

1941
MEMORANDUM
1941

JOAN N. TRANSCRIBED

Mary: I got that Jonathan Daniels fellowship. This is the service we went to down in the Church of the Advent in Boston. We went together. Wouldn't think it would be silly to keep all that stuff? Now I'm glad I have it.

Bill: I think we're going to start on our cards at the Cheshire County Historical Society. So we're getting quite a bit of material.

Mary: Well good.

Bill: holding over there.

Mary: Connie sent this to us. I don't know if you have this or not. You can get copies made of that. She made copies to send to us and then she sent this.

Bill: Ya we have that.

Mary: Then here's some more pictures. This one he had comment in his letter about this picture. And this one.

Bill: We don't—we never saw him smoke a pipe before.

Mary: He used to smoke. He smoked too much. Then he was. I don't know how good a health he was in either because very often he would take antacids. He may have had an ulcer. He never let on to me although he'd tell me I got a queasy stomach and he'd drink that stuff. I mean gallons of that stuff. So I think he may have had some problems with his stomach.

Larry: ?

Mary: No. No. Not at all.

Bill: I'd be nervous down there.

Mary: He may have been but he never showed it to me, he never let on to me. And that's that article from, you probably have that. That's all your stuff anyway all the Keene stuff. Someone sent that down.

Bill: Yes, we have that story.

Mary: You have that one too.

Larry:

Mary: You have that? That's an old.

Bill: I don't know if we have that or not. That must be from the Shopper.

Mary: That's my writing up the top so . Is this the same one? Why don't you just take this one. I'll keep the one I've got written on and you can take this one if you want.

Bill: We can send it back to you.

Mary: It doesn't matter since I have one at least. Well maybe this is

becoming a little bit more productive. This is a cute sent down. It's a valentine's card. He was always so thoughtful. Everybody I mean dates and things that were going on I mean anniversaries, or birthdays and . This is the music that was

Larry: Somebody wrote a requiem mass for his funeral. We have a copy of that.

Mary: I would love to have that.

Larry: It's in the files.

Mary: Oh I loved that. It was played at the funeral.

Larry: I have a copy of the funeral service itself. Someone tape recorded it.

Mary: Oh I'd love to have that too. You know there were only three of us who went up for Communion and maybe just two of us. I don't know whether Judy went up or not. I can't remember. I know it was Connie, and someone else and I went up for Communion. We were the only three. And I'll never forget the funeral . There was about 2000 seminarians all around. Even around the front of the altar and then they start singing that Sine Nomine. Do you know that song? That hymn? For all the saints who from their labors rest. I just couldn't sing that for years. Could I Dick? Everytime. I'm better now. Because I had it at both my parents funeral and it's almost a part of me now. It really is. But I, that was the first time I'd ever sung that hymn was at that funeral and with all those voices and everything, there was a bubble that came up from my stomach and went out and I just sobbed. Great big loud sobs and then I just cried and everybody started putting their hands around. Connie put her arm around my waist and everybody started doing that all the way up through. It was really wonderful. I'd held it all in, I guess, before that and that music just set me right off. It was terrible. It really was.

Bill: How did Stokeley find Keene when he was there?

Mary: I don't know. He didn't tell me. He was so, I don't know if I can find the words at all, but he was almost like a loner the whole time that he was at the funeral and around taking notes. I just remember him with that notepad and he was deeply affected by the whole thing. I can remember one comment that he had written. Jonathan would have objected to this: And I don't remember what it was. He wrote everything done.

Bill: He said he taught Stokeley how to love?

Mary: How to love. Yes. He talked with him for hours. Stokeley told me Jonathan talked to him for hours on. White people I guess he was trying to get him to have some love for white people and he hated apparently hated white people. And I'd like to know what really has become, I know he's changed his name but I'd like to know what's become of him. Really. Whether he's so radical now. He was really radical. Super radical.

Bill: He became a Muslim. Because of his name change

Tori.

Mary: I didn't realize that. But didn't after Jonathan died, didn't Stokeley become more radical. Really more radical than

Larry: The Black Panthers

Bill: Well the SNCC group as a whole sort of went through a period where the whites who had previously worked within SNCC were sort of pushed aside in terms of leading roles and the movement became all a black movement.

Mary: Why did that happen?

Bill: It's pretty complex. In some ways it was always meant to be a black movement. And for it to work politically it would have to be a black movement because it wouldn't do any good to have whites come from the north and the organizations and then leave in the south. So for a lasting effect, establish black locals in political office. Then probably there were some bitter feelings beginning to develop between blacks and whites at that time too. Well, Gloria House a woman that we interviewed a young SNCC worker at that time, seemed to harbor no ill feelings about whites or any of that.

Larry: She was with Jonathan when he died.

Mary: Was she ? What was her name again?

Bill: Gloria Larry at that point, I guess.

