# EDWYNNE C. "POLLY" ROSENBAUM
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Arizona State Legislator
Historical Preservation Advocate

The following is an oral history interview with **Edwynne C. "Polly" Rosenbaum** (**PR)** conducted by **Zona Davis Lorig** (**ZL)** for Historical League, Inc. from July 8, 1996 - September 6, 1996 at the State Capitol in Phoenix, Arizona.

Transcripts for website edited by members of Historical League, Inc.
Original tapes are in the collection of the Arizona Historical Society Museum Library at Papago Park, Tempe, Arizona.

**ZL:** This oral history interview is being conducted with Polly Rosenbaum on July 8, 1996 at the State Capitol in Phoenix, Arizona. Representative Rosenbaum was recently named a 1997 Historymaker by the Historical League from the Central Arizona Division of the Arizona Historical Society. The interviewer is Zona Davis Lorig.

**ZL:** First of all, I would like to offer my congratulations to you on being named a Historymaker. That's a nice honor.

**PR:** I am most appreciative and most surprised. Mostly surprised and very appreciative.

**ZL:** Mrs. Rosenbaum, would you begin by telling where and when you were born.

**PR:** I was born in Iowa in a small town which no longer exists. A small farming community in Iowa by the name of Ollie and I lived there until I was four years old. Then we moved to Colorado. My father had gone ahead and my mother and I came later on the train. I don't remember too much about the journey. I do remember a depot and the smell of cigar smoke and thinking it was awful. Then when we arrived in Colorado it was a whole new world.

**ZL:** What did you father do in Colorado?

**PR:** My father, first he taught. He had been a teacher, then he went into the real estate and irrigation business. Irrigation was just starting to boom there in eastern Colorado.

**ZL:** And what was the community?

**PR:** It was Fort Morgan. There was an old fort there, old Army fort, which was gone but the youngsters used to go down and prowl around, where the fort used to be, hunting metals of all kinds. So we lived there and I think I was lonely and my mother was a little bit until they got acquainted. She told me I said one time, "It's so lonesome here, the tea kettle doesn't sing like it used to sing in Iowa." But as soon as I found children to play with I was very happy.

**ZL:** Did you have siblings?

**PR:** Yes, I have one brother and two sisters. But at that time I was the only child when we moved out.

**ZL:** So you were the oldest?

**PR:** The oldest of the family. And my father, the first year he was there took a job teaching a rural school and he drove back and forth. It seemed like it was eight or nine miles, but it was probably five or six, but the long drive out there. He would take me with him to school occasionally and I enjoyed it very much. I got acquainted with the farm youngsters. It was dry farming and mostly cattle raising, but I got acquainted with lots of the youngsters there.

**ZL:** Now is that the school where you started to school?

**PR:** No, one time the school superintendent rode out with us on a cold, frosty morning and I tried to talk him into letting me go to school but you couldn't until you were six and I was four. No, I started school in Fort Morgan, went all through grade school and high school there. And by the way, that's the school where the famous Glenn Miller went also.

**ZL:** Is that right? What kind of education had your mother received?

**PR:** In those days girls did not go to school too much, but she had a year at Normal School in Illinois and my father graduated from a small college in Iowa.

**ZL:** Did you parents have a lot of energy? Did they keep going like you do?

**PR:** Yes, they had a great deal of energy and growing up we all had chores and we had to take

responsibility in those days. We were a part of a family. And everybody had their responsibilities.

**ZL:** Where or when did you decide where you would go to school? And how did you decide you would go on to school?

**PR:** I always knew. We all knew we had to go to college. We probably knew we had to get ourselves there, get a scholarship probably. I went to the University of Colorado. I could have gotten a scholarship to most any of them, but I sort of liked the sound of the state university. And I did have a four year scholarship.

**ZL:** Did you major in education?

**PR:** My undergraduate was in history and political science. I've always been a history buff. I read. We were avid readers at home. The library was where we spent our cold winter afternoons reading. We all were readers.

**ZL:** Did you grow up thinking women could accomplish what they set their minds to?

**PR:** My father always taught that to us. Not particularly by gender, but that anybody, if you made up your mind and wanted to badly enough and it was within reason, you could do it. We didn't know the meaning of the word "defeat," in the broad sense. We knew that we would go to college and learn to support ourselves in whatever profession we chose. We always had jobs from the time we were small, baby sitting or things, and we saved our money because that was our college fund.

**ZL:** So when you graduated from college then you decided to teach?

**PR:** Yes. I had always sort of liked to teach and when we were youngsters, oh 10, 11 and 12, we'd play together. It was a large group of youngsters around the neighborhood. I guess I was the one who was always teaching. We'd play school and I taught. Youngsters don't know how to play these days like we used to play in those days.

**ZL:** Well, you had to use your imagination almost solely then.

**PR:** Yes we did. And in high school I was editor of the high school annual and I got the scholarship to the University of Colorado.

**ZL:** Did you first teach in Colorado or Wyoming?

**PR:** I taught in Colorado. When I started teaching, we used to have quite a change. That was before tenure and before all these amenities that go along with it now. A lot of these teachers would come and teach a year or two, then move on; it was their way to see the world. I sort of got the idea from them. Most of the teachers would stay two or three years. Some of the women would come and get married and stay there, but lots of them went on to other places.

**ZL:** Were they allowed to teach after they were married?

**PR:** No, in those days you were not allowed to teach.

**ZL:** So you had some male teachers?

**PR:** Yes, we did. Some excellent ones. Some excellent women teachers.

**ZL:** Single female teachers.

**PR:** Yes, my science teacher was an excellent teacher and they also called her an old maid, but we had both genders there. Even when I came to Arizona, women, if they married, had to give up their job teaching.

**ZL:** So you taught two or three years up there?

**PR:** I taught, I think, three years in Colorado. Then I went up to Wyoming and taught there.

**ZL:** Now was that, as you say, your way to see the world?

**PR:** The way to see the world, to see some different places. I loved Wyoming.

**ZL:** What community were you in there?

**PR:** It was an old oil camp by the name of Lusk in eastern Wyoming and there had been oil fields but they weren't in operation very much when I was there. I loved it there. A wonderful, wonderful man was superintendent of schools. We worked hard and had good times. I don't think I've ever seen a superintendent like him. Perfect discipline without making a big deal of it. He was superintendent, principal of the high school, coached football and basketball. Up there they had wonderful basketball teams. Because of the long winters they could play indoors. So they had good teams. The first thing was teaching - I taught typing and shorthand and I think history.

**ZL:** And then you decided it was time to move on, try another place.

**PR:** Yes, in one of the journals I saw an opening in Arizona in the mining camp. Everyone thought I was bereft of my senses to go to a mining camp. But they paid excellent wages in those days. I don't remember what the salary was, it would be nothing compared to salaries today. I applied for the job and got it. So I came to Arizona.

**ZL:** Had you been in Colorado to see your family before . . .

**PR:** Oh yes, I'd always go there.

**ZL:** So you came down from Colorado and you traveled by a train?

**PR:** The only way to get here was by train. It was quite an interesting journey. I had my tickets. You could come in two ways. You could come by the Southern Pacific, go south, or you could come in on the Santa Fe from the north. But getting into Phoenix was not too easy and especially getting up to Hayden. The ticket agent who sold me the ticket, they didn't have travel agents in those days, suggested that I come by the Southern Pacific. Schools did not start until late because they had not heard of air conditioning then. About the middle of September was when the school started. I left Denver and there had been wash-outs, big floods along about early September. I remember spending the biggest part of a day in some little town in Texas. Everything was the junction where the trains would meet. I realized that I was going to be a day late, so the next station I got off and telegraphed the superintendent of schools. You wouldn't think of phoning because you didn't know if they had a phone in school. I said I had been held up by storms and misrouted because I didn't make a connection and you were supposed to make several connections.

I was supposed to be there for a meeting on Saturday morning at 10 o'clock. Well, I finally got into Tucson on Friday night. Hot! It must have been at least 112 and you didn't dare leave near the railroad station. There was a hotel, the old Congress Hotel was down there and I stayed there. When I got there I had to check my trunk, go find out about taking a stage to Hayden the next morning. I thought if I could just get into a bath tub of cool water. Well, I finally made the arrangements and the man said, "Be here at seven. We leave at seven on the stage going to Hayden, seventy-five miles." I made arrangements to get my trunk over there which would come a few days later. I didn't sleep too well all night. I was so afraid I might not get up. I was up the next morning and went down and the stage was an old Ford touring car. The driver suggested I sit in front with him.

**ZL:** Were there any other passengers?

**PR:** We picked up three people, three Mexican men going out to Mammoth to work. So the front seat was

probably the coolest and the best. It wasn't too bad. We went up through Oracle and as we went up higher over the road it was cooler and then after we left Oracle and went down to the San Pedro Valley it got hot. Now it was dirt road. There was no pavement anywhere and it hadn't rained in weeks so every time you'd see a car coming, you'd see this dust. The dust was settled all over the leaves. It was settled everyplace and you finally learned to put your handkerchief over your nose until the car passed. We let the three men off in Mammoth. Mammoth was a small little place but there was mining around. We got in close to Hayden. About four miles out you could see the smoke belching out of the smelter. About 112 degrees and the only thing I could think of was Dante's Inferno is here. We got into Winkelman and the secretary of the school board, a very nice gentleman met me and he said, "I will take you over to the dormitory." I never thought how I'd get from Winkelman to Hayden. There was no transportation.

**ZL:** How far is that?

**PR:** A mile and a half. So he took me over to the dormitory. Now it was just a little after noon. It was a big old ramshackle building and there was a long table in the dining room where you could seat 18 or 20 people. If there is anything in the world that's unappetizing it's to walk into a room where the table hasn't been cleared, scraps of food, the water was still sitting in the glasses. I didn't know if it was boiling or whether it was just lukewarm. The cook was there and the gentlemen said to her, "Can you find something for her to eat?" Then he said, "I will take you up to the school. I'll be back in a little bit." I think she fixed me up something. The butter was in a liquid state. I thought, "What have I gotten myself into?" He said, "You will room with Miss Barnhart from Indiana. You are the last two in so you will take what's left over. The dormitory is full." There was an annex and then one family lived a couple of doors down and they had an extra room that they would rent, but we were clear up on the terrace about a mile away. But we had a nice room.

I went up to the school to make peace with the superintendent. She was a very austere woman and she said, "You know the meeting was at 10 o'clock." And I said, "I'm sorry, I just couldn't make it. I think I was a little misrouted and we had the wash-outs and I got here as soon as I could." She said, "Well, now you will teach as we told you. You will have your typing and shorthand classes and you will have the history and civics. And I noticed from your transcript that you've had quite a bit of mathematics in college and we are going to have two freshman algebra classes this year, so you will have one and the man who has taught will have the other one." Well, I hadn't looked at an algebra book since college and I thought, "Oh dear." Then there was another class, I forget what it was, it was a little class that a lot of things were dumped into, but it wasn't going to be so bad, I thought.

Then I met my roommate. She had gotten there the day before. She didn't know that she was to be principal of the grammar school, she thought she was to be just a teacher so we had something in common. We had unexpected things happen to us. She was really wonderful and we were steadfast friends as long as

she lived. We went up to the terrace where we meet the lady where we were going to stay.

**ZL:** Now the terrace was a separate building?

**PR:** No, the terrace was just a terrace around the mountain. There were eight houses up there. She had come in beautiful leather shoes. They were in ribbons. There were no sidewalks and you had to walk over the rocks and things. She'd gotten in on a Saturday and she couldn't get into a store to buy anything. She had no idea and I didn't either. She'd never been away from home before. Anyway we went up to dinner at the dormitory that night and met the other girls. They looked us all over to see what the new ones were going to be like.

School started the next Monday morning and all the youngsters were eager to see what it would be like. I well remember I had a group of seniors for history. They came stumbling up the stairs for one o'clock class and looked me over and I let them get in. I said, "All right, I will not have people coming into my room acting like this." They were the players on the football team and a few girls. I said, "Get out. Go down to the assembly hall and those of you who are here for business, come back. And those of you who aren't, I don't care what you do." They looked and I said, "I mean it." So about five minutes later, up came about 18 people in pretty good shape. So we settled down, ground rules were laid and we had no more problems. In fact, we had very little discipline problems in the mining camp. See the mining camp was owned by the mining company.

**ZL:** Now this was Consolidated Copper?

**PR:** Nevada Consolidated Copper. It later became Kennecott, but it was known as Nevada Consolidated. The parents were most cooperative. Oh, we had mischief and things like all kids, but we had no bad things. Because in case you did, the parents were just notified and they liked their jobs there. There was lots of recreation, it was a fun place to be and you could teach. It made a great deal of difference.

**ZL:** How large was the high school?

**PR:** I think we had one hundred, maybe one hundred ten to one hundred twenty in high school. That afternoon the superintendent called me into her office and she said, "You knew that you had to pass Arizona Constitution and United States Constitution." I said, "Oh, yes." She said, "I notice from your United States Constitution that you have to take it every four years, and it's been about four years and four days so you'll have to take it over again. And you will have to pass the Arizona Constitution."

**ZL:** Teachers had to take this test every four years?

**PR:** Oh yes.

**ZL:** Once wasn't enough, they had to know that you remembered this.

**PR:** So she said, "And you won't get any salary until you've passed both of them." Well I thought, "I don't know what else can happen to me." I knew I'd have no problems. And I was lucky because I learned my Arizona Constitution. I didn't take it gradually as I had to teach it the second semester. I started in. I was down to that dormitory for breakfast at 7:00 and we were usually out of there by 7:30 and I'd go to school and from 7:30 until 8:00 I studied and also reviewed. I couldn't do anything else. The swimming pool was open and there were things to do. I couldn't. I knew I had no money until I finished that. You had to go to Globe to the County School Superintendent to take it. And I had no means of transportation. Nobody had means of transportation. So I asked her if there was some way that the tests could be sent over, as long as my roommate was the principal of the grammar school, if they couldn't be sent to her. So we made arrangements. So I think by the end of the fourth week, the questions came over. She got them and I went down on a Saturday morning and I took both examinations.

