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Statement by Margaret Ann (Peggy) Pottle collected by Joan Uranek on July 22, 2014

Margaret Ann Pottle

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General Information

Private or Public Statement? - Private

Statement Provider: Margaret Ann (Peggy) Pottle

Date: July 22, 2014

Location: Sipayik, ME

Previous Statement? No

Statement Gatherer: Joan Uraneck

Support Person: Denise Altvater

Additional Individuals Present: Rachel George

Recording Format: Video

Length of Recording: 00:38:06

Recording

JU: Okay so this is S- file number 201407-00040. And the date is July 22, 2014. And Peggy is going to be giving her statement. Um and present are me Joan Uraneck, statement gatherer, say your name—

DA: Denise Altvater.

JU: Denise Altvater.

RG: Rachel George, Research Coordinator.

JU: Mm, Okay, um.

RG: Peggy, would you mind stating your full name, just for the record?

MP: Um, Margaret Ann Pottle.

RG: Thank you.

JU: Um, okay, so, we are recording in—

RG: Pleasant Point.

JU: Pleasant Point. Okay. I didn't know whether we have to do home?

RG: Nope.

JU: Nope, Pleasant Point, okay.

JU: Um so, have you been informed of and understand and signed the consent form?

MP: Yes.

JU: And, have you been advised, I don't think I did this, that any information disclosed that indicates a child umm, is in need of protection or there is an imminent risk of death or serious bodily injury to an identifiable person, or group, including yourself, may not be protected as confidential?

MP: Yes.

JU: Alright, um so, um, I just want to thank you for coming forward. And um, feel free to take as long as you would like and cover whatever feels important to you.

MP: Mhm.

JU: And um, I guess that's it.

MP: Okay. I'll start from the beginning. I think I was a year old when I was removed from the reservation here from my mother's, my biological mother's home. At first, I was placed with my aunt Angela Barnes in Pembroke, Maine. And, um was there for not very long because the day I was taken from her, in placed in this woman's care, in Trenton, Maine. I believe that is where it was in Trenton, Maine. I can remember the day that I was removed and the woman, the state lady that took me. When we came up off the road, by the crossroads there and got on to Route One, I remember her pulling over because I was in the passenger seat and I was crying uncontrollably because I did not want to leave my aunt obviously. And she pulled over and I can remember that she held me. She unbuckled me and held me and she cried with me. I remember this. She was a nice lady. So...

[00:03:15.18]

JU: And how old were you, excuse me.

MP: I think I was probably about—I was young, I wasn't a little baby, I was a toddler. I was probably three, four maybe. Anyway, I wasn't in school yet, I know that. So, she continued on and took me to this woman's home. While, when we got there, a lot of it is vague. I don't remember how to get there, nothing. But when we got there, the lady was very nice. You know, she had two children of her own, a boy and a girl. They were older. I want to say they



were, I was that young, so they were probably like nine, eight or nine years old. So, they um, I had this stuffed animal and it was a monkey with a banana in its hand and that was my toy. It comforted me and everything and when the lady finally left, you know, her niceness went right away, the lady. And so, the abuse started right away. Yeah, and she took my monkey from me that day and I never saw it again until the day I left there.

So, anyways, um okay, so. I don't how long I was there but for the most part that I was there, the husband was very nice and he knew nothing of what she did to me cause when he came home from work in the evening, I can remember him holding me and I felt very safe with him. Um, I remember him, I vaguely remember him trying to teach me to tie my shoes so I was at that age to try to tie my shoes. And um nothing was ever talked about what had been done to me during the day because she threatened me and you know I was a little girl and I was very afraid. Anything I did that was not to her liking, I was punished. [00:04:59.25]

Um, she would, she had, I think that she sold um, Avon or some type of cosmetic because she would take me with her during the day and um, she would leave me in the car when she went into these homes, and I would have to pee. She'd be in there so long, I'd have to pee and I couldn't hold it anymore and so, so that I didn't pee on her seats, I got down on the rubber mat on the floor. I knew to do this because I was afraid of her. And, I would wet myself. Well, when she would finally come out of the house and she would see that I wet myself, you know, she would be very angry and she would be telling me the whole time I was driving and I was still sitting on the floor because I wasn't to get up, that wait till I get you home, you know you're gonna pay for that, and this and this.

