

Interview with Mary Johnson Lee

For Hum 2504: Intro to American Studies, Prof. Emily Satterwhite, Fall 2010

Occupation: Cashier at Dietrick Dining Center

Time and Place: October 14, 2010 4:00 pm - 4:45 pm Blacksburg Public Library

Interviewer: Joe Blaser Senior History Major from Frederick Maryland

MJL= Mary Johnson Lee

JB= Joe Blaser

JB: Alright, Mary if you don't mind will you please tell me your full name and your age?

MJL: Mary Johnson Lee, age 48.

JB: And uh your job title and the name of the organization that you work for?

MJL: Cashier, position at D2, which is Dietrick dining center.

JB: Uh, how long have you worked there?

MJL: Six years now. Six and a half years.

JB: And where do you live?

MJL: I live here in Blacksburg, Virginia.

JB: How do you like living in the town limits, with the school?

MJL: I really do like it.

JB: Yeah?

MJL: Summer time is quiet, you're able to maneuver more as far as the traffic and everything. But other than that I do like Blacksburg. It's really nice you meet a lot of new people, you know. The landscaping is beautiful. The properties are nice you know for investments and stuff. So yes I like it.

JB: Good. And uh, you just mentioned the summers and working at the school. The summers probably have an effect on your job. How do the summers and working at the school impact your job?

MJL: Well I don't work at the school during the summer. I am off mostly in the summer. I take the summers off.

JB: Very nice, that's enjoyable huh?

MJL: It is very enjoyable. When you say how do I like Blacksburg, when I said the summers it's because there are no students. Everything is pretty much on a stand still you know.

JB: Definitely

MJL: Because everybody is gone.

JB: Right, Right. Um, now earlier before we started the interview you said this is not where you're originally from and stuff like that.

MJL: That's true.

JB: Where are you originally from?

MJL: I am originally from Pulaski County.

JB: Ok so not too far?

MJL: Not too far.

JB: Um, What got you here to Blacksburg?

MJL: Well I was planning on moving to North Carolina so a friend said so why don't you go move to Blacksburg and I said well ok I will go and move to Blacksburg and that's what got me here. I didn't even think I would be parking here in Blacksburg cause we are so close as neighbors as far as Pulaski is over here and Blacksburg is over there.

JB: Right. Right. Ok. Um now how about growing up as a kid, what did your parents do for a living?

MJL: What did my parents do? Well my father he was in the military, my mother was a homemaker. And the summers were so great especially, playing with my neighbors, riding the bikes, swimming, making mud pies, playing house and stuff like this. So it was really nice.

JB: Good. Good. Um, now could you describe a typical day or a typical week in your job? I know with so many students you probably don't have a typical day cause you always meeting new people or interacting, but your routine, when you have to go to work, your hours.

MJL: OK my hours are 6:00 am to 2:30 pm. So I usually get up between 4 and 4:30 am to be to work by 6:00am.

JB: Wow

MJL: and my typical day starts off with me getting things pre-prepped for the breakfast and then getting things pre-prepped for lunch. But let me just go back to breakfast a little bit. We open our doors up at seven. The typical day starts around for me really around 4. But I go there I pre-prepare everything for the breakfast and get that already and then I have to cash till my drawer, I have to go and count my cash. Then I go to my station and I put my drawer and stuff in and then I start my day and I have to unlock the doors. Now during the lunch time, we shut down at 9:35 and then I go and pre-prepare the lunch items as well. And then of course I have my lunch between 10 and 1030. Then after that I go and make sure everything is kinda tidy up in the area, the windows and things like that, with the doors and stuff. I then have to unlock the doors of course again. Then eleven o'clock starts. Well sometimes they're there before eleven o'clock. They're there at 10:45 or no more than 10:50, so there might be one student at the top of the stairs so I will tell him or her, "hey, please hold my line for me" and if they pretty much know the situation there and pretty much know what I say or whatever they will say, "ok Mary we will hold the line for you" cause I have to go up and unlock the doors and someone has to be there and make sure no one is coming in you know without paying.