**ZL:** One was for the Arizona Constitution?

**PR:** And the other was the United States Constitution. When I'd done that I felt I was out of prison and then I could start having fun. And that was about the time . . . October, you see, and it was starting to cool down and they always had golf pro come in. They had a nice golf course and he came in and gave lessons in the winter. Naturally everybody played golf. I had never touched a golf club in my life. But we could start that and we had lots of fun up there.

**ZL:** So Hayden was quite a thriving community in those days?

**PR:** It was a thriving community in those days, oh yes, with a swimming pool and golf course and always lots of dances. Dances at both of the clubs and then there was a dance hall downtown. I could see why most of the gals stayed for awhile and then married. It was a nice place to be.

**ZL:** Did you go out of town to go shopping or was there enough there?

**PR:** You could get a little bit. Everybody, we soon found out, had charge accounts in Phoenix at Goldwaters, Korricks and the Boston Store. They would send the things up by mail and you could make your choice. They did a thriving business. And I would say in those days people were very well dressed. I had more evening dresses than I did in college. We had quite a social life and it was a fun place to be. Youngsters loved it and if a family moved away the kids just hated to leave.

**ZL:** What kind of effect did the Depression have on Hayden?

**PR:** Well, it didn't react too quickly. The 1929 crisis eventually arrived and it was sad. The company closed down; the people - some left and went to other places, some stayed on. There had been a depression once before and the company gave the people places to raise gardens and furnished the water. And the top brass of the company were out painting the houses and doing repairs to keep the place going because they knew they would eventually open. Our salaries were reduced, but we stayed on. At least we had a job. We had, the teachers had a dormitory, and we hired a cook and two of the teachers would go together and plan all the meals for two weeks, then another two. We had recipes from all over the country. We had a gal there from New England and she had dishes that some of us had never heard of. They came from all over. We managed to stay on but our warrants were discounted. You couldn't cash a warrant without almost a twenty-five percent discount. But they managed and lots of people would hold the warrants until they enacted the sales tax and got some money. They didn't cry around too much about it, they accepted it.

**ZL:** Well, everybody was in the same situation.

**PR:** Same condition yes. Anyone who was paid on the state payroll. The men themselves were not on the state payrolls. They got their money from their company salary. That was the way I bought my first car. I saved all my warrants. The dormitory had gotten down to very few people and I stayed up at the place on the terrace with a family. She said you can pay me when you can cash your warrants for full value. So I saved enough to buy a car. See in those days you didn't have transportation. You were isolated. I think one or two teachers, of the female teachers, one or two had cars and that was all.

**ZL:** So where did you buy this car?

**PR:** I bought it from a man there in Hayden. They had a little Chevrolet agency there. He was a graduate of Harvard who'd come out and had sort of deteriorated, but he still was a very bright person. The post master knew everybody. The post master we all called Uncle Jack, his wife, Auntie Jack and their son, Jackie. I had Jackie in school. He knew I was saving my money and he said, "When you get ready to buy, go over and buy from old Joe Howard." I said, "All right, if you think I should, I will."

**ZL:** And what year was that when you purchased your car, in the 30s?

**PR:** Yes. Sometime in there. Then later on when things really got short, they were laying off teachers and I went over to Globe and worked in one of the government offices for awhile. They were just cutting down on the staff of teachers.

**ZL:** Did they close the schools entirely?

**PR:** Never. Never closed the schools, but they operated on a very minimal basis.

**ZL:** So you went to work for the government doing what?

**PR:** It was one of those government agency offices doing general work, providing jobs. I worked there for awhile and from there the Inspiration mine was opening again, so I got a job in the office there.

**ZL:** This was Inspiration Consolidated Copper?

**PR:** Yes, I got a job up there.

**ZL:** And you were working for the superintendent of the leaching plant. Now what's a leaching plant?

**PR:** It's a process by which they develop copper. Sometimes they do it by smelting and sometimes by leaching. I went up to apply for the job. Everybody was glad to get out of the government work. I was lucky to get a job. It was strange the way I got it. A woman had worked with me in the office there, one of these government jobs, I forget what the initials were. She went to work up there. She got this job at the copper company, but she had a husband who was ill and it was 10 miles out there. She got a job with one of the law firms in Globe when she went up and applied for that and she called me. She said, "I know you are anxious to get a good job and I'm leaving to go with this law firm. I'm sure you will get the job if you go up and apply for it." So I called and went up that evening about 4:30. I called the superintendent and he said, "I 'II wait for you until 5 o'clock, no later." I went up and applied for the job and he said to me, 'We did not want to hire a woman up here again. We had an unfortunate experience once and then when this other lady got the job in Globe so she could be at home with her husband, but you're qualified, we'll hire you." I was lucky I had my car, so I went to work.

**ZL:** How far is Inspiration from Globe?

**PR:** Ten miles. I had several men riding with me. Their wives needed the cars so I'd pick them up every morning at the post office and I drove. They paid me the magnificent sum of $2.50 every pay day for transportation. That helped with the tires and the gasoline and so forth.

**ZL:** You've been car pooling a long time.

**PR:** I understand car pooling. Once in a while a woman would get a ride, but they were few and far between in those times. Every morning I picked them up, dropped one man off at the smelter, two more at the general office, then I went on to the leaching plant. Everyone told me he would be very difficult to

work for. He was one of the nicest men I ever worked for. But he laid the law down first thing. He said, "Young lady, I will not tolerate incompetency or inefficiency. We buy the best stationery; I never want to see letters thrown in the waste basket. You type them right the first time." And he meant exactly what he said. He said, "Once you've mastered the job you are on, (there was only one other man in the office) you will learn his job. We never get caught short here and your job can be filled by somebody else. You must know how to get those reports out." He meant business and I had to learn to do it. We had calculators in those days, but we didn't have much else. So I learned that. He was really wonderful to work for once we understood each other.

**ZL:** What was his name?

**PR:** Aldrich. Mr. Aldrich. He said, 'We have an excellent filing system here." I had only been there about three days and he called me into his office and he said, "About 10 years ago, I wrote a letter to the office down in Chuquicamata in Chile. Bring me a copy of that letter; it deals with the air separation of fires." Well, I was stumped for a minute and I said to Johnny, the man in the office, "Help me find it." We found it. I learned lots on that job. He said, "Desks must be clear every night. We don't pay janitors to move things on desks." It was an excellent place to be trained.

**ZL:** And that's the job where you had your first introduction to the state legislature. Tell about this.

**PR:** At the leaching plant, about a half mile down from the general office, Mr. Tom O'Brian was the general manager. He came down every morning about a certain time and he and Mr. Aldrich discussed the plans for the day. It was just the routine work day. He was there one morning and Mr. Aldrich came to the door and called me in. He said, "Come into my office." And I thought, “What has happened? There are no letters that aren't finished; there is nothing that hasn't been done.” He said, "Sit down a minute. Mr. O'Brian has just come down and he has a request to make."

Now I might tell you that in those days, the mines, railroads and utilities were the big tax payers. It behooved them to know everything that was going on in the legislature. After all, they were in business. They furnished jobs for lots of people, they wanted to see that their taxes did not go too high. The mines, railroads and utilities, big tax payers. Mr. O'Brian said, "I've had a request. The legislature has just started in Phoenix and I've had a request for a secretary (they called them stenographers in those days) who can work like hell and keep her mouth shut. They want you to work for the Appropriations Committee. The woman who has worked there for years cannot come back this year. They need one more, they have another gal there." And I very glibly said, "But I'm not the least bit interested in it. I love my job here." So he said, “Well, think it over." After he left, Mr. Aldrich said to me, “When Mr. O'Brian speaks, we usually obey. When raises come out, the people who cooperate are the ones who are in line." So I thought, “Well, all right. Tell him I will go.” I didn't know anything about the legislature except what I had read in books.

I went home, back to my apartment in Globe and packed stuff enough for a week. I thought I'll be home on Friday. Little did I know. I came down to Phoenix and stayed all night at the Adams Hotel and went out the next morning. They said, "Come in here and I'll introduce you to the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee. There is another woman here and you have to take verbatim notes and you must have it on the members' desks by the next morning. She used one of those steno type machines and I wrote Gregg shorthand. We had the hearings and took notes, as nearly verbatim as we could get them. Then we had to transcribe them and have them on the members' desks the next morning. Now we had no Xerox machines, we had no means of anything else. We didn't have any microphones or tape recorders. It was just plain hard work. The first day I didn't earn my magnificent salary of $5.00 a day by any means, but you soon got on to it because everything you've ever learned, if it pertains, comes back to you. I didn't know the terms. But you can learn in a hurry. We did. You were supposed to be there at 8:00; we were always there before, because the meetings started at 8:00. They would meet until10:00 and then we would have a chance, maybe, to transcribe some of our notes, get them together. We also had to call and make arrangements for every state department to come in. We had to schedule those for hearings. You soon learned that if you scheduled a big one you scheduled a little one after that. So it was a liberal education. I learned more than I learned in a year of college. I learned practical government the way it was. We had to stay at night until our notes were transcribed.

**ZL:** Did you work together?

**PR:** Oh yes, we worked together. For the first few days, as I say, I depended on her so much, but then you sort of get the idea. Yes, we worked together and we put our notes together and typed them.

**ZL:** How did you copy those?

**PR:** We had one of those old mimeographs and we had to cut stencils. Then they were put on the members' desks. It was a liberal education and we stayed at night until we finished. You soon learned how to cut corners, how to get things done. It just comes with working. They adopted the budget as they went along, tentatively. So you didn't have all of this delay. They were only in session for 60 days and the pay stopped at the end of 60 days.

**ZL:** So they couldn't extend it?

**PR:** That was it. They might go a little bit over, but they knew the pay stopped. And they did their own work. We had very little help in those days. The committees didn't have people do research and things for them. These were a lot of good, wholesome, hardheaded, farmers and businessmen, so forth and so on. They were paying their debt to the state by serving in the legislature. We met behind closed doors. Now

we have the open meeting law and I firmly believe in standing up and being counted when you take a vote. But there are lots of things you learn behind closed doors that you'd never learn otherwise. I remember once in one committee, when I was Chairman of the Education Committee, this was a new man and he knew about county government. There were some things going on that we couldn't put our finger on. He said, "All right, just between us girls, I'm going to tell you how they work it, and if anybody ever says I told you, I'll swear I didn't tell you anything." But we learned. It was a different world, a different way of doing things.

**ZL:** How many members were in the House in those days?

**PR:** I think there were about 51, something like that. On our appropriation committee there were eleven members and they were the pick of the bunch. They usually would break in a couple new ones every year because you needed somebody who was familiar with it. The chairman was a banker from Douglas. Vice chairman was a chemist from Phelps Dodge, up around Jerome, there was a farmer, a rancher, I don't just remember. And they were sworn to secrecy. They never told what went on in meetings. Because nobody could come in and lobby them and say, "Oh, I hear we didn't get so much here. I hear you were kind of tight on somebody else."

**ZL:** And what about lobbyists in those days?

**PR:** You didn't see too much of them. If they were there you could find them. Phelps Dodge always kept some of their best accountants down at the Adams Hotel and they kept track every day. They knew just how much money had been appropriated. They knew. But once in a while you'd get one that was a little overbearing and say, "I need to talk to you about so and so", but by and large it wasn't blatant. Now people will tell you that the lobbyists ran it; they kept close track of things, they really did, and they watched the bills that went through so they knew what was going on, but it was a different breed.

**ZL:** Now in your role you weren't supposed to report back to the mining company?

**PR:** No, no never. Never a thing. Not a thing. I was just sent down here to work.

**ZL:** And you said you spent the first night at the Adams and then where did you live?

**PR:** Rose Mofford's sister, Eva that I had known real well was down here, so I called Eva and I said, “Where are you?" She said, "I'm going to have to move. I've been living at such and such a place." I said, "Fine. Let's go get an apartment someplace out close to the capitol and we need to do it quickly." And we did. We found an apartment and we stayed there together until the session was over. I was just lucky that she was moving because it was difficult to find places to stay.

**ZL:** Did management from the utilities send people down to help with the legislature?

**PR:** I don't know. But when Mr. O'Brian sent me down he never said report to me about anything. He didn't care. He just sent me down to work because help was a little difficult to get in those days. The same people came back year after year to the legislature and if there was an opening they'd call upon somebody to fill it. And I wouldn't be surprised, they may have called some of the other places at times. Somebody might have said, "Do you have somebody that you might loan to us for awhile?" It was only 60 days.

**ZL:** It was probably hard to get that qualified help for that length of time.

**PR:** Yes, you are right. It was difficult because those who had jobs didn't want to leave them. But as I say, year after year the place closed down when the legislature was over. They didn't have anybody out here to look after anything. Just locked it up.

**ZL:** Is that right?

**PR:** And I remember when Lallah Ruth became chief clerk here. She said to some of the people, "I cannot come in for just 60 days for the session. I have to have a full-time job." They didn't want to lose her because it would be hard to find somebody with her knowledge. So they made arrangements, and I remember this well, that she would be paid $10.00 a day during the session. Then she would be kept on the rest of the year for $5.00 a day so that the place would be open and they could come in. See Arizona was still a pretty small state. That was before World War II and before air conditioning when people found they could live here during the summer. The big tax payers kept watch of things, and I'm sure they said, "Yes, I can spare a secretary for awhile."

**ZL:** So then when the session was over you went back to the job at . . .

**PR:** My job at Inspiration. I went back there and as he said to me, 'We can replace you up here, but it's difficult with your background down there."

**ZL:** This interview is being conducted in the House Chambers where Mrs. Rosenbaum first came when she came down to the House to help with the Legislature and she is going to describe this room. It's a beautiful room.

