

BARNARD COLLEGE CLASS OF 1971 ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

The Reminiscences of

Caroline Quigley

2015

PREFACE

The following oral history is the result of a recorded interview with Caroline Quigley conducted by Frances Garrett Connell on May 22, 2015. This interview is part of the Barnard Class of 1971 Oral History Project.

The reader is asked to bear in mind that s/he is reading a verbatim transcript of the spoken word, rather than written prose.

Barnard Alumni Class of 1971 Oral History

Project

Interviewee: Caroline Quigley

Location: Wilmington, DE

Interviewer: Frances Garrett Connell

Date: May 22, 2015

00:00:00 Q: This is an interview taking place with Caroline Quigley at her office in Wilmington, Delaware, on May 22, 2015, and the interviewer is Frances Connell. Okay, we will begin. If I could ask you to tell me a little bit about your childhood, your early beginnings, what you remember of your family, anything you want to share.

Quigley: Okay, well I grew up in a small city in Connecticut, Meriden, and I grew up a long time ago, I grew up at a time where even to walk downtown, women put on hats and white gloves, and that was pretty much how things were until I left Meriden in the late sixties to go to Barnard [College]. But in the intervening time, I went to Catholic school; I had a strong identity as being Irish and Polish and Catholic. And most of the people in the world I knew were Irish and Polish and Catholic, with a few stray Italians who were also Catholic. I went to a Catholic girl's school. And it was a very unexciting kind of life. Most of my excitement came from books because I was a voracious reader, and filled my head with lots of possibilities, and my imagination was fired up by the things I read, but the things I saw every day were very staid.

And I don't even know why I thought of doing something—veering so far from the path as to go to a school like Barnard when I would normally have been expected to go to a school called St.

Joseph of the Mount or Sacred Heart College of Good Deeds—. The highest order of aspiration most people, most thoughtful young women I knew was to be a nun, which when you think about that, that was quite a feminist choice too, but I did not do that. But a friend of mine in high school said, "Well, we both like New York so we should apply to Barnard." So I thought, wow, that's a bold move, but we did, and we both got in, and we roomed together our freshman year. And she left in December, she was going to marry her boyfriend, and she went off, and that was quite a—quite hard thing to lose—to lose such a close friend when I was in such an alien place. And I loved being there; I loved the excitement of living in New York, but it wasn't my place, and that really brings us to the Spring of '68, when all of a sudden Columbia [University] did become my place, and Barnard did become my place because of all the things that were happening. People were just thrown together in this very exciting way, and made instant connections.

00:03:24 Q: Okay, we'll go a little more in depth on that, but let me go back a little bit more in years, and tell me a little bit about the neighborhood you grew up in, like what you remember doing as a child, and then some of the things that you really enjoyed in your private school.

Quigley: Education. It was just, you know, an ordinary neighborhood, it was just, you know, middle class like every other neighborhood in America.

Q: In those days

Quigley: Like in those days. You know, I had a *very* large extended family in Meriden, Connecticut, I think I had like twenty-eight first cousins, and they all lived very close by. And I grew up in a family where an aunt was the most feared and respected title anyone could possibly have had. I had lots of them, and they all thought they were substitutes for my mother whenever she wasn't there, so I was a very well-supervised child; I was a very slotted into a very orderly universe. Catholic school is all about being orderly, and following orders to some degree. And I felt rebellious, I mean that's—nobody knows what you're reading, you know, all book covers looked reassuring to adults, “Oh, she's reading, it's okay,” you know, “she won't get into any trouble.” And I remember just—I used to do things like roller skate, I mean that was a—the worst thing I did when I was a child was I went roller skating and borrowed one of my mother's silk scarves to put around my head, you know a little babushka type thing, the way people did in those days; my mother was furious that her lovely scarf was exposed to the elements. I didn't do that again. And I still have the scarf, I still have the scarf; it's a little frayed around the edges, that may have been my doing.

00:05:30 Q: And how many in your family?

Quigley: There were just my brother and myself, and my parents.

00:05:37 Q: So you're the oldest, youngest?

Quigley: I'm the oldest. My brother is four years younger than me.

00:05:41 Q: Okay, and you started to say something else you did besides roller skating.

Quigley: Oh, I liked sledding, and because it was New England there was a lot of snow, you know it sort of appeared in October and left sometime in May, in a great gush of grey water, so there was plenty of opportunity for sledding. One of the things we used to like to do in the fall was collect chestnuts, horse chestnuts, you know the stuff that falls off the trees and is in the streets, and they're very beautiful, you know. They're brown and shiny, and you collect bushels of them and take them home, and before you know it they're rotting and your mother's screaming at you. [Laughs]

00:06:18 Q: Were they—they weren't the kind you could roast or something?

Quigley: Oh, no, that would be too—that would be harvesting your crop. That would be too useful.

And what else did I like to do? I liked to go swimming, and there was a couple of municipal pools, and I mean people really didn't have their own swimming pools, at least where I grew up, and so in the summer we would go there several times a week, and it was *always* crowded, crowded with people. And I think now when I swim in these long empty pools; it's so luxurious, you know, and that would have been unheard of. I think of a swimming pool as populated, densely populated with human flesh. [Laughs]

00:07:05 Q: All right, you spoke about reading a lot, do you remember some of the rebellious books that you read, quote/unquote?

Quigley: All books are rebellious, I think, you know they all give you a different perspective than the one you're supposed to have. I loved Eleanor Estes, I loved the Moffat [family] stories. I loved E. E. Nesbit. I loved Esther Forbes. *Johnny Tremain*, that was a really great book in my life because I loved American History, of the time of the Revolutionary War. I loved Astrid Lindgren. I really, all of the children's classics, you know. I just read, and not just once, but many, many times.

00:07:52 Q: Oh, good, that's impressive, that's good. Okay, can you tell me about your mom and dad, your mother and your father, and maybe a story, what they—how you remember they spent their days with work or not work they did.

Quigley: I really don't like to talk about my parents. My mother was a very, very nice woman, and very en-spiriting to me in life, and to this day I think I'm fortunate, and I wish I'd been a better daughter, which maybe everybody feels like. Well, my father was a very handsome and charming man.

00:08:34 Q: Okay, that's fine, we won't probe any further. Okay, so your street was fairly normal, how about the high school. Do you remember the changes you went through when you—did your Catholic school go all through high school or were you staged—no?

Quigley: No, this was—I went to a Catholic grammar school, that was a parish school, but the high school I went to was in West Hartford, Connecticut, and it was not a parish school. It was not Diocese School. It was a private girl's school run by The Sisters of Mercy. It was in a very beautiful old building on top of a hill. It was really—and at one point had been a boarding school, and you know locally it was considered just a very elite place, which of course I mean it was not—it was not [Phillips] Exeter [Academy], you know, it wasn't Miss Porter's School, but to us, you know locally, it was just a super, a super good school that we were really privileged to be going to. So I had a real sense of thinking, “Wow, you know, I'm both lucky and elite to be going to this school.”

00:09:48 Q: Now, it wasn't a boarding school?

Quigley: Yes, no. It was a day school by then. Well, the nuns were living there so in that sense it was a boarding school, but it was just—it was a—and the nuns were really very excellent teachers. They were very dedicated, very—some of them were more intelligent and more educated than others, but I think all of them were truly dedicated to a bunch of *extremely* ungrateful and weird girls.

00:10:18 Q: Do you remember special friends from that period?

Quigley: Yes, my closest friend was Anna [Kiren], who went to Barnard, was my roommate at Barnard, she hatched the great Barnard plot, and, yes, she had a lot of imagination. So we were just inseparable, we just were really, really close, good friends, you know, very—and very encouraging to each other in every aspect of our life. And I had other friends there, a wonderful woman named Sue Callman, well she was a girl then, of course, and very full of imagination, full of—she just loved music more than anything, and was just a very brilliant, you know a very brilliant mathematician too. She didn't go to Barnard, she went to Sacred Heart, what's—

00:11:17 Q: Notre Dame?

Quigley: No, it was—it was in White Plains, or it was in Westchester. I'm blanking on the name. Sacred Heart? Well it was Sacred Heart nuns; it's a well-known Catholic women's school.

00:11:39 Q: Manhattanville College?