JB: So you are able to establish a relationship with some of the students?

MJL: Yes, establish a relationship and they are pretty much helping to make my job easier. Because ok I am going to go down here in this corner for a little while and I can say you hold my line for me and they say ok. Great bunch of kids I couldn't ask for anything better.

JB: Good. Um, now you told me your job title was cashier.

MJL: Cashier

JB: and then you mentioned having to help prep for breakfast. What is that? Do you help prep the food? Are you juggling multiple jobs?

MJL: well it's more less, when I get there at 6 I just more or less, when I say prep the food it means I am getting all the yogurts and all the jellies and all the breads and all the ladles and things all set up for the condiment bar. And probably some of you all probably no what that is if you have been there for breakfast or lunch except that the settings are a little different. And then when I mean prepping for lunch is, we have to put out our lettuces, our tomatoes, our onions, our banana peppers, our pickles and stuff like that. And then when 11 o'clock starts I am swiping everybody's card until 2:05 and then I have to go and lock the doors. A typical day is after all of that fun. Cause I am just sitting there, talking, gaining knowledge, getting to know someone, helping to solve someone's problem. I had one girl that came up to me, and I know her pretty well and she said, "oh no problem with the line mother mary is there." I said that's so cute I like that. You know so a typical day is great. and then some days are more or less like everybody might be sleepy. We are in the same sink and I am just like ok ok ok, here is the card here is the card. There might be days I might be sick and I might not have so much to say. Its like the other day, two days ago, I came in kinda sleepy I did not wake up til mid-afternoon around 11 or 12. And then I was like ready to go. Early morning I was like, I did not have much to say, everybody is so understanding, cause I think they are sleepy too. I think when I am sleepy they are sleepy too.

JB: Absolutely, Absolutely. I know college students have trouble waking up at seven am or those hours.

MJL: Yes and it can get quite busy, quite busy. So, in a typical day is pretty good sometimes.

JB: When it is that crazy does that put like extra pressure on you, do you feel stress?

MJL: No I don't really actually feel stress. It's a good challenge for me. It really is. Sometimes the line is out the door. Almost like out the door. I am like gosh see they are coming in here today which I like but at the same time I am like it's a good challenge for me to see how fast I can get them up there. So I laugh about it and they laugh along with me.(Laughter) Oh my gosh.

JB: And then you talked about counting your drawer, and I know that a lot of the cards are swiped; they are students who eat on campus.

MJL: Yes, this is for cash, this is for cash customers and we do take check. Cash and check

JB: Does that like, balancing your drawer, I know with other jobs if your drawer is off, then there could be some problems, is that an element of your job that your not a fan of, or how is balancing your drawer?

MJL: Ok, we have a shortage amount that we can go over or go under. If we go over a certain amount then there could be some problems you know. But as long as it's under a certain amount then it's ok. So we do have to be very careful when we are handling a load of students or customers coming in. We have to be alert of what we are doing you know, cause some of them may have cash, you may have someone that's asking you a question on this side, I got the walkie talkie going. You know, and you just got to, kinda like, you know it may be a day where you could mess up, you know a whole lot, you know. But, I don't worry about that but for so much but now I you know try and be more careful because it could cause a problem you know. We have our rules and regulations at the registers so I imagine some people say she just sits there all day and swipes the card it's so easy. No it's not. You know, I have these regulations I have to go by and umm there is rules. Mmmhmm.

JB: And a lot of, I would assume like is dealing with the drawers and the amount in the drawers and stuff.

MJL: Also with the cards too.

JB: Yeah?

MJL: Umm, the refunds, we can only get a certain amount of umm, umm, lets see, a certain amount of voids that we can only do per day. And I think it's like 25 voids we can do you know. So sometimes its confusing for us as the cashiers, sometimes its confusing for the student cause some of them don't know what plan they got. So what we have to do is we have to kinda like take our time you know and kinda like go into the system to see what type of plan they do have so we wont be causing a lot of mistakes but that way it will save us heartache and the student heartache as well cause they will know what kind of plan they got. You know, but other than that it's not so bad, you just have to be kinda like on the cautious side, be alert, and you know just take your time and just don't let five or six hundred people or at least one to two hundred people at one time intimidate you. You know. And I think they all understand, they are so understanding if you tell them I have to do this or I have to do this, they understand so it's not so bad.