**PR:** Well, it was restored a number of years ago, after we built the new building, the new Senate-House wings.

**ZL:** And that was in 1960?

**PR:** In 1960, we moved into the new wing. After the House moved out, this place became kind of a junk pile because things were thrown around. When Frank Kelley became speaker, he had the idea of restoring it to its original state. And I am so glad to his eternal credit that he did. So this is the room. It's a beautiful room. The Territorial Legislature served here. It was in this room that the Arizona Constitution was written. Notice the beautiful wood in the room. The light fixtures, you'll see two face up and two face down, because when it was built electricity was in its infancy. The generators didn't always work and electricity was in short supply. They could always go back to the old gas lamps if they needed to. The flowered carpet on the floor is the same as in the original chambers. They found scraps when they were renovating and sent them back to France to have it woven so it conforms. I think there are one or two originals desks in here but the rest are replicas and most of them made by prison labor so that it conforms pretty much. When I served in here, the offices that had been along the sides had been removed because it had grown from probably thirty to forty people. Finally there were eighty people in this room, if you could imagine. The desks were circled clear around on either side and so close together that you had no secrets from each other. One of the things that you'll see missing - we had big old hooks on the side of every desk where they would hang the galley sheets from the day before. They were hazardous to both men and women because the hooks would catch the men's trousers and the women's skirts.

**ZL:** Would you explain what a galley sheet is?

**PR:** It's the notes, the printed minutes of what went on the day before. They were hung there. That was one of the things we finally got rid of, but some of the desks you could probably see where the holes were.

**ZL:** You were going to tell about the spittoons.

**PR:** They didn't take too good care of these chambers after awhile. Money was tight and the carpeting wore out and they had old green linoleum on the floor and by every desk was an old spittoon. They were terrible. Some of the women made up their minds that when we moved to the new House Chambers no spittoons would go either in the House or Senate and they didn't. We are free of them and we are also smoke free in the new House Chambers.

**ZL:** While you were working at the legislature, you got to know your future husband, Rosie Rosenbaum. Was his first name William?

**PR:** William George. Yes, I had known him in Hayden and I knew he was in the legislature, but that was about all. He sort of ran the place. He was the floor leader in those days and looked after things. There was always somebody who had to be in charge of things. I got to know him very, very well.

**ZL:** Now he'd been here about 12 years when you came.

**PR:** Yes, I'm sure he had been about that long. As I say, I'd known him in Hayden and I got to know him very well here. We were married late that fall after my first year here.

**ZL:** He was Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee?

**PR:** No, he was Chairman of Administration, but they didn't call it Administration in those days. They called it Printing and Clerks and he did the hiring of the help and he looked after everything. He did all the proofreading of the bills and all the odd jobs that he did were later combined under the term Administration Committee, because they did the administrating. He ran a tight ship and then he was the floor leader too and carried most of the bills on the floor. In those days they had Leonard Kline who was the assistant from up at Jerome. They sort of answered the same description. They could be arguing a bill; if Rosie had to leave the floor then Leonard would take over and go right ahead until Rosie came back. He looked after things and kept the folks in line. His job was to take care of the Speaker. Keep the Speaker out of trouble. The Speaker was the presiding officer. He kept dignity and decorum on the floor and watched the debate carefully to see that everybody kept in line. Everything was referred to him as to whether it was in proper form and the procedure was proper. Sometimes he had to make some very difficult decisions, but they always respected his decisions.

**ZL:** What were the committees he was chairman of?

**PR:** He was chairman of two committees. One was called Enrolling and Engrossing. That dealt with the final bill after it had been passed out of the committees and the committee of the whole, to get it ready for its final third reading. Every bill was read and proofed before it went for the final bill reading. And then the other committee was Printing and Clerk. So you see he had everything here. The printing of the bills, hiring of the clerks, the checking of the bills after they were passed out of the committee as a whole, and the proofing before they went on third reading.

**ZL:** Well, to proofread those bills; that would take tremendous time.

**PR:** It took a lot of time and I'm a good proofreader. I learned.

**ZL:** So you helped . . .

**PR:** Yes, I helped a lot after we were married and I was down here. I helped on proofreading and it's an art, proofreading is, but they had to be right. We seldom had to ever come back and correct things because

they went out of here right, because they couldn't afford to come back with special sessions and do things.

**ZL:** Would you tell about the Robles filibuster?

**PR:** Yes, that was probably the most famous filibuster in Arizona history. Frank Robles came from Tucson. He was a great friend of Sidney Kartus. Sidney Kartus was not in the legislature, but he master minded a great many things and he was so opposed to the Colorado River Compact.

**ZL:** What was his background?

**PR:** He was working on the anti-Colorado River Compact. And he was against all of those things. This one morning, right in this room, about ten o'clock in the morning, they opened at ten and after the preliminary things, Frank Robles came to the front of the place, to speak on personal privilege. He carried an armload of books which he laid down and he supposedly had a Bible and a number of other books. About 10:20 in the morning Frank started and he talked and he talked and everybody got restless after a while, but they had no gag rule in Arizona. Freedom of Speech. You could speak for as long as you wanted and they could never get time limits. So he went on through the noon hour and you had to keep a quorum on the floor at all times. People would leave and go get a bite to eat and come back and Rosie sort of arranged so that everybody had a little time off. He went on and I felt so sorry for the chief clerk. I wasn't working, I was sitting in the balcony most of the time. So it went on one, two, and three.

At about 5:20, something like that in the afternoon, Rosie went up to Frank, and he said, "Frank, you need to take a bathroom break. You haven't been off of this floor since morning." "Oh no, I won't go, I won't leave. I'll never get it back." And Rosie said, "You owe it to yourself." Frank said and I won't repeat the whole conversation. "The only way I would do it is to have so and so hold the floor for me. And there's only one so and so in this building that I would trust." And Rosie said, "Who would you trust?" and Frank said, "You." Rosie said, "All right, Frank. I will hold the floor and you have my word I will relinquish it to you when you come back. You take ten minutes off." So he took ten minutes off and he came back and he started in again. Mr. Kartus sat in the balcony and he would sort of motion to Frank and Frank would look up to him. He talked all night. The chief clerk was getting so tired.

We had one woman here by the name of Clara Botzum from Yuma County. Clara is the greatest story teller I have ever known and most of the men said they've never heard the same story twice without special request. Along about eleven o'clock at night those of us sitting in the balcony saw Clara, she had a sheet of paper and a pencil. She'd get a couple of men in one place and we could see her, she was drawing something and then you'd hear guffawing laughter and then she'd let that die down and then she'd walk over to some other place in the room and get some others. Everybody was getting curious and Lallah Ruth was chief clerk and Ruby Sanders. Pretty soon Clara went over, probably midnight or one o'clock and she

kind of sat down by the chief clerk and Ruby and she had her little pencil out and I never saw anyone laugh harder than Lallah Ruth and those people did. They were so tired they were a little hysterical but nobody could find what the joke was because you didn't dare come down and nobody that came off the floor would tell. So it was a long time after that some of us found what the joke was, it won't bear repeating . . .

**ZL:** But it did entertain the people for that long night.

**PR:** It went on all night and some of the men would go into rooms and lie down and try to sleep a little bit, but the quorum must be kept. Finally at about 7:20 in the morning, the men's beards were beginning to show; furthermore they were blurry-eyed, hungry and tired. All of a sudden, Mr. Robles says, "Mr. Speaker, I vote no." So that ended the filibuster. They went ahead and finished up the business to complete the day and went home to get some sleep. I think they came back after lunch the next day. They came back and passed a gag rule limiting speaking on the floor to ten minutes if it was on a bill and five minutes on an amendment. You could not go over that without special permission from the entire House. So that's the way Arizona got a gag rule.

**ZL:** That's a wonderful story. I'd like to have a little back ground on your husband. When did he come to Arizona?

**PR:** He came to die. He came to die of malaria fever. He was born in Kentucky and I guess malaria was quite common back there. They were building the mining camp of Hayden and he came out. He knew somebody here.

**ZL:** He was a young man then?

**PR:** Oh yes, a very young man. Came out and he said that he had to get out of Kentucky and if he ever went back the first mosquito that bit him, it came back on again. He got a job riding a mule, taking grocery orders for the suppliers that were building the camp. He said he would go in the morning and then the things would be delivered to the construction people. He said, "I was young and unsophisticated in a lot of ways, but I noticed they ordered so much kerosene. Finally I got up the courage to ask why they used so much kerosene." He said they looked at me and said, "Don't you know what kerosene is?" And he said, "Yes" and they said, "No, it's booze." That's why it was charged to kerosene.

He lived here and after he'd been here about six months he said, "I was suntanned and I regained my health." One reason he decided he would serve in the legislature was because Arizona had restored his health. The reason he happened to run is . . . He'd been in World War I and was very active in the American Legion. Former Governor McFarland and he became very close friends through the Legion. Some of the Legion members asked him to run. He said, "Well, I just don't know whether I can. I don't feel I'm really

qualified to run."

**ZL:** Now he must have been in World War I after he'd been in Hayden and after he'd gotten healthy.

**PR:** Yes. He stayed in Hayden, he never left Hayden. They said, "We'll get you elected. We've watched your work in the Legion and we need a person like you." So he ran, I can't remember the year. I think maybe 1926, something like that, and was elected and re-elected and stayed with it until he died.

**ZL:** Was he a pharmacist?

**PR:** Yes, he was a pharmacist by profession. In those days you did it by apprenticeship. There were no pharmacy schools where he lived. You went in and you worked in a drug store under the supervision of a master pharmacist. Then you took your examinations.

**ZL:** But then later he went to work for the mining companies?

**PR:** Oh yes, he opened the first drug store in Hayden. Then later on due to the long hours - open early morning to late at night - he went to work for the company. He sold the drug store and went to work for the mining company in Hayden and stayed with them as long as he lived.

**ZL:** It seemed to me I read two different things. One said he was superintendent and one said he was mill foreman.

**PR:** He was mill foreman. During a layoff at one time he came down to Phoenix and worked in a drug store in Phoenix.

**ZL:** I think I read somewhere where he never gave up his pharmacy license.

**PR:** That's right. He never gave up his pharmacy license. In those days in Hayden you were so far away and if somebody had to have prescription filled, if a pharmacist left for a day, Rosie was on call. They usually left when he'd be on a shift when he could get away. Yes, he was very devoted to his profession.

**ZL:** Now when you met him, or when you came down here to the legislature, he was a widower with a son.

**PR:** Yes, his wife had died and Warren was pretty well grown in those days. Warren was in college.

**ZL:** The two of you were married in Las Vegas.

**PR:** Yes, in Las Vegas. I was working up at Inspiration and Rosie was working and my mother and my sister lived in California. My mother and my two sisters, we had to meet at a half-way place and they suggested Las Vegas would be a nice place to meet. So that's where we were married by an Episcopal minister.

**ZL:** Do you think people in the House were surprised, or did they expect it when the two of you married?

**PR:** I think some of them were surprised and yes, some were and others just never paid much attention to anything. Somebody read it in the paper and said, 'Well, I was sort of surprised."

**ZL:** After the two of you were married, you continued to live in Hayden?

**PR:** Yes, I had worked at Inspiration and I had to wait until they could find a replacement for me up there. Everything kind of hinged on other things. I had told my boss I was going to be married and he said, 'We've got to find somebody now. How long can you stay?" I said, 'Well, I'll stay until such and such a time." Then I lived in Hayden and Rosie did not want me to teach again. See it was after a time when they were short of teachers so they would take married women.

**ZL:** You two married in 1949. No, I'm sorry, you married in ‘39.

**PR:** Yes, '39. Because '49 was when he died. And so the school board came up to the mill one day and they said, "Rosie, we have a sixth grade class sitting down there without a teacher and your wife is eligible to teach." He said, “Well, I don't want her to teach. We have too many other things to do." They said, "So you'll let those kids sit there then, will you?" He said, "No, you win." Then I went back to teaching and we had sort of an agreement. You know when you teach you talk about the kids all the time. So this was a stipulation he laid down. He said, "All right, when you come home from school in the afternoon and I'm home or whenever I get home, I want you to take 10 minutes and I want you to tell me everything that happened there, what every little kid said, what they did and so forth and then I want you to shut up about it and I don't want to hear anymore about it." And you know, it was funny and sometimes he'd say, "Is that all that happened today?" Of course, I was so interested in the kids.

**ZL:** And enthusiastic.

**PR:** Oh yes, and they still come to see me. A lot of them.

**ZL:** I'm sure they do.

**ZL:** Now what did you do when you came down here for the legislative session? How did that work?

**PR:** I went to work for the tax research one session.

**ZL:** But what happened when you were teaching at the school?

**PR:** We got a substitute. There was a friend of mine who had married and she was glad to substitute in those days and she did.

**ZL:** So that was kind of standard. That occurred year after year.

**PR:** Yes, that was one of the stipulations he made. He said, "All right, she can teach, but when time comes for the legislature, she goes to the legislature with me." And that would be all right.

**ZL:** Now this part I don't know anything about. When you came down here you got a job with the Tax Research Association?

**PR:** Well, I came down and I wasn't going to work. They were still having trouble finding experienced help.

**ZL:** You worked for Tax Research for how many sessions?

**PR:** I know I worked for one full session. I might have worked another one. I just don't remember. They needed somebody out here at the Capitol, somebody who was familiar with the work and Mary Dennis was going to work for Tax Research. So my husband Rosie called Steve Speer and said, "Could you possibly let us have Mary Dennis, because she is familiar with it." And Steve said, "If you will trade with me and I'll take Polly to work for me." And that's how I started working there. I learned a lot that year I worked for Tax Research. I had to be out here every day and pick up all the bills, take them down. They analyzed them. Their offices were in the Heard Building. I had to cut the stencils and mimeograph the resumes that they had written and I had to have them in the mail by eleven o'clock at night. My time was my own, but those were the things that had to be in the mail. And I would always get a lot of envelopes addressed ahead of time and I'd get everything ready so that they were in the mail.

**ZL:** The legislature only met every two years.

**PR:** Every two years. It wasn't until the 50s sometime, I think, when we went to annual sessions. And there are still some legislatures in the country that meet only every two years.

**ZL:** This concludes our interview for today and we will continue at a later time.

**ZL:** This is the continuation of our interview with Polly Rosenbaum, the date is July 11, 1996.

**ZL:** When Mr. Rosenbaum was in the House, you and he lived at the Adams Hotel during the time that the legislature was in session. And I think several of the members of the House had rooms that adjoined one another.

**PR:** Yes, people from the outlying counties moved into the Adams Hotel and we had three adjoining rooms on the third floor: three-forty-two, three-forty-four and three-forty-six with connecting doors. We always had the middle room and we'd have a private phone put in.