Mary: Was she the girl that Jonathan pushed off.

Larry: No that was Ruby Sales.

Mary: Okay. She came to the funeral and I can still remember sitting around the dining room table at Mrs. Daniels' house and I guess was it was these boys that were giving the account of what had happened. I can't remember if it was the boy in this picture or not. No. It wasn't Ronnie Fuller. Somebody else.

Bill: Was it Will something or other?

Larry: Somebody said there was a Willy.

Mary: Oh dear. It's so hard to remember names especially the people you just met once. But he gave the whole account. Second by second, the whole long drawn out finally sitting down at that table. Always standing just listening to it and Connie just looked at him, not a tear in her eye just listened. I think she was in shock. She must have been. How could she not have been? And as people would leave, start crying and leave, and then come back in and hear more and she wanted the whole story I guess.

Bill: We heard that she tried to keep him from going back down there.

Mary: I didn't know that but I'm not surprised. Jonathan never told me that.

Larry: tried to talk him out of it too.

Mary: I didn't try to talk him out of it because I didn't think it was my place. I mean he was six years older than I was. I was kind of in awe of him I think too, a lot.

Bill: Why did he say he wanted to go back down?

Mary: He'll tell you in your letters. I can't remember to tell you the honest gospel truth, I can't. He just felt that he was called. And his letters will tell you that. That he was called. And that's all I can tell you without putting my own thoughts into it.

Bill: Well that's all right. Weave your own thoughts into it.

Mary: Well. I'm very conscious of that thing right now.

Bill: Well that's what we're trying to get. We're asking a lot of people why did he do this? I think that's rather interesting.

Larry: He knew people in Keene , he went to VMI which is a military school.

Mary: Well I know that much. He worked with the underprivileged children in Cambridge and Boston at the Episcopal Theological School. And that's where he learned all about poverty and lack of education and that maybe very well where he. When the civil rights turmoil started he got on the bandwagon because of that. In one of his letters I think it. In one of his letters that I have there, he got all excited. See I need to read all those over again. I don't remember, but in one of his letters he gets really excited about something that is going on in Alabama and I guess he gets Judy. Judy didn't want to go at first. They got a whole bunch of kids that were going to go. I maybe all wrong. You're going to have to read the letter and that's why they first went down there.

Bill: So you think working in Cambridge might have prepared him for that kind of social work.

Mary: Plus being the kind of person he was , I mean he didn't like any injustices or anything. I'm sure if he were alive today he'd be on some bandwagon too, for sure. He was just an exceptional person.

Bill: Did he ever talk to you about what he wanted to do with his life? Because we find a lot of kind of mulling that over, should he belong to the church or be a teacher, should he be a social worker speaking of psychological social work at one time. Work in Providence as well as Cambridge.

Mary: Well I think he was going to have a parish in Rye Beach. Was he not all set up for that.

Bill: I don't know that.

Mary: What was the name of that place? Do you remember Dick?

Bill: He had a favorite church in Rye Beach.

Mary: Yes, but I think he was going to be the rector there. I think that was set up for him to be the rector there. St. Andrews on the Sea or something. It was right on the beach and I think that's . I have no idea who told me that

whether it was Connie. It may have been Connie that told my mom that. And that was going to be his church when he graduated from ETS.

Dick: Didn't we eat in a restaurant that was right near there and you were telling me about that.

Mary: We went to see it. It's beautiful.

Dick: Right on the water. In fact, if I'm not mistaken, there's a boat slip that went right by so that the fishermen could go in and go to church.

Mary: I think maybe. Yes.

Dick: I remember you telling me that story when we ate there.

Mary: See some of the things are coming back now but it's been so long.

Dick: He was in his third year at ETS right?

Bill: Yes

Dick: So that's the senior year where

Bill: I think he would have had one more year. He went in '63. He started in 1963.

Mary: That's right because in his letters he talks about he did a paper that he got an A- or something in one of his professors told him that he ought to choose one of those two that he had done some paper on to write for his thesis and in fact he was working on his thesis at my house one day.

Dick: But a seminary is only three years. Isn't that right?

Mary: Well then he was to graduate that year.

Bill: But he would have returned for a year.

Larry: In 1965-66 would have been his last year. He was killed in the summer.

Mary: Well why was he working on his thesis on my house then.

Dick: Well he knew he had to do it probably.

Mary: I can still remember that he covered me. I feel asleep on the couch and he got a blanket from the other room. Brought it in to cover me up so I wouldn't get cold.

Larry: Do you live in Walpole?

Mary: Yes.

Bill: Well when he went down he got a leave and he had a deal to finish his work for that year kind of independently.

Mary: OK

Bill: He would have had to written those papers. But I think he was coming back for another year.

Mary: What did they read at the funeral? Didn't they read that paper? Or was that just a separate paper about the

Bill: He wrote an article about what it was like to be down in the South.