And what she would do, was she would fill the bathtub up with cold water and she'd set me in the tub and to this day, I am scared of water. I don't swim. And, if anybody was to walk by me with water on their hands and go like that (*hand flicking motion*), just joking around, I get very angry, very quickly. And, my kids found that out very young, you know and I didn't mean to do that to them, it's just that it was a reaction to this fear. [00:06:14.17]

Anyway, um so I am sitting in the tub and I had to keep my head up like this (chin pointing upwards). The water was right up to here (hand motion to show water just below chin reaching upwards). Because if I rested and put my face down, I would have drowned. So, I don't, I don't know how long she kept me in the cold water but it was a long time. And she would also put something up my butt. I don't know what it was, for punishment if I poo, I think it was if I pooped. I had an accident. And this was all done when she was in these houses, you know, in there forever. I know it was a long time. So, and I don't know what she injected in my butt but it was very painful, I remember that and I remember being made to lay over the cover of the toilet while she did this to me. Um, um I am sorry (*starts to cry, sighing and pause*). Um, then she started walking me to the attic, in her attic, um and it wasn't an attic where you walk up the stairs and open the door. It was a door in the ceiling and it went up like that (*sniffing and a*

pause). And um. And so I was placed in the attic. It was very musty. I don't like attics to this day. Don't like the smell of it. um... sigh... so...

I was placed in this attic and there was nothing there to play with, you know. It was very dark, very dusky. And um, there was one window at the end of the building, after she put the door down. Now she brought me meals. I think I had one meal when I was up there all day. It was tuna fish and it was on a paper plate. And maybe a glass of milk, half a glass of milk. And um, to this day, I hate tuna fish, don't eat tuna fish. And um, so I would go to the window and I would hear noise down below in the house, outside the house and she had these big aluminum trash cans with the big covers and I would press my face against the window so I could look down there. And, I saw this raccoon and um I loved waiting for this raccoon to come because it was my entertainment. You know and um this raccoon would play in the trash and I found it very amusing. [00:08:29.27]

Um, I was afraid in the attic because it would get dark. Um one time, I climbed, I put some things together and climbed up because there was a bigger window up top somehow. It was higher. But, I wanted to see what I could see out that window. So, I put some things together, climbed up on there, and she was taking her boy and girl to the beach, down to the shore, to take them for a picnic... (*sniffling*), because they had a picnic basket. And, I was watching them walk through the field to go to the shore and wondering why I couldn't go because I hadn't done anything wrong, you know. So, umI remember how that felt, thinking, "what did I do?" You know? [00:09:12.21]

And I was always trying, even at that young age, trying not to make her mad and really I don't think I ever did anything, you know. Um and I don't know, she always brought me out before he came home. Um, I can remember being hit but I don't think she ever made a mark on me because he would see, you know. And I can remember this woman, the state woman, would come back and she would um, just to check on me I guess, to see if everything was going okay and she always told me when she was coming and that if I ever said anything to her or cried out to her or anything that what, everything that was being done to me would be worse.

Um, I think she had a motel and cabins, okay, and think that, that part of her house was never used. Um, it was just closed up for some reason. And, when she wouldn't put me in the attic, she kept me in a room at the back of the house. And, um and I don't think the door was ever locked, maybe it was. I don't, I never tried it out of fear. And, I was telling Denise this morning that I can remember sitting on the bed and I can remember smelling the air come in through the window. The curtain was blowing. It was summertime. The wind was blowing the curtain. I was right, I was on the first floor, I mean I could have opened the screen and stepped right outside and I was just so young and so fearful that I didn't know what was, where was I gonna go? So, I remember once running away from her outside. And, she had these big trees in the yard that the boughs went right to the ground. So, I remember crawling underneath the boughs and hiding on her and I can see her running around hollering for me and I wouldn't answer her because I was afraid of her. And she kept saying that if she found me, if I didn't come out, if I didn't yell to her and...(*cough*). [00:11:10.13]



And, um, I think that and I was thinking about this awhile ago because everything is very vague. Um, she also fed me in that room out back. She'd bring me on a tray. She'd bring me my tuna fish. I remember I liked it better in the back of the house because it wasn't the attic (*laughter*), you know I thought that was better than being in the attic.