**ZL:** Apparently not every room had phones in those days.

**PR:** They just had the hotel phones and sometimes you needed private conversations and sometimes it was difficult to get out on the hotel phones. Usually in one of the other rooms would be the Speaker and his wife and the Chairman of the Appropriations in the other, so you had a nucleus there. In the evenings after dinner, many members would walk. Phoenix was small. There was the Grand Restaurant and the Adams Hotel and there was the Flame. We knew every restaurant in town and every menu by the end of two weeks. Then after we'd have dinner, lots of them would walk. We weren't afraid of anything in those days. We'd walk from Van Buren to McDowell and back. Not all of them could take much distance, but some of us did. Then in the evenings after we got back probably at 7:30 or 8:00, lots of the women would play cards on the mezzanine or sit down in the lobby.

**ZL:** So the wives accompanied their husbands?

**PR:** Yes, the wives came with their husbands. It was the smart thing to do, it really was. They needed somebody to talk to when they got home; they'd worked hard all day. I remember one women telling me one night when they hadn't shown up for dinner. She said, "Well, Warner had just had it up to here. We walked miles that night, until he could walk off the frustration and then we came back and it was fine. Then he could attack another day." But the sessions were strenuous.

Then along in the evening, starting about eight o'clock, the members would drift in and the cowpunchers, well you know, how they sit on their heels. When we came I always brought my portable typewriter. We brought a wardrobe trunk because we could take the things out and hang them up. Then you could lock the trunk and turn it on its side and three people could sit on it. We always moved the bed and things around

because the middle room, which we had, was the congregating place. And what did they talk about? They talked about politics. Now I don't mean partisan politics, they talked about the issues of the day. I remember one fellow saying to a new member, a city boy, and they were talking something about livestock and cattle and this fellow was asking questions. This one old cowpuncher turned around to him, and the fellow was very glib in talking, "You should do this and that." He said, "Young feller, I'll bet you wouldn't know the front end of a horse from the rear end of a cow. Now would ya?" It was all camaraderie. But you learned a lot and they told of the conditions where they lived. The newspaper boys would drop over, many of them, after the paper was put to bed. They'd come in maybe nine, nine-thirty.

**ZL:** Was Ben Avery one of those?

**PR:** Ben was one and Harvey Mott was another one. There were four or five that put out the morning paper. Rosie always said to them, "Come over here, listen in. I'd rather you'd come and hear us talk so that you wouldn't have to speculate on what's going on. But don't ever break a confidence. You are welcome, but don't ever break a story until we give you permission." And do you know nobody ever did. They would sit up there. One fellow liked to drink quite a little bit. Somebody would set out a bottle of whiskey and a glass and others didn't touch it. He'd pour maybe two or three tablespoons at a time and he'd sit and drink. They would join in the conversation occasionally, but they knew everything that was going on. I remember one time up at the Capitol, the boys said to Rosie, it was along late in the afternoon, "You know we're going to have to take after you tomorrow morning, it's the paper's policy." Rosie said, "That's all right." And after their stories were ready they'd help run the mimeograph and do the bills that night and stay until it was finished.

The women came and they had a good time. See the sessions were sixty days and most of them were people whose children were in school. There weren't any small children. They were more mature couples. More mature people who had lots of experience. We had very few young people in those days. They had to find a job and they had to work. Occasionally they might go home once during a session. We never went home. The roads were bad and we worked from Monday morning through Friday. Sometimes we'd have Saturday morning sessions. Sixty days hung over your head all the time. And we didn't have the help, the people did their work. Every subject was thoroughly discussed. You would discuss it at the dinner table, you would discuss it when they would wander in during the evening. They all had passes to every movie theater in town which the women went to, but the men seldom had time to go. As I say, we never went home during the session.

**ZL:** What about the number of bills which were introduced?

**PR:** Not nearly as many as nowadays. I'II tell you a little bit about the caucus system, how it worked. You were very careful. I have never put in many bills. My husband didn't put in many bills. He felt only those

things which needed attention should be put in and they should be given attention. He always said that it took five or six years to get good legislation through because you'd talk about it for one session, it wouldn't be the way you wanted it. You'd come back again. With the one board of regents that took two or three sessions to get that bill through. We've had no problems with it since. But all the difficulties were ironed out ahead of time. There was quite a little social life for the women with some of the judges' wives and some of the town people . . . In those days you had teas in the afternoon, tea and cookies. The women were invited. I remember one time, I said to Clara Botzum from Parker, "Clara, come and go with me this afternoon to this tea."

**ZL:** She was a representative?

**PR:** She was a representative. But it depended on your committee meetings whether or not you could go. She said, "Oh honey, you can't make a lady out of me, I'm just nothing but an old hard rock miner." But she went and she said, "I don't have any white gloves." And I said, "I have a pair. You carry one and I'll carry the other." But there was lots of camaraderie.

Sunday was the only day we had. When O.L. McDaniel was in the House, he had a ranch which was at the corner of Grand Avenue and Camelback and often on Sunday mornings the legislators would be invited to come out. Freddie Fritz, who was up from Clifton, always made biscuits in the top of a flour sack, you know how the cowboys did. There was a Dutch oven where we could cook them. He had lots of fruit trees and citrus trees. The men would pick the citrus and we'd have bacon and eggs and biscuits and everybody had a wonderful time. In those days partisan politics had not reared its ugly head. Everybody liked each other. You seldom ever thought who was a Republican and who was a Democrat. There was camaraderie and closeness and you worked on things. You might disagree violently, but you could talk things out - I'll give a little here if you'll give a little there.

**ZL:** Of course when your husband was in the house there were very few Republicans.

**PR:** Very few. But he invited them right in to take part. I know Charlie McQuillan was from the northern part of the state. He had Charlie McQuillan preside once during the session and I know later on the Republicans talked about it because it was unusual. He was very capable.

Lots of the wives didn't have too much to do. Oh, they shopped and they knew what was on every show in town and they knew what was in every store. But Mrs. Hostetter from Tucson, her husband was a member, encouraged them. Several of them brought their portable machines and they sewed and made clothes for the orphan’s home in Tucson. They made cute clothes for the girls. She had a list of the ages of the children. Then we all put in a little money and bought pants or trousers for the boys and things like that. So they accomplished a lot and there was this good feeling among them.

**ZL:** Now you had to eat out for three meals a day?

**PR:** Oh yes, we had to eat all of our meals out and I say, there was the Grand Cafe, the Saratoga and the American Kitchen, there were several. But in the mornings, for breakfast, we had a set routine. We knew just how long, what time we must be down to eat and by the time Rosie was through shaving we must be ready to leave the hotel. We had it figured almost to the minute. We ate down at Donofrio's. There was a waitress there by the name of Rose and we all knew Rose very well. We made it down just a little after seven o'clock. Every morning Howard Pyle, commentator on the radio station, and his friend Rol Laughner, who was with him, would come and sit in the booth next to us. Of course we had conversations going back and forth all the time. We became very good friends, very close friends. Later on when Howard Pyle was campaigning for Governor, Barry Goldwater flew him up to Hayden. When he was speaking up there, he made a nice little speech about the morning sessions that we used to have and how we all got so well acquainted and discussed politics.

**ZL:** How did you get from the Adams to the Capitol? Did you drive your cars or did you take the street car?

**PR:** Very few drove their cars. We took the street car. It cost a dime and they ran about every 10 minutes. We had good service. After they did away with the street cars we had buses. You walked down to Washington from the Adams and got the street cars. Everybody rode the street cars. What did you talk about with the others? You talked about politics. About what was going on at the Capitol. We lived an intensive life.

**ZL:** Yes, now when did that start to change? When did people stop staying at the Adams?

**PR:** After the one man, one vote that was put in by the Warren court everything was changed. Arizona was patterned exactly after the U.S. Constitution. We had fourteen counties in those days and every county had two Senators. The House of Representatives was by apportionment, by representation. Some had one representative, some had more. Maricopa always had the most and Pima next. It gave a good balance of power. The founding fathers knew what they were doing when they set it up that way. In those days people knew their Representatives and their Senators. They were proud of them and they knew them, even in a county as large as Coconino or Mohave, or small like Greenlee, you were well represented. Before you came, the people would talk to you and say, "This ought to be done and we'll try and do something about that."

Dr. Huestis, who was the company doctor over in Hayden, came to Rosie and said, "There is some legislation that needs to be done. I don't know whether you know about it. Do you realize that on the birth

certificate of every illegitimate child, the word "bastard" is written across the certificate?" Rosie was appalled and said, "I never knew it." Dr. Huestis said, "I didn't think you did." It was an old throw back to someplace. Rosie said, "All right, I'll take care of it." But it wasn't as easy as you thought, I'll tell you now. There was a lot of difficulty. Of course they finally did it, but it was thoroughly discussed. Some of the lawyers and case workers objected to it. It was a controversial thing, but it had a good airing, a good hearing, and they finally changed it.

**ZL:** How many years did that take?

**PR:** I think it was probably done in the second year maybe, because hardly anybody knew about that. Illegitimacy was not as it is now. There was a provision made that in case of adoption, the original birth certificate could be filed away until the child was twenty-one years of age before he or she could find out. It really worked very well. But that was just one of the things that lots of people didn't know that condition existed.

**ZL:** You started to tell that during the Warren Court they changed the system.

**PR:** Oh, they changed and we had faceless districts. You were proud of your county and there was county spirit. It was like you were a football or basketball team and each school was proud of it. In Gila County we had two Senators. There were three House districts, the northern part, the middle part and southern part. Everybody knew their representative. Rosie represented district three for a number of years. Every county had a least one representative. I remember Greenlee County and Santa Cruz each had one in the House, but they had their two Senators. Much more time was given to consideration. You worked closely with your Senator. I remember the Senators from Mohave County and Bob Morrow who was in the House. I would see Bob sort of mosey over to the Senate - that was the word which was used, "mosey"- or someone from the Senate would mosey over to Bob and they'd have a little talk, just to remind him that maybe something was coming over and to watch for it. There was great cooperation between the Senators and Representatives. Not this rivalry.

**ZL:** Well, I'm sure the Senators stayed at the Adams too, so I'm sure there was a lot of camaraderie there also.

**PR:** Yes, there was a great deal of camaraderie. You lived it, you breathed it, you ate it and you lived with it all the time. That is what you're here for, the good of the state. I never heard anybody in those early days say, 'What can I get out of it for me?"

**ZL:** So when they changed the districts . . .

**PR:** When the districts changed was after Rosie was gone and I was here. I had parts of eight counties: Apache, Navajo, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Pinal, Yavapai and Maricopa County. Now to cover a district like that when you've had a compact little part of Gila County, that's when you didn't know each other anymore.

**ZL:** Do you remember what year that was?

**PR:** It was in the 60s sometime. I couldn't give you an exact year.

**ZL:** How could you get to know those constituents?

**PR:** You couldn't. It was difficult and all the towns would usually have something the same night. Maybe there would be something in Apache, Yavapai and Gila Counties all at the same time and they all wanted you to come. We campaigned a little differently in those days. Before the one man, one vote you would circulate your own petitions where you'd get out and see people. If somebody needed a job and a little extra money, you'd hire them, but you paid about five dollars to circulate petitions. They had political rallies. The state candidates and the national candidates would make a tour. They'd drive up from Phoenix on dusty dirty roads. They'd usually have a big dance along with the political rally and everybody came.

**ZL:** Rosie was Speaker for one special session of the legislature?

**PR:** He was Speaker during that one special session and there's kind of a story connected there. I won't repeat the conversation, but Governor Hunt was Governor at the time. His vocabulary was the vocabulary of the working man. He spoke a very colorful language as his daughter put it. He'd always clean it up in front of the women, but they were in talking to the Governor. He said, “Well, there's only one so and so person that can keep that House in control during this special session and you go over there and you get together and you elect Rosenbaum to handle that session." So that's the way that happened.

He much preferred the action on the floor and never wanted to be Speaker again. He said he would much rather be the floor leader because the Speaker is confined to the chair and presides; he doesn't take part, but the floor leader takes part all the time. Some people are that way. Some would much rather preside and let the others talk.

**ZL:** He set a record for the length of time that he was a Representative, didn't he?

**PR:** Yes, twenty-two years. As I told you before it was the American Legion who wanted him to run because Rosie was patriotic, very loving of his country. The Legion did so much work. In fact, he was a guardian for a deceased veteran that left five small children. Rosie looked after them, took care of them

and the mother. They lived way out in the country and we would have to shop and buy the clothes for school and we'd have to do everything for them.

**ZL:** One bill your husband sponsored, that I think is real interesting, was the driver's license. Apparently in Arizona you didn't have to take a test.

**PR:** No, in those days you didn't. You just got a driver's license. He became very interested in the national association on traffic safety and the rules of the road. I think there were six parts to the act: rules of the road, licensing, a number of things. It took years to get them all through, but we worked on them. He died without seeing them all enacted.

**ZL:** I guess there was a lot of opposition, which in this day seems remarkable.

**PR:** Many people said, "Why should I have to go and take an examination to get a driver's license?" Yes, there is always opposition to change. It's good though that they know about it, so you can hear all the opposition and know how to counteract it.

**ZL:** You told us about breakfast, but when you were working at the Capital, where did you eat lunch?

**PR:** Years ago there was a woman who lived near the capitol, who cooked and brought meals over and served them in the basement here. But the main place to eat around here was Kimball's Drugstore which was right across the street. Mrs. Kimball made the best pies that anybody ever tasted. That's the way they were described. She made all kinds of pies and all of the office help and everybody went there. The legislature, during the session, would usually adjourn for their morning session in time to get across there. You would stand in line to get some of the pies. I think she said she made 35 or 40 every morning and they were the best pies. You'd see somebody sitting at the counter and as soon as they ate, the person behind them would get that seat. Of course, they served other things too.

**ZL:** Sandwiches, and soup . . .

**PR:** Yes, things like that. She was a wonderful cook. So we ate lunches there, then later on there were places around. After Mrs. Kimball, the bottom fell out of lunches, after she didn't make pies anymore.