Quigley: Manhattanville [formerly Academy of the Sacred Heart]. I think.

00:11:41 Q: Yes, yes, I met some of the teachers there, yes.

Quigley: Yes, and then a few other people, you know we were like kind of the smart, rebellious girls. There were, you know, there were only—there were probably only a hundred girls, somewhere between sixty and a hundred girls in the class, but of course there had to be, you know, at least ten different cliques, because, we're women!

00:12:08 Q: Right, right, and what kind of activities do you remember being involved with in high school?

Quigley: Well, I did a tremendous amount of writing in high school. And I worked on the school paper, and just mostly I did a lot of writing and I did a lot of—it was a school that was—that was essentially a commuter school. I mean girls came there from a wide range of towns in Connecticut, and they came by either public transportation, or by car, so it didn't lend itself to a lot of after—extra-curricular activity. You know people had to get home at a reasonable hour. One of the main things I would say I did was I read a lot.

[Interruption]

00:13:33 Q: Okay, so you read a lot, and you did a lot of writing, you started to say. And what kind of writing, was this journalism, was this creative writing?

Quigley: It was creative writing, lots of stories.

00:13:46 Q: And what became of all those great stories? Is this something you've continued?

Quigley: No. No, I haven't. I'm—I don't write fiction at all. In fact I mostly write business-type documents. [Laughs] Many of them.

00:14:07 Q: So you were part of the sort of the cadre, the literary group, of people who were—

Quigley: Yes, you know, smart girls.

00:14:15 Q: The smart girls, yes.

Quigley: I mean not that there weren't other smart girls, you know, without a doubt, but they—we self-identified as they say.

00:14:24 Q: So, English must have been one of your favorite subjects?

Quigley: Yes, it probably was my favorite subject. I loved English, and I liked history. I liked school, but I wasn't a very good student, you know; I liked learning but I had my own agenda.

00:14:44 Q: Your own agenda meaning you're writing your stories, and reading what you wanted to read, or—?

Quigley: Yes, I liked to read what I liked to read. [Laughs] I didn't necessarily want to read what was assigned.

00:14:55 Q: Okay, and yet you obviously were able to produce these papers about assigned readings as part of your work?

Quigley: Well, yes. We thought it was a very elite school, but it finally wasn't *that* demanding. I mean it wasn't like—it wasn't like the schools that some Barnard girls—before they went to Barnard they went to these incredibly rigorous, had an incredibly rigorous academic training. That wasn't the case at Mount Saint Joseph Academy; we had a nice training in being nice girls. I mean by and large it was a big success.

00:15:33 Q: Yes. Good, good. Did you—and again, this is infringing on what you just said before about your parents, I'm more interested kind of in the role models you might have had during those years, either from your mother or from other women.

Quigley: Well—my mother was a very, very nice woman, who was very concerned about the well-being of the world, and she was very—she had a highly developed sense of noblesse oblige, but she was just a very kind, good person. And I'm not sure that that appealed to me to begin with, you know I just—I found I morphed into her over the years, which is annoying—

00:16:21 Q: We all do. [Laughs]

Quigley: But you know I hadn't—but she is a lovely, a lovely good person, but I wouldn't say, even though I'd become quite a bit like her, I would say my role models tended to be people I read about, you know, people—my contact was through books. I mean, I can't stress how important reading and books have been in my life. You know I admired any number of people, from Marcus Aurelius, to Dag Hammarskjöld, to Louisa May Alcott, to Paul Revere, you know. And I wasn't gender-driven, I mean I felt that—I didn't feel like maybe because I went to an all-girl's school, I didn't feel really particularly slotted into a role of how a woman should be. I just felt like, you know, people I'm reading about are people like me, so why can't I be like that? Maybe not Paul Revere, cause I couldn't ride a horse. But—

00:17:37 Q: [Laughs] Right. So who would you say was probably the most influential person in your life before Barnard?

Quigley: My mother, without a doubt.

00:17:51 Q: Okay, what about memorable, political world events that occurred in the fifties and sixties that you were aware of, and how did you react to them and remember them?

Quigley: Well, I certainly remember the assassination of John F. Kennedy, which for Catholics, and Irish Catholics was like this, you know, this tragedy, this, you know, catastrophic thing happening. I mean, apart from the grief that Americans all felt at the loss of a president under

those circumstance. I remember the Bay of Pigs Invasion; I remember how scared people were. I remember the funeral of Winston Churchill. But beyond that you know—my mother was *extremely, extremely* liberal in her perspective, as you might expect, so that really colored my view of world politics. But I wouldn't say that I was an avid—avid consumer of nightly news when I was a kid.

00:19:07 Q: There were better things to be doing, right? [Laughter]. Okay, can you think of a moment or a day that really changed your life? That's a hard one.

Quigley: What time frame are we talking about?

00:19:22 Q: At any point.

Quigley: Well, I would say probably the first truly significant thing, because my life was fairly uneventful, was when I was accepted at Barnard, because I could see that my future was going to be different from my past, and that was very exciting to me.

00:20:01 Q: Okay. Do you think you are the same person who walked through the gates of Barnard, as a freshman, and if not how have you changed? And I think we're looking here for more kind of like how you had identified yourself as an eighteen-year-old, and obviously how you think of yourself now. And all those years in-between. [Laughs]

Quigley: A lot of years in-between.

00:20:25 Q: For all of us, yes.

Quigley: I don't know, I would say one way I'm different is I was more optimistic then, and I'm *more* perhaps cautiously optimistic now. You know my sense of infinite possibility is not as great, but I'm still, I would still say I'm optimistic, so I'm the same that way.

I would say I was much more scared in hidden ways than I am now. I was afraid to pick up the phone—if somebody called me I was afraid to call them back because I thought, “I won't say the right thing, it'll be a mistake,” and that's sometimes I learned—that's something I learned actually from my husband, in business. I would get a call, and I would spend three days cogitating how I needed to respond; he would get a call with one hand and be picking up the phone with another, and you know the world didn't come to an end, nothing bad happened, nothing exploded, so that made me bolder. But, yes, I would say I was more cautious, but I'm bolder, and that's the main difference.

00:21:50 Q: Do you remember or think there was ever an obstacle that was put in your path, either when you were—before Barnard—

Quigley: During Barnard or since?

00:22:01 Q: Just something that, “How am I going to get around this?” [Laughs]

Quigley: Well, I think for myself, and probably for many women, is wanting to meet the expectations in the people around me has always been an important thing; I really don't want to make anyone unhappy, I don't want to ruffle anyone's feathers, I don't want to—I don't want to do something that is going to make someone upset or miserable, or cause them to jump off a roof, you know I just—I just want to be—I want everything to be calm and nice for the people. And sometimes you know that's a real psychological obstacle because sometimes that's good, but most of the time it's really not your problem, you know, you just have to be decent, live your life and not worry about how you're going to impact on people. I'm not that important, I'm not going to change someone else's life because they're so upset and appalled by something I've done. It's just—it's not going to happen. You know it's a kind of—it was really a kind of narcissism dressed-up as great kindness that was just stupid. So I would say all my life that's been a big obstacle for me.

00:23:22 Q: Yes, you mentioned when you were in high school that one of the things that your school did was to you know to graduate and develop you know 'nice girls.' Good women. So how would you define that, what is a 'good women?'

Quigley: Women. I mean and the way society defines a good woman is someone who does for people around her until she bleeds, you know, doesn't cause too much of a fuss, raises nice children, keeps a nice home, everything is tidy, you know, and now to top it off you know

women have to be wildly successful at the same time everything else is perfect. Society has this standard that the more you move towards perfection the more perfect you are. That is what a good woman is. Although, what I really think is a good woman is the same as any good person, someone who creates a positive energy. They live their life in a way they find is positive, they're decent to the people around them, they create—they create bounty for the people around them rather than siphoning it off, you know, so they're generous and they radiate something good, but the rest of it is their own business, you know.

00:25:01 Q: A good answer. Okay, what about probably the most joyful day or joyful moment in your life?

Quigley: Well, we all know what that's going to be. [Laughs]

00:25:10 Q: No, actually, you'd be surprised; we get some different answers.

Quigley: I would say when my son was born, you know. I mean, there have been many happy days in my life, but—and some connected with nothing except it's a happy day, but that was a wonderful day for me.