There was neighbors that lived across, through the field and the woman had a little girl and I think that occasionally I was allowed to play with her. Um and I don't know if I ran over there, you know, to get away from her and said something to them that prompted this state lady to come. I don't know if this lady said something. I don't know how it came about but she, eventually, she came back, the state lady.

This one day she came back. And, um, I can just remember everything inside of me wanting to yell out to her (*voice breaking*), "Don't leave me here, don't go without me." And, um, I was just at the point that I think I thought if she hurts me she'll hurt but I don't want her to leave without me, today. So, I cried out to her and she stopped. And the lady, tried to, I remember her trying to tell her, "Oh, she's just acting out and da da da..." And thank god she paid attention to it. Because when she left that day, she took me with her. [00:12:27.29]

And um, I remember how she treated her children too, by the way. Her children were treated so much nicer than me. Um, I can remember her making comments about me being Indian and you know, "I was not good and this and this." You know. Um (*sniffing...sigh*) and so um I don't know what her husband ever said about when he came home that day and I wasn't there but I mean I don't know what, how she covered that all up but anyway.

The day I was leaving with this woman, I remember getting into the car with her and she was telling this woman how she would hear from them and this and this. I mean it's all vague but she came running out of the house and she had my monkey in her hand. And she goes, " Oh wait, you can't .. she's gotta have this, she loves this. This is her favorite animal. She can't sleep without it. She's gotta have it all the time." And I had never seen it since the day I got there. I thought she, I don't know what she did with it. She burned it? What she did with it until that day. I can remember holding it and saying "Ah". I was happy, you know. So, that's basically all I remember. I know it doesn't sound like a lot but it went on for god knows how long! So, all these years, I've just, all of these years, always felt like um I um I um wanted to know who she was. I had these visions of going to her house someday and knocking on her door. I would play, I played this out in my head and I ask her, you know, "Are you so-and-so?" Because I can't see the woman's face. I have no idea what she looks like in my mind at all. And that when she'd tell me her name, I'd reached out and grab her by the throat and just choke the life right out of her, you know, until she stopped breathing. I pictured this, okay. [00:14:20.06] Um, so, then I go back to my aunt's house. And everything's fine for awhile and then my uncle started sexual abusing me.

RG: How old were you when you left?

MP: When I left the home?

RG: The foster home, yeah in Trenton.

MP: I don't know, honey.

RG: That's okay.

MP: I don't remember.

RG: That's okay.

MP: But, I do know it was before I started kindergarten, before I was in the first grade, I know that. Um, I was telling someone else this over the years that I can remember, I think that when the abuse started. It probably started way before this, my memory, but I was like ten years old, you know. And, we had just moved from Pembroke to Eastport. And, uh, I can remember just laying in bed at night and um, my bedroom was on the third floor and the house would be quiet and dark and I would lay in bed and take the covers and pull them up (*hand gestures showing pulling blanket right up under chin*) under my neck and just listen for his footsteps to come up over those stairs because I knew what was coming. You know, can you imagine the anticipation, laying there knowing that it's coming and there's nothing I could do about it.