**ZL:** Then did you have any large parties?

**PR:** Oh, we had parties. When things would get very tense here on the floor and they did, as you can see in a room this size with fifty people in it. When times would get tense . . . I remember the silicosis bill was one. They were divided, labor and management. They worked all summer.

**ZL:** What was the bill to do?

**PR:** Many people suffered from silicosis. The lungs absorbed the dust.

**ZL:** The miners?

**PR:** Yes, the miners and it was a labor management bill. But they finally reached a compromise. And Rosie would say to the head page, her name was Nellie Vanderhoff and she had worked here for years. "Nellie, it's time for a party." They would get a party going. There were halls around here, sometimes they'd bring in bales of hay and it would be a barn dance. Everybody was mad at each other, just having a lot of troubles, but after they'd have a party . . . I remember saying to Rosie one time, "Well, you know that old fellow isn't so bad after all. I thought he was the meanest, orneriest thing that ever lived." A party would loosen the tension. They'd go and have a good time. It was usually on a Friday or Saturday night. Then by Monday morning everybody would come back and they were all friends again.

**ZL:** Wasn't there always one major party?

**PR:** Yes, we always had a major party. It was called The Legislative Grand Ball. The Westward Ho was very new at the time and that's where we had it. And I mean it was a Grand Ball. It cost ten dollars to go. Now you can imagine? That was years and years ago.

**ZL:** Was this at the end of the session?

**PR:** It was during the latter part of the session and you could invite the towns' people. They all loved to get invitations and go to the dance. There were a large number of people in the grand march, and then they had regular dancing. They were nice dances. Everybody came dressed up and they acted like ladies and gentlemen. The men wore business suits, but the women wore formal evening gowns.

**ZL:** Now you were going to tell us about caucuses in those days.

**PR:** Oh yes, the caucuses were very different. As you know a caucus is supposed to be a secret meeting. We never caucused at the Capitol. We had no place out here to caucus. And the caucus consisted of both Democrats and Republicans. Conservative isn't the word, but the people that felt alike. You always have a few renegades in any sort of an organization. If two people were running for Speaker, sometimes they would divide that way. The one who was elected Speaker, those who voted for him would belong to the majority caucus, he got the majority of the votes. The ones who voted for the other would belong to minority caucus. But on the other hand, usually they would get together; they sort of divided themselves

into the stable good people who were interested in doing a good job. You always had the hecklers and you needed them because they didn't let you get smug and complacent. They were the ones who found fault. The caucus met every Monday night. Everybody knew we never met in the Capitol. We usually met in the Security Building across the street from the Adams Hotel. You would see them go by twos and threes.

**ZL:** This is the second tape of an interview with Polly Rosenbaum, the date is July 11, 1996 and you were telling about the caucuses.

**PR:** They were held at the old Security Building and you'd see the caucus members walk over on Monday nights. One person was elected to preside over the caucus. We had a good way of doing things. He would say, “All right we'll just start at the beginning. Bill number one, who introduced it?" “Well, I did." "How important is it, what is it about?" He told about his bill and he'd say, "It's something that I'd like to have but it isn't the most pressing thing. It can probably go in pile number two" Or somebody else, "Bill number two, introduce it." "It deals with so and so and it is of vital importance." The Chairmen would all be there, and the committees would see it.

I remember this one young fellow introduced a bill. When asked, “What's that about?" He said, "I don't ever want to let it see the light of day. Somebody talked me into introducing it and the church people in my district would kill me if it ever passed." He was kind of smart aleck and quite a while later, he got a little smart and somebody said, "I think we better bring bill so and so out." And he said, "Don’t you dare."

Nothing was supposed to be told out of caucus. It was secret. And you didn't. But the chairman and every member of the committee sort of knew what bills were going to come up. It was understood. You didn't have to have papers that said you do this. You understood, you paid attention to what was going on. I remember one time, some things leaked out of the caucus by a certain person. He was told not to come back. I'll tell you, he begged to come back and he said, "I'll never do such and such a thing again."

**ZL:** Did he talk to the press?

**PR:** He talked to some of his constituents and told some of the lobbyists that their bill was in disfavor. Appropriations were always held behind closed doors and there was a good reason for that. The others, people could come in if they wanted to, but most people weren't interested in coming to listen to a bunch of people argue. But your work was done in committees and everybody had a chance at things. Everybody kind of knew and you'd set your agenda. We didn't have a secretary or anybody to do it, but the Chairman would preside and you had a wide range of people on there. Everybody had a little notebook and you kept track of what was asked. You knew what went on and you knew who said this and who said that. You might have to compromise. When I was Chairman of Education Committee, nobody knew who might have to carry that bill on the floor. I usually named the person who sponsored it. I wanted to see that

everybody had a chance to carry a bill on the floor and that they were prepared. Sometimes at the last minute if somebody could not be there, you assigned it to somebody else. It was like school in a way, you knew what was in the bills.

**ZL:** And you think legislators in those days read every bill?

**PR:** They did a pretty good job of reading them. You always had some that didn't. I remember one fellow saying to me, "Oh I never read a bill while I was out there, I just watched how so and so voted. He was my compadre and I voted like he did and I had the most perfect voting record ever." He stretched the truth a little bit, he knew enough about them; he just didn't make a practice of reading the bills. But most legislators read them and they didn't have so many but what they couldn't read them. They read the bills that came to their committees. They might not have read every bill. Bills in those days went to three or four committees so they got a good working over. Then you had the debate on the floor and the committee as a whole and that's where the real debate went and they were interesting. The balconies, on interesting bills, were packed with people who would come out. Lobbyists would come out and listen and they were just very interested in things. You carried your bills in the big old bill book and you took them to caucus. It was a different method of dealing with things.

**ZL:** Now when did that change?

**PR:** Well, it changed a lot after we moved to the new building because they had rooms where they could meet in this old building. When Ruppelius was the Speaker they fixed the room up on the fourth floor where you could have caucus, but you had the confusion of people coming in and out or they had to go take a telephone call or they were bored and they left. But in the old caucuses at night, nobody left caucus. You stayed until you were through. It was just a different method of handling things.

**ZL:** At some point during the legislative session, you would have mock sessions.

**PR:** Oh yes, we had a mock session. Most of them were held right in this building. That was the time the members got to see themselves as others saw them. And I'll tell you, they were funny. The attachés who worked on the floor, the pages, and some of the people on other jobs usually picked out somebody early in the session. They would watch them and say, "I want to take off so and so in the mock session." They were fun, never mean, and just funny. They were held at night. The towns' people would come and the balcony was packed. The members would go to the balcony. They couldn't come on the floor. There was one woman, Mrs. Ivy, from out in the Cartwright district. I guess in the early days they didn't have much money and they worked awfully hard. When they got to making money, her husband, every time he'd go on a cattle buying trip, would bring her a diamond ring. I remember hearing them tell how one of the men took off Mrs. Ivy. She was large and they padded him up with pillows and got one of her dresses. She

usually wore black dresses and then they put a little flash light bulb on each finger with a contact. She'd say, "Mr. Speaker," . . . and the lights would all go on. It was good fun.

Then I remember one time, Nellie Bush, who was a member of the House, took off the Governor, Sidney Osborn. She was very clever. She marched in that door and they had a special little platform and as she got to the platform, she purposely sort of stumbled, and she said, "I'm sorry, that's the missing plank in the Democratic Platform, over which I stumbled." There was another woman, Annie Campbell Jones, she always took her pencil, would hold it and say, "Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker." The morning after the boy took her off, she got up, "Mr. Speaker,'' she laid her pencil down. They were fun.

Then there was Clara Botzum, she always wore hats. The boy that took her off was a newspaper man. In those days they had millinery shops where you bought your hats. He must have brought out two dozen hat boxes that night. He sat them by the sides of his chair, all around it. He put on a hat and he looked around, never said a word. Took it off, put it in the box, put on another woman's hat. He did that all through the evening. She never wore a hat to session after that. They were just funny little things. Oh, there were so many things.

There was a tall lanky woman who wore all kinds of jewelry. There was the chaplain of the House who came in from Parker and one night the chaplain took her off. They took tinsel, strung it and made bracelets round his arms and everything. He took off this gal. Well, the jewelry didn't hang as heavily after that. But they were funny. They weren't cruel, they were funny and it was strange to see yourself as others saw you.

**ZL:** Now when you came down here with your husband in 1939, were there many women in the House at that time?

**PR:** Not very many, maybe two or three. They were scarce. I took off one of the pages during one mock session. Everybody thought that she was a little floozy. So they had me dressed up and I flitted all over the floor taking her place.

**ZL:** They sound like a lot of fun.

**PR:** They were fun. A great deal of camaraderie. The hatred, the meanness was not there. There were some people you didn't like and you never would like and you left them alone.

**ZL:** When you had the legislative sessions, they started in January, so you didn't need air conditioning?

**PR:** No, no. We had heat. See the radiators are still around. No, we didn't need it. Once I remember, there was a summer session. I think the Adams was one of the first to have air conditioning and they had it

advertised, one floor was cooled to 80 degrees. They did their work down there, but they came out here and did all the final work. Everything was done according to Hoyle here and it was hot.

**ZL:** Did they have fans?

**PR:** Yes, they had fans. But that was it.

**ZL:** That must have been very warm.

**PR:** It was. And I know, not long ago, they had one of the school groups that meets every year in mock sessions. They met here in this old building in June and they all complained how warm it was, even with the air conditioning they have here now when the youngsters come in for their sessions.

**ZL:** How did World War II affect the legislature?

**PR:** It affected it in many ways. We always had rooms at the Adams; they rented us rooms during the Depression when they had few customers. I think they rented rooms for three dollars and fifty cents a night. They needed the money and the legislators drew eight dollars a day. But during the wars years, Phoenix was filled with people. It was almost impossible to get places to eat at night. There was unrest. I think some of the members of the legislature were called into active service. But it was after the war was over that you felt the effects of it a great deal. Two things that changed the face of Arizona, according to my thinking, was World War II because so many had hated it here, the heat and everything. But they came back. It was a fresh place. And the other was air conditioning because it was during that time that air conditioning was developed. First they had the old swamp coolers and they found that people could live here during the summers, could exist. Of course, there are many other things, economic things.

**ZL:** But those were the two main things and they occurred almost simultaneously?

**PR:** Yes, they did.

**ZL:** And what do you remember about the Japanese Internment Camps which were in Arizona during World War II?

**PR:** Well, I remember that they were down around Florence. In fact, some friends of ours were in charge of it there. There were mixed feelings. Now we had a Korean Japanese family up in Hayden. They ran a little store. They were good citizens, but they were taken away and brought to the internment camp. Now I can see why because you never quite knew, even though they had lived there and later on after they'd been in Florence for a while they were paroled out to my husband back to Hayden.

During the war years, you couldn't get meat or other things. So my husband finally made arrangements that we could slaughter our own beef up there. It was ranch country. It wasn't the best beef in the world, but it was meat.

**ZL:** It was range beef, it wasn't pen fed.

**PR:** Yes and there were shortages of things. Of course, we only met every two years in those days, so the impact on the legislature itself was not much during those years, except the streets were full of soldiers at night. I can remember walking down the street in Phoenix after we'd finally gotten into a place to eat and some fellow in uniform came along and slapped Rosie on the shoulder. Rosie turned and they had served together in the legislature a few years before that. The fellow said, "Did you ever know a family by such and such a name in Hayden?" Rosie said, "Oh yes, we knew the whole family." "Well, that kid told me he was from Hayden and that he knew you so I made him a corporal right on that recommendation."

**ZL:** That's a great story. Now there was something else you wanted to say about the caucus.

**PR:** Yes, the caucuses. Yes, there was usually a consensus. The presiding person would say, "Anybody who can't support this legislation, tell us now so we will know, otherwise we will count on you. But if you find a time when you can't, come and tell us, we never want to be caught short. It's your decision and we ask that you let us know, so we will know where the votes are."

**ZL:** Your husband died in 1949, only ten years after you'd been married. And I gather, from what I read, it must have been very sudden.

**PR:** It was very sudden. Rosie had been in the medical corps in the Army and he always took very good care of himself. On our way in to Phoenix on a Sunday afternoon we stopped in Casa Grande to see our friends, the doctor and his wife there. Rosie said to him, "Well, Jim, Dr. O'Neal, I think I'll be in one of these days for a physical." He said, "Come back anytime you can get off and I'll give you a thorough going over." So we came on in and got the session started and going on Monday. Tuesday night we ate dinner down at the San Carlos Hotel. By the time we got back to the room he was not feeling well. That was unusual. So I called Harold Copp who was a pharmacist and lived close to us there. He came down and he wasn't alarmed or anything. I wasn't either. He said, "Rosie, you probably ate something that disagreed with you." It got worse, so I had them call the house physician. He came in and then we had a friend who was a doctor here and we called him and he came down. He got there just barely in time. Perfect health you see and by midnight that night he was gone. You felt in the morning you had everything in the world and by midnight you had nothing. Yes, it was a terrible shock.

**ZL:** Oh, it must have been awful. After your husband died you were sworn in almost immediately?

**PR:** I was appointed. The night he died, some of the younger folks were living down at the Westward Ho, and Raymond Langham was Speaker. Rosie had groomed him for Speaker. He came and he said to me something about it and he said, "Do you want to carry on?" And I said, "Yes, I will. There is so much unfinished business. He never had time to get some of these bills introduced." So he said, "We'll take care of that." I was appointed by the Board of Supervisors. You see it was so much easier than to call an election which would cost money, or to appoint somebody who would want to get something. It was quite common in those days if the wife was interested or could, to appoint her to fill out the unexpired term. So I was appointed.

**ZL:** Because this was the very beginning of the term.

**PR:** Yes, the second day. It didn't even reach the air until the next morning. So they met and closed the House down for the rest of the week. They did their regular business and then closed down. Then I was appointed. There was a large service held at Trinity Episcopal Church. Rosie was a Lutheran, but there was no church there and he'd gone to the Episcopal Church with me. It was held there and then a military funeral later and the planes flew over.

**ZL:** Now did you have a service in Hayden also?

**PR:** No, we never went back to Hayden. It was raining. The weather was bad, it was cold, disagreeable. We had the service there. Judge LaPrade said for me to come to his office to be sworn in. I came out the next morning to take his place, to sit in his chair.