JB: Good

MJL: Mmmhmm

JB: Umm, just to switch gears a little bit, what was like the first job you ever had?

MJL: The first job I ever had was, I worked at the Marriot Hotel in Roanoke. And it was in housekeeping. And I wanted to try it just to see how it really was, as far as how these people are being treated. What is housekeeping? What is it really all about? So I done it, I don't like it. You know someone has to do it. We all here to service. No matter what type of degree we have or what title we hold, we are here on earth I believe to service in some way you know. It just may be the pay scale is a little bit different you know, but I think we are here to serve you know and I am really glad that I tried that hotel job is because I see the you know the experiences that they go through, the people, some people don't really care you know they just throw their stuff and it doesn't matter because they don't have to clean it you know. And it's the same thing with retail, too I done retail too and it's the same way. Unless you go into one of these real nice boutique stores and then of course you know you may not have that problem but most of your department stores people, some people don't care and some people do care, so that made me realize the hotel job that I was working at that when I do stay at a hotel now I make sure that I try and leave it nice and clean so that it won't make their job harder cause I been there and done that.

JB: How old were you when you had that hotel job at the Marriot?

MJL: Hmm, lets see I guess I might have been twenty four or twenty five, but I done sewing too at a sewing factory and I sewed my finger, the needle went through my finger nail, no more of that either, (laughter) I am not a fan for sewing (laughter) none of that but with that the sewing job you know it was more or less like I don't know I just not cut out for sewing I am not the sewing type you know, I mean, I mean but with the hotel I did have sympathy I understood what the workers were going through. So one lady was saying that uh, there was a wrestler there, you know the WWE was there at the time, and uh, she said that he had bumped in the bed and he didn't leave her a tip or anything now aint that awful.

JB: Yeah that's terrible.

MJL: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

JB: So you really were able to get that appreciation for what they have to go through?

MJL: Yeah. Yeah. And I wanted to just try it out to just to see what it was really like to go to be at a hotel every single day, going there trying to make a living you know and you know sometimes that's the only thing that person really knows how to do and a lot of us don't appreciate it. You know we just more or less like we don't care and I think that they should get paid more.

JB: There are probably a lot of professions out there that should be getting paid more than they do.

MJL: Mmmhmm. But see it doesn't have to, its not really a profession so you don't really have to go to school for that you know but I still think they should get

recognized in some way but you know that's not the case, so it made me just realize now that when I go to hotels that I make sure that I clean up everything pretty much half way decent so when they come in they don't have a hard job from me.

JB: Now would you say that uh, working at the hotel, or sewing was one of your worst jobs?

MJL: Yes.

JB: Yeah

MJL: Uh huh, yeah, yeah my worst jobs. Yeah

JB: Yeah. Definitely it sounds like you went through a lot with those two.

MJL: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

JB: Um, and then so then once you moved to Blacksburg what led you to work in the at the D2?

MJL: Well I had several jobs after those two jobs, um, I worked in Elizabeth Arden, I done a lot of assembly work like soldering and stuff like that at different places so I said Virginia Tech was my last resort, really, so I said ok I am going to go and apply at Virginia Tech so I ended up as cashier when I was working at Dxpess, yeah, so I use to go in like from eight til four and I use to do the pizzas, I use to do the pizzas and I was surrounded by I, since I have been at Tech I have always been surrounded by the students?

JB: Do you like that?

MJL: Yes, I do like that. Yes

JB: Good

MJL: It makes, me, my day it makes me feel like so, like you know cause some of the things they do and say it's just so funny and I am a kid at heart too, so you know, (laughter), isn't funny you probably looking at this video saying she is so silly cause she is just laughing but it's true, you know I can only speak the truth you know, so it's just more or less like its fun.