And I never ever revealed this to my aunt and I'll tell you why. Because I know what happened when I got taken from my aunt the first time. You know, in this home, the abuse and so, I wouldn't allow that to happen. And, so, I never ever said anything, until I was like in my thirties to my aunt. But the day, that I did say something to her and it was on the phone and I said to her, "I need you to tell me that you did not know all those years what your husband was doing to me." You know, what should have been some of the best years of my young, my teenage life. I mean, he took from me. He took something from me that can never be replaced. That should have been a wonderful thing and he turned it into just this terrible thing. You know, ah (sigh). [00:16:07.04]

And I always felt like I was the only one he did it to, like I was singled out, you know. I know now that that's not true (*sniffing*). And not because I've asked Franny or Angel or any of 'em but my, a counselor of mine, in Lewiston, Roy Estabrook said to me one day. He said, "Have you ever asked the other girls?" And I said, "No, no." And he said, "Why?" And I said because I just haven't told anybody, you know. And he goes, "I think that'd you find that they don't just do it to one person, Peggy." I didn't know that, you know. Even as an adult, I didn't know that. Um, so um, and he told me how he set the stage at me at a very young age of how I would be, how I would, um, look for love from men or attention from men and it was so true. I became very promiscuous at such a young because I felt like that's how people showed love to me, um, and thank god I never got pregnant. I don't know how I never did but thank god. I never had my first child until I was twenty-one.



But, I always heard from my aunt that I would end up pregnant before I graduated high school. I was very angry about that, you know (*voice breaking*). Because I felt like saying, you know, she call me a little tramp and stuff, and I'd say to her , she would tell the police, they' d pick me up and bring me home, "I don't know why she won't stay home," and I'd be upstairs listening to this. Because she sent me to my room and I would be listening up the top of the stairs and I would be thinking I wanted to run right downstairs and say, "Tell your fucking husband to keep his friggin hands off me and I won't run away." You know. [00:17:44.18]

But, I couldn't do that because I would be taken away. And that's where I felt the safest and I know that sounds crazy because of what was going on but anything but I guess that seemed better than what I through as a child. Um, so I got involved in everything I could think of as a teenager, chorus and band, and girl scouts, and you name it. I was involved in it, because anything to keep me out of that house. I think I spent more time at the Banes's residence than I did at my own because anything to be out of that house and away from him. Um, so um I think I was very angry because when the man died and I came home from Augusta to um, for my aunt, not for him, for my aunt. And, she made me go in that room with him where he was in bed and to talk to him and he had made amends to some of the people in his family, his sons and so forth. And I thought, "Oh, this is it. He is going to tell me sorry." You know. That never happened. All I got was a pat on the top of a hand (*pats her own hand*) and he looked me in the eye. And, I thought to myself, I was very angry about that because I thought, "What was that?" You know. [00:18:53.23]

Anyway, so um, because of all this stuff that happened, like the thing with the water thing. I mean I hate anything cold on me. I mean, if someone came up behind me and put their hand, their cold hand up the back of shirt as a joke, I would be furious. I mean furious, just like in seconds I'd be furious. And, ah little things like that because of things that had been done to me. Um and I became very angry. Ah, I developed, um I have all these labels, I have panic disorder, anxiety, I have um, borderline personality disorder. I have all these different disorders. I have just got a, I could probably make you a list a mile long of all these different disorders. And I am alcoholic and I'm a drug addict.

Because, I found early on, that when I got high and when I drank, you know, those bad feelings went away. And, I liked that. So, I became very addicted at a very young age. I found the things that became an escape for me, you know, anything so I didn't have to feel that hurt. And the guilt. Oh my god, I felt so guilty! Because I didn't know what I'd done, ever, to deserve any of that (*crying*). And I've been married five times. You know, and all of those men except for one were abusive to me. You know, I took beatings and I was beat to an inch of my life. And, I'd go back because there was apart of me, somewhere, that felt like that was all I deserved. I didn't deserve any type of normalcy or any happiness (*pauses, crying*).