Mary: That was good.

Bill: Yes that was a good piece of writing.

Mary: I wish I had a copy of that too and I don't.

Bill: We can send you a copy.

Mary: Great.

Bill: You have to write down what you want a copy of.

Mary: I've got to write it down now. I would love that music and I'll bet you Jean Singer could , the choir the director, would do that music too.

Bill: Did he ever talk about when he ever had a religious experience to become a minister.

Mary: No. Not that I remember. He was so caught up with his mother and Emily at that time and I was seeing him worrying about those two.

Bill: Just trying to settle the family?

Mary: Yes.

Bill: Emily had already married this fellow.

Mary: Yes.

Larry: You said before .

Mary: I believe I met him at a Christmas party that was given by our minister, priest in Walpole.

Bill: That was in 1964.

Mary: I really only knew him a short time.

Bill: And he came back home to see his mother.

Mary: Yes. And he'd come up and see me. Mostly he was writing and we went down to see him because he was so busy. He took the bus I think as I recall we took the bus down to see him.

Dick: That is dedication.

Mary: That's right. He didn't have a car so he had to take the bus.

Bill: Is that right?

Mary: I think so. I don't remember him having a car and then he borrowed his mom's car to come up to Walpole. When he wanted me to go down, it's in that last letter, to Selma he said that we would have Judy's car for the summer. Now I can't remember why.

Larry: She was going back to school.

Mary: Is that it?

Bill: She didn't stay and he decided to stay.

Mary: I thought she. She wasn't down there then when he was killed.

Bill: She left in late May or early June.

Mary: Have you talked to, I can't remember his name and I met him and everything,

Bill: Father Morrisroe

Mary: Yes. Father Morrisroe.

Bill: Yes. We're in contact with him.

Mary: OK good.

Bill: He's no longer a priest.

Mary: I know.

Larry:

Mary: He looked to me when I first saw. I met him at Connie's house after Jonathan was killed. Sometime afterwards. It was after he was well and no one thought that he was going to walk again and I just couldn't believe what I saw because he reminded me so much of Jonathan. He's a little better looking, I suppose. Jonathan was very good looking but I think that he was more handsome if anything. But he had the characteristics of Jon. He just reminded me an awful lot of him.

Larry: I'm looking forward to meeting him. I've talked with him on the phone.

Mary: He's very nice. He probably wouldn't remember me from Adam but.

Larry: Don't be silly. He seems to. His approach to this whole project was very interesting. He said at that time annoyance. So he said make contacts with people. Make collections. I think that's when he might have become involved. I don't think he's made a

decision not to be involved.

Mary: He's in Chicago isn't he? He's a lawyer.

Bill: He's a .

Mary: Yes. He married a girl from South America was it?

Bill: Is that right? I don't remember.

Mary: Someone told me that.

Bill: I wonder why Jonathan wanted you to go down to Selma?

Mary: Read that letter. I tell you all the information is in the letters. You'll find out more information from those letters on what kind of person Jonathan was and why he wanted to do things and how he felt about things in there then I could possibly tell you. What I should have done before you did this taping was I should have read all the letters myself and then I could hand you all this information vocally. Just tell you what was in his letters. But I've read maybe bits and pieces of them as I was putting the dates on the letters and I can't remember a lot. Maybe I've blocked off or I've just forgotten after 25 years.

Bill:

Mary: But I did save the letters at least. You have those. And I'm so glad I did too. It's been a long time since I've read them though. I read a couple the other night and then I just couldn't bear to read any more.

Bill: It's kind of interesting that he wanted you to come down. Well he had Judy there for a while and I'm just wondering if he was kind of feeling kind of insulated or needed somebody from home to be down there with him.

Mary: Could be.

Bill: Just speculating. I don't know.

Mary: Well look at the letter.

Bill: Sure. Pick it out. Did he have any other friends in Keene when he came back when he was with you.

Mary: I think he had lots of friends.

Bill: Did he continue those like when he came back to Keene. Would he call up Felch or any of those?

Mary: Oh I would think so. I think he would.

Bill: Did he ever go out with anybody from Keene?

Mary: No. There's one person you might. I don't know how well he knew Jonathan though one terrible thing that happened and I don't know whether he

would appreciate my saying this or not but it made an awful impression on me and on him too. And that was Henry Parkhurst. Do you remember him?

Bill: Yes I remember him. He's a teacher.

Mary: Well he and I used to be friends and I don't how he was involved with Jonathan or whether he really knew Jonathan or whether it was just through me that he knew Jonathan I can't remember. But one day at the Student Union at Keene State we were playing the piano and he was making all these silly remarks about Jonathan being down in Selma, Alabama and he started playing the funeral march on the piano. Saying Jon was going to come home in a casket on an airplane and all this. Going through all this like he had premonition. He never got over that. He wrote a letter. I must have the letter here somewhere apologizing for it. He was in tears when Jonathan really did come home that way. He apologized to everybody. It was just. I've got all kinds of stuff in here. I'll look it up I think I may have it somewhere but.