JB: Good

MJL: Yeah

JB: Good, well yeah you have actually been touching on my next question is about like the interaction with the students, who are mainly your customers.

MJL: Exactly, and that's a big thing where I work at, um students, anybody who comes through that door is considered a customer as far as I am concerned. I had to learn customer service the hard way, when I first went into retail I didn't think that I even had the skills for customer service you know, then a friend told me she said, listen Mary she said you have to go out there and you have to be aggressive you have to go out there to them. I was like yeah, ok, cause I use to just be kinda like just doing the stand up there at the cash register and they bring their clothes to me and she said no you got there and you got to great them you got to see what

their needs are you got to do all this. So that's what I really got my customer service from, just from by watching just from listening to what other people were telling me, especially her, she is very good, she is right now at Dillard's right now one of the tops sales people they got.

JB: Wow

MJL: Umhmm in Florida. So and then it just started I see myself going into customer service a whole lot but believe it or not I have the best time with the students than I did with the grownups. The grownups gave me a headache but the students don't. I mean, I mean, I guess, its because I don't know maybe it's the age difference or maybe they are just saying listen I am just coming for my lunch and that's its, that's all I want to do, I am going to my class, or I am going to sleep so maybe it really doesn't matter too much about the emphasis on me too much maybe it's just you know they are just doing what they supposed to be doing during that day so students are much better than the older people so I had to learn to grow into customer service so that's the reason why I might be a little aggressive upstairs when you all coming (laughter) when you all come around and some say well Mary what's wrong you're not doing this or doing that you know and all y'all all get together and y'all pretty much know each other and y'all be talking and I am like well I might be sick or I am sleepy today I just don't have much to say cause see you're so use to that energy you know so.

JB: How about the uh interactions with your co-workers, do you get along with them, your bosses?

MJL: The interactions...

JB: Do you get along with them, your bosses?

MJL: yeah I pretty much I kinda like stay away from a lot of the drama that goes on and I guess that's every work place you know unless you are working at a solo position and you don't have to worry about that you just deal with one or two people and that's it but we have a very large volume of people there at D2 and um I um, have had my confrontations with them you know but now you know things is much peaceful now a little bit and I just kinda stay away from a lot of the gossip and all that and I think as long as I do that everything will be ok with me, yeah, and I just pretty much just do what needs to be done instead of you know trying to fight it and trying to worry about what this next person is doing and she is doing more and she is doing less, and I just do what I have to do and you know what I think that God plays a whole big part in it, you know because each and every time I go back each semester, fall semester you know it seems like I am in a more of a humble mood more or say and things just come into place you know and um, I am able to handle it you know so um, its not so bad.

JB: Good, uh and yeah I guess...

MJL: The bosses are really nice you know maybe a few things there that may not be to my satisfaction but who am I to say, you know I am just a worker you know so um, like I say I don't really worry about too many other peoples but there really actually doing unless it's really really affecting me then I will speak up now that's one thing that I will do, I will speak up, yeah.

JB: If you were in a position to be the boss for a day or a week is there something you kind of have thought about that you would want to change like about your job, whether it be the pay, setting the hours?

MJL: I like the hours cause I get off at 2:30, and in the summertime, well in the summertime I am not there but like lets say in April and May before graduation sometimes the weather is great in April, I am out at 2:30 you know its like in the fall of the year and the weather, I am out at 2:30. I would keep the hours, I would keep the hours. Um I would probably see if a lot of other stuff would get done more um, I probably, I am a fair person; I try to treat everybody fair. Even the students that come up there some of them I don't even know I mean some of them you know everybody is different and I don't expect for this student to be like that student or whatever you know cause everybody is different you know the way things are going on now in the world, some people are a little bit aloof to themselves, you know and I get a lot of that too but I am a very fair person and I would try and treat most people fair and ask a lot of questions as to why they would want to do this or do that, you know, and they would pretty much have to earn a position or I would probably try and do a trial basis just to see how they would benefit from that position and then by seeing if they wasn't benefitting from it too well I would say I don't think this position is for you instead of just sticking somewhere there and saying you can fill a position and they don't know nothing you know so I would give them a trial period, and give them a raise too (laughter)

JB: Um, yeah for like the students to come in there you know a lot of them you don't know it's hard to its impossible to get to know all of these students...

