

TAPE #52--SIDE A
MARY BOULWARE--NOVEMBER 20, 1981

KF Tell me about Iran.

MB I loved it.

KF You did?

MB Yes. If there were no turmoil, I would like to go back.

KF Why?

MB It was an adventure. It was a good experience I had. I had good experiences with the people there. I just liked the country. I liked out family life there. The children enjoyed it. It was just a great experience, I would go back again.

KF How old were the children when you first went there?

MB Five and nine. They remember everything. They loved it and would go back. We didn't want to leave. When you are there, we didn't realize how bad it was getting. Everybody was frightened for us but we didn't want to go. I am glad we did.

KF You must have left on December the 8th or 9th?

MB Yes.

KF Where did you come back to.

MB We went to Oklahoma which is where my parents live. Well, Ralph and I are both from Oklahoma. We went there. Ralph was still in Iran. We stayed there until we heard from him. He was going to come home for Christmas and then go back. They were still going to try to keep the office open at that time. He came home, surprised us. We didn't know he was coming. We had rented our house here, and we came down to see about the house and visit friends.

KF You spent Christmas in Oklahoma?

MB Yes.

KF At your parents?

MB Yes.

KF So. It must have been a better Christmas than you expected.

MB Much better.

KF He came home unexpectedly.

MB Right.

KF Now, do you remember hearing that Bill and Paul had been arrested?

MB No. I don't remember exactly when I heard that. Seems like it must have been after we were here in Dallas. I don't remember the date but it was after Christmas.

KF You don't remember exactly when you heard?

MB No.

KF It must have been something thought because you must have felt it could have been Ralph?

MB True. In and at the time, I don't remember when, we heard there had been list of EDS people that they wanted. Somewhere along the line I thought Ralph's name was on there. I guess his job there, at the data center. They were most concerned about that. So I was glad he wasn't.

KF You didn't know, he didn't tell you that he was training for this mission?

MB No.

KF Did you get any clues, did anything make you wonder what was going on?

MB I guess the first time was, he came home with a new jacket. Seems like someone else had on the same jacket. I think Ron Davis's wife had come to Dallas also and we were both staying at the same friends. They came in with the same jacket. Seems like a couple of nights they wouldn't come home. I wondered. But then, he says don't ask questions, so I didn't ask questions.

KF Who were you staying with? Just friends?

MB Yes.

KF Did you stay there then for awhile?

MB Yes. We stayed there the entire time until we moved into our house. I guess once we were sure that we were not going back, that we knew we would be here. I started the process of trying to get back into the house. We had leased it for a year and the lease was going to be up in March. So, our friends would not hear of us staying somewhere else, so I agreed to it.

KF OK. Now at some point, it must have been about the 10th or 11th of January, Ralph went back to Europe. What did he tell you he was doing?

MB He said it had something to do with Bill and Paul. I can't remember if he gave me a timeframe of how long he would be gone. At some point, I remember, I don't know which trip it was, he came home and he said, "Here is some money." We were in the bedroom, he opened up this suitcase and it was full of money and all these walkie-talkies things. By that time, we had figured out, the wives had figured out who was doing all this secret stuff. Nobody knew anything. I don't know, I didn't worry though.

KF He told you he was going to Europe, he didn't tell you he had planned to go to Iran?

MB No.

KF In fact, he never got there, but he did plan to go. Which of the other wives did you talk to?

MB I was close with Mary Sculley, I was close with Martha Davis. I think she knew more than she told me though. At that time, Liz Coburn, Tonie Dvoranchik, we had all tried to get together. They were living in apartments with all these kids. We would go out to lunch. Nobody really said anything. The longer it went on, you could see the frustration build, especially in the women who had little children, more than just my two. I was back in my own turf, my children were back in their school and life was going on uncomplicated. For these women, they were, they didn't have homes, they were in small apartments. You know, needing things that were not readily available. Not having a well established house. I felt very comfortable at my friend's home, so things were going along okay. But every once in a while you were hear somebody has called Merv or something. They told me where they are and when they are coming on.

KF Did the wives discuss what might be going on?