00:25:33 Q: Okay, and how about something that you're most proud of?

Quigley: Well, you know, it's a funny thing. I mean that should be tip-of-tongue, but it can be hard to think of. But I would have to say I'm proud of two things: I'm proud of my business because I think that it's a very decent kind of place, I think we offer people something, a very positive product, and a very honest product, and we're straightforward in the way we deal with the world. And I also think that we create a nice environment, a nice working environment, and I think that when I went into this I thought of all the ways I'd hated being treated, and all the ways that I'd found really positive. And I definitely wanted to air on the right side of things. And the other thing is I'm very proud of my son, you know, my son is someone who is a lot like—he's a lot like myself. He's very independent and he's very thoughtful. And he's certainly far from perfect, and I've had some you know [laughs] aggravating moments, but I look at him, and I think, “Okay, I like your sense of humor, I like your decency,” and so I'm proud of him, yes.

00:27:13 Q: And how old is he now?

Quigley: He's twenty-five.

00:27:14 Q: Oh, a good age, yes.

Quigley: Well better than fifteen, certainly. [Laughs]

00:27:21 Q: I think fifteen and a boy, that's hard. I have three sons, so—been there, done that.

Quigley: Oh, really, how old are they?

00:27:28 Q: This is your interview, but just quickly, they're thirty-three, thirty, and twenty-five.

Quigley: Oh, so you have a twenty-five-year-old. Do you have any grandkids?

Q: Two.

Quigley: Oh, you're blessed.

Q: Yes, very little, two years old, and nine months old. But, anyway—(00:27:46) Yes, I think we tend to be really proud of our children that come out decent, so I'm with you there.

00:27:51 Q: Now is there anything that you've done or not done in your life that you would change?

Quigley: I would in general try to have, and still try to un-harness my energy a little more, you know stop being so—so—stop pulling on the white gloves and putting on the hat when I go downtown, you know. I'd like to just be a little more unfettered.

00:28:29 Q: Okay, is there anything that you're afraid of, or maybe saying that a different way, what are you most afraid of?

Quigley: Not being able to take care of myself in situations, and by situations I mean the many obligations that we have in our life that really are obligations, not being able to meet those requirements. And I mean I certainly don't relish the thought of myself as—as a hapless and helpless ninety-year-old, you know with no resources, either of my own or anywhere else, that's a scary thought. But the rest of, things tend to turn out okay, or good enough, anyway.

00:29:32 Q: And when you were a student what did you most want out of life?

Quigley: Oh, I had no idea. I mean my whole goal up to that point had been going to college. Once I was in college, [laughing] I couldn't project into the future.

00:29:53 Q: So when do you think that changed? When did you start to feel like, "I know what I'm going to do; I'm going to go forward now." Yesterday [Laughter]?

Quigley: Well, I think—well, it was a gradual process, you know, it's like the bricks of your life get put together one by one. And I worked in advertising for a while, which I thought was quite wonderful in a completely superficial way, you know, eat big lunches, wear nice clothes, you know I mean it was like—and it was not saving the world, but it was fun to go to work, sort of. And then, then I had my son and that was—that was a busy time when he was little. And then my husband, who was working, we were living in New York, my husband started a business with a friend of his in Wilmington, which is the kind of business that's very specific to Delaware, and he

said, “Oh, can you write a little bit of copy, we gotta do a few ads;” and one thing led to another and before I knew it, [laughing] I was running his business.

00:31:06 Q: Fantastic!

Quigley: Well, you know, it was—it was started very, very small, you know, he had like three clients to begin with, or you know fifty clients and whatever, and it just got bigger and bigger, and it was a gradual process, but one I was very comfortable with. What was the question you asked me, because I've got off the reservation, [laughs] a little.

00:31:28 Q: No, not at all. It's just fine. I think I was asking you what you had wanted out of life, and at what point did that change?

Quigley: Oh, now you know that one. [Laughing] I realized that I had a defining moment one day after a particular trying day at the office, I opened my refrigerator door, and I could just give thanks to God that the wine bottle had a screw top.

00:31:54 Q: [Laughter] Okay, yes. All right, so let's look now at Barnard itself. Can you tell me something that happened which affirmed that you had chosen the right school?

Quigley: Oh, I adored Barnard the moment I walked in the door, you know, I mean I just thought I was *so* lucky to be in this incredible institution. I mean, there was nothing that I needed to have

affirmed, I was just thrilled, I was thrilled with the people I met there, I was thrilled with—I was thrilled with New York. I was thrilled with the look of the place. I was thrilled with Columbia. That was something too, I often think about this, that was the winter there was this big strike of sanitation workers in New York, and there were just mountains of garbage that you would have to walk through as you walked down the street, just like banks of it on either side. And I remember being so in love with the whole experience, and I thought, "Wow, that's really interesting!" [Laughs] So, no, nothing could turn me off on Barnard.

00:33:00 Q: Do you remember when you first arrived, how did you get there, did your folks bring you down? Did you come alone? And then some of the things that happened in terms of meeting a roommate, the first day of school?

Quigley: Well, I had my roommate already.

00:33:15 Q: Oh, yes, you did.

Quigley: And her parents brought us down; they had a huge family, so they had a big Volkswagon Bus, which was great for bringing two girls to college. And we were in this very quirky kind of garret room, in Brooks—Hewitt, Hewitt [Hall], and so that was really enchanting, you know, just to have—

00:33:38 Q: So it's the very top floor.

Quigley: Yes, it had a sloping ceiling, and you know. And we started meeting people right away. I remember meeting Susan Slyomovics, who I'm still friends with, in fact we spent some time in Paris together last summer, and we introduced each other, and she looked at me and said, "Quigley, what a funny name!" And I thought—I thought, your name is "Slyomovics," and you think Quigley is funny name?" But I didn't say it because after all I was from Mount Saint Joseph Academy. [Laughs]

00:34:19 Q: The roots were deep. So you met her at the beginning.

Quigley: Yes, and Janet Price as well. Annie Gromatzky who has died since, and Abigail Collins, I don't know if you knew her or not. So that was my core group right from the beginning.

00:34:41 Q: Good, good. Do you remember how you—and you said you had been concerned from an early age about kind of the appearance and the white glove and the hat and all that, so do you remember how you were dressed when you first came?

Quigley: Oh, yes. Oh, yes, you know I had—first of all I had wool skirts, and it was September in New York which is sub-tropical, so I had all of these beautiful wool skirts, and wool sweaters, and—which I wore for probably three or four days. I went to mass the first week I was there as well, and that was like the first and last time for both the sweaters, the skirts and going to church.

That was it, you know I don't think I've been back to a church since. Yes, it was very—I looked very, I looked like I stepped out of a Villager ad.

00:35:30 Q: Great. [Laughs] And so you're in this garret room up in Hewitt.

Quigley: Hewitt yes.

00:35:39 Q: And you're looking down at the quad, was there anything that—I mean you said you liked Barnard from the beginning, do you remember being frightened of you know sort of the competitive nature of all the women around, or anything that struck you as like—

Quigley: No, I hadn't imagined going to a middling type of school, I thought I was brilliant, you know, if I had gone to—like my husband went to the Lycée Français de New York, which is a very, very elite school, you know super smart people going there; he thought he was an idiot because you know he was like not the valedictorian. I didn't have to—I didn't have that constraint, I didn't have—I had just nice, bright women to compare myself to, but I didn't have any geniuses to make me feel bad, so I figured, you know, “Hey, I'm here; Barnard is lucky to have me.”

00:36:35 Q: Yes, yes, okay. Okay, so at that point you didn't really know what you wanted to become, you were just in school, you'd struggled to get there, or you're happy.

Quigley: Okay, I will tell you something though, because I like telling this story, although my husband, you know, often tells me that he's heard it one too many times.

00:36:53 Q: I never heard it. [Laughs]

Quigley: And I got a 5 on my Advanced Placement Exam in English, so I remember that—

Q: Wow

Quigley: —well, it was not that big a deal, but remember we had to take, there was some required course, and I decided I wanted to take—and it, you know theoretically if you had a 5 you placed out of the class, and I wanted to take a class in Eastern Religion instead. And my advisor or whoever was doing it said, “Well, no the only way you cannot take that course is if you have a '5' on your advanced placement, and an 800 on your SAT.” And it was my pleasure to say, “Well, yes!”