And I still feel like that today. It took me a long time to be with me and just be alone and not feeling like I needed somebody in my life, a male figure. And, I don't need that today, because I just don't. And I know it but it took me years to get to that realization. And I still fight with my addiction, you know. I'm doing well because I am in recovery with ah I go to the methadone clinic. There's just so much that, I just feel like I was robbed of a lot of things because of this abuse. And, I never ever been able to get past it; never, not even to this day, obviously very upsetting to me. I cry about it today, just when I am alone and I think about it. And, I ask myself, "why?" I pray. Oh my god. I am so spiritual 'cause I think that's the only thing that's ever gotten me as far as I've gotten today has been my faith. That's all I had was my faith. You know. [00:21:45.17]

I am really upset right now because I don't have my bible. I've never been without my bible. Never. And, I was thinking today, oh my god I've got to get a bible somewhere. I don't have one. Because I get comfort when I can read my bible but I just don't have one, for some reason I don't have one now. Anyway, I um, I um, basically when I heard Denise telling her story I thought, 'Oh my god, I know exactly what she's talking about', about being, I think she tied me up too but I don't really remember. Its like I don't what's real and what isn't sometimes. Like I said, I have these memories and I don't know if it's something I've made up and Roy Estabrook again told me, "Children don't make up things like that, Peggy." You now. It was very painful, you know, um, to trust somebody enough to let them know this was going on, even as an adult. Um, because I knew if I talked about it, what were they going to do with that? You know? How are they gonna hurt me with that? You know what I mean? Everybody was out to hurt me, always, you know. A big conspiracy. It was awful. I didn't trust anybody. You know. It's hard to trust.

Um, medications and just more treatment facilitates than you can imagine for recovery and um, therapists and counselors and um, I could probably be a counselor myself (*laughing*). You know but, I mean...And, sometimes, I felt like, 'Oh finally.' I started journaling and that helped me. I had stacks of journals, just.. And I don't do that anymore. I like that when I journal but now I am just rambling on but I just can't, there's not a lot more to it, than what I've told you that I can remember. Um, but it's enough that it's made shambles of my life. It stopped me from having a lot of happiness and success at anything (*starts crying*) 'cause I looked for happiness in so many different ways and never found it. And, I think the only peace I am ever gone have is when I die. I really truly believe that it's when it will end, when the pain will stop. That's about it. [00:24:22.19]

RG: Do you mind if I ask you a couple of questions?

MP: Yes, sure (*wipes tears off face*).

RG: Um, first of all, I think you are incredibly strong for feeling like you can sit and talk with people you don't know with what has happened. And you are very, very brave.

MP: Thank you.



RG: And I feel really honored to be sitting here with you. I am wondering what, thinking back to when you were little, what you would have wanted or needed to have made the situation better for you?

MP: What I would have wanted or needed?

RG: Umhm.

MP: To be protected. I mean when you are little like that, you don't, you can't protect yourself, you know. All you have are the adult figures in your life and you think that those are the people that nurture you and keep you safe and that's not what I found (*shaking head*). I think my aunt tried to protect me as much as she could. You know, I was very angry at her for the longest time because I felt like she knew that this was going on for so long and why didn't she do anything to stop it. Well, Roy Estabrook, again said to me, "Did you ever stop and think that maybe she was afraid of him too, Peggy?" You know? And, I thought about that and the ways he would talk to her and treat her and I get it that yeah, she was probably afraid of him too. Um, and I don't there was anything she probably could have done to stop him. You know. Because she would have been abused I'd bet. You know. I know that when she took off, she was alcoholic also, but she binge drank and when she would leave him and come out to the Point to drink for days, she would never leave me with him, never, or Franny or Angel. She took us all with her out to the Point and she, for however long she'd be out there, there or four days drinking until he came and got her and made her go home. You know. Or when she wanted— was done drinking and then went home. Then it was like, 'Oh no, now were all going back to that place.' You know what I mean. [00:26:29.20]

But um, yeah excuse me. Um, I just feel like I loved her. You know. I loved her and I didn't want to leave her and so I tolerated, I took what I took and kept my mouth shut for years. I don't think that, I mean it was never talked about in the schools either, you know you didn't talk about things like that. It was all swept under the carpet. You know, back in the day, so. I mean if they talked about it like they talk about it in the schools now, in elementary school, at ten year's old, I'd been on top of my desk with both arms flailing, like, "Hey! this is happening to me!" You know. But, it was never talked about. So...(sigh) If they talked that way they do with kids today, I think it would have been different. You know what I mean. That's, I guess, all I have to say about that. And maybe, and that people that did have a thought about it, I mean even suspected somebody was abusing their child sexually, or any way, I would be so all over that, you know what I mean. I don't care if the child is mine or not. I just, I would feel like if I didn't open my mouth and say something, that I would never forgive myself. I couldn't do it.