Bill: He wasn't making fun of Jonathan working down there?

Mary: He was really afraid for Jonathan being down there. And I think he was being silly. I don't think that he really disapproved of his being down there. I think he thought he was a damn fool to be down there.

Larry: A lot of people felt that way.

Bill: Yes.

Mary: Yes. That he was putting his and that's why he carried on and when he really did get killed he wrote me a long letter apologizing for what he'd done. And how badly he felt and he did for the longest time afterwards and then he wrote me another letter saying, thanking me for being so good to Connie and Emily during the funeral and all. I don't know how well he knew Jonathan though but if you know him and he's around Keene you could call him up and ask him.

Bill: He teaches down in Winchester. That's where he lives.

Mary: I think probably the last thing I heard from Cathy Marsella, she was a good of mine at Keene, her names Blair now and they live up in Wisconsin but she and I were oh she was the one that some award that he'd gotten, showed me an article that her parents had sent her about what he was doing with the kids. I don't remember if its social studies program or something. This letter is the real. You want to read it. This one must be the one afterwards though. Technically I haven't made my own decision but the chances are about 1,000 to 1 that I'll decide to come back. Escrow wants me to come back and I'm so well acclimated by now that it seems a shame to throw it all away. We would definitely be involved in the following: he's talking about me because he said he was too busy to check on a place for me to stay though I know in advance that there won't be any difficulty. We would definitely be involved in the following: keeping St. Paul's integrated, talking informally with the members of the white power structure whom I've encountered at or through St. Paul's, doctors, lawyers, judges, a rector, relating with kids and adults here in the Negro community, for instance, I've been working some with my families

specifically on their marital difficulties, the father's alcoholism, and just constituting the presence of the church in the social revolution which is gathering strength here. Other potential activities might include tutoring both kids and adults in basic reading and writing skills; demonstrating (that's almost inevitable once in a while and you should have prepared in advance both physically and spiritually of the possibility of teargas, arrest, and I suppose even for death, though that's a bit unlikely. It is true abstractly as I see it that no white outsider here is entirely safe and I feel very strongly that one should make a realistic estimate of what that means. I say this because I decided a long time ago that the Holy Spirit had brought me here, that I believe very firmly in the Gospel and its faith, that my life is not my own but his, which means that before anything else I'm a servant of Christ however sinful I may also be and that consequently the possibility of death whether immediate or remote cannot be a deciding factor for me. I can't decide all that for you. Only you on your own knees and ought of the context of your own commitment to the Lord and his kingdom can make the estimate for yourself. You will find people here who are not Christians or even theists who have dealt with the question of danger on other grounds. I have no other grounds so can only recommend these. If you come we will be as inseparable as you like. That has been true even for Judy who is in no way your competitor. So it will be doubly true for you. You will surely find things, situations, decisions and people here that you wouldn't like anywhere. That has been very true for me. You will also find wonderful work to be done in the situation in which I assume from my own experience you will grow in holiness and devotion to His service, in social consciousness and your own vision of what life will be for you. Offhand I can't think of a more productive way for you or for any college student or any Christian to spend a summer. Of course, there are more selfish motives for wanting you here to work with me. The Alabama moon is all it's cracked up to be and you would be so lovely in it. I'm lonely for you. But I'd still love you if you don't come and break my neck to be with you at the end of the summer. So I hope your decision covers the ground it should. I'll go ahead and say it, I'll be tickled to death if you come, more happy than I can tell you. Suppose I should run and get this into the mail and then pick up some food at the Catholic mission. The family shelves are getting pretty bare. And then maybe some studying. With so much love, Jon. and then he's got stuff here on the side about all the stuff he's doing. Says rustling up people who haven't registered to vote yet. Perhaps also helping to administer food. He just tells all he's doing. You can get more of an idea of what he's. Oh he says, "P.S. we would have Judy's Volkswagon for the summer. She will be in St. Louis for most of the summer. The only difficulty there is that we might have to drive her to St. Louis the first week of June. Anyway we've got wheels which will remain indispensable. More about that later. That was his last letter to me. That was the last letter I ever got. Because he came home and we parted ways then and we were just going to see each other at the end of the summer. I guess he really didn't have time and I was busy doing things. I feel sorry that I didn't take the time to write to him even, but young and carefree and I probably didn't really know my own mind at that time either.

Larry: What

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Mary: Was I going to summer school then? I can't remember whether I did. I don't know. I know I was busy. You were just a baby.

Larry: You were at UNH at the time?

Dick: I was in the ninth grade.

Mary: Dick's four years younger than I am. I can't remember what I was doing. I know I was involved in all kinds of things.