**ZL:** He was on the Supreme Court for Arizona?

**PR:** Yes, and they always administer the oath of office. He said, "Come over to my office and I will administer the oath of office to you there and bring you back over and say that you have taken the oath of office." And of course there were numbers of tributes and many, many people made speeches. But I think the one that touched me most particularly was by a fellow named Charlie Abels. He was a tall, lanky fellow. He and Rosie had never agreed on anything. Charlie liked to needle him and he liked to mention the fact that Rosie worked for the "Company" and so forth. Charlie got up that morning and he said, "You know, Mr. Rosenbaum and I never agreed on much of anything. But I had great respect for him. He was Dean of this House and somehow this morning I feel that he is the Dean of the Kingdom of St. Peter." And that was very touching.

**ZL:** Oh, I would think. It's a beautiful tribute.

**PR:** Yes, I was given most of his committees to follow right on because I understood them all. So I started that day.

**ZL:** This is a continuation of an interview with Polly Rosenbaum and the date is July 25, 1996. We were going to begin today with the time period after your husband died. You were appointed to fulfill his term. During this time period you were learning how to be a widow and how to step into the legislature. You had been an observer for a long time, but now you were actually a participant.

**PR:** Yes, in some ways it was an easy transition and in others it was difficult. Because politics was still a man's world. You were a woman in a man's world. You played by his rules. But once you understood and accepted the situation, then it was very easy to know how to manage. For instance, committee assignments were appointed and one man who used to be Chairman of Livestock and Public Lands said, "I won't have a woman on my committee. I don't want one." And they said, "But you have to have a woman." He said, "If I have to, I'll take her." And he pointed to me. So I was on the Livestock and Public Lands. He came over to me later and he was a great big cow puncher and he said to me, "You don't need to come to meetings; I'll tell you what goes on." I said, "Oh, I want to come because I want to learn a little bit more about livestock and farming, I have sort of an idea." So I went to the meetings. I didn't say much. I listened all the time. And I think once I had a pretty good idea, but I whispered to one of the other men, and I said, "Try this on him and see how this sounds." It was just a simple fact. You got what you wanted lots of times, if you let somebody else sort of run interference for you. Because that was the way it was played. There were very few women.

**ZL:** Do you remember exactly how many when you came in?

**PR:** There were probably a couple or three when I first came in. Until in the 50s there just weren't very many. I don't know why some of them ran, except they wanted to fill a place on the ticket sometimes and they would put up some women, never thinking that they might be elected. In fact, I remember one woman coming to me and saying, "You'll have to help me a little because I let them use my name, but I never thought I'd be elected."

You had to watch all the time if you had good legislation you were interested in because they would want to quote, "help you." I had to learn to say, "I'll be glad for your help, but it's still my bill and I will handle it." They would come to your rescue. You always had the rascals and the renegades in every group and you have the nice, good people who are willing to help you. Then I finished out that term and people said, "Are you going to run for office?" I said, 'Well, I don't know." I was thinking about it. I like to think things through pretty well. I remember the person probably who was most helpful to me was Walter Nash, the Justice of the Peace in Hayden. I'd had his youngsters in school and I knew him well and he was an adept

politician; a great friend of Sidney Osborn as they were boys together.

**ZL:** Who was Governor at one time?

**PR:** Walter Nash said to me, "Are you going to run?" and I said, “Well, I'm thinking about it." And he said, “Let me tell you something. You are not the kind of person that does things half way.” I'd taught his kids in school. He said, "Make up your mind. If you run, you run to win or else don't run. Don't straddle the fence." Well, that was exactly what I needed and I said, "Yes, I am going to run. There are a lot of things that I would like to be able to do." In those days I had a nice district, the southern third of Gila County. A lot of youngsters had gone to school to me so I knew their parents. In closely knit communities like a mining camp, you know everybody. The difficulty in making the decision was that I was so alone. I had campaigned with my husband. We had fun campaigning and we went together. You'd go to the dances together. You'd do this, you'd do that. I hadn't a relative around; I knew I had to do it alone. The women I knew were fine but they could care less about politics. They were interested in parties, playing golf, having a good time. Lots of the men in the community were still of the old type, the woman's place is in the home. In fact, I remember one time I went back after a session and some old fellow said to me, "You know, we sure don't need a woman in the legislature. Did you know you voted against you own bill down there?" I said, "You bet I know it. It was so amended by various people that I couldn't live with it. I knew exactly what I was doing."

I knew I would have to campaign alone though I always tried to take somebody with me. I learned that early from one of the women who had been County Treasurer or Assessor there in Gila County. She said, "Never go alone. Have somebody along so that you know what is said, because people will twist your remarks." That was a good lesson I learned from her. She said, 'Whether or not they are interested in politics or not, have company with you." When I would go over to one part of Globe, I would take a gal who worked in one of the stores downtown, but she lived there. She'd say, 'We won't go to such and such a house because it's just not a good place to go." So I learned that, but I had to start out alone and do it.

**ZL:** And you were still in a grieving period.

**PR:** That's right.

**ZL:** That must have been very difficult.

**PR:** It was difficult. But luckily that first year I didn't have any opposition. So I got my papers filed.

**ZL:** Now how did the people in the American Legion . . .

**PR:** They were supportive in a way. It was still a man's world, very much so, very much so. Women were intruders. That's the thing that so many women have never learned, you don't intrude. You play by their rules and they were good rules, except woman just didn't take the lead in things. But you could do it, if you didn't make a spectacle of doing it. So I got off pretty easy.

I had to go back to school to renew my certificate, so I went back to U.S.C. to summer school. When I got home it was right before the election, so I was fine. But the fun had gone out of it. The J.P. and I would always go to a place right across from the polling place and we'd have our cards of all who were registered. As they voted, we'd transfer them to the other file and check on them. I got back in time, of course, for the primary and we did that. I would always go out in the car and pick up those who hadn't voted when my husband was running. We'd get them in. The real fun was gone. Then I went over to Globe and I worked for Jim Heron who gave me a job in his office. He'd been a great friend of Rosie's and he'd been a former Speaker.

**ZL:** And what did he do?

**PR:** He had a real estate office and a title company, later on incorporated into a savings and loan. And I said to him, "How do you feel if I run for office?" Help was harder to get in those days. You got somebody and they didn't want to lose you for any time. He said, "You go ahead and run, more power to you." And he said, "You'll have time off to go." The sessions were was just 60 days then. “You won't be paid when you're gone, but your job will be here when you get ready to come back." So I did. I think the second year I ran, I had opposition. And after that I usually did. Running for office was different in those days. You didn't buy your offices like you do now. You have to have a big campaign fund. I found some old records where I ran for one hundred dollars.

**ZL:** Are you serious?

**PR:** I saved the thing to show because no one would believe it. I knew everybody, could circulate my own petitions and it was a small district. I didn't have to have too many names. I could go out, work a few hours a day and catch people, or maybe go downtown and get your petitions signed. I had Hayden and Winkelman and a little bit of Globe, and Christmas which were all around there. You put a ten dollar ad in the Globe paper. There weren't many newspapers in those days, no radio stations to speak of. There would be a political dance or two and I think they assessed the candidates about five dollars. So it was much different. And never in my life did I ever ask anybody for a dime. In fact, at first I wouldn't take donations. Then later on, as it became more expensive, I would take the ones I thought . . . In fact one group came into the office there in Globe and he said, "I want to make a contribution to your political campaign." I said, "Well thank you very much for thinking about me but I'm not going to take it." He said, "You're not going to take it?" I said, "No, I know you folks have a lot of legislation coming up next session and I would feel

duty bound to vote for it if I took your money." "Well," he said, "I can't understand that. What can we do for you?" I said, "Tell you employees to vote for me." I have never had a fundraiser. I can't say I don't believe in it, because it's the only way now. But I was in politics in a time when you worked more for the state of Arizona than to work for various interest groups.

**ZL:** When did that start to change?

**PR:** I think most of it came after the one man one vote when the districts were changed and you didn't have a part of a county. You knew people in your county and I always felt that it paid. The pay was not good but you could get by because prices were different. I have never asked anybody for a dime.

**ZL:** Now did you put up signs?

**PR:** In those first days, very few. I put up some.

**ZL:** It seems to me I remember little posters that candidates would put in store windows.

**PR:** Yes, I had done that and I usually tried, it was small enough, to see people. But later on you had to think about how you could reach people best when you had a lot of places to go. Then after the redistricting, I had parts of eight counties: Apache, Navajo, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, Pinal, Maricopa and Yavapai. It was a gerrymandered district. I think with malice of forethought maybe. Then I had to go to direct mailing. I did get out and that year I knew a fellow who had been a patrolman at one time and he worked up in Yavapai County. He said to me, "I don't want you driving up there up by yourself. You get your car ready and I'll come take you and drive." I said, “That will be fine." So he did. I was living in Globe, but we came to Phoenix and we worked from here a couple or three days. I went in to the Orme Ranch; I went in to Mayor and Humboldt. And the strange part, maybe the towns would be divided down a main street. I'd say, "Which part of the street do you live on?" Up in St. Johns and Springerville that was one of the first things I'd say, "Which side of main street do you live on?" Because they were divided right down the middle.

**ZL:** Why did they divide it that way?

**PR:** I don't know. I don't think anybody knew. They had to get a certain number of people in the district, but they could have made different lines. Lots of times people would say, "I can't vote for you because I'm on the wrong side of the street."

**ZL:** You had such a heterogeneous district. You had San Carlos Apaches . . .

**PR:** Yes, and the White Mountain Apaches up north.

**ZL:** Fort McDowell . . .

**PR:** Fort McDowell Indian Reservation out here. I did not go into the Navajo Reservation up there because that was all kept for the Indians. I had Black Canyon City, a part of it, I never had a whole town. In Camp Verde there was a dividing line.

**ZL:** New River?

**PR:** I had a little bit of it. We swept through from Globe in a northwesterly direction. We went into Seventh Street of Maricopa County, way far north. I had Fountain Hills, Apache Junction, and Dreamland Villa in Phoenix. Luckily I had a friend there I could go and see her and other people; then across into Yavapai County and up in Humboldt.

**ZL:** Now you didn't go into the city of Prescott?

**PR:** No, I did not go into Prescott. I stayed out. I remember Verne McCutchen had been the mine inspector, a Republican; I ran on the Democratic ticket. After he been defeated for office he had a little feed store up there around Humboldt and I went in to see him. I'd known him and I said, "Vern, how about putting up a sign or two in your building?" He said, "You put up a sign anytime, any day you want to up here. I'll tell my friends." He said, "You stuck by me on a case down there. You stayed with me until the bitter end." I always found the party lines were not as bad as they are today. I had a lot of Republican support. But I always remember when he said, "Put up your sign here."

**ZL:** With all the Native Americans, farmers, ranchers and people who lived in the metropolitan area, plus a lot of mining interests, how did you handle all those different perspectives?

**PR:** Well, I like to talk to people and sometimes they would approach you and say, "Now we need so and so." I remember I was in a grocery store in Springerville one day and a woman said, “I sort of know you because you are a friend of so and so's. How do you feel about this and how do you feel about that?" You have to have broad lines. I believe in keeping taxes as low as possible. I believe in furnishing the services that need to be furnished. I had a friend, a strong Republican friend, Gussie Larson, up in Lakeside. She allowed two signs to go on her gate. One was mine, the other was Eldon Rudd' s. Those two signs could go up and she defied anybody to ever take them down. But we sort of worked together. It was such a different political world. It was a nicer political world and I tried to always make it a point never to criticize an opponent, if I had one. What's the point in saying bad things about them, you just don't. And I'd say, "Yes, I have an opponent this year." Period. But this is what I have experienced and I am interested in this . . .

**ZL:** Did they ever have debates?

**PR:** Occasionally, but those came along a little bit later. Yes they would sometimes, but in those days you'd have a big gathering. They were more interested in having a dance and having each candidate get up so that everybody could see them. Yes, I have been on some debates. It was just different. Now I remember one time they needed some legislation up north and this was during the summer. They came from some of those northern counties and we met up in the Board of Supervisors Office in Globe. I think it was some water problem. So we talked and talked and I suggested, (I was the only woman there), that we do it this way and think about it. I like to think things through first instead of having to go back and change them. I said, "Now folks, why don't you do this? Draw up plans, but don't do a thing about putting it into a bill until we meet here once again. We want it as nearly correct as possible the first time." So we met a month later and it worked out beautifully. We took the notes, then we had the bill drawn and it was never a Republican or a Democratic bill, it was a bill on a water situation. They approached things from a different attitude and they were very concerned about things.

**ZL:** Well, you were working together for the State.

**PR:** Yes, for the State and for the District. I worked a lot and I remember when the terrible floods happened up in Clifton. I went up with somebody, I flew up. The terrible devastation . . .

**ZL:** Now which year?

**PR:** I don't remember the exact year. It's probably been 12 or 15 years ago. At one time, one summer, many years ago I was home up in Colorado and that was the year they had the terrible, terrible flood, the one hundred year flood in Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado. Just devastated the country. Help was hard to find and I got a job working with the Red Cross in disaster relief and I got a liberal education there. You never dreamed, you never knew, you could read about what devastation water does. It's different than fire. With fire, it's gone.

**ZL:** That's when that dam broke.

**PR:** Yes, up in there. When I went up there it was terrible.

**ZL:** And what did you actually do?

**PR:** Well we got legislation through. We worked for the Army Corp of Engineers to get a dam built up there in the Clifton area. It took a long time, we got money for relief. I was up there a couple years ago;

Rose Mofford and I were, when they were building the levy up there. I think I always tried to do things for the community and help. Then I worked in lots of other things, but the things that helped the people are what I am interested in.

**ZL:** When you first came into the legislature, there were woman who were the pages. And you worked to change that from a patronage position.