[Laughs] There. I've memorialized it forever on videotape. [Laughing]

00:37:39 Q: Wow, that's impressive. I had an 800 on my American History.

Quigley: Well there you go, there you go; that's a great course.

00:37:45 Q: Not in English, but I was devastated that I had to take Freshman English, course I too, thought—

Quigley: Yes, yes, yes, I know you're a poet.

00:37:51 Q: Or whatever. Anyway, but it was good for me.

Quigley: I probably should have taken it.

00:37:58 Q: It's funny, somebody once said they had placed out on it, and they said it was such a social scene that they're sorry that they didn't get to meet their colleagues in that English class, it was a real social scene—and you were in Eastern Religion, you were already into something a little different.

Quigley: Well, I loved Eastern Religion, I took a lot of courses in that and in general East Asian Studies because Columbia was so good at that.

00:38:24 Q: So what were some of the other classes you took, and professors you particularly remember being good or—?

Quigley: Well, I remember Peter Pardue, who taught Sociology of Religion, he was really excellent. And, oh, my goodness, who is another—his first name was Robert, I cannot remember

what his last name was, another professor, I mean I wasn't primarily into going to classes when I was at Barnard, [Laughs] that's all I can say. We can—we can—we can draw the curtain on my academic career at Barnard, but you know who's really very good, and she was a Barnard woman herself, was Barbara Miller, Barbara Stoller Miller, and she was fantastically good.

00:39:15 Q: Well she taught—didn't she teach Sanskrit?

Quigley: Yes.

00:39:18 Q: Yes, because my good friend majored in Sanskrit, I think, she was a year behind us.

Quigley: Oh, well that's a challenging—challenging—

00:39:27 Q: And she became a psychiatrist. Yes, but I never had classes, but she's supposedly quite good, yes.

Quigley: Yes, she was, she was so glamorous too; so she was so beautiful, so glamorous, so intelligent, so accomplished, you know she really was in a lot of ways 'the' perfect Barnard woman.

00:39:45 Q: I wonder how long she stayed there.

Quigley: She stayed till she died. She died young, unfortunately. She was about fifty. And Ivan Morris also was a big inspiration.

00:39:55 Q: Ellen Moers?

Quigley: Yes, Ivan Morris, he taught Japanese Literature, and, at Columbia. And he was an accomplished translator, he translated *The Tale of Genji*, and—yes, yes, he was a very—very English, very aristocratic, very foppish, but very charming, you know, and he was a big advocate for Amnesty International, which I became a devoted member of. So that was—that was my lineup I would say at Barnard. I hope I'm not giving short shrift to anyone, but—

00:40:40 Q: What—drew you to Asian Literature and Religion?

Quigley: I don't know; it was very appealing, it made sense to me, you know, I've always been very interested in religion in general, and that's the kind of religion that is—it had a lot of logic, especially Buddhism. I loved Buddhism.

00:41:06 Q: So were you involved in meditation or yoga or anything like that when you were in college?

Quigley: Not really, although you asked me what drew me to it, and it was actually on one of the first—one of the first weeks in the early days when I was there, there was an evening put on by

the East Asian Studies Department, and there was a Buddhist monk who was going to come and speak to us. And I've never seen a person as radiant as that guy. I still remember, you know, it was like the scene in, "I want what he's having." So that probably was it. I think now that I think that was what sparked it, apart from an intellectual interest, but I had an intellectual interest in a million things, but what finally took me down that path was probably that man.

00:41:59 Q: So what were some of the things—you said, academically, and all that maybe short shrift here, what were you doing with your time? [Laughs]

Quigley: I was hanging out endless hours with my friends, you know. I mean just that was like—or exploring New York, I mean I can—I was thinking about—

00:42:19 Q: Museums, or—?

Quigley: Oh, yes.

00:42:20 Q: Shows and things, yes?

Quigley: Well, you could go to shows for no money then, and The Metropolitan Museum wasn't the zoo that it is now. Do you remember The Fountain Restaurant at The Metropolitan Museum. They had these beautiful Carl Milles sculptures of—it was "The Fountain of the Muses," it was called, and of course they kind of paved that over and put in more tables, and now I'm sure the

fountain is in the restaurant is a real money-making center, but in those days you could go there and idle away hours over a pot of tea, a Hungarian pastry shop, that was great for idling away hours.

00:42:55 Q: It's still there, yes. And what did you and your friends talk about? Do you remember any particular theme as they came up over and over again?

Quigley: I'm not sure we talked about anything except boys.

00:43:10 Q: Boys, okay. So this was the mixed group, not just girls?

Quigley: Yes, no, it was girls.

00:43:14 Q: It was all girls from Barnard, okay. Women, young women.

Quigley: Well, we were girls then.

00:43:20 Q: We were, I know. [Laughs] I know. Okay, sounds good. So at that point, we can talk about—oh, okay, did you have any mentors? Would you say Barbara Stoller Miller was maybe one of your mentors, or were there others?

Quigley: Yes, I didn't say she was a mentor, she was nice to me, but I wasn't looking for a mentor, you know otherwise and probably—I think there would have been lots of people would have fallen into that role, but I think I was a rather forbidding person. You know I have that real flinty New England exterior, and it was a lot of, "Don't Tread Here." Which was my bed, you know that was my mistake, but, because I would have benefited from a mentor for sure.

00:44:07 Q: Yes, I'm not sure it was part of our culture either; we were all so independent.

[Laughs]

Quigley: We were independent, boy, to a fault.

00:44:16 Q: Yes, yes. Okay, so we'll turn now to the Strike, and do you want to tell me when you first heard about it, what your involvement was, just anyway you want to go.

Quigley: As I recollect, and I was trying to remember exactly what happened, I went to some meeting, a political meeting, which in looking back surprises me, because I was not very politically-oriented, but, I went. And this may not be what happened, but I remember going to a meeting, and a strike was declared, and then suddenly I was there where the meeting was, which was Fayerweather Hall, and I didn't leave, and the strike had begun. So that was—and then after a while I left, and it was very—I left then to go back to the dorm, which I did periodically to take showers and change my clothes, you know what I mean, there are limits to political action.

[Laughs] And I remember rounding up my friends.

00:45:21 Q: And, it's funny, you were in jeans and sandals, you changed how you dressed, your hair was long and less quaffed, yes.

Quigley: Yes. I did have jeans and sandals. I had white jeans as a matter of fact, which play into this story, and I persuaded Janet and Susan and Anya, to come back with me, because this was *really fantastic*, you know. And they did, and at least Susan tells me that I came back and persuaded them. I don't remember being so persuasive, but I do remember like a lot of back and forth, and I do remember we all wound up there, although Susan had moved on to Mathematics, and even my former roommate, my friend from high school came through with her—he was then her boyfriend, became her husband later, and—but it did begin that way.

And then it just became this wave of energy that took us all in; it was a fantastic feeling, you know, just very exciting. It was everything—it was everything I'd hoped going to New York would be, but really hadn't been up to that point, and not that it wasn't satisfactory, but it wasn't this overwhelming wave of energy, this excitement. And one of the things that happened—and I think everybody there changed from—by virtue of being there, just being so super-charged. Two of the people at Fayerweather decided to get married there, and they borrowed—the girl borrowed my white jeans. [Laughter] And at that point I knew I'd really changed, because the idea of swapping pants was someone [Laughing] up till then would not have been something that I would do, but well, I was in the moment and I said, "Okay," you know.

00:47:28 Q: Besides lending out your jeans do you remember other things you did during the time in Fayerweather? I remember as women we were expected to cook a lot.

Quigley: I don't remember doing that. Were you at Fayerweather?

00:47:41 Q: I was, yes.

Quigley: Oh, so you remember the wedding?

00:47:43 Q: No, I don't, everybody was. I don't remember it.

