Tracy Rolls: My name is Tracy Rolls and I'm interviewing Peggy Hall this morning. She's from the Class of '52 and we're gonna talk about her experience here as a Rice woman. So Peggy, why don't you begin by telling me why you chose to come to Rice.

Peggy Hall: Well I was previewing myself **** how did that happen 'cause you can tell it's been some time. The um, uh, connection was that my father, who was a native Texan, had gone north in their 20s and married my mother and what have you and his family, the Halls, were still here in Texas so when we started shopping for colleges I was constrained to some area that, uh, had relatives in it.

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: And then we looked at Rice and thought, well gee this one doesn't have any tuition. That's a big plus ****. Those two elements figured into the decision to have me come here and those were the good sides. The unfortunate side was that I really didn't know what I was getting into –

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: - and I was very, very far away from home and, and still pretty young so my academic career suffered pretty dramatically.

Tracy Rolls: Well let me ask you a couple of questions before you continue. Where was your family living at the time?

Peggy Hall: Rochester, New York.

Tracy Rolls: So you were a long ways –

Peggy Hall: Yes.

Tracy Rolls: - from home.

Peggy Hall: And, uh, and I had come out of a girls parochial high school so I hadn't been in a co-ed situation and also at the time, which was 1947, uh, the World War II veterans were flocking into colleges.

Tracy Rolls: Back into the university, yeah.
Peggy Hall: So there were, you'd be sitting in classes with guys that were 23, 25, 27 years old who had been in combat, you know, and –

Tracy Rolls: Wow.

Peggy Hall: - were incredibly mature and focused. You know, and here I am –

Tracy Rolls: I was gonna say; there's a big disparity there.

Peggy Hall: - **** woo. Yeah. More than just the years, you know, so, um, that was kind of a culture shock for me too and –

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: - I wasn't prepared to, to cope with it and I got caught up in dating. I thought well, gee that's a neat thing to be doing.

Tracy Rolls: Right. I imagine you didn't do a lot of that coming from a girls' parochial school.

Peggy Hall: Oh no, not, not at all, you know, that was a whole new thing. So I spent a lot of time doing that and of course, **** the academics went by the board.

Tracy Rolls: Not so much time for studying. What about, uh, let me ask you. You mentioned the reasons for coming here. Were the academic requirements, were you, were they exceptionally high back then?

Peggy Hall: Well, coming out of New York State when they, whenever I began correspondence they wrote to me and asked if I had taken any New York State Regents Exam –

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: - which is a State, um, uh, test for all the schools, public and parochial, and I wrote back and said yes, all of them. My courses were Regents Exams so they said fine, you're in, and um, so this, and in fact I was trying to figure out when all these people started talking about SATs –

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: - you know, we didn't have that and I don't know quite when they did come into being but, uh, they, they took the New York State Regents Exams to be the, an acceptable criteria and I was a good high school student but if anything, uh, upon reflection I realize that it was easy for me in high school and so I wasn't disciplined in how –

Tracy Rolls: Wow.

Peggy Hall: - to deal with difficult material plus all these distractions and –
Tracy Rolls: Right.

Peggy Hall: - **** issues and so forth so I never did quite catch on to how to it.

Tracy Rolls: So your freshman year here was a rough one?

Peggy Hall: Oh yes. Very, very definitely.

Tracy Rolls: Fun, but rough how would you describe it?

Peggy Hall: Yes, it's about like that. Yeah. I was having a good time and going down the tubes, all in, all in the same year.

Tracy Rolls: What kinds of courses were, did you take at Rice? Do you remember?

Peggy Hall: Well that was another thing that, uh, got in my way because, uh, I enrolled under one bulletin or curriculum and I was of all things going to be pre-med and when I got down here they had decided that year to put the pre-meds into the School of Engineering –

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: - and I didn't even know what it was they were doing but I wound up with, you know, uh Physics, Chemistry, Calculus, or, you know, Math 100 and engineering drawing, drafting and I was six, six subjects. All, and three of them were lab courses, four of them really 'cause Math was another **** and, uh, that was another thing. I just absolutely didn't know how to cope with any of that. I dropped one course in, in January that helped probably keep me in school –

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: - you know, otherwise I would've never made it.

Tracy Rolls: I was gonna say; how did you pull yourself together with that kind of course load?