**PR:** I wanted to change it from a patronage position. When I first came in as an attaché, my husband was in charge of the Printing and Clerks. They hired the help. As I say the labor market in those days is not what it is today. Not too many were well trained and they weren't available. If they had a job, they were going to keep it. I had helped him proofread bills, everything was done here. So after he was gone awhile, I took charge of most of his committees. Having been a school teacher, I talked with the Speaker and said, "I think everybody who applies for a stenographic job or a typing job I will give them a test and find out if they are capable. So many people bring in anybody they can find to pay off a political debt. The examinations will be fair and quite easy at first, but I have to know whether they can transcribe their notes or whether they can't." So I did and there was a little problem at first. "Why should we have to take an exam?" The head of the stenographic department worked very closely with me and it really worked out very nice. I had to turn down a real good friend of mine. Well, she couldn't pass it and I said to her, "I'm just awfully sorry. You go back and you practice up on your skills a little bit and then you come back and take it again." A lot of them were afraid, but I developed the examination myself. I knew what type of work they would be doing.

**ZL:** Well, you had plenty of experience with it.

**PR:** Plenty of experience having taught. That worked out very well and everybody was pleased.

**ZL:** Didn't you work so that you'd have university students?

**PR:** That was the next step. We had lots of people who served as pages. Those whose skills wouldn't put them in the stenographic department, they would be a page on the floor of the House. They were woman and some of them came for a good time. I had so many complaints from people. I would have husbands call me and say, "My wife didn't get home until ten o'clock last night and I know very well she wasn't working that late." Somebody would call me and she'd say. "I'm sure my husband is out with one of those pages, one of those women out there." So I talked to, I think Bill Barkley was the Speaker. I said, "Bill, I want to make a radical change, but I can't do a thing without your support. I want to hire university boys for pages. They can work in dual capacity. They can move typewriters, they can move tables. They can do this, they can do that." He said, "I don't think you can get away with it." I said, "Well, I'm going to try it, but I have to have your blessing." He said, "Go ahead." So I went over to Dr. Shoftstall, Dean of Men over

at University.

**ZL:** ASU.

**PR:** ASU. We went over and talked to him. Jake Higgins, who was a Republican on my committee, worked at one of the radio stations. Very supportive of it, very nice fellow. So we went over and talked to him. I said, "Dr. Shoftstall, I want boys who are working their way through school. I want somebody who needs the money. I would prefer political majors. If not, I will take related majors. I'll need about eight or ten boys. They must be making a passing average." He thought it was a good idea. I said, "They must need to be working, they must need the money." So we interviewed, Mr. Higgins and I did. We selected our boys, but before we could go ahead - I was Chairman of the Printing and Clerks at that time - I knew on my committee, there would be violent opposition.

**ZL:** How many were on the committee?

**PR:** I think seven maybe. I counted my votes and I talked to those people who I knew would support me. There were three on there that I was pretty sure wouldn't. So I had the meeting called for a date before the opening of the session. Fred Smith, an attorney from Superior, was on the committee, very supportive. He called me and said, "I can't be at the meeting. I have a case in court in Pinal Country." I said, "Who's the judge?" A legislator doesn't call a judge. The two departments are separate. But I knew him, and I called him and told him who I was and said, "I have a very peculiar request to make from you. There are seven on the committee and with my vote we have a majority, we have four. Fred is vital. The case is lost if he isn't there. "He said, "I don't usually have people helping me set my calendar." I said, "This is the only time that I've asked." He said, "Can he be here tomorrow and the next day" and I said, "Oh I'm sure he can. But I would appreciate it immensely if you would change the scheduling on the calendar." So we had the meeting as scheduled.

**ZL:** So this is after 1960?

**PR:** Yes, it had to be. So then I called the meeting and I went through all the preliminary things we had to do about awarding contracts. Our printing was farmed out. Different printing firms did the printing. I think we were going to use the *Case Grande Dispatch*. I was apprehensive if we used them or if we used one of the printing companies here.

Then I waited until the end of the meeting and I said, "By the way, I have something else I want to bring up. I have decided that we will make a change in the hiring of pages. You know that it has been difficult and we've had to take those that couldn't work in the other departments. I have decided it would be a good idea to hire university boys. They can do the work. They are big and they're husky and they will be

carrying their regular school work. They won't be off because they are sick. The can move tables and chairs. We will run our schedules from six in the morning until six at night." You should have heard the explosion. I won't repeat it. "Why do you want to make a change?" And I said, "For efficiency and for better relations all around." We took the vote. Four votes aye, three votes nay. I tell you, the verbal abuse I took after that meeting was pretty bad. I pretended I didn't realize what they were talking about, what they were saying. I just pretended I didn't know what they meant. Walking down the hall, it was pretty bad.

**ZL:** How long did that last?

**PR:** Well, the boys had to come to work. They came in a few days before to be orientated. They were nice kids, they were good boys and they needed the money. They didn't know anything about legislative procedure. In those days the paper would run a list of the bills that had been printed and we all had little books that we carried; they would have to clip those bills and paste them in the books so the legislators would know all the bills. It was an efficient way. One boy or two boys would come in early in the morning - six o'clock they were here. They made the coffee and got things ready. I had it organized and scheduled. Then other boys stayed until six at night to look after everything because I knew people would stay just to see if they did.

I had to teach them so much. There was a time or two when I thought, is it worth it? I knew it was. I had a good secretary and she worked so hard and we taught them enough to get them started. I assigned each boy - I think there were eighty members in the House at the time - and maybe I had ten boys. Each had a section and I said, "You know everybody's name in your section. You know everybody on your side of the room in another day. Then you learn who they are. There are certain rules. Everyone is to be addressed Mr., Mrs., Miss or if you don't which they are, Representative. I don't want to ever hear somebody say, 'Hey you' or 'Hey Mr. Smith.' There are just a few lessons in courtesy that you must learn. Yes sir, yes ma'am, thank you, please. You all know those, but sometimes you forget about them. There are rules: you never go cash people's checks for them unless you have them put the checks in an envelope. You go over to the treasurer's office, you have them put the money in the envelope and you bring it back." We had a few people who questioned that they might have taken a quarter or fifty cents or something. I had to protect them.

Then we had school. I would take them up to a committee room. I always had to keep somebody on the floor. We would go through things: first reading, second reading, and third reading. I told them, "Know the process. On the floor you watch those call button lights and you go immediately. You kneel down, you never stand between anybody and the Speaker. You say, 'Sir that is one of the things we cannot do.' Or 'Yes, I will be glad to do it for you.' I never want you to walk out in the hall and somebody say to you, 'What's going on in there?' And you say, 'I don't know.' You say, 'They are on first reading. They are on second reading. They are in committee as a whole. You learn the process.'" And they did. I rode herd on

them. They called me Serge or Sergeant. But they were good kids and they learned. It worked out. One boy came to me and said, "Do I have to put up with the insults from a certain man over there?" I said, "What has he said?" I always lead with my nose, but I wanted to know. He told me and I said, "No, I'll transfer you. I have a boy from his part of the state. I'll put him over there, he won't care." Oh there was opposition. That first year was terrible for all of them.

**ZL:** So they didn't give up easily?

**PR:** Oh they didn't dare to. I said, "Your hours, you know what they are. Be sure to eat breakfast, you may have to wait a long time for lunch." And I said, "Another thing I cannot tolerate is to hear the King's English murdered. We all make grammatical errors at times because we don't think. If I hear you, I am going to take you aside and tell you. It's a habit, you know better, but you've heard it." They got to where they were correcting each other; it was good.

**ZL:** If they were in political science, what a wonderful opportunity for them.

**PR:** One boy came to me and said, "You know, it's different than what they are teaching us over there in political science. I don't think that professor has ever been over here." I said, "Let me tell you something. You have to pass the course. I will take a "C" grade because that will get you through, but the day you drop below a "C" you are out. Don't ever try to fool me. The registrar over there is a friend of mine. I can have your grades before you get them." I wouldn't have done it, but I told him I could. Every boy's grades improved. I said, "You bring your books here. You, who come in the early morning, don't sit around doing something else, keep you books here and if you have time work on them." I said to one boy. "John, did you stay until six o'clock last night?" He looked at me and said, "No ma'am, I didn't." I said, "You've told me the truth, I'm not going to punish you. Now if you have to get off early or something, come tell me and I'll make arrangements." When I said, "You must call everybody by name but you may call me 'Miss Polly,'" they were thrilled. That pleased them. I still see some of those boys after thirty years; they still come back to see me.

**ZL:** I can imagine.

**PR:** It worked out fine. Of course, after a while we had to include the girls, but we made a good beginning with the boys. They had to buy their own jackets in those days. Some of them reacted to the boys right away. Ma Hutch from down in Tucson, a rough character, quite a gal. She said, "Those are the best kids, they are just so good. They help me with this and with that." Most of the legislators liked them. I had one or two that resisted. One man came to me later and he said, "You were right about the pages. I was wrong."

Dr. Sechrist, a retired physician from Flagstaff, wonderful man, a wonderful legislator, didn't quite

approve. I think he thought I had sort of over-stepped my boundaries. When we knew he was dying, the Speaker wanted him to preside one day. We were already in the new House. This page, great big Richard, practically carried Dr. Sechrist up and sat him in the Speaker's chair. Sat beside him all during the time he presided to look after him, and then helped him get back to his seat. Dr. Sechrist half-way hobbled, half-way crawled after the session was over to my desk and he said, "Polly, I was wrong about the boys, you were right. Nobody could have been better to me than Richard was."

**ZL:** How long did it take for most of the legislators to accept the university students as pages?

**PR:** Most of them accepted the boys by the end of the first year, but I had a few hangers-on didn't. The one thing we had to break the ice was the mock session where they took them off. One year we had it and the boys wanted to do the mock session. I think that was the last year it was only boys, later we put in girls. We had this mock session and we had some of the secretaries and people. Everybody laughed until they cried about it and I think that sort of broke the ice. Then you have, always from the time of statehood, we've had about a 20 percent change every year. When they talk about term limits, they take care of themselves. About a third retire each year or weren't re-elected so some of the hard core ones left.

**ZL:** And you said you added girls?

**PR:** Yes, we did because we had so much complaint from the girls. Why couldn't they work if the boys could work and sex discrimination. It was when ERA and all those things were popular so we decided we would hire some girls too. We did and we tried to be very careful. I interviewed everybody personally and I always had somebody else do it too. So we gradually broke them in and we had some very good girls come on. I told the boys they must wear white shirts. We had uniforms for them; the first year they had to buy their own. I said, "Boys, if you have two white shirts you can get along, wash and wear. And the girls, "You wear skirts and white blouses because I don't want a violent purple on somebody and a violent pink on another one."

**ZL:** Then they had jackets?

**PR:** Yes, skirts and jackets. We bought the uniform for them. One year we had tan skirts, tan jackets. We'd change from time to time. One morning this great big boy came out and I said, "John, that shirt looks awfully pink to me." He said, "I got up this morning and I'd over slept. I reached in my closet and didn't have time to see what color it was." I said, "I'm not going to send you home to change your shirt, but don't get color blind anymore."

We had a little sparring once in a while between the boys. One time I noticed these two boys were on the floor kind of sniping at each other. I called them in and I said, "What are you two boys fighting about?"

They said, "Nothing." I said, "I have seen you and heard you. See this little office? You go in there. I am going to lock the other door and shut this one. You settle your differences before you come out or you're both fired. I don't care what you do to each other. If you want to have a knock down drag out fight, you fight about it, but I'm not going to put up with it." So after about twenty minutes two very sheepish looking boys came out. I said, "Are you differences solved?" "Yes ma'am." "You are never going to make snide remarks to each other?" "No ma'am." I said, "All right, all is forgiven if you've settled it." Never did hear any more about it. Years later I had lunch with one of the boys and I said, "What did you two boys fight about?" He said, "We didn't know what we were fighting about. I think it might have been something about which car was the best." I said, "Well, that's fine, you settled it."

We had the girls and a few more problems came along. The boys and girls were sniping at each other, so I called a meeting and we shut the doors. I was sick of hearing them talk to each other. I said, "I want to hear everything nasty you have been saying about each other and to each other. I want to hear it all because we are going to get it settled. I'm just not going to put up with it. Call a spade a spade, be as crude as you wish. Say what you want to about them. We're going to get it settled. Not one word that is said in here leaves this room. Nobody is coming in while we are talking and we'll get it settled." Everybody sat down and finally one boy said, "Well, I'll start, so and so this and so and so that." I said, "Now everybody listen because I don't want to repeat. You can say you agree with him."

So we went around and came to this one boy I'll call John who seemed to be the target. I could realize what it was and I said, "All right, sit back and we are going to relax a little bit now. John is going to tell us his problems, but I want to tell you something first. You folks came from home; you've had a couple years or so in college. I want to tell you something about John that he won't tell you, I'm sure. He may brag about this and brag about that and how he's been in the Army. But I'll tell you, John has been a paratrooper. He chose the most dangerous . . . Every time he took a jump it might be the last one. His gear had to be in perfect order. It wasn't fun and games. He's lived in a different world than you have. So different that you can't relate to each other. But just remember that his time is up; he spent two years . . . Parachuting may be fun but it's also very dangerous. You have an entirely different outlook on life because your life is in your hands every time you do. He will go to school now because he can get help." So we sat awhile and when we came to John he said, "Well, I guess I have been kind of hard to get along with. I was proud of what I did." When we got through, I said, "John do you think you can settle down to being a college student now?" "Yes ma'am, I think I can."

Then we came to another little girl. She was of Chinese extraction. "Well, they make fun about me and they talk about me because I'm Chinese." I said, "Listen, I knew your grandfather. He served in the House and he served in the Senate and he was criticized because he was the first Oriental to ever serve in the State Legislature, but I never heard him complain. I never heard him get insulted or anything. He served both places, and I know he probably took a lot. Why do you let it get under your skin? You ought to be proud of

the fact of what your family has done."

So it was all little petty things. Most of it didn't amount to a hill of beans. We finally came to the last one. The kid had had a hard time and he was working his way through school and he said, "I like everybody out here. I don't have a complaint about anything or anybody." I said," All right. That's fine. This is your last chance. Anybody have any more? I want to get this settled." They had calmed down a little bit and nothing like that happened again. You can harbor things within you, but if you can say them it clears the air.

**ZL:** Have an opportunity to express them and you know that other people have heard you.

**PR:** And you know that nobody is going to tell it. We were in there I'd say a good hour and a half and when we got through I said, "One last chance before we open the doors . . .” You know we never had a bit of trouble after that.