MB Something about just trying to get Paul and Bill out. I don't know when I knew there was definitely a team. I can't remember when I knew this. Their plans. I am sure that I did not know the exact plan until it was all over. I would have been much more upset than I was at the time. I remember that when Ralph was alone in Istanbul he called me. He would tell me that his frustration was trying to talk to Merv in code and just talking over the international lines. Him calling, Merv calling and them never getting together at all. I never knew what he was doing except that he was there waiting for something.

KF He had quite an adventure in Turkey?

MB Yes he did.

KF He went quite a long way in some ? transport? Were you able to follow what was happening to Bill and Paul like about negotiations and their being moved from prison to prison?

MB Seems like I remember that. Yes, because at one point we heard they were in the Ministry Building which they thought would have been a safe place. They were moved to the other place. Seemed like there was a lot more tension. It has been so long ago, it is hard to remember.

KF Do you remember the day they got out that Sunday February 11?

MB Seemed like somebody called and said they were on their way home. I don't remember if they were just out of prison or out of the country when I heard.

KF Probably it would have been when they were out of the country?

MB OK.

KF That would have been when Ralph's part in the story became most important. You knew he was in Turkey?

MB I knew he was in Turkey. I knew that he had gone to Paris at some time or other. I knew he had gone to some other place because he had lost his luggage. It seems like I had to go out and buy new underwear and stuff like that. I don't remember where it all took place.

KF But when you hear that they were out of the country, you must have guessed that Ralph was meeting them?

MB He had some part to play. I think I thought that he was doing whatever needed to be done in Turkey so that they could get out. I did not know that he had gone as far as Iran to the border.

KF Did you feel that what he was doing was dangerous?

MB I guess, I don't know that I felt it was so dangerous for him as much as it was for Bill and Paul safety. Nobody knows.

KF Did you get to know Bill and Paul and their families well in Iran?

MB Yes. Enjoyed them both. Very lovely families. Our girls. Bill has three girls, there youngest is about my oldest daughters age. Paul's girls, our daughters went to the same school so we saw each other often.

KF Sounds to me that you were basically concerned for Bill and Paul and perhaps didn't realize that Ralph was in at least as much danger as they were.

MB No. Not at all.

KF What happened next? When did Ralph call you?

MB About on the 10th, and they got back on the 19th. Is that right?

KF They got out on the 11th.

MB What did they do from the 11th until . . . (telephone interruption)
Did they stay in Turkey?

KF No, as soon as they got across the border they went into Istanbul. That was when Bill and Paul called their wives. I don't know whether anybody else made any calls or not. They went from Istanbul to Frankfurt, Frankfurt to London, then London to Dallas.

MB Seems like I was getting information from some wives. Seems like I knew they were in Germany.

KF Okay. Did you go out to the airport to meet them?

MB Yes.

KF With the children?

MB Yes. Somewhere in Ralph's trip. Had been in Turkey and he came home and he bought me a two-piece leather skirt and vest. I can remember wearing that out there to meet him.

KF By that time you probably still didn't realize quite what had gone on?

MB No.

KF So, I guess he probably told you all about it when he got home?

MB Right.

KF How did you feel about it all? After he had risked his life and you hadn't known about it?

MB It was just what he had to do. They couldn't risk somebody finding out. I don't think I was that upset. I was very happy, very proud. I think I understood why they had to do the things they did.

KF Okay. Probably your not knowing what was going on helped you get through it. If you had of know, it might have been a terribly anxious time for you.

MB That is right.

KF Okay. Tell me what kind of house you were living in.

MB It is the house we are in now. It has four bedrooms, two and a half baths, what we call a living-den area.

KF I thought while this was going on you were still with your friends?

MB Oh, in my friend's house. Three bedrooms, a living room, game room, three full baths, kitchen and dining room. They have two sons. So the girls and I stayed in one bedroom, their boys stayed in another bedroom, and they had the master bedroom. Then, Ron and Martha were there they slept in the gameroom. It was like one big party. It was the holidays, you know.

KF Did you know that Ron and Ralph were off on the same adventure?

MB Yes.

KF Okay.

MB We knew we were involved. The wives who got together.

KF You knew which of the husbands were up on some mysterious mission.

MB Right.