Quigley: Well, actually, it was so exciting it was hard to remember anything in particular apart from the fact that you were just sort of floating in this mass of humanity and you're all connected, you're so connected. And it was an exciting—it was exciting but I'm not specific about it. And it was something that I longed for that I was happy to find. Then of course it culminated in six hundred of us, six hundred and twelve, was it, being arrested? Being hauled down to the tombs in buses. And I was in a bus—do you remember, Linda LeClaire? Linda LeClaire was leading—singing, “We all live in a yellow submarine.” [Laughs]

00:48:36 Q: I think I was in the same cell with her, yes. [Quigley: Laughs] I probably was singing, “I’ve looked at love from both sides now” [Laughs] some Joni Mitchell. Yes, but so you remember that, you remember being arrested.

Quigley: I remember being arrested. I remember these nice policemen clucking over—over us, and you know, no doubt thinking we look like their daughters, and what were we doing there, you know, if only our parents knew. I mean—I know people experience bad things at the hands of the police, but our particular—my policeman was very fatherly, he was very nice.

00:49:11Q: And then once you got into the tombs do you remember what the process was after that, and—the—

Quigley: I remember baloney sandwiches, and very sweet tea, and I remember thinking, “I’m not using that toilet.” [Laughs]

00:49:24 Q: [Laughs] Okay. And what happened to the charges and all that? We had an arraignment, yes.

Quigley: Well, yes, there was an arraignment, and there was a lawyer there who was explaining that how good it was that we were being arrested, a lawyer, somehow a lawyer supplied by I don’t know who, but saying, “It’s so good we can be arrested. And twenty years from now they’ll be questioning people who *hadn’t* been arrested,” and just saying a lot of horseshit, you know.

And my mother quickly pointed out that this was a terrible thing that had happened, you know, and then they—we had to come back—I had to come back, and during the course of the summer,

I think in July, and the same guy is there, busy, and he's explaining how this was just—you know this was just great. Which, to this day, I think, what an incredibly cynical thing that was, you know? It was just really so wrong, you know, just so wrong. You know, I would just never do that to—especially to kids, you know. But, fortunately though the charges were dropped, and you know I guess I could have pursued a career in CIA [Central Intelligence Agency] or the FBI [Federal Bureau of Intelligence] if I knew. [Laughs]

00:50:43 Q: Cleared. Yes, yes, never accused of a felony.

00:50:51Q: So you were very comfortable with this, being part of the excitement.

Quigley: Oh, yes, I loved it.

00:50:56 Q: No regrets at all about that? During the time it was happening?

Quigley: Yes, no, it was what I really wanted, you know. I mean I'd never had an experience like that in my life, and I just would have liked to surge forward into the future, but—on that kind of wave, but—I think it turned me off after that was during the summer after that, various, you know of the student political organizations just began to send tons and tons of just inane, *inane*, *inane*, literature, and it was like—you know, “I can't even look at this, this is too stupid,” so it turned me off, and I became once again quite apolitical. But I still enjoyed the whole process of the—and you know my interest in that kind of activity it was more focused in human rights and

things like Amnesty International, where I just felt it was more positive. I actually, in retrospect I thought, “What a bunch of upper middle class spoiled kids, you know, thinking they're changing the world,” you know. And I think that perspective has kind of been born out because I don't think our generation—I think our generation is very sanctimonious and pleased with itself, and I don't think it's got such a great track record, so—

00:52:24 Q: Well, my kids tell me otherwise, I agree. Okay. So you said you became sort of apolitical after that, although you were involved with Amnesty and human rights, what about some of the events of '68, and on the world stage, you know the rioting, the—

Quigley: Yes, that was great, it was part of the—it was like this wave of young people, and young energy. I mean I loved the fact that they were digging up the cobblestones in Paris, were they doing that, or was that just—? Anyway, I loved that, I loved—

00:53:04 Q: Either that or it was in *Les Miserable* [Laughter].

Quigley: Well, you know it's the same feeling, it's the same vibe, yes, I loved all of that.

00:53:15 Q: Yes, and in terms of sort of violence and things during that summer, the demonstrations, the riots, the—not on the campus, but around the world, I mean around New York City, and then in Chicago, do you remember reactions to that, or—and the assassination of Kennedy?

Quigley: Well the assassination of—

00:53:37 Q: Of Robert F. Kennedy, rather.

Quigley: You know it was very—but it was very horrifying, but it was also already on the other side of the glass for me, you know, it was not something that I felt personally. And just politics don't engage me that much, so it's—I mean a good story of human misery will get me mobilized, but just—

00:54:06 Q: People are too foolish if they become politicians. [Laughs] What about that summer, do you remember—what did you do that summer, did you go back home? Did your parents give you a hard time?

Quigley: Well, my mother was very unhappy, you know she really—and everywhere I went in town I had to hear, "Your mother's very unhappy about this," and I—

00:54:25 Q: Oh, a small town, right.

Quigley: Yes, and that made me—"and it's going to be alright, don't worry about it," and she says, "It's not going to be alright," you know. And then I went to Nantucket for the summer, that's where my grandparents lived, and I remember being shocked that the people there were just not

as enchanted and as energized by the events as I was. And I remember walking to a gallery, and I think I had a Columbia T-Shirt on, and—you know, cause I was very proud—and the gallery owner looked at me and said, "You go to Columbia?" And I said, "No, and yes," And he said, "A bunch of communists there!!" [Laughs] And I flounced out, "I'm not going to patronize you."

00:55:23 Q: Yes, that's good. Okay. And then in subsequent years at Barnard, there were other things that went on, they were more—I guess we got strike—there were strikes again in our junior year, and do you remember any of those things, and Marches on Washington, were you part of any of that?

Quigley: No, I wasn't, but—well I liked, I always liked a good demonstration, and I had special shoes that I wore, [Laughs] for the demonstrations.

00:55:54 Q: What kind of shoes did you wear? [Laughing]

Quigley: Did you ever see those—do you remember like brown Oxfords with a tongue hanging over, like a flap of leather hanging over it?

00:56:04 Q: Oh, sure, yes, yes.

Quigley: Well those were—I think they were leftover from high school, I'm not sure. I'm not sure how they were in my closet, but they were very substantial, and they were comfortable, so I wore those.

00:56:16 Q: Good idea. Very good idea. Okay. So were you—did you follow any of the groups that were on campus, or you were pretty much turned off, you know up until '71?

Quigley: No, I didn't want to hear any more—I had a locker full of a mailbox stuffed with nonsense, and, you know, it just was like—because I knew even then, you know whatever faults America has it wasn't what they were saying it was, you know, and it just like—it's one thing to want to see social justice, and equality, and fairness. I mean what right-minded person doesn't want that? But it's another thing to just be ranting like a fool; I mean how many people have suffered and struggled and longed to come to America, and these children of privilege are just spewing this nonsense. It was offensive to me to tell the truth. And you know you don't have to be a right-wing nut to think that that's offensive, you know it's just like “you're lucky.” If you think things need to be done get up and do something, but don't—just don't spew.

00:57:37 Q: Good. Do you ever remember a time in your life when you were in college, or before that, or afterwards when you felt that you were just really different from your cohorts?

Quigley: Well, I've always felt that.

00:57:51 Q: Okay, that's the book.

Quigley: Yes, I mean I've always felt that—and that's why I liked that moment at Columbia so much, because that was when I wasn't different. I wasn't different from anybody, I was just like everybody else and we were all fantastic, and it was just a great moment.

No, I've always felt different, but I think—one of nice things for me about working and breaking in this business is—for like, I've been doing this for twenty years, and people need my help, so people are calling me all the time—people—I talk to people, many people all day long, and whenever I have to say to them, "It's fine," you know, because I'm going to give them some answers they need, and it's taken me very far away from feeling like a duck out of water, makes me feel like, okay, you know, whatever I say to you you're not going to look at me like, "What does she mean by that? That's weird." You know people will—and yet it makes me understand that this feeling of being different is probably highly exaggerated, and if you just talk in an easy way with, you know, even strangers, even if they don't quite understand what you mean they're going to understand the feeling behind it. So, I guess I will revise the answer, I used to always feel that way. Now I feel like I'm just like everyone else.

00:59:20 Q: Right, right. Well coming from an Irish Catholic background, a little Italian you said too.

Quigley: No, no, I'm Polish.