You know, I just wonder how many people knew that, when it was being done to me and just turned a blind eye or a deaf ear you know what I mean. It was probably pretty damn obvious to some people. I mean, I remember walking up the street when I get done hanging out with my

friends and walking up Washington St. and looking over my shoulder. I was telling Denise, every time I heard a car come, I would look over my shoulder, because I was scared to death it'd be him. 'Cause he always pulled over and he made me get in the car and he never took me home. Never. It was just always out in some spot in the bushes somewhere, just nasty, terrible shit. You know. That I wouldn't wish on any child. [00:28:30.20]

JU: Well, I am, I am just so sorry to hear.

MP: I don't feel like I have said much of anything really but...

JU: Oh! Your whole life, from your whole childhood and your whole adult life you have experienced so much trauma.

MP: Yup

JU: And abuse and pain.

MP: I was raped once by four men in a motorcycle club and I had a gun put in my mouth, up to, put to my head. That's the only way they know I would not fight back, is if they put the gun to my head. And do you know all four of those men died a terrible death. And I never did anything to any of them but they've all died, except for one. And my oldest son came home last November and he said, "Oh mom, I met a guy and he seems like such a really nice guy and he knows you," and I said, "Oh," and he said, " Yeah, he's a biker guy" and he says, he said his nickname and friggen—my heart won't stop because it's the fourth guy that's still alive. And, I looked at my son and he goes, "What's the matter mom?" and I said, "Greg, I need you to promise me that you will not befriend this man. He's not my friend," you know, and "he's not a good person." And I made him promise me that he would stay away from this guy. You know, because I said, and he wanted to know why and I wouldn't tell him. I just, know he's not my friend, Greg. And, I, just knowing that he was that close to my kid made me sick, telling him that, "Oh, I am a friend of your mother's" and you know it was like ah! You know. It's terrible stuff. [00:30:17.11]

Any person, any nice guy I did meet in my adulthood, I pushed away from me. I would, I created something to push them out of my life because I didn't feel like they deserved this. Like, they didn't understand and I'd be like, "Trust me, you don't want me. You need a nice woman. Just stay away from me." Or I would create a situation to make him hate me. I would do something, I would create something to make that person not even want to be around me. And I did that not just with men. I did it with women too; people that I liked. I made myself stay away from them because I didn't even want to entertain the thought that maybe I was supposed to have that type of happiness. And if you really knew who I was, you wouldn't like me (*crying*). If you knew any of this, you would not want to even be around me; like it was my fault. That guilt just eats you up inside.

It's a terrible thing. And I really wish for anybody that's going through it that they open their mouth and just reach out because there are people that will help you. I know this now but I didn't then. I was just a little girl. But even as a I got older, I knew it, but I was so full of fear and guilt by then that, you know, everything was my fault. I developed it; breasts at too young



of an age, I mean. It's just an awful feeling. I am scared to death of everything. I am afraid of everything but I put on an air that I am not but I am scared of everything. You know. I am. I am frightened of everything (*blows nose*). [00:32:20.04] And, when I think of what I put my kids through, oh my god! The drugs, the alcoholism and the anger. I've never ever abused my children. I've never even spanked my kids, probably when I should have I didn't (*laugh*), but you know what I mean. I just was so, I went out of my way to protect them from any type of bad person.