MJL: There's too many it's too many. I would be exhausted by the end of the day, I tried it one day to saying hi to everybody I was exhausted, I was like ok forget it I can't do it, it's just too many.

JB: For the average student like what would you want them to know about your job that like maybe you don't think they like appreciate or know?

MJL: You know what, I think that most of those students that come through there, you know at D2 we have a sign that says Dish Return, and you're very familiar with that ain't you Joe? So my duty really is to tell everybody to take their plates around, not to come through that little way that says, you got that little rope that says arrow here, and you got where the people are coming in...

JB: they try and cut it, they try and cut it.

MJL: They try to cut it, that's right Joe, that's right, they try to cut it, well that's really a no-no there, but lately here I was telling everybody you do this, you do this, you go this way, you go this way, you don't come in this way, someone asked me why was I wanting them to do that, I said cause if someone is coming upstairs and they are entering their dining facility I said they don't want to be seeing your dirty plates they may be dressed up, some of y'all come in their dressed up because you have interviews, job fairs, or whatever, or it might be somebody else, I said no nobody wants to enter with dirty plates, and they might get dirty or something and they go, well can we just do it when no one is there, I said well if I let you do it means I have to let the rest do it, they were mostly obedient, but now I have gotten to the point where I am tired so I don't say it too much anymore now, sometimes if I see that there is someone coming in and they bringing their plates like this then when I see them I say well you take your plates around cause I am thinking they should have stopped and let those people enter cause they have the right away to do that cause they got another way to take their plates and stuff, and I know that it gets the plates get really heavy now since we don't have trays and things get really heavy and stuff trying to carry, so I am not so strict on it anymore but mostly everybody pretty much goes and takes there trays around.

JB: Well good.

MJL: Yeah

JB: Now how about something that you kinda learned on the job? Like you applied for the job you were like ok like you have some idea what the job would be, but then once you got there you were like oh, I never knew, you never knew an aspect of the job, is there something you really learned?

MJL: Well when I went back the second time, I wasn't surprised cause I applied for cashier you know so it wasn't no surprises on me whatsoever, and the first time wasn't no surprises either I pretty much knew what I was really actually doing. I don't really like working with lazy people you know. I am not there to do their job there to do my job and maybe to help them out, but see sometimes Joe when you tryin to help out people they see that you're trying to help them out they try and take advantage of you, ya see and I am not all about that, so it's more or less like well you got to do your workload too, you get a check just like I do, so I can be a little feisty when I need to be and I can be quiet when I need to be, but sometimes I pray to God a whole lot and ask him to please make this year a better year, make my day good and so far he has answered.

JB: Well good.

MJL: and I like being peaceful cause I am getting older now, I don't want to be all feisty, so you know one of the girls that works on the cashier on the other end she is a pretty good girl to work with but I have had my share I have had to the point where before it all settled down you know you had some people just hog

everything and they wanted this done and just jealousy and I had one co-worker tell me she was jealous of me and I wasn't doing anything, this is how the devil can come to you when you are not doing a thing and she was like well Mary I am just going to tell you I am jealous of you, ok, well, you know when you say well how do you get along with your co-workers, I don't say too much to them too much I pretty much stay to myself, you know, and I have a few that I do talk with but I don't try and go into the gossip realm cause I don't want to be brought into anything and if I gossip I want to say yeah I said it I don't want to say oh no I didn't say and then you know it's not a good thing to do a lot of gossiping either cause it causes a lot of conflict in the work place and I guess they might say I am not the friendliest person there but I have a heart, and I understand but I am not into their gossip realm, I can't stand people who one day you are talking to them and you're nice to them and the next day they you stabbing me, you know I am scared of people like that you know so I just kinda like stay my distance.