00:59:28 Q: Polish, I'm sorry, Polish. So have you kept up those kinds of ethnic roots, or a consciousness of them at all over the years, or—just like we all came from, that's it. [Laughs]

Quigley: No, that's not very important to me, you know. That's very deep in the past, and I married a Jewish man, and so I have much more of an affinity for Jewish customs, and Jewish traditions, and you know it's more important to me. My parents died when I was quite young, so—and his parents were alive, so you know our holidays were Jewish holidays, and our—you know—our sensibility is a Jewish sensibility. Although, interestingly, there's overlap because both of his parents are Holocaust survivors, but Polish, and they love the fact that—the part of me that they related to was my Polish part, and of course I enjoyed that about them, cause they weren't you know—they weren't the least bit anti-Polish. Both of them had been saved by you know what they call, 'righteous Gentiles' who were Polish, and so that was a nice thing, but that kind of eased me onto—eased me off into that direction. And I have a certain fluidity about religion anyway, [laughing] as we know from what I said, so I was fine going in that direction. And my son heavily identifies with being Jewish. My son who looks like a Viking, you know. [Laughter]

01:01:11 Q: [Laughing] Why not? Why not? That's great. Okay, if you could go back to that first day at Barnard, and you could whisper words into your whatever, eighteen or seventeen-year-old ears, however old you were, what do you think they would be? What would you want to tell that young woman?

Quigley: I would tell that young woman to focus on a goal, and not be distracted by the things around me, you know. I was terribly distracted all the time, and I think that, you know, to have something in mind and strive for it, and not be put off, you know, and to understand that somebody may die tomorrow, and it's very sad, but it doesn't mean that you shouldn't keep on heading towards what you want to do.

01:02:07 Q: Okay. Did you lose your parents while you were in college?

Quigley: My father died when I was in college, and my mother died several years later.

01:02:19 Q: Okay. And your aunts; did you keep up with your aunts then?

Quigley: Oh, yes.

01:02:21 Q: They were still your—your big sort of family was still—

Quigley: Yes.

01:02:26 Q: Yes. Okay, how about the most memorable day during your career, your work, or any kind of community involvement? And it doesn't have to be a day, maybe it's just a period when you really were—you just remembered particularly.

Quigley: Fruitful, or memorable?

01:02:48 Q: Fruitful, memorable, satisfying, however you want to frame it.

Quigley: Well, it's just a very trivial thing, but I enjoyed it, and I still enjoy it. And it reveals how truly superficial I am, but that's all right.

01:03:08 Q: Don't put yourself down, come on! [Laughs]

Quigley: We used to get a lot of wrong numbers, my businesses' phone number was the same, or similar to AT&T's, so we would get a lot of wrong numbers, and one day, one day somebody called up, and it was a wrong number, and I sold the man two corporations. [Laughter] And I love to say to anyone, “You think you're a good salesperson? This is what I did!”

01:03:37 Q: How did you do that? That's amazing!

Quigley: It was just happenstance, he happened to, you know, I said, “You've got the wrong number.”

And he says, “Well what do you do?”

“Well, this is a corporation service company.”

“Well I do corporations!”

But like I said it was—but I don't frame it that way, it's strictly—It was a wrong number, and I sold him two corporations.

01:03:58 Q: I love that, that's a great story. Do you want to talk a little bit about once you left Barnard? And where you went from there, and how you—you told a little bit about working in advertisement that you enjoyed it, and then also about your company. So, I'm giving you a lot of jobs there.

Quigley: Well, when I left Barnard I had no idea what to do. In fact I walked around New York with a camera because I was so under-employed and under-identified with what I should do, and that at least taking pictures was something that I did.

01:04:34 Q: So you stayed on in New York.

Quigley: I stayed on in New York. And I spent one year—I worked in a publishing house for one year, you know the standard refuge of Seven Sisters school, girls who tended to not have any 'stem skills' shall we say. And—

01:04:56 Q: I'm still there.

Quigley: Are you? And I worked there for a year; then I decided that I needed to go on to some kind of graduate program, and I thought you know doing something in Buddhist Studies might be very interesting for me. So I spent the year taking Chinese, Sanskrit, and Tibetan, which was really a bizarre thing because I was so bad at languages, you know but—but I did, and at night I worked as a Playboy bunny. So, you know, as you can see I was in a high concept stage of my life, but I did that. And then—

01:05:41 Q: So you were at “The” Club.

Quigley: Yes, on 58th Street, I think it is.

01:05:45 Q: And you had to audition for that. Was that arduous?

Quigley: No. It's a cocktail waitress, you know.

01:05:52 Q: Yes, but still, you're running around in a bunny suit. [Laughs]

Quigley: [Laughs] And ears. Well, yes.

01:05:56 Q: And meanwhile you were studying Chinese, Sanskrit, and Tibetan, these very sacred languages.

Quigley: Well, you know, “sacred and profane,” the mixture.

01:06:05 Q: Well, it's true; they have the esoteric sex, yes.

Quigley: And then at the last moment before I applied to the program I—I was a big consulter of the I Ching, you know, that's why life has been lived by the I Ching, and the I Ching said, “No, don't bother, don't even think about that,” and in frustration I said, “Well what do you think I should do, go to business school,” which was about the farthest thing that I could think of doing.

And it said, “Yes.” And I must have asked it fifty times over the course of the weekend, and it always came out, “Go to the business school.” So, I thought, “Well this is going to be a problem because I don't have very good grades from Barnard, you know, and I certainly don't have any business courses as an undergraduate,” and one of my friends said, “Well, look, just go over there. It's the beginning of summer, they probably need people in their summer classes.” It wasn't like the big deal it is now, “Just go over and say if they take you right now you'll sign up.”

So I followed her advice, and I did, and they said, “Okay, I guess you're all right; you went to Barnard, how stupid could you be?” And so that was how I wound up at business school. And business school actually was a great experience because—well, I met my husband there, you

know people I'm still friends with, and it was a perspective that I didn't really enjoy that much because at that time—well now business schools are about being entrepreneurs, but at that time business school was about you know corporate acculturation, you know they really wanted to turn out people who would go into big corporations, and be fit in and be good managers, which was not where I was going. But I finished business school and pursued advertising, which was I must say a lot of fun, but advertising—it's like ballet dancing—there's really not a big career once you're past a certain age.

01:08:10 Q: Why is that? You're creating logos and things like that?

Quigley: Yes, no, I was an account person.

01:08:17 Q: An account person, okay.

Quigley: Yes, well there's a pyramid, and there are lots of eager young account people to take care of clients, and then you know their supervisor are fewer and on up to the head of the agency.

But it was enjoyable while I was there. And I married and spent a few years, maybe two months not working, and then my husband started this business which is a corporation service business, and I got dragooned into it, which actually was a great thing, and then when he left his corporate career he came to work here as well.

01:08:59 Q: Can you talk a little more about what kind of work you actually do then?

Quigley : At IncPlan? IncPlan is a corporation service company, which means we form corporations in all states, but particularly in Delaware, which is a corporate friendly place. We also have—what we also do beyond that is help establish—help entrepreneurs, especially international entrepreneurs, establish businesses in the U.S. And so we go beyond the corporation service and consulting, it was something was—it made sense because my husband has an international background, and he speaks many languages, and it was a very good market for us. Now we have, oh, probably seventy percent of our businesses from overseas; people are very eager to start companies in America either because they want to be in the American market, or because some of the ways they work like via Amazon.com, Inc. or eBay, Inc. will require a U.S. corporation. So that's what we do.

01:10:17 Q: And you found that really satisfying.

Quigley: You know, it's a funny thing. You know who would think that talking about corporations—it sounds dry as dust, and it is—but you're really helping people, and you're helping people in an area where they really feel very helpless, because nobody is more knowing much about corporations and then suddenly you hear you have to have one, and you think, wow, you know it's like, “ Well I don't know what I'm supposed to do.” And it's really very nice, you know we have a lot of clients, a huge number of our clients are repeat, “serial incorporators” we call them, or referrals, which makes me feel great because they've had a good experience, they've

had a good enough experience either to come back or to send a friend. So it's—in spite of the dullness in a sense of the material itself, I mean it's—

01:11:24 Q: You deal with people.

Quigley: You're dealing with people, exactly.

01:11:26 Q: And their problems.

Quigley: And they're problems, and we're solving them. And also corporations are like—like babies. You know there are like mostly happy days in the—where babies are born, what do you call that?