Peggy Hall: Yeah. Well, I think ultimately I graduated, we didn't, you know, **** grade point averages but I probably went out with about as a low grade point average as you possible could and still make it because I did ****. I just mostly like, threes and fours and –

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: - a couple of fives but, um, any who. That was the end of ever being a pre-med. Of course that was out and since all of us that went into that curriculum as pre-meds, hardly anybody survived it –

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.
Peggy Hall: - so it **** right abandoned that curriculum change the following year like oops. You know, gee we just washed out 75 pre-meds in one year and, um, so the following year they went back to the preceding curriculum which was manageable.

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: This other curriculum was too ****. There was no way you could have, you know, then or now that you could go to medical school with a D in transcripts.

Tracy Rolls: True.

Peggy Hall: That ended that.

Tracy Rolls: So what did you wind up doing?

Peggy Hall: Well I wanted to, you know –

Tracy Rolls: ****.

Peggy Hall: - I messed around again sort of for a couple more years until, uh, I guess my junior year. Uh, as I told someone you majored in psychology by taking the five courses in psychology that existed –

Tracy Rolls: That were offered.

Peggy Hall: - that was it and that constituted as a major. But that was good. They were very good, solid courses. They match up well with anybody else's' curriculum. That was not shortsighted at all. I was not short-changed in any way and meanwhile I had the, my father had died when I was a sophomore.

Tracy Rolls: That must have been traumatic too.

Peggy Hall: Yeah, well it was in a sort of a benign sort of way in that I, I didn't ever quite grasp the impact of it –

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: - in a, it was my junior year I had again a very distressed academic time and I never made the connection that that was what –

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: - had happened to me. Uh, I had to get a lot older. Again, thinking back on it now, gee, you know, I guess that really **** messed me up –
Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: - but, um, and I look now and see, you know, the idea of, of having a faculty counselor or an advisor or any kind of, uh, **** -

Tracy Rolls: That's interesting, yeah.

Peggy Hall: - in connection with the campus in any real way –

Tracy Rolls: Yeah.

Peggy Hall: - 'cause I would cut classes for three and four weeks at a time and then nobody bothered to inquire –

Tracy Rolls: Oh wow.

Peggy Hall: - you know, where are you, what are you doing. My college roommate was worried about me but she didn't have much to offer either except sympathy and so anyhow. That did bad things to my grades but, you know, I was gonna say it's getting me now that I'm talking about it I think gee, how did you manage to pull this off but, um, uh, I wound up working at the medical center because I had to become self-sufficient –

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: - and fortunately again, I'm very grateful to Rice for having no tuition because it did allow me to stay in college.

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: All you had to do was eat and find a place to stay.

Tracy Rolls: Were you living on campus back then?

Peggy Hall: Oh no, no, no. You had to leave the campus at 6:00.

Tracy Rolls: Is that right?

Peggy Hall: Absolutely. Yes.

Tracy Rolls: Oh wow. So they didn't have –

Peggy Hall: When the sun went down the women all left.

Tracy Rolls: - any type of dormitories?

Peggy Hall: No, no, no. No.
Tracy Rolls: Did they have dormitories for men or?

Peggy Hall: There were, I'm sure there were one or two.

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: Um, whatever these old ones are over here. They had those. Well I know they had them. I know they had a couple dorms but none, but ****.

Tracy Rolls: So where did you go?

Peggy Hall: Well see I stayed with this aunt and uncle my first year.

Tracy Rolls: Mm.

Peggy Hall: And then my sophomore year, uh, that hadn't worked out all that well either, you know, so I answered an ad for a physician and his wife who wanted a live-in babysitter and so I had no room and board expense and that tied in with, with the death of my father. I was able to just finish out that whole year and then think up what I was gonna do next. So that saved my situation too. Anyhow, the, uh, then the third year I, I, I got a roommate and we rented an apartment.

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: Fourth year I rented a room off the campus and fifth year my, of course, naturally I had to go five years. I was flunking things right and left.

Tracy Rolls: Right.

Peggy Hall: And, uh, again with, with a classmate here I said did you realize that amongst our group of friends, which I'd say was almost a dozen or so, we had five Beta Kappas –

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: - and all the rest of us went five years. There was nobody in, in the middle –

Tracy Rolls: Hmm.

Peggy Hall: - and those of us who, who went five years weren't appreciatively dumber than the ones that got Phi Beta Kappa. We just weren't organized well enough -

Tracy Rolls: Right.

