I did practically go to church every day. It was the only thing that got me through. I used to think of that picture of Jesus carrying—the message saying, “you weren't there when I needed you.” He says, “Yes I was carrying you”.

SR: What are your experiences in, experiences in, accessing quality affordable health care?

CS: Well I'm lucky because I worked at UMass. I have great healthcare, I have Medicare, I have GIC coverage. I pay ten dollars copay and life is good [laughter].

SR: Who whose health are you responsible for besides your own?

CS: I worry about my son, Michael, who lives in Worcester. He had problems his whole life and he had alcohol problems. And now he is going to AA, but every day I worry. I just spent today with him. And it's always a concern.

SR: How has that impacted you?

CS: It causes me anxiety [laughter].

HN: Understandable.

CS: Yeah, it does. It does.

HN: Mhm besides religion, what other like thoughts or activities help you get through hard times...Or stress?

CS: Yoga.

HN: Really? You do yoga?

CS: I do chair yoga. I do (_____???) yoga. And I just sit in a nice class and I can still do yoga. I love yoga.

SR: Do you do yoga a lot here?

CS: They do chair yoga. They have a great girl who comes in from the senior center and she is good. And then I go down to the Lincoln street on Fridays and you do the downward dog.

HN: How do you define success in your life? Has this definition for you changed over time? Like was success family? Was success your career? Was success being happy in your faith?

CS: Success is what I have now, I have a great family and oh my God this great grandchild of mine who is fifteen months old is just hallelujah.

HN: [laughter].

CS: It's just been all to live in gratitude I really am lucky you know. If it all ended today, it's been good.

SR: How often do you see your family?

CS: Well Michael I just saw today. And Jody I'll see on Saturday and Sam, Sam is at Worcester State. And he comes over. And Maddie is at Unum and we go to a movie. And who else? [laughter]. Yeah, I did see them a lot and I you know I'm the busy one. But they're all close by.

HN: That's good. What would you say your favorite part of the week is?

CS: What's my favorite part? I like going to a movie by myself with my Diet Pepsi and my pocketbook [laughter].

HN: [laughter].

CS: On senior bargain day [laughter]. I go to Showcase North. And I just saw Lady Gaga with— did you see that one?

HN: No, I haven't. Was it good?

CS: Yeah. Yeah, it was very good with Bradley Cooper.

SR: Oh, it looked really good, I want to see it.

CS: Yes, yes. The songs and everything, it was very good. That's the one thing I learned to do after my husband died, was I can go to the movies alone [laughter].

SR: Did he ever go to the movies with you?

CS: Oh yeah, but he would want to see Private Ryan and I would want to see a romantic comedy you know...

SR: Is there anything, was there a favorite moment you ever had with your husband?

CS: Favorite moment, I think was the birth of our children. Yeah, that was nice....

SR: Can you go into more depth about that?

CS: Back then they drugged you with everything, so you were in la la land anyways, but it was just when they give you your baby, oh my god. And the first baby I had, they wouldn't give him to me because I was I guess I had too much medication [laughter]. And I kept saying, "I want to see my baby".

HN: [laughter]. Growing up what was hmm, not growing up I should say, but was there ever a family moment that you look back on now and think, that was happiness?

CS: Gee I would have to send that to you in a week. I could contemplate it for a week [laughter] and send it to you. I don't know it's all been good. When I graduated with my BSN that took us twelve years. We just chopped and chopped and chopped away from it and it never seemed possible. And then when it happened it was like ahhh.

HN: [laughter].

SR: Did you have a favorite childhood moment while living in Worcester?

CS: Well probably going to see Santa Claus [laughter].

HN: Where was Santa Claus, usually?

CS: Santa Claus was in downtown Worcester, used to be quite the thing, it used to have all kinds of department stores and everything and they had the send (_____???) halls that had the Santa Claus in the slide (_____???) [laughter].

HN: That's funny.

CS: Yeah.

HN: Based on your life experience, what advice would you give to women of today and future generations?

CS: I think the world is open to you ladies, you know, I really do. You can be anything, you can go anywhere, you can excel and that's something that's happened over time. And hooray for you, you don't have to be a nurse, a teacher, or a secretary.

HN: Do you think there's still any challenges women face today?

CS: Oh, yeah. Oh my God, with the "Me Too" movement and the stuff going on. I, I just can't, I don't know what to say about it, but you feel bad for everybody, and it's not that it didn't happen to us. I think all women have all a little harassment there.

SR: Was it common?

CS: No, I don't think it was common, but no it wasn't common, and it only happened once, but [sigh].

HN: Yeah. Did you and other friends of yours when you guys were young adults talk about harassment and stuff like that?

CS: Nothing. We didn't tell nothing. We learned nothing. We grew up, we didn't even know-- Irish Catholic—didn't even know about periods. Didn't know about tampons, nothing, nothing. When I did get my period, I went over to the girls club with my legs open [laughter] to the machine.