Larry: Because of this, I'm trying to reconstruct what I was doing the summer of '65. I was chasing my wife around Maine. Ended getting married at Christmas. I don't know if you can call it social commitment.

Bill: Well Alabama to me conjers up in those years all kinds of horrible images.

Mary: Yes. I don't know did I every see that Easy Rider before this came about or not. Or did Easy Rider come after '65.

Larry: It was after.

Mary: Was it? Thank goodness because I can't, I was just, I guess Jon thought that I was more mature than I was. I really didn't have the maturity he did. And I was too young to think about going down to, you know this floored me when he asked me to go. It really did floor me.

Larry: YYou know it might have been that you were not mature as he was. My impression of him is that, you look at those pictures and listen to his writings and those aren't the writings of somebody in his mid twenties. I think he was more mature than the rest of us.

Mary: Yes. But I mean I was so, you mean I wasn't immature for my age. Oh yes I was though. I've always been young for my age in that sense. But you are right he was definitely beyond his years.

Larry: More involved, something like that.

Mary: Yes. But I think that is because of his real strong belief as he says. If you take him for his word, in here in his letter, his strong belief in the Gospel and that he had the Lord behind him all the way.

Larry: Let's say that you're right Mary. That we've got to go to his letters and his sermons to find out the heart of why he did what he did. Then at what point did that happen? Where should you look? What ? What is it that we're missing here?

Mary: If I had grown up with him or I had known him in those really important years before then, I could probably tell you.

Larry: You never discussed this? He kneels down in front of an altar some place and a light hit him or did he suddenly wake up or what happened to him?

Mary: I don't think happened. I think it was a slow process. That would be my feeling that it was a slow process.

Bill: Did he talk about the Harvard year with you at all? The year he attended Harvard. The English department.

Mary: Yes. Vaguely but he was in journalism wasn't he. Didn't he.

Bill: English lit. He had a Danforth for English literature.

Mary: Yes. He really was brilliant. Just was. I wish I could pinpoint some place where I think it was a combination of everything. His upbringing as a child, his love for who knows if it didn't strike him in his early childhood, when he was a real young child.

Larry: picture. It was on his face when he was three months old.

Mary: Yes. Because the way his sensitivity about his sister and his friends and other girlfriends that knew him and young men that knew him. There isn't anyone that has an ill word for him that I've known. That I've ever heard about. And I don't think it's just because he's died and everybody says don't speak ill of the dead and all that. I don't think that's it, not at all. He was an exception person, I think, probably from day one if the truth were known.

Larry: We've got some movie footage of him. hasn't seen it yet. On the beach at Cape Cod. He was six years old and then this really beautiful sequence of him raking leaves in front of a neighbor's house on a beautiful autumn day. That little red jacket on. He's got the same look, that sense of purpose that's in these pictures. And he was six years old. He was just in there doing it. Everybody else is doing it, maybe their parents made them do it. There is something one pointed about the way he's.

Mary: It might be because he lost his dad. That was a tragic thing. And of course Emily, half the reason Emily was that she took care of her Dad and that was probably her mental breakdown was due to her Dad's death.

Bill: That was a very painful slow death, I understand.

Mary: And she took care of him. She was his nurse practically. I don't know maybe she was his nurse. Did she have a degree in nursing? I'm not sure.

Bill: I don't know.

Mary: All right, but she was at his bedside all the time and when he died she just. That lost it. That's what I understand.

Bill: Our understanding too, he was a junior at VMI in 1959 when that happened. He sort, he never confronted that for a while. And then when he went to Harvard that in Sept. 1961 then into 1962 that he had, we have a little evidence for this, that's when he had his crisis and that's when he confronted the loss of his father and that's maybe when he had a kind of experience in the chapel.

Mary: Because he said that the Church of the Advent. No.

Larry: In Selma?

Mary: No. I'm talking about Cambridge now. Church of the Advent. Where we

went to church and as I recall in one of his letters it must be in one of his letters about his favorite church and may have been where he. Wouldn't he have gone there if he went to Harvard? He loved that church.

Larry: Is it in Cambridge?

Mary: It's in Boston, Massachusetts.

Larry: Do you know where it is Bill?

Bill: Vaguely.

Larry: We should go look at it.

Bill: Yes. Well there's some point, I forget exactly where it is, maybe it's in Schneider's book or quote of a letter where he knew he had to leave Harvard, he wasn't doing that well, he was having psychological problems. He doubted whether he wanted

Mary: Didn't he graduate from Harvard top of his class in journalism?

Bill: No. VMI.

Larry: He dropped out of Harvard.

Mary: He dropped out of Harvard then? I thought he had graduated from Harvard.

Larry: He seems to have undergone some mental turmoil. Then he came back to Keene.

Bill: Then he came back to Keene and actually, it's ironic in terms of speaking of one's father, he actually worked at the hospital as an orderly doing various things.