JB: Um, now you get off at 2:30...

MJL: I get off at 2:30.

JB: But getting up so early, you probably you go to bed a little earlier, you have different hours than other people, but your weekends, do you work on the weekends?

MJL: No, Monday through Friday, so when you say to me, when I went into this job, I mean was there a surprise, no, I mean God has been really good, no, the second time around was the best time around, and no it wasn't no surprises like ah, I wish I never gotten into it, no.

JB: And with kinda getting off into having your weekends free, do you have a second job, what do you do, do you volunteer, what do you do in your spare time?

MJL: In my spare time I am on the computer or I am either texting, I spend a lot of time with my mom, you know, like in the summer time um, last year we didn't do too much this summer cause there was so many doctors appointments and stuff had to be taken care of but last year we went to Orlando stayed at a resort for seven days so we had a great time, uh we went there and um, then like on Christmas and on Thanksgiving break you know we get long breaks there and then like last Thanksgiving we went back to Orlando and stayed at a resort for like seven days, so hopefully next year we gonna go to Niagara Falls and Atlantic City and New York and we are going to stay there for seven days.

JB: That would be very nice, that would be awesome.

MJL: She has never been, I have never been, so friends are going to tour us around cause they live in Las Vegas but they are going to meet us in Atlantic City and we are gonna kinda tour the place around and New York

JB: Good. Uh does your job require you to do anything outside of your hours, like no prep you do at home or like getting ready.

MJL: Um uh, once 2:30 is there it's there. I leave it right there until the next day.

JB: If somebody were to come ask you, Mary do you think I would be good for this job or like what advice would you give someone, do you think it's for a lot of people? Like you said you kinda had to grow into customer service.

MJL: (coughing) Excuse me, but, um, I don't think that I would say it's no, it's not for you I would say give it a try and see, and let your heart guide you.

JB: Yeah, and you would probably give that advice to like everybody you know, give it a try and decide.

MJL: Yeah, but, um, with me as far as I am thinking of what customer service is, customer service is more or less you have to build a relationship with some customers, maybe not all but some, and if you are not a talker, if you're a shy person it wouldn't be for you, because most of the time a shy person is going to always be sitting there and going, they are probably not going to do anything you know, they are going to be like a bump, dead bump on a log you know, so everybody that comes through there they may like that, everybody that comes through there may say oh she is, she is, they no fun, you know, some people likes to play around, you know, so I would just say they would have to give it a try first and see, then they say well, I just don't think it's me, then you just don't do it. It's not for everybody. Um hmm.

JB: We have talked at like D2,

MJL: Yeah

JB: or whenever I see you about you talking about getting other property, so where do you see yourself in 5-10 years?

MJL: 5-10 years I will still be working D2, ok, I'm only 48, so ten years from now I will be 58, so I will probably still be there, but Joe to tell you the truth the more summers that I have off now the more I it's like I just want to stay off, so I hope to try to retire at least at 58, if I can at 58, um, if I don't retire at 58, maybe I can just work part time, that's what I am thinking, part time not no 40 hours just part time, hopefully. But I hope when 62 comes I am going to try and get on out there, and I will miss it you know, but um, I be probably leaving some students there that I met during the freshman year and stuff like that, but other than that, I got to go out and really actually enjoy what's left of me you know, I just don't want to work work work forever, you know, if I don't have it by the time I am 60 its not meant for me to have let someone else have it you know. I am just going to go enjoy what God give in front of me.

JB: Now, would you in a position with, does D2 offer like benefits or something that would allow you to retire in ten years?

MJL: Well they do, they do, they do for salary, see I am not salary I have been wage ever since I been there. So I have my own benefits and stuff.

JB: And you get those outside of work?

MJL: Yes, um hmm.

JB: Um, in our class, it's a Humanities class so we are doing this project for, and uh one of the big things we have been discussing a lot is uh like the American Dream, you know, and like the, how they say people pull themselves up by their boot straps and stuff like that, do, do you think that is still possible, do you think people can still no matter what their background, pull themselves out, up to like the rich class or?