01:11:48 Q: Incubator?

Quigley: No, I mean the—

01:11:48 Q: Hospital? Maternity Ward?

Quigley: The maternity ward, yes, they're happy, that's a very joyous place, you know the problems may come down the road, but—and likewise all businesses are started with great hope and optimism, so it's a pleasure to be part of that.

01:12:06 Q: That's good. That's good. Okay. Okay, let's look at sort of a different area entirely, and this may be something you don't have much to say about, but, and that is gender and race and class. Have you had friends who were of a different race or class than you, and can you talk about anyone in particular? And has that experience been different particularly ever since leaving Barnard?

Quigley: Well, I think, Barnard in a lot of ways was a class-free zone, you know, and in a way that no place had been since—has been. I think the solution to a lot of that is education, proper education, and the ability of people to make enough money and to have professions where they—that give resources and meaning to their life. I think there's a tremendous amount of inequality in the United States, I mean you can see it everyday. Yes, I mean I think it's a real issue, and you know you can look to try and address it structurally, which—well, I think, I think America tries to move in that direction all the time. I mean I also believe that those are things that are very entrenched in people; you know even very nice people may try to get away from it but very entrenched. And I think you can just address it structurally, and you can address it individually in your own behavior, and they're both important.

01:14:11 Q: Okay, how about in terms of being a woman, do you ever feel like you were treated differently because you're a woman, in any of your jobs or—?

Quigley: Well, I would say, and this is funny, that I've experienced it much less than I would have thought. Although—I had a great moment the other day, it was on the phone with someone calling me, and wanting something that I wasn't going to do for this guy, a kind of an obnoxious guy, kind of a yahoo. And I'm just being polite because you can't not be polite, otherwise people will start calling you and harassing you, so I'm as mild and polite, and he finally said, “Look, can I speak to your supervisor?” [Laughs] And I said, “You think that because I'm a woman I must have a supervisor?” And you know, particularly, like, very, “Honey” just to be particularly provoking, and his response was, “What are you, some kind of Obama supporter?” [Laughs]

01:15:19 Q: Oh no!

Quigley: [Laughing] I couldn't believe my luck, you know.

01:15:24 Q: Your luck, yes, oh, my gosh.

Quigley: Oh, it was a funny story. I told it around the office too, everybody enjoyed it. But, no, for the most part I have to say, you know I—now, having said that do I feel that personally? Not particularly, but do I think it's ingrained in society, yes I do. Because I look at the way young girls are encouraged to behave and dress, and I think, it is not to their—even at my son's high school, which is a very nice place, the girls—there was like some kind of pole dancing team, you know they had cheerleaders, you know grinding and bumping, and I—how can a school

encourage girls to do that? It's not going to be to any girl's advantage to—to present herself to the world that way, it's—and things don't seem to change. But—

01:16:26 Q: Says a former bunny. [Laughs]

Quigley: No, that was a lark.

01:16:30 Q: I know. Okay. Okay, that explains a lot. I guess the next question is what—like how you conceive of yourself as a woman; and how has that changed in the last whatever, forty-five to fifty years?

Quigley: [Laughs] Well, I got older.

01:16:50 Q: Yes, didn't we all.

Quigley: I think in our mind we're all enchanting eighteen-year-olds.

01:17:01 Q: Yes. Okay. Okay. How about political and social activism, any particular causes that you—you felt an affinity with? First question. And then the second I guess would be the whole Women's Movement, and where you were there during college and since.

Quigley: Well, I love the Women's Movement. I mean I'm a feminist down to my fingertips. And my husband and my son are too. And, or as my husband says, "My grandmother was a working woman, my mother was a working woman, and I married a working woman. And you, Teddy (my son) you need to marry a working woman too." [Laughing] Just any woman who isn't a feminist is an idiot.

01:17:55 Q: That does it. That takes care of the whole spectrum. Yes, okay, that sounds good. How about relationships between men and women, you want to talk a little bit about your—before marriage, involved with anybody, any particular relationships you remember that were significant?

Quigley: Well, I had several significant relationships, and I found them to be wonderful, no matter how they end because when you're that close to another person you just—you learn so much, your perspective is so enhanced, you're just—it's a fantastic thing.

01:18:43 Q: And there's a lot of energy, energy's good, a lot of energy. Okay. How about—were you part of the sexual revolution, would you say you were radical in that area as well, or were you more reserved, or do you not want to answer this question? [Laughs]

Quigley: Don't ask, and don't tell.

01:18:59 Q: Okay, we can leave it at that. How did you first meet your husband?

Quigley: At business school.

01:19:07 Q: Okay, and how did that—how was that?

Quigley: We met at business school. We were both at Columbia, and we were friends there, and I had another boyfriend. And then some years later we met at a party, given by a mutual friend, and we just got together at that point, and then got married, and we've been together, I think, it's more than thirty years.

01:19:33 Q: It's impressive, and you're equal partners in this company? Or—

Quigley: Well, we're—I actually think I own the company, I'm not sure, I think I own the company, maybe not. He's the president, I don't want to be the president. Or, as I like to say to him, “You are the king of the castle, and I am a lowly peon.” But he would say the opposite—he would say the same thing about me, so—

01:20:04 Q: I think that nursery rhyme goes, “I'm the king the castle, get down you dirty rascal.” [Laughter] Okay, well, sounds good. All right, how about any difficult choices in the process of developing the company and becoming involved in it, and having a child? Family time versus professional time?

Quigley: Well, it's very fortunate, and this is about two miles from my house, so it's very close.

I've never—I work very hard, and I work on weekends, but I've never had to travel or you know do anything un-towards, so I haven't had to face many of the challenges that women do, which are very, very hard. And also since my husband and I are—we had one son and we were completely committed to him we would—that was always our first priority, you know, so. So I've been fortunate in not having to deal with being torn in the way so many women are, which I think is a terrible, terrible thing, you know, not to be able to—because I feel your family is always your first—first priority. But you also have to have employment, I mean you can't—and if you're the sole support of your family, or an important part in the support of your family you have some very hard choices to make.

01:21:40 Q: Absolutely. Okay, so you feel like you worked it out pretty well, partly because you had the access to your house, and your job, and you had your husband and you're working together, in the child-raising.

Quigley: Well, my son was in a really good after-school program, which was a real blessing. It was a fantastic after-school program, so you know it worked out. But in a lot of ways I was also—I mean I worked in this business rather than a more high-powered job, that would have made more demands, I mean there were costs, but for me they were small costs, you know, I didn't care about having a big corporate career. In fact, the thought was kind of disgusting to me, to tell the truth, [Laughs], you know pulling on the pantyhose and wearing a suit every day.

01:22:30 Q: It was behind you. [Laughter] But you said that your husband had another career before he began the company. So how did that work out?

Quigley: Well, he enjoyed that, and he—and he worked for a number, for a number of financial institutions, like Merrill Lynch Wealth Management, and Dean Witter Reynolds, and he was a precious metals person, he ran departments there. Then the African Platinum Mining Industry approached him to run one of their—they had marketing offices in countries like Germany, Italy, and Tokyo, and they asked him to run the U.S. company, so he did that for a number of years, which he liked but it was a tremendous amount of wear and tear, I mean it was just like flying all over the place. He was always on a plane, and it just got to the point where he just found it excessive, you know he just didn't like it, you know. He was never home watching our son grow up. I mean, we were both quite old when our son was born, so he just—so he thought, well, here's Inc. Plan, a flourishing business that he would join me in it, and that actually was a huge turning point, because it was this nice little cottage industry, and then he came in, and he's a talented guy, you know, he's a talented marketing person, so we are now where we are because of him.

And I'm not being a “little woman,” you know and being—that's just—that's just the fact.

01:24:17 Q: Right, right, well you're a good team. What about, you mentioned a number of international contracts, and he's coming from that kind of a background, how has that impacted your life, have you done a lot of traveling?

Quigley: Oh, yes.

Q: Have you a lot of international friends and associates?

Quigley: We do, and that's just a big pleasure for all of us, in fact, and my son is the most fantastic traveler of any of us. Right now he's in Tbilisi, which I don't expect ever to go to, but you know it was high on his list of places he had to get to. We have an office in Romania, which was just sort of a kind of a random event, but, yes, we travel as much as we can, not so much for business, but just for pleasure.