KF Was it just that one time that you had lunch, you mentioned several of the wives.

MB Oh no, it was many times.

KF Oh, many times.

MB Because, Dallas being the staging place, people would come in and if there was somebody you had not seen then everybody would get together and go to lunch, so and so is here.

KF What were those lunches like?

MB They were fun. Everybody talking about not knowing what was going to happen to them. Frustration of living out of suitcases. Problems with the children, where is daddy, when is he coming home. Just the normal kind of thing.

KF Tell me a little bit about yourself. Where were you born?

MB In Oklahoma, Tulsa. Kindergarden through 12th grade parocial schools. (could not understand name) the University there. Lived at home while I was in school. I am a medical technologist, so I did my training in the hospital there. Somewhere, I think in college I met Ralph. Then a year after finishing training we got married and moved to Arkansas.

KF When were you born?

MB '44.

KF What did you study at college?

MB Medical technology. I work in the bloodbank now, here.

KF When did you get married?

MB '67. Married 14 years.

KF 14 years.

MB Yes.

KF Do you remember when you first started dating?

MB It was real funny, yes. My ^{personal} brother was dating Ralph's sister at the time. My being in perocial school, I never knew kids who went to public school. But my brother, being a boy, he got out and he knew a lot of people. So, they fixed us up with this date, Ralph and me. Then they broke up and Ralph and I kept dating. We dated long-distance because he was in Colorado, in Denver at the time. It was mostly cards and telephone calls. Week ends here and there. I remember he said he was going to marry me. I told him he wasn't the doctor, lawyer, indian chief, so, my dad told me to beware of guys in the service anyway.

KF But in the end you said yes.

MB In the end I said yes. That was good.

KF OK. Tell me when the children were born.

MB Stacy was born almost three years to the date after we were married, August of '70. We were married in September of '67. Our youngest, 3 1/2 years after Stacy.

KF They I suppose were use to Ralph being away from time to time. Or did they give you a bad time?

MB No, they were very use to it. Stacy was born in New Hampshire, Ralph was in the service then. He decided to get out. we had friends in Atlanta. Neither one of us wanted to go back to Oklahoma to live, so we decided to go to Atlanta. I got a job there and I moved down, I think it was suppose to be like three months before he got out. He did get out and came to Atlanta and we bought a home. He went to work for Xerox, he did not like that. Then he got a job with EDS. I don't remember how long he worked for EDS before he started traveling. It seems like until we moved to Dallas, he was on the road all the time. Out on Sunday evenings, Monday mornings, back on Friday night. So they were use to it. That was a very difficult time in our lives. All the traveling. That was one of the reasons for us moving to Dallas so he could get off the road.

KF Now, his first job at EDS.

MB It was in operations.

KF If I remember right, he was on the technical side working with the machines or something like that.

MB Right.

KF As the years went by, he really did awfully well in this company.

MB Oh, Yes.

KF He is obviously a clever man.

MB He is.

KF Okay. He did some smart things one way and another, so you must be very proud of him.

doing the walkie-talkie up

MB Always. He is the kind of person, he will get things done, he will find a way to get things to happen. I don't know how, but he does. He always does a job well. Like he is going to Washington, he won't do that well (laughter). But, anything important to him, he does well.

KF Okay. You told me about seeing all that money.

MB And the walkie-talkies.

KF And the walkie-talkies, that is right. I think that is it.

MB That's good.

KF It was very interesting. I hope you like the book when it comes out.

MB I hope you get to publish it.

KF Oh, I think I will. Ralph was pessimistic because he had seen some of the other writers. I think I can do it better.

MB I hope so. I think it is a great story. But it is a story that could only happen to the people involved. I don't know if you found out, I guess basically the same, driven by the same thing, very loyal people. If they have a mission they will fulfill it. They can commit themselves to it. I think that is basically the kind of Ralph is. The kind of person EDS would hire ten years ago, when most of those guys came on board.

KF They certainly have that in common. It is a very impressive achievement.

MB Does it make you wonder how many stories like this are out there, with the same kind of people.

KF I don't know, maybe you are right. No I don't think so. There are many companies in which there would be a boss who would react that way. That is what I suspect anyway. Who knows?