Peggy Hall: - to, to do the work. So I found that kind of an interesting dichotomy which, it wasn't really valid but anyhow.
Tracy Rolls: I totally agree. I mean I'm a Phi Beta Kappa person but I met people who were infinitely smarter than me in my career –

Peggy Hall: Yeah.

Tracy Rolls: - and I didn't go to Rice as an undergraduate but I, it was only because I was just sort of obsessively –

Peggy Hall: Yeah.

Tracy Rolls: - disciplined about work –

Peggy Hall: And I was, right.

Tracy Rolls: - and how I managed it. Otherwise –

Peggy Hall: And I, I learned not too many years ago there's a learning style called, uh, which has four points; random and linear and abstract and concrete.

Tracy Rolls: - mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: And one of my patterns is, uh, random and, and I see now that, uh, you know, I pick up one thing and start something or often I can absorb great quantities of information on almost simultaneously but lining it up and putting it down –

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: - and getting it all in one direction I was not good at that. So, you know, if I, of course, had known earlier on that this was my technique then I would have maybe learned how to deal with it a little better but I was in a seminar on teaching and it's a wonderfully useful thing to know if you're going to try to teach –

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: - because your students are going to be in this pattern of random and linear and abstract and concrete.

Tracy Rolls: I need to commit that to memory ****. It might come in useful to me.

Peggy Hall: Oh dear. The name of the, of the person who does this work has, has just slipped away from me **** 15, 20 years ago but if it pops back to me I'll let you know.

Tracy Rolls: Okay.

Peggy Hall: Um, anyhow the.
Tracy Rolls: So you were working in the medical center to support yourself.

Peggy Hall: Right.

Tracy Rolls: What were you doing?

Peggy Hall: Oh well I, I worked in the lab and, and actually I worked in a couple of restaurants over there too on South Main 'cause none of us had automobiles –

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: - at this time and we had to walk and, or, ride buses to anyplace we wanted to go. Uh, I got into lab work over there and I told the, the woman who had, uh, majored in Chemistry in, in, in the ’30s and she –

Tracy Rolls: Oh, I met her this morning.

Peggy Hall: - yes. Ms. Lander.

Tracy Rolls: She's wonderful.

Peggy Hall: Yes and I said well, I took my **** course in Chemistry with a four-minus grade, went to the medical center and worked for about 15 years based on that, uh, miserable little course in Chemistry in the, um, cook booking **** we did and we just learned, uh, whatever that lab wanted done and you just did it.

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: Um, and I liked it. I didn't necessarily know what it was I was doing in the theoretical sense but I was very good technically and so that, that was a fun thing to do. I always enjoyed being over there and, uh, **** of course got married and came back to Houston.

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: **** center so, um, I never did the, I know in there it wants to know if you ever used your degree, I think. I never did.

Tracy Rolls: And so you ultimately got a degree in psychology?

Peggy Hall: Yes, mm hmm but a Bachelor's in Psychology even at this day is not –

Tracy Rolls: I was just gonna say –

Peggy Hall: - particularly useful. Nothing –

Tracy Rolls: - I know plenty of psychology **** say the same thing.
Peggy Hall: - nothing that you can do with it. It's kind of like an English major. It's handy.

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: If somebody wants degrees. Anyhow that's, that's, um, uh, but the best times of all were, were the idea of, of the friends that I made, this whole gang of us, and again listening to some of the undergrads now talking about their dating situations and we had kind of almost the same thing, you know.

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: That we came around together as a group but if you ever paired up then you were stuck with that person for about a year and then broke up and then you went with somebody else and that was good for a year and, uh, but generally we, we were all together at the same time and the group I was in didn't happen to be heavy into drinking or smoking particularly. We mostly sat up and talked til all hours and we danced and got around and had some good times though.

Tracy Rolls: Did they have dances on campus for you or did you just sort of create your own?

Peggy Hall: Uh, no there's nothing on campus because there wasn't anything here.

Tracy Rolls: Oh, that's right.

Peggy Hall: Yeah.

Tracy Rolls: I ****. What did it look like –

Peggy Hall: Uh, it was –

Tracy Rolls: - this campus?

Peggy Hall: - a Chemistry building and the Physics building and the, uh, ****.

Tracy Rolls: Hmm.

Peggy Hall: They built Anderson while I was on campus and they built the Fondren Library.