You know what I mean. To the point, where I mean I wouldn't even let my husband's mother watch my son, Francis. I wouldn't even leave him with his mother for more than a half hour at a time because I just didn't trust. You know, that was my mission, was to keep my babies safe. My kid's don't know about any of this. I haven't told my kids any of this. You know. Maybe someday I'll let them read my journals. (*Smile and laughs*) Maybe. (*Cough*) My faith, it's just such a—I can't tell you how it feels to tell somebody this stuff, you know what I mean. It hurts but at the same time, I feel like, 'ahh!' (*sigh*). It's like a breath of fresh air. It is. I didn't expect when I mentioned this to you this morning that it would happen so quickly, but I am, but you know, everything that happens, you know I told myself, 'Peggy, everything happens just the way it's supposed to happen. There's a reason why it happened so quickly and that it happened like this.' I accept that. I believe it. It was time. Yeah.

JU: Yea, I guess that would be my hope that this process would help you to find some relief

MP: Yeah.

JU: And some fresh air.

MP: And also, there were other people, men through my young teenage years, in my family, that sexually molested me, you know, um, uncles and—my uncles that did this to me, his sons. And not all of them but most of 'em. You know, tried and yeah. But like I said, I got very angry and very defiant and I ran away and I was put in reform school when I was fifteen years old and I felt, I was glad to be there. (*Laugh*) You know, it sounds terrible but I was there until I was almost eighteen, but I felt safe. I was locked up and nobody was going to hurt me anymore. Doesn't that sound terrible? [00:35:11.12]

RG: Is there anything else that you want to add?

MP: No, that's it. I think I am done. I feel very drained. (*Laughter*) I don't know how this was supposed to go but hopefully it was right. I don't know if there is any right or wrong but uh...

RG: No..

JU: No..

MP: Okay, dear.

JU: Yes, Thank you.

MP: You're welcome

RG: Thank you so much.

JU: Thank you for your really tremendous courage and strength that you have.

MP: I am my own worst enemy. I am my biggest. Ahh my god! Nobody can beat me up the way I can. You know what I mean? And, I've always done that for years. Even, when I was in recovery for the drugs and the alcohol. I went to a six-month half-way house for women in Western Mass. And, I completed the whole six-month program. The first thing I ever really completed by whole life (*laughs*). I felt really good about that. But, I mean when I first started sharing some of this stuff was with Janet Denman, she was the in-house counselor I had. Everybody got assigned a counselor and I wanted to take that woman with me when I moved out of that house, I mean, but.. She said, you know, she told me, she said, "You've always had this within yourself Peggy, you know, you just needed somebody to help you to, ah (*hands motion outwards and downwards*), to show you how to," she was like my mirror so to speak, like it was...But, she was right, you know, It was healing. It was healing.

But then, I'd go right back into this, you know, she always told me that when I dressed in black, there was something wrong. She was worried about me. You know because I could be such a lady and dress all up, really lady-like or else I could be this biker bitch from hell. I always put myself in with outlawed bike, bikers my whole life. Because that's just what I felt about myself, I guess. I don't know. But, she said you're like two different people. Roy Estabrook told me, he said, "I see you as this little boat in the middle of this ocean and there's a tremendous storm. He said this little boat just keeps going like this (*hand motions swaying side to side*) but it never capsizes."

JU: Yeah.

MP: And I sat there and I just looked at him and I was like, " I don't understand what you mean." And he was like, "Well, let's put it another way", he said, "okay there's this big cliff, a rock, a big rock," he says, " and there's this beautiful flower growing up from this rock." You know?

JU: Yup.

MP: And I kind of understood it more when he put it that way. I was like, "Oh, okay." You know (*laughs*)? I'm a survivor then. Uh okay (*laughs*).

Ju: Yeah! [00:37:47.18]

MP: I get that now.

JU: This is your paperwork. I am going to put my numbers..

MP: Okay, dear

JU: Alright, well thank you so much.

MP: Thank you for allowing me to share with you.

JU: Yeah.

MP: And, I hope that if it helps someday else, it was worth it.

JU: And what's your number

MP: Oh, 214...

[END OF RECORDING]