HN: Yeah [laughter]. So, there wasn't much talk about?

CS: Nothing.

HN: Any of that?

CS: Nothing. In fact, I swear I started reading it when I went into nursing.

SR: Why do you think it was kept quiet?

CS: Because of the family, just the Irish Catholic family.

HN: I also think it was just a different, I feel like now more a days it's more talked about and more open if like people were more embarrassed back then. Or didn't know...

CS: Oh of course.

HN: Yeah.

CS: Of course, but yeah, I mean we were never educated about periods or the STDs.

HN: Growing up did you teach you're your daughters anything about that?

CS: I probably didn't [laughter].

HN: [laughter].

CS: You know? I probably didn't but let me tell you what I did is I would when they wanted to go see a doctor I, I you know find the papers and let them go. You know, they'd probably get birth control pills or something. But that was that was way of saying yeah, I know what you're doing, but that's okay.

SR: Would you have wished to be like educated more on these things or have your daughters be educated more about them?

CS: Yes, I was a prude. I was you know, I was, but most people were then and but I always I always gave the money or the card or something, you know you knew that they were going to get the birth control pill.

HN: Yeah. Do you think you can give any advice to future mothers for their daughters growing up nowadays, with sexual harassment, with questions about their bodies...?

CS: Just be open and tell and tell me too, me too. And let it be known. Yeah absolutely. But it was, you just you don't know how puritanical it was [laughter]. It was a different time.

HN: Yes, definitely more open nowadays, but there is still a lot of controversy around it.

CS: Right. Right.

SR: What major historical events in Worcester have occurred during your time here? Did they impact you personally?

CS: I guess there were, I can't even remember. Some president came to town and walked down main street, but I forget who it was. And we were in love with John F. Kennedy. I mean he was like god. We loved him, we loved that he was Irish, he was Catholic (laughter) and he became president. We loved him loved him loved him.

SR: What made you like John F. Kennedy so much?

CS: Looking back now, I don't know. Whether he was nice, or he was terrible but just that he was Irish and Catholic and he was from Boston. And he made it. And he was successful and that's the part we thought we knew.

HN: Mhm. Was there any people, friends, family that you knew that became successful in Worcester?

CS: Well my uncle [laughter] was a rep... If you hang around with political people, you can get on their check list that they like you and everything, but I never had time for that. Okay...I hope, if you have anything you wanna ask me, please ask me [claps], because I want you guys to get the best.

HN and SR: [laughter].

HN: We'll just do some brief questions. What were your parent's education consist of?

CS: Just high school. Both of them.

HN: Did your mother work?

CS: My mother worked when we got we got to be six or seven she went to the telephone company. And she worked and split shifts and everything.

HN: Similar to what you did when you were raising your kids?

CS: Well I worked eight-hour shifts, I worked nights.

SR: How were girls treated when you were in school?

CS: The nuns loved the girls, hated the boys [laughter]. They loved the girls, and hated the boys, that's all I could tell you. And, the nuns were way back then and they would hit you. And they would take rulers and they would, they would do stuff that would make the paper today. I don't mean awful stuff but

HN: [laughter] Yeah.

CS: Knock you upside the head.

HN: Did the boys treat you differently?

CS: I went to an all-girls school and all my friends were girls.

HN: So, you never had any experiences with...

CS: No, no.

HN: What was considered fashionable when you were a young woman?

CS: Mini-skirts.

HN: [laughter]. Really?

CS: [laughter]. It was good, oh my God, little denim skirts. Navy denim skirts, rope belts, and red and white checkered shirts.

HN: Really? [laughter].

CS: Everybody went to the dance and everybody looked the same [laughter].

HN: That's so funny.

HN: Now that we are working to tell a fuller story of the history of women, then has been recorded in the past, what should we be sure to include? And your story or women in general.

CS: I just hope that a lot of people go into the nursing profession. I'll tell you, I would've done it for nothing. I truly loved every moment of it. It's been so rewarding and it's so wonderful to help people and even if you do social work, you have such a good feeling, when you give more than you get, you know.

HN: Yeah. You're very compassionate [laughter]. Is there anyone else you would suggest us to talk to for this project?

CS: I don't think so. My son wants to find out about me [laughter].

HN: [laughter]. We'll be sure to make sure you have a copy.

CS: Yes. Yes, I want a copy.

HN: So, I think that is about it for now, we can rap that up.

CS: Okay.

SR: Thank you for your time.

HN: Thank you so much.

SR: Oh my God, I hope I helped you girls, it's been enjoyable. I thought you were going to ask me, "What was your first television?" [laughter].

HN: No. We wanted to know more about your life. Well thank you very much. And this concludes the interview.

SR: Thank you.