Tracy Rolls: Is that right? So you were here when they built the library. Neat.

Peggy Hall: Yeah, yeah. Oh that was exciting because they, the, when you're first here if you wanted a book out of the library you had to find out what building it was in and go track it down. They tended to group 'em, you know.

Tracy Rolls: Right.
Peggy Hall: The Physics books were in the Physics building and so forth but that didn't hold absolutely and, uh, so that was always, that was a really challenging way to find your –

Tracy Rolls: I guess.

Peggy Hall: assignments. Then, uh, then the great day when they moved the books into the Fondren Library was, it was really exciting and fun. Oh they built the stadium too there. That was, uh, that was fun too. We were, we, we won all the football games then.

Tracy Rolls: So you used to go to the games?

Peggy Hall: Oh yes. Oh yes.

Tracy Rolls: That was part of college life?

Peggy Hall: Yeah, oh yeah. That was exciting and fun. Of course coming out of girls' school you didn't have –

Tracy Rolls: Right.

Peggy Hall: anything like that. The other side of that though is that I was in the orchestra in school and I came down. I was all excited and wanted to join a band. I'd never been in a band. I thought that'd be fun because I was a percussionist.

Tracy Rolls: Uh huh.

Peggy Hall: The drummers –

Tracy Rolls: Sure.

Peggy Hall: always have to be in the band –

Tracy Rolls: Right.

Peggy Hall: and gee whiz, well if you had to leave the campus at 6 then you couldn't be in the band because they rehearsed in one of the, uh, dorms or something like that and so, that was that and I remarked about it again to a friend 'cause he was **** things that I was, things shift. You know, they say oh, you can't be in the band because you're a woman and you have, we meet on the campus and so you said oh, okay and turned around and walked away and that was like –

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: it was nothing to discuss or debate or not even a real sense that there was anything wrong with this. It was just that's how it was and –

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.
Peggy Hall: - I think now, now I think wow. Young women today don't take no for an answer that readily and may still not, may not have much more luck with it but at least they know there's something wrong with this picture and, uh, but anyhow. No, the games were a lot of fun and, um.

Tracy Rolls: You mentioned that your friendships you had –

Peggy Hall: Mm hmm.

Tracy Rolls: - up, they were a group of people that you associated with.

Peggy Hall: Mm.

Tracy Rolls: I was wondering if you stayed in contact with any of those people.

Peggy Hall: Yes. Mm hmm. Most, uh, most all of 'em. Um, I write **** once a year at Christmastime.

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: A couple of them were here in Houston. There's a chum with me today and, um, she signed up for this. Um, another little side effect of that and again at the time it didn't, I remembered thinking when I first came to this campus now this is your chance. You've gotta do something entirely new and different; something you've never done before.

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: And I saw a notice that said there would be a fencing club forming at the gym and if you wanted to join that, you know, or participate come on down there and do that. So I took up fencing and, uh, absolutely, now that was completely new and different. I had no idea what I was getting into. Had a wonderful time with that. Got to, we, there was actually a little trio of women and, and we competed against some other colleges and other clubs. There were, ev, everything was informal. There were no organizations or campus sanction hood or anything. We were not part of the athletic department –

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: - and again I just thought it was fun and wonderful and so forth and **** to come back on anniversaries, you know, I find that I'm not part of the R Association. I can't go along, you know, we were, it never even entered our minds that we would letter -

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: - you know, uh, in this activity or that anybody, any woman ever did, you know, and I, that was another one of these things that it just never occurred to us that there was
anything wrong with this picture until, you know, 20 or 30 years later and I thought gee, well
that'd be kind of fun to have a letter from Rice –

Tracy Rolls: Right. Have some recognition –

Peggy Hall: - yeah. I, I did it for four years.

Tracy Rolls: - that's an accomplish. Sure.

Peggy Hall: You know, so I was very, uh, active and enjoyed it, um, very much. We traveled
and did various **** things, but you know. Again, it, it's, it's really kind of, um, a, a concrete
example of what they talk about when they say consciousness raising and so much of what we
did, you know, in the 40s and 50s and if you will right up until the 70s; you just did it
unconsciously. You did not challenge these things. It was just how life was and then when you
came together with other women and began to examine the situation and then took it out of the
recesses of your brain and brought it up to your forebrain, if you will, and started thinking
actively and openly about these things and then you'd go wow, you know, this isn't quite the way
it should be and so your consciousness is raised and you begin to become an activist.