Mary: Yes.

Bill: And then at that point he was debating whether he should go into the church or not. And finally decided to go in sometime in '63, he decided to do that.

Mary: Oh I wish I could be more helpful in that aspect.

Bill: Did he ever say why he liked that church or?

Mary: I don't know. It may be in one of his letters here.

Dick: The people that we've known and we had an excellent priest at our church locally and there was at least four people, members of the church, who had since gone on to the seminary and become priests themselves. In fact one of them is in Keene, Dave Baine, the rector of the Episcopal Church in Keene, St. James. In fact, when you go back to Keene you ought to get a meeting because probably as much as anybody could describe the process that you go through before you accept the call to the priesthood, David could tell you.

Cause he was, I think he has a degree in engineering or something and he has a master's in business. He was in the fast track to the top management of Chemical or another big corporation. His wife is a professional. She's working on her Ph.D. in either English or education. He had four kids and the littlest ones were twins. I mean he had like a ten year old, an eight year old, and four year old twins and he basically just said something's wrong here. He's just fulfilled his life. Over two or three years they had to cut back and he lost his job and he worked as a just a carpenter for just a couple of years and he for a long time just didn't do anything, took care of the kids. His wife worked and supported them. He discovered he was having alcoholic tendencies and had to deal with that. Then he discovered or he admitted that his father was an alcohol. His father was a priest and committed suicide. I mean all kinds of turmoil going on with this man and just, I just happened to be on the vestry of the Good Shepherd and the process by which you become a candidate for Holy Orders is that you have to go to your parish church first, go the vestry, present your case, and then you're approved for the next step which is oh I forget the term it's a diocesan group, a small group which usually includes the bishop and a couple other priests and they really challenge you to see if you're feelings or beliefs are as strong as or whether you're just you see something out there that's attractive and you just. And lot of people get to and that's as far as they go. And once you get through that then they apply to the seminary and you go to the seminary and once you get through the seminary you got to come back to the parish church again and go through the whole process again. I've been to seminary, I've gotten the training, now I want to be a candidate for Holy Orders at which time then your approved again. You go say you can be ordained. And that process is a long drawn out. You just don't wake up one morning and say I want to be a priest. It's something you've really got to deal with and I guess I didn't know Jonathan, I guess when you ask the question when did he know? It's my experience that with dealing with at least four different people that went through the process it's different for everybody. It changes as you go along. There was a

Mary: Oh.

Larry: I mean that's an incredible letter to be sent.

Mary: Oh yes.

Larry: I don't know

Mary: Well I'll tell you one thing. I kind of worshipped him because you couldn't help it. I had gone out with young fellows that he was new to me.

Larry: Here's this guy writing about Holy Angels.

Mary: Yah. You can read. Wait till you read some of the stuff. It's

Larry: You see what I mean.

Mary: Oh yes absolutely. When I was a teen I went out with kids the boys the first thing I got very disillusioned with men because the only thing they wanted to do with you after a date was go parking somewhere. Make out. That's all they thought about even at Keene State.

Larry: It hasn't changed much.

Mary: No. It hasn't anywhere else only it's getting younger and younger. My daughter is twelve years old already talking about a boyfriend. I didn't even know what boy's were when I was twelve.

Larry: Same thing with my thirteen year old daughter.

Mary: Yah. And David has all these girlfriends and all these girls that are best friends of his and he can't understand why he doesn't have one girlfriend. He wants one girlfriend.

Larry: Doesn't he know it's better the other way?

Mary: Well. How do you tell that to a sixteen year old. He's an awful like . . . You were a hellraiser. You went out with all kinds of girls. They were gentlemen but they all had good times and went out with girls and everything but Dick never had a steady girlfriend. He always says that I was the first girl that he fell in love with and what else do you always say? That's why you married me right? Am I embarrassing you? There's just too much. Don't turn it on yet. Too much emphasis on dating and love relationships at too young an age. Why can't kids be kids for heaven's sakes. I went out with two boys who were very similar one was John Race and one was Jonathan Daniels. John Race I met at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston when I was having all my trouble and he was a first class gentleman. All the way but I was too young. I met him when I was a junior at Dartmouth and I was a junior in high school or sophomore. We went together for two and one half years and he'd get my parent's permission. He'd come down every weekend and visit and we had wonderful times. But I couldn't fall in love with him. I loved him but I was just. He was all set to get married and I just wasn't. And he knew I had a long time to grow up and so he broke off the relationship after 2 1/2 years and went to Yale Law School from there and he realized when

he got to Yale I guess or else he met somebody else I don't know. We were asked to come to Gloversville, New York and. John Race was. And his mother still writes every year and everything. Keeps me in touch with what's going on with everybody, you know the family but I was too young.

Larry: With Jonathan you were a little older.