01:25:04 Q: And what parts of the world have you particularly enjoyed visiting? Did you make it to Southeast Asia?

Quigley: I have not, oddly enough, although I should, as my son very charmingly says, “Before I'm too decrepit to get around.” But I like France, I spend a lot of [time in] France, I love France, you know, the more time I spend there the better I feel. I like Italy a lot. And I like the Nordic countries in Europe, I like Belgium and I like Holland. And I'm looking forward to going to Scandinavia.

01:25:45 Q: And have you kept up your early endeavors in culture, and theatre, and that kind of things that—

Quigley: Yes, I love the arts, I think the arts are transformative, you know, and either in a big way or a little way I think when you go into a museum for an hour you come out a different person, so, no, the arts are really important to me, any and all of them.

01:26:12 Q: Good, okay. All right, so you hinted a little bit or touched it in various ways about your coming from a Catholic family, and then looking into Eastern religions in college, and marrying a Jewish person, do you want to share a little bit about maybe some of the traditions that you have been involved in, and how you would define your spiritual state, I mean are you a spiritual person still, a seeker? Those are two different questions—

Quigley: A seeker is a very good way of putting it, you know. I think the inherent curiosity and desire people have, their inherent morality, and decency, I think that's what's important. And I am very anti any kind of established religion. And, yes, I mean that's—in my life I—you know I'm like a magpie. I'll take from any place that seems good, but to me, the most important thing is people have to be decent because that's what they have to be, not because they're going to go to hell, or because—because there's some external force telling them to behave.

01:27:38 Q: Okay, and you said that in terms of traditions or rituals you pretty much followed Jeff's family.

Quigley: Jacques?

Q: And Jacques. I'm sorry, your husband's family, and your son was also much more identified with being Jewish, as well?

Quigley: He loves being Jewish, you know, but—

Q: Don't we all?

Quigley: He's—but we're not religious, you know, I mean I don't think—well, Teddy had a bar mitzvah, but we haven't been inside a synagogue for years, and have no plans on [Laughs] changing that. But I've always hated the inside of houses of worship, you know, and you just find it's—this is a big church-going place, and on Sundays—I mean all kinds of places—you feel—see people in their church clothes having brunch, and I've always thought, “The idea that someone would voluntarily get dressed up on a Sunday morning and go listen to some windbag wag away about whatever, it just boggles my mind.” And that's part of being an adult, when you're an adult if you want beer and Doritos for dinner you can have it; you don't have to go to a house of worship anymore, there are lots of things that are tough about being an adult, but those are two good things.

01:28:56 Q: Right, the freedom, yes, independence. Okay. Anything you want to share about your son, other than you have good reason to be proud of it?

Quigley: Oh, I've talked about him enough. I'm just very happy I have a son, you know, I mean, I was forty when he was born, it was not a given that I would have children, you know, and I'm just very surprised and pleased. I didn't expect to be someone so long married with children, I mean I just saw myself as more of a—you know a solitary life, and it just amazes me that it kind of worked out the way it did.

01:29:54 Q: And this is skipping around a little bit, but what—so what made you actually decide to get married?

Quigley: Well, I loved my husband. [Laughs] *He asked*. You know, I was a very obliging woman. If somebody asked me for something I thought you had to do it.

01:30:12 Q: I think that's why I got married too, oh dear. [Laughs] Good, okay. So what are you looking toward the future? I mean what are you looking forward to happening in the future?

Quigley: Well, I'm really looking forward, I don't have any plans to retire, but I am planning on traveling a good deal more and working less. I don't want to retire because I feel—my observation is people start doing stupid things when they have too much time on their hands, and

I mean *really* stupid things. So I would want to continue to work, but cut it back, and I really think traveling will just be a wonderful part of my life, and I would like to do more of the things that I don't do that much, like painting, and—well I write a lot of things now, but they're all like deadly dull things, so, it's one of my resolutions.

01:31:11 Q: Necessary, but not using that creative spark in the same way, right? So you want to write a novel, or you want to do poetry, short stories again, or—?

Quigley: Well, we'll see what—we'll see what turns up, how I—

01:31:24 Q: Another Mother—whatever, Grandma Moses, I mean you're not eighty yet, you still have twenty years to think about what it's going to be.

Quigley: Well, I should start thinking soon, right? But yes, no actually the future is, I mean, positive.

01:31:41 Q: And the painting part of it, do you have training in that, or just—

Quigley: No, I just like to paint; I just like to smear paint on a page, on a canvas. It's a great pleasure to me. I paint like Winston Churchill did, do you know, like—not very smooth.

01:31:59 Q: I think he's pretty good. I think he was pretty good wasn't he?

Quigley: Well, people joke about it.

01:32:04 Q: He also wrote novels, see, you got a lot of affinity with this guy.

Quigley: And he is one of my culture heroes, by the way, Winston Churchill.

01:32:12 Q: And can you say a little more about that, cause you also said you liked American History, so here we have this great British hero.

Quigley: Well I like Winston Churchill because he's just *so* visionary, and *so* tenacious. And he also provided one of my very favorite things to live by, which is, 'You can always take one with you.' You know he was—he was—

01:32:43 Q: What was he referring to?

Quigley: There was a very real chance that Germany was going to invade England, and people were very upset, and he said not to be afraid, and remember you could always take them with you, you know, you might die, but you could take one with you. And I find that I think about that a lot, you know, he was just like, "Okay, I'll do my last bit of good on the way out."

01:33:13 Q: Good. Yes, he had an American mother, so he had some affinity with the U.S. Have you ever read any of his novels? I was always amazed he had time to write fiction in addition to everything else.

Quigley: I didn't even know he wrote novels.

01:33:27 Q: Yes, well I was in Missouri, so there was a place where he gave a speech, Fulton, Missouri, which became very famous. But for some reason I—yes, I must have read a biography of him at some point. Interesting choice, are there are other heroes from fiction and reality that you—that were intellectual cultural heroes?

Quigley: Well, I would say one of my culture heroes is, Dag Hammarskjöld, or as my son's Swedish girlfriend says, "*Dag Hammarskjöld!!!*" [In Swedish accent]

01:34:07 Q: [Laughs] Properly said that way.

Quigley: It's impressive to hear her say it. Yes, he's just—he was the second head of the United Nations, Secretary General of the United Nations. And he was such a moral and courageous, and thoughtful and spiritual man. And he is a real—real person to look up to.

01:34:38 Q: Yes, I can remember him too. I think I read some things by him as well.

Quigley: Well he wrote a very beautiful book called, *Markings*.

01:34:44 Q: *Markings*, yes, yes; I think actually it's on my shelf. I should go back and look.

Quigley: I have it on my shelf too.

01:34:50 Q: Yes, it's all these people, to use as resources? Okay, anything else about your particular years that you want to share, that we haven't touched on?

Quigley: I just feel very positively towards Barnard, you know it was a privilege to go there. I thank them for taking me, because I wasn't that promising a student, and I stayed a not very promising student.

01:35:16 Q: You had a 5 in the AP English, come on.

Quigley: That's not the same as being a student, for sure. And, you know, it was just, I'm sorry more girls—well maybe it's better for girls to go to coed schools, I don't know, you know, but for me it was a tremendous experience, so I'm very grateful.

01:35:39 Q: Now do you think that—are you aware of changes at Barnard since you were a student there? Have you followed that at all?

Quigley: I just follow it very vaguely, you know, I mean it's—I mean it's suffering the pains that all women's colleges suffer, you know, and in—people must ask themselves did they do the right thing to stay independent from Columbia or not? And I don't really have an answer for that, you know, I think all women's colleges have suffered from the fact that girls now have an option to go to elite men's colleges. Barnard, when we went there was a very, very elite school, and my impression is that it's, you know, that elite status has declined somewhat, which is a shame, cause it's a very serious good school.

01:36:33 Q: Interesting. Is there anything else that you'd like to share that we haven't covered yet?

Quigley: You've done such a great job. You've covered every little nook and cranny of my life.

01:36:43 Q: I don't know about that, but, yes, no, it's been very interesting, I think you've probably been more modest than you needed to be, but that's part of your nature. Well, thank you then.

[END OF INTERVIEW]

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