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: Which is what I also did in the 70s.

Tracy Rolls: Really? As a feminist activist or?

Peggy Hall: Oh absolutely yes.

Tracy Rolls: What were you doing? What kinds of things were you engaged in?

Peggy Hall: Uh, I formed a, I was one of the charter members of an N-O-W chapter in
Houston which was also the first one in Texas. So we go back a long ways.

Tracy Rolls: Wow.

Peggy Hall: And that's when, I've stayed active in that.

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: So 20, I've got 25 years of marching and picketing and petitioning, meeting and
doing all the things necessary to be an activist. So I'm, and I've enjoyed that very much. I really
have.

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: So, the, uh, the education. I, I've also figured that out. You know, I wasn't
making good grades. I wasn't making, you know, absorbing great, huge amounts of the
curriculum but as I got older and met other people from other schools I found out well when I was learning 40 and 50 percent of the material presented to me I was still ahead of other people who were making As and Bs in the other colleges everywhere because I'm, I'm always amazed at how much I did learn that doesn't show up on the transcript but, you know –

Tracy Rolls: Right.

Peggy Hall: - I absorbed huge quantities of information, enjoyed most all of it, and you know, had, had an immediate application form for **** it was all good fun and I enjoyed –

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: - the academics very much.

Tracy Rolls: Did you have to take a wide range of courses back then or could, did you have more focused.

Peggy Hall: No, they were, they were fairly circumscribed.

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: You know, again that switching majors from, from pre-med to, uh, uh, it took me out of the Science Engineering track and then put me back over in the Humanities track. So all you had to do, I told other people, you know, Rice's idea of an elective was whether you took French or Spanish or German, you know, there was this whole smorgasbord of choices for you and, uh, no. It was, uh, you know, you had to take two Column A and two from Column B and one from Column C which was two literature and two history, sociology –

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: - kinds of things. **** have sociology, psych and then one lab science. We had to do that every year.

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: So if you did that you wound up with a good education and that was all there was to that. It didn't matter how much you kicked and fought against it; you learned a lot. So, uh, and the other thing, I don't know if it, if anybody brought it out at the time or I don't even know what the situation is now but whatever you started out with in September that's what you were doing in June. There really were no semester courses and that's why amongst my friends if you flunked anything then you had to go one entire new year.

Tracy Rolls: You had to go a full year. I see. I didn't quite –

Peggy Hall: Mm hmm.
Tracy Rolls: - follow you before when you said that.

Peggy Hall: Yeah.

Tracy Rolls: I mean I, you said you were flunking questions right and left. I figured wow, she must have flunked a lot of courses to have to take a whole year's worth of semesters –

Peggy Hall: No, I only –

Tracy Rolls: - but I can see why.

Peggy Hall: - I actually only had to pick up two, two more courses.

Tracy Rolls: Oh, but you were just required to stay ****.

Peggy Hall: As long as I was there and it was free still so, you know, I took four or five and had a good time, but, uh.

Tracy Rolls: Well on a **** there'd be so much school going on but I guess ****.

Peggy Hall: Well that's if, you know, for your purpose of your history that was the other thing we did. We had classes Monday, Wednesday, Friday –

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: - or Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and there was no, they were all in the morning. So you had that advantage if you will and then the labs were all in the afternoon. So all very cut and dried.

Tracy Rolls: Hmm.

Peggy Hall: But, uh, I had a class until 1:00 on Saturday one year.

Tracy Rolls: So you were ready to go out that night.

Peggy Hall: Oh yes. Yes. Let's get out of here. So I get on to, you know, later on in my life I went into other schools and took other things and this idea of taking an hour and a half on Tuesdays and Thursdays –

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: - I thought was really neat. I liked that a lot better than the Tuesday, Thurs, Thursday, Saturday mornings and I also came back, uh, for a year of post-grad work if I could figure out what year it was. In the '50s, um, I married and had a child and again I kind of couldn't earn a living too effectively so it came back to take the work to get a teaching certificate
because I thought that would be a really neat way to earn a living and did all of that and got pregnant –

Tracy Rolls:  Mm hmm, with your second child?

Peggy Hall:  - but, uh, with a second child, yeah.