Mary: And I was a little older. Yes. And a little bit more experienced but I was still young. I was young at 25 when I got married.

Dick: You're still young Mary.

Mary: Right. But I tell you that you couldn't help but love Jonathan. I certainly did. Dick knows that. He knows that I love John Race too but now whether it would have been the kind of, whether I would have been able to be married at that time.

Larry: Exactly what was Jonathan. Far as I can tell

Mary: No. He was. There is some talk in this letter here about what may come in one of these letters between the two of us. He was thinking along that line of maybe it might come to marriage but he wasn't ready for marriage.

Larry: Did Connie know your parents?

Mary. Very well.

Larry: Did they get along.

Mary. Yes. Very well. My mother and Connie were very good friends and Connie thought the world of my dad.

Larry:

Mary: My dad did absolutely everything. He was a jack of all trades. We had the Old Colony Inn which was in Walpole. And he was in real estate and then he worked he went into for a time in his 70's Hicks Machine Shop called him up there to make things up there for them for whatever.

Dick: Inn. That was the income producer.

Mary: My father went to private school, Hodgkes School and left school. My grandparents had a lot of money and they had big companies and dad left school to go to work for their companies and paper companies, candy companies in Chicago and I don't know my grandfather was President of the First National Bank in New York City or some bank and all kinds of things. And Dad left. Music to the 23rd psalm and he could play any instrument and never had a music lesson in his life. He wrote a book called the Moon Children.

Larry: He really was

Mary: Just multi-talented person. He could have done anything. He was really brilliant but he didn't have the education that he should have.

Larry: The reason I ask that question was Connie seems to have been very aware class distinctions.

Mary: I can see that she may have been.

Larry: It doesn't sound like that was a factor in your relationship with him, you and your parents.

Mary: No except that I don't, I think she may have been but I never, I've known some real snooty people down here which snobs you'd call them because they have a lot of money. A great deal of money. And I would never classify Connie that although she disturbed me sometimes because she was so quiet kind of a quiet elegance about her. But I don't think she was a snob by any means. You remember Phyllis Coates from Walpole? She was a very very good friend, very close to Connie and I have some class in my family if she was looking for class. We have, we're related to a lot of famous people all along the line and very close: first mayor of Holyoke, Mass., I can famous writers. The first puritanical was he was supposed to be the greatest puritanical poet. It's written in our history book. He's my great grandfather or something. Edward Taylor. He was the third, fourth, or fifth grandfather and he was classified as the foremost Puritan poet. And then there's others but I won't mention them.

Larry: So Connie didn't have any problems

Mary: But I don't think it was that. I think that they just developed, my parents.

Bill: How did your mother know her?

Mary: She had Jonathan the same time my mother had Don down at Keene.

Bill: So they met that way?

Mary: Yes.

Larry: Don's your older brother?

Mary: He's just turned 50.

Larry: So they met in the hospital.

Mary: Yes because Connie apparently was in the hospital for a long time. She had problems having Jonathan. I think it was because of her legs. She had, I think it was, don't take my word on it but I think it was because of her legs. She had an awful time with her legs. And she always did I think. She had trouble walking.

Bill: I think Larry's asking because he went out with a girl, I don't know if you ever met her, Carolyn Pierce.

Mary: No, I didn't meet her but I knew she was a girlfriend of Jonathan's.

Bill: And she always had the feeling that she wasn't, the mother, didn't think

Carolyn was good enough for Jonathan.

Mary: Well Connie may have been that way at one time. But maybe she misinterpreted Connie too. To be fair to Connie, she may have misinterpreted because of as I say the way Connie carried herself and spoke and acted. Sometimes I was scared to death when she and I were together you know alone. She'd scare me, intimate me or something. You never got the feeling with Jonathan though at all. But with Connie there was just, when Connie was around and Jonathan and I were together, just the three of us were together, I always played low key and Jonathan would wait on, I know he would be very gentlemanly where I was concerned too, but he'd never miss a step with his mother to open the door, to put a chair under her seat, anything.

Bill: Did he have a good sense of humor?

Mary: Oh yes.

Larry:

Mary: I just, I don't know how to put it. He just, not so much the jokes. Maybe I didn't see maybe the jokes as just his outlook on life. He just he had a wonderful sense about people, love of people and love of life. I think that was one of the reasons that he saw all the injustices going on, not only where he worked in Boston with the young people but when he heard of that in Alabama not knowing, I guess he knew something about the South with VMI, that he had to go and change it. But being able to see good in someone that you would see not so good. He's got to have a good sense of humor.

Larry: All of

Mary: Oh yes. You can tell by just the pictures. He talks about the kids and he loved them.

Larry: And they loved him too.

Mary: Oh yes. Oh I imagine they did.