MJL: Once we stop using credit cards.

JB: Yeah

MJL: Uh huh, yes, we have to as a whole; we have to stop using a lot of credit, and stop buying so much materialistic things we don't even need, and stop wanting so much, and ask if we do want something we need to start asking why do we want it, you know, we need to stop, people get, (sigh) 5 to 10 credit cards and they run 'em up and they don't have the money to pay it, because they don't have the income to fit it, and the more income you have the more credit limits and credit cards you do it get, so we need to start controlling our money more here in America so we can continue the American dream. What our kids are learning now, and I have two nieces that's pretty much in that boat, they don't have to worry about getting jobs at 16, they not outside riding bikes, they are not there playing, they are into computers, into T.V., headphones and all this, instead of them trying to go out and get a job and work and see what it is too work and what it's like to earn a dollar or to learn how to save, if you can pay for stuff in cash, or half way pay for it anyway and put your money to good use, I mean cars and sneakers, and watches, and jewelry and all that stuff it just comes and go it's not going, it's not going to bring any revenue if you need it, but stuff like property will, because someone is gonna always have to have a place to stay, stuff like doing a good 401K or a **Rolf Account**, or IRA or whatever is something really good cause you are saving up for your future, we have to think about the things before we do 'em, and stop making rash decisions I think it takes two people in the household to work, unless you got some good income, or now I can understand if you know you got a wife or something and she is pregnant and she needs to baby sitter well she might need to stay home and take care of that kid until they get to a certain age or they get ready to go to preschool or something, cause you know you just can't leave your kids with anybody, you know if, I mean if I was having to do that I would probably take time off from D2, I probably would have to quit until my child grew up, but my mom would probably keep my child but she is getting a little older now, cause you know children want to go out and play they want to do this they want to do that, so I would probably have to quit work so I can raise my child, I don't want anyone else raising my child, I want to do it myself, I want to be there with them until they get to preschool and then someone else can teach them, then I would try and find

another position, so there's a lot of things as men and women we have to think about before we start saying I Do. Yeah, so the American Dream is still yes, saving, houses, family, our family structure is I think is going downhill cause everybody is so busy, everybody is working, you know I remember a long time ago when my grandmother was living, my father is deceased now so I just only have the one parent, we used to have great big dinners it was so much fun you know and so, I didn't come from the perfect family there was lots of little knocks and stuff going on but um, it was a family structure there but now everybody is here and there and I'm busy I can't do this, I can't do that, and it's, it's, the holidays are just like everybody is all grown now you know, so it's just the way it goes but we still have the American Dream here in America we just have to start spending our money much better, you know we are a folks of wanting everything easy, more money but less work, it doesn't work like that, I remember my grandfather was telling me long long time ago that when he worked at the pie shop in Radford that um, he use to work very very hard for a little bit of money, but back then it was probably less money than you would make now, and we look at it now, how did they live, but it was hard work, you know people done lots of hard work you know but now everybody is just more like everything is on a silver platter, the kids, like I said the kids don't have to work for anything cause mommy and daddy, and well if mommy and daddy ain't got it we'll go to grandma and if grandma ain't got it we'll go to Aunt Sue or Aunt Betty or somebody, and it shouldn't be that way, they should be able to clean up after themselves, get a job in the summer and do something really good for themselves.

JB: Yeah, thank you, thank you, um and just finally is there anything you think that I have missed that you want to share about your job, about you?

MJL: Well, I am the type of person that um, I try and treat everybody fair, um, and um, I wish everybody the very best in life and I'm not the jealous type of person, if a person has it that's great, I don't want to walk in no one else's shoes, you know, and I always will always that no matter what type of problems that we hear on the news about this happening and that happening there is still good people out there, you know we just have to believe with our hearts and mind and souls and sometimes you know it takes a real child at heart to bring out that person's, that other persons heart.

JB: Well Mary I want to thank you so much I appreciate it, this was tremendous, this was a tremendous interview. Thank you

MJL: (Laughter) Thank you