Tracy Rolls:  Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall:  So I, I only taught one semester and, and ****, but um, coming back onto the campus, um, older and, and a little more focused, um, I did better work –

Tracy Rolls:  Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall:  - and enjoyed it and Rice at, at that time, and I don't know again how it is now, it didn't have anything much in the way of education but, uh, most of the psych courses applied and ****. It was really neat. I enjoyed that as a requirement and, um.

Tracy Rolls:  And you took these courses to get certified to teach?

Peggy Hall:  Teach yeah. Mm hmm and, uh.

Tracy Rolls:  They have an Education Department now. I –

Peggy Hall:  Do they? Yeah.

Tracy Rolls:  - am not a part of it. I've never taken courses or anything but I know that the students here who do want to go into secondary education –

Peggy Hall:  Mm hmm.

Tracy Rolls:  - have a full, like you said, curriculum of –

Peggy Hall:  Oh.

Tracy Rolls:  - courses they have to teach; the History of Education –

Peggy Hall:  Mm.

Tracy Rolls:  - um, Methodology, uh –

Peggy Hall:  Yeah.

Tracy Rolls:  - and practicums; all sorts of different requirements that they have.
Peggy Hall: Well at the time I thought it was sort of, you know, unfortunate that Rice didn't offer it because –

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: - if you, if you educated a, a generation or two of public school teachers, you know, you've had quite an impact on the community and as it was most of the guys that were, you know, in the Athletics Department and the PE majors; they would get certified –

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: - through these courses. They'd kind of move them up together and made a patchwork major out of it so they could get certificates to coach **** I got in on some of that but, uh, I thought well this isn't good, you know. We shouldn't have, let the University of Houston take over all of those, uh, training facilities but, uh. So it's good to hear that there is a –

Tracy Rolls: There is an official ****.

Peggy Hall: - official Education Department. In music and media –

Tracy Rolls: Like all sorts of wonderful things.

Peggy Hall: - all kinds of things, yeah.

Tracy Rolls: I take it you live here in town now?

Peggy Hall: Yes, ma'am. Mm hmm.

Tracy Rolls: So do you ever come to any of the Sheppard School functions?

Peggy Hall: Not really, no.

Tracy Rolls: A lot of them are free to the public and they are outstanding. You should come to a program.

Peggy Hall: Oh I know, I know what it is and, uh, I would, uh. I'm not that interested in classical music so –

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm. Okay.

Peggy Hall: - I, I've been Hanlon Hall for, you know, a few of the performances there. I like that. I follow the Rice Players –

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.
Peggy Hall: - more closely than the music school but anyhow. It's, yeah well I, I keep one eye on the campus to see what's going on because it's, uh, it's fun to come back yeah.

Tracy Rolls: Did either one of your children go to school here?

Peggy Hall: No.

Tracy Rolls: No? Tuition wasn't free then, right?

Peggy Hall: No, it's not free and none of them were good enough students to, to come so they, they weren't either interested or it was not an option for them, you know so.

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: They went off in all other directions, but they all, at the moment, happen to all live in Houston too. So that's kind of neat.

Tracy Rolls: Yeah, nice for you.

Peggy Hall: Yeah, so. Anyhow.

Tracy Rolls: Well let me see.

Peggy Hall: Anything else we need to go over?

Tracy Rolls: Uh, well let me ask you this. This is a question that I like on this sheet and maybe you feel like you've already an, answered it, but if you had to be specific what would you say was the most important thing that you learned about life here while you were at Rice?

Peggy Hall: Hmm.

Tracy Rolls: Or what did you not learn that you wish you had while you were here? Can you, take some time if you need to and think about that.

Peggy Hall: Well clearly the, the, the best part has, has always been the fact that, you know, I mean, I would say between six and all the way up to ten friends, not all of them that I stay in close contact with but, you know, most of, most of us have stayed close all these years and, uh, that's certainly worthwhile.

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall: I mean, you have friends for 40 years that, however you, uh, managed to get through the academics then you came out with something to, to hang onto and, you know, some of it I can see from listening to the other women here today that it would have been nice to have a little bit more of an idea that you could earn, okay, you know go out and earn a living afterwards.
Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.

Peggy Hall:

Tracy Rolls: Although there's good arguments for not using college for that purpose. But as long as you're gonna invest four or five years of your life, and now thousands of dollars of money, you ought to be able to at least sustain yourself afterwards and not kinda fall into it.