Larry: There's a book called Selma, Lord Selma written by, it's actually reported to the Birmingham Times who interviewed two women, Rebecca West and Sheyenne. And they were eight years old. And they were active in the civil rights movement. They were eight years old. It's just a series of reminiscences. And Jonathan figures centrally especially in Rebecca's life because he stayed with them for many months. She talks about the time after a teargassing when she was sitting on the porch steps, didn't go out and play with other kids, she just felt the world wasn't a place for children. And Jonathan came walking up with a suitcase and he walked across the lawn and started sitting and said "What's wrong Becky?" and she spinning around and around like you do a little kid and he finally stopped moping and came out of it. She said that was typical of the way.

Mary: Absolutely. He'd turn you right around if you felt down or anything. And I can't give you any instances but I can specific instances but it always happened as I brought up earlier in the kitchen if you had anything bad to say

about anybody, he'd always turn around and say something good about that person. I mean he'd do it, he wouldn't just say well she does this or he does that. He just somehow turned it all around. So you have a different outlook on things.

Larry: He wasn't negative or anything?

Mary: Oh no.

Larry:

Bill: You said he always studied his sequel. I wanted to clarify that.

Mary: Well I guess what I think its, right here I found it and I've taken my finger out when Dick was talking. He was having a course at Harvard Divinity School and it and the name of the course that's what makes me wonder if it didn't come from all that. It's called Sin and Forgiveness in the New Testament. I don't know he what he'd consider a sin probably I wouldn't. But I can remember he was always saying that and I thought what do you got to be, why do you have to be full of sin of course.

Bill: You got to wonder

Mary: He might have been using that loosely.

Larry:
Sinful because human beings.

Mary: Of course if you believe what you're supposed to believe and all that you know that you're forgiven and Christ you're forgiven of your sins. He died to forgive us of our sins and so I just think he may of just used that loosely like he's very flowery with his language and things. I loved, he always used to say, "You're delicious or something." You know now I never would have thought about saying that to anybody. But wonderful way of to me I know it sounds silly to say this and I hope you don't have this on, he's really and I don't know what Emily would say if I said this, but to me he was almost Christlike. He really was because he was he had some much good in him. He was the epitome of what a Christian should be. And that's why I say sometimes I think he was misplaced but when you read back in the Bible and you read about the disciples and all the way they believed and felt and looked upon everybody whether they were Gentiles or Jews or whatever it didn't matter who you were they were trying to get across the word of Christ and there was so much conflict between the Gentiles and the Jews and who was supposed to be the saved and all that and it didn't mean anything. I don't know.

Larry: Gloria House said the same thing when we talked to her. When I met her in her hotel in . She said was an extraordinary man. He just touched all of us. We met a guy named Carleton Russell who three years ago became an Episcopalian minister because of Jonathan. Only three years ago. He said Jonathan came to my wedding back in 1964 and I waited twenty something years when I decided. He was teaching at Wheaton College. He was really good friends with Jonathan and said he became a minister because of Jonathan Daniels. He told me that.

Mary: A lot of them named their children after Jonathan too. A couple of them. Did Morrisroe, Father Morrisroe or not? I know there were a couple.

Larry: That's why I hope this isn't
testimonial . We think a documentary

Mary: That's the only thing I hope for. No I probably should read these more. There wonderful. They really are a treasure.

Dick: This letter here is from an Episcopal priest who's a friend of mine.
but read the book and then this letter is about a sermon he preached after he read the book. I gave him the book to read because of my relationship with Mary and that I thought he'd enjoy reading it just as a passing. He was touched by the book and preached an excellent sermon because of it. He felt touched by Jonathan even though he never knew the man and of course I've lived in his shadow for a number of years.

Mary: And you love every minute of it too. A lot of people think that he did more by his death then he could have living. But I don't either.

Larry:

Mary: I think it is too. Because I think he had so much to offer and he even if he maybe had developed a love for young people working in Boston, the terrible section of Boston wherever it was Boston or Cambridge, and down in the South and maybe he would have gone into something altogether different. Even though I would look into that St. Andrew's By the Sea, I think it is, in Rye. I don't know where you'd find out. Certainly they would have known at ETS where he was headed if he had plans. And I don't know where I ever got that information whether Connie told me that or what I don't know. But any way I really feel that he could have done more. You're the first person I've ever said that to because I thought I'd be shot down but you know I started to tell you on the way that I saw his name in here now I've forgotten it again. He rode back in the car with us and he cried like a baby saying that I guess there were two seminarians that didn't want to have open casket. They were arguing about whether open casket was good or not and he said he didn't care but he wanted to see Jonathan one more time. He didn't care if he had to see him in a casket or not. But he was they were all so close and I mean it just tore those kids apart. All of us. John Enmon it was he was cathedral choir school Cathedral of St. John the Divine. I'm sure it was John Enmon. Maybe not though. He calls him Jack. I might then spend another day with Jack and with my sister and her husband. But if you are free I'll come home on Tuesday. Hope you are.