Peggy Hall: Mm hmm. When you say that, I mean, I agree with you, I'm just curious to know whether you think that that oughta come in the form of better advising or, uh, were they, were businesses not recruiting on campus, or did you just feel like –

Tracy Rolls: They just came after the engineers.

Peggy Hall: – mm hmm.

Tracy Rolls: You know when, uh, they did that. I think advising is probably about as much as you can do for an undergraduate. If someone sat down and told me, you know, gee, you better think about earning a living the rest of your life, I probably wouldn't have paid much attention to them.

Peggy Hall: Mm hmm.

Tracy Rolls: Uh, but I might've. That, it, –

Peggy Hall: Right.

Tracy Rolls: – it shouldn't have come as a big surprise to me like it did.

Peggy Hall: Oh me too. I called it the crash course of adulthood.

Tracy Rolls: Yeah, right. Now in my case, of course, the death of my father, which cut off my aid financially, and I did need some financial aid, that was a crash course too. So I scrambled and, and, um, got jobs and learned a lot about paying rent and –

Peggy Hall: Mm hmm. Acting professionally.

Tracy Rolls: – right, yeah, –

Peggy Hall: And being responsible.

Tracy Rolls: – and having to be there on time and a few things like that.

Peggy Hall: Uh huh.
Tracy Rolls: Uh, so I did learn it but I just, and it wasn't necessarily through the auspices of Rice. But, you know, this idea of, uh, if you're majoring in psychology then someone needs to tell you straight off that, you know, you're not gonna get anywhere unless you do graduate work with it.

Peggy Hall: Mm hmm.

Tracy Rolls: And, um, and this is how you do the graduate work; this is what's out there for you, you know, uh, or the teaching certificate, you know, that's a, –

Peggy Hall: Mm hmm.

Tracy Rolls: – a useful tool to carry around with you. And when I was in high school you were supposed to learn shorthand and typing and I didn't wanna do that, so that's how I warm up in those restaurants in there sometimes, because, um, and wound up in labs, which I truly enjoy. But again, it was all kind of unfocused and random and, –

Peggy Hall: Mm hmm.

Tracy Rolls: – just because that's my learning style. Doesn't mean that's the way I needed to start employment, although I dunno. Almost worked out just as well probably. I, I think that whole shift into, you know, the college system probably is the, the neatest thing that's happened, you know, –

Peggy Hall: Mm hmm.

Tracy Rolls: – since I was here. And then the idea of having more interaction with the faculty and some people to turn and talk to is, again, they were talking about the literary societies this morning and so, you know, when we were there they were just sororities, they were just make-believe sororities. Um, it never had anything to do with literature and so forth, and I wasn't in one, so I didn't have that social contact. But other young women, not very many women came from out of state or out of the city, because there was no dorms or anyplace to be.

Peggy Hall: Mm hmm.

Tracy Rolls: But the, the lit societies did give you, you know, a body of friends and acquaintances to kinda tighten together and give you some base to, to work from; people to know.

Peggy Hall: Yeah.

Tracy Rolls: And a lot of those women lived in Houston, so sometimes I got to know the families of a couple of friends –

Peggy Hall: Mm hmm.
Tracy Rolls: – that way. The women who had women friends. They, they had family. In a way it was good, but, um, anyhow the, the whole college system, as I understand it, you know, kind of is there more for the students than, than the **** that we experienced.

Peggy Hall: Mm hmm. I can't believe that you weren't even living on campus.

Tracy Rolls: Oh no.

Peggy Hall: That's amazing.

Tracy Rolls: I never lived in a dorm.

Peggy Hall: Mm hmm.

Tracy Rolls: That's, I mean, I wound up going through my entire life without ever living in a dormitory.

Peggy Hall: Lucky you.

Tracy Rolls: Well, so I've been told.

Peggy Hall: Right.

Tracy Rolls: But yeah, but it's, you know, it's like guys who've never been in the service, you know, so oh gee, you missed it. :But how bad is it?

Peggy Hall: Mm hmm.

Tracy Rolls: So that answer your question?

Peggy Hall: I think so. Is there anything else that you'd like to say about your experience at all?

Tracy Rolls: No I think that's fine.

Peggy Hall: Well I'm so glad that I had the opportunity –

Tracy Rolls: Yeah.

Peggy Hall: – to speak with you. See, I learned something new.

Tracy Rolls: Mm hmm.