It's been good for the students. One older boy came to me once and he was head of the pages. He was sharp as he could be and he said, "That man is making the wrong motion isn't he?" I said, "Yes, you're right." He said, 'Well, I was just sure he was wrong." I said to him," You have to pass your course over there. So you write your final papers the way you have learned in the class there but you have the knowledge."

**ZL:** You were going to tell the story about the newspaper men and the pages.

**PR:** Oh, the newspaper men. They took up the cudgel. They were kind of casting aspersions at the hiring of the boys and they made a few snide remarks. But you know, at the end of the session one of the men came over and he said, "The newspaper people would like to take those boys to lunch. May we have your permission?" I said, "You certainly may." I thought they really have come around a long ways. I had told the boys, "You don't get in conversations with people; you never discuss politics or religion. I don't want to know what your religion is. You do not discuss party politics. I don't care. You must be registered to vote. I don't care how you vote as long as you are doing your civic duty." We get together occasionally. Not too long ago we had a party, two or three of us. Somebody took us to a club downtown and you know we laughed until everybody in the room was wondering. Somebody came by and asked, 'What are you folks laughing at?"

Oh, I must tell you a story about April Fool’s Day. They're kids, even though they were grown up. This boy said, "Can we have a little fun April Fool’s Day?" I said, "It depends on what it is. I'm all for having fun if we can." He said, “We'd like to put goldfish in the water bottles." We had bottled water there. I said, "That's a strange idea. Where are you going to get your goldfish?" He said, “We already have them." I said, "You bet you can. But on these conditions: somebody has to stand by that water bottle, and when a person goes up to take a drink, say, 'I think you better go to the other water bottle.’” Well that was fine.

One came up and she shrieked, "My God. Look at that thing." Of course they loved every bit of it. So they said to her, "I think you better go to the other fountain. This water is warm. You won't get a good cold drink." But little things like that. They had a good time. And really they made lots of awfully good friends out here. It was an experiment that worked out very well.

**ZL:** And now it is an accepted . . .

**PR:** They have never repealed the fact that we take university students. They get a chance to see and to learn. It depends on the committee hiring them. I think they will be pretty strict about it. We always had a member or two on the committee and I always said, “If you have problems, come to me. We'll shut the door and we'll discuss them and we'll get them straightened out."

**ZL:** Let's talk about the flying farmers.

**PR:** Oh yes, that was one of the nicest things that ever happened to the legislators. Jim Versellino, I think, was head of the State Aviation Authority. We were getting more people in the legislature who didn't know anything outside of Maricopa County. So they planned trips to see the different parts of the state. Now the Flying Farmers furnished the planes and the gasoline. We paid for our own meals and our hotel rooms and things. We were touring the state. It was one of the nicest things that ever happened. I remember the first year that we went, Ruth Peck and I roomed together. We went with an engineer in his plane to see the mining camp of Clifton and Morenci. Some people had never heard of Clifton and Morenci. The people in the outlying counties were most gracious in hosting us and usually they would have a party.

**ZL:** All of the legislators went?

**PR:** All that would go. Some wouldn't take advantage of it. Oh, they wouldn't do something like that. But they had a large crowd go.

**ZL:** What years did you do this?

**PR:** Oh, along in the 60s, sometime. It worked out very well. We usually were out two nights. We'd leave on a Friday night and Saturday night. A number of people wanted to be back for Sunday church service. But we were always out one or two nights. Now in Clifton and Morenci they had a nice party for us. It's different, sitting down and talking to people and seeing the mining operations there. Then we went over to Hoover Dam one time and were up at Page. I remember that particularly because the Chamber of Commerce and the town's people came out; you met people and talked with them. We went through a plant in Winslow once. Most didn't know they had any kind of a plant up there. Those who saw it knew when they were going to put the prison there, where it would be. Another time we went down along the

border and went over into Mexico, spent one night across the border.

**ZL:** Were you near Douglas or Nogales?

**PR:** Nogales, because we had to clear customs there. After the first time, I always flew with Virginia Hash. She had been a pilot in World War II, ferried planes back and forth. She was from an old, old time family in Flagstaff. Her uncle had been a lawyer and so was she. The camaraderie, you knew the people, you knew the farmers, and you knew what they were experiencing. Not all of them were farmers; they just called themselves the Flying Farmers. But they were a good group. And I know another time we saw a crude dam which they were building just across the border. You saw how primitive their methods were compared to the methods up here.

We toured the state pretty much. We visited mining camps. Sometimes we visited the schools. It went on for a number of years and they got to where they looked forward to it a great deal. We'd always meet out at Sky Harbor and get a briefing on the weather. We were part of Arizona. Our itinerary was carefully laid out so that we would know exactly where we were going and what to expect. We were up in Safford one time, were driven out and shown where the mining operation - if it ever comes into being, which I think it will now. Of course that was years ago. Graham County will have a good source of revenue. We discussed things. We flew over the terrain. And they were all experienced pilots. It was fun, it was educational and you knew people from all over. Everything went along fine until one time a few people decided they'd leave the state and go up into Colorado. They never should have left the boundaries of Arizona. We weren't interested in other adjoining states. We were interested in Arizona. The Arizona Flying Farmers took them up there and they got into kind of a fight and a few of them, I guess, maybe had a little too much to drink and that ended the Flying Farmers after about eight or ten years. It was very said. Because . . .

**ZL:** It broadened the horizons for so many legislators.

**PR:** And you saw places you would never have . . .

**ZL:** And you had VIP tours which you don't get if you just drive to a community.

**PR:** I remember coming back from eastern Arizona once. We saw all the dams along the Salt River. Well, most of them didn't even know the dams and didn't know how many there were, didn't know a thing about it. We were from one end of the state to the other. And you met with people and talked with them and they could explain. I remember at Page they were just particularly gracious to us up there.

**ZL:** At Glen Canyon Dam?

**PR:** Yes. It's too bad that the people don't have the chance to see the state as a whole. And we made lots of good friends with the Flying Farmers and you learned so much, you saw how different localities were, how different the conditions were.

**ZL:** Well, one of the things to me, which must have been interesting for you, is that you came from a very rural community and rural area and most of your district was rural because even when you had towns, they were little, small towns. And yet, here you were in Phoenix which is the largest metropolitan area and often Arizona is divided with the metropolitan area against the rural area.

**PR:** Now a lot of places, they only had bare landing strips. We saw the need for landing strips in places and a lot have developed in the last 30 years, I'll tell you.

**ZL:** Did you attitudes change over the years as you worked in a metropolitan area and still were very involved with the rural areas?

**PR:** I think I have a better understanding. You look at the thing as a whole more and that's something so often that you didn't. We had so many new comers who had no idea what mining camps were like. In fact, I think they thought the conditions were so primitive that people just barely existed. Flagstaff, I remember going in there, and one time when they had problems up there with their heating and with their heavy snow. We saw the problem; we didn't have to have it transmitted to us. We saw most of the campuses; of course we were close enough to see Tempe. It was such a gratifying experience as you learned that there was another place besides the place you lived.

**ZL:** Well, legislators appropriate the money for all three campuses. And they have very different needs, they are very different schools.

**PR:** That's right and Flagstaff . . . there was a time when they were lagging quite far behind on appropriations. We met the university presidents; we met them under different circumstances. We were in their homes instead of them coming and appearing before a committee.

**ZL:** And Dr. Walkup is one of our Historymakers.

**PR:** Yes he is and we had the nicest time with him. I remember when I saw Dr. Walkup there and I always felt he never lied to us. He would say, "It's kind of hard to say this . . ." But others might fudge a little; you appreciate honesty. You appreciate seeing backbone in people.

**ZL:** He had that Missouri honesty.

**PR:** Yes, it was there. And I've seen people wiggle and squirm at different times telling me about things, but he was just honest and forthright.

**ZL:** We are talking about various places in Arizona and when Governor Pyle was serving as Governor, he called for a raid on Short Creek on the Arizona strip and that must have been in nineteen fifty something?

**PR:** I don't remember, but it's been a long time. It was when Howard Pyle was Governor. They had heard of polygamy being practiced and abuses going on up there. It had been planned, been in the making for, I think some time, but it happened when Howard Pyle was Governor. Now most people never heard of Short Creek. It was isolated right up on the Utah border. They say the boundary line between the two States goes through the post office.

**ZL:** It is in the very northwest corner of Arizona.

**PR:** Right up in there - isolated, no roads and things.

**ZL:** There is not a direct road from the south in Arizona.

**PR:** There wasn't at that time and you have to go in a round-about way. It made the papers, and I remember, I was in a meeting in Flagstaff when the papers came out that morning and we had heard from some of the people up in Mojave County that it was coming. So I didn't think much more about Short Creek for a long time. My husband and I came through there many years ago, but it was a miserable little place, and poverty all over. So I never thought anymore about it. Then here a few years ago, we had some people come down. It's now Colorado City and they came and talked to Jim Cooper who was Chairman of Education and I was on the Education Committee. They wanted a school district of their own. Now here were these youngsters. If they sent them a mile into Utah they would have to pay out of state tuition. Otherwise they would have to bus them twenty or thirty miles to a school in Arizona. They wanted a school district of their own. Well, there was opposition, but I worked closely with Mr. Cooper and we got their school district for them and told them to produce, which they have.

So it is now Colorado City and when I was doing the essay contest we had a couple essays come in from Colorado City. We do blind judging completely on those essays. They have a number; no name. We read them and talk about them by number and there was one from Colorado City. Then I started thinking about it and realized where it was. He was a winner, so they came down. The school superintendent brought, I think, the parents, the teacher and the boy. Now lots of people up there had never been out of the town. He was a skinny kid and he was scared to death. We learned that we had to rehearse them first; take them into one of the rooms with a microphone. And I said, "Do you think you can make it?" "Yes ma'am, I can make it," he said. So he was a winner. We always have the picnic in the park afterward and they came over and

ate with the people at the picnic. Now it's an eight hour drive at the best on school buses. They had entries again another year. And they were improving.

The school superintendent said to me, "I wish you'd come up and see Colorado City." Well, I didn't think much about it. But one of the people from the Department of Education had to go and I said, "I'd love to go up with you," because I told them I would come up. I wanted to see their schools. We went and the schools up there – I was amazed. I think they built them all with their own bare hands almost. They are durable and will withstand a lot of things. They're not fancy, but they're very good. You know, they have excellent music and art up there. I was amazed. The youngsters are well behaved and we went to a little program they had that night.

We went all over and the people were so kind and courteous to us. Now there were no hotels to stay or any place. We would have to go into one of the neighboring towns. But they had the bishop's house there and we were both invited to stay there. The people were so nice to us. And I was so delighted to see the youngsters. When we got into town one of the boys at the service station said, "Have you seen our new street signs? We worked and got money enough to put up street signs." They had cleaned up what was formerly Short Creek until I would never have known it. Their schools were good. They were doing well. As I say, their music department was good and they had a little operetta that night. Then the next year I went up again and they put on another operetta, third graders, all in Spanish. And my friend said to me, "Where did they learn Spanish?" I said, "Oh probably somebody - it's a Mormon community - had been on a mission and learned it." And imagine third graders, putting on an operetta and singing all in Spanish. It was the cutest thing. I was amazed at how well behaved the youngsters were. So I've taken quite an interest in them. They have won two or three times. So we invited them down. I think it was in '94 or '95 to come and bring their choral group. They sing because they love to sing and their music is very good.

**ZL:** Was this high school age?

**PR:** High School. So I asked them, "Would you sing Arizona songs, the ones that lots of people don't even know?" So they did and we put them right up in the balcony which we reserved. They are most hospitable and most courteous to us, the fact that we made the long trip up there.

**ZL:** The balcony in the House Chambers?

**PR:** From the balcony in the old House Chambers was where we had them sing. I had so many people say to me, "That was the most wonderful music you've ever had." And it was. Most of the town came. Many of those people had never been to Phoenix before. Now imagine riding a school bus for eight hours coming down here. So I arranged for the Mineral Museum, the Carnegie Library and the Hall of Fame, to all stay open so they could see them. We had a wonderful time and they have never gotten through telling us how

much they enjoyed it.

I was amazed when I saw the new junior high that they had built up there. All buildings are built from the same plan and the men do it. I noticed they made some improvements. But I noticed that all classrooms have two doors, exits, so that in case of fire or anything like that. They seem to think of a lot of things. I said, "Where did you get the money to build this green house up here?" I don't know any schools that have a green house. He said, "Well, there was a building being torn down in Los Angeles and they told us we could have all the glass if we'd come and get it. So we went to Los Angeles, got it, and built a green house." They have an excellent art department. The reason I'm telling you about this is they have no money. They have no tax base up there. They do their own work and make the most of everything.

**ZL:** Is it mainly a ranching area?

**PR:** There just isn't much of anything except history. I have never heard anybody who knows the history of any community like Mr. Barlow does. But I have been agreeably surprised and I know if you want good schools you can have them, if you have the community behind you and you work at it. He was telling me an interesting story when I was there. He said to me. "You've been in our library. You noticed how low the bookshelves are, don't you?" I said, "Yes, I wondered why they only went so high." He said, "We had a fellow come back from World War II who was badly crippled and in a wheel chair. He was at very low ebb and felt there was nothing he could do. I went to him one day and I said, 'we could you use you down at the school.' And he said, 'Nobody could use me.' I said, 'Yes, we need somebody to help in our library.' That's why the stacks are where he can fill them from his wheel chair." It was a community that has done lots for its own people. And I feel very strongly when they say, "Schools can't exist." I know with the people behind them, that you can get by and you can give a good education. I came back from up there and I said I had been to what used to be Short Creek and is now Colorado City and one person said, “Well, after the Howard Pyle raid and everything are they still practicing polygamy?" I said, "You know, I never asked them. I was so interested in seeing the schools, and seeing what they were doing."

**ZL:** That's a wonderful story. In connection with the school in Colorado City, you were talking about the essay contest and you have been very involved with that.

**PR:** Oh yes, that's been my pride and joy.

**ZL:** Will you give us the background on that?

**PR:** Frank Kelley, when he was the Speaker, called me into his office. Now I had known Frank very well because the first year he was in here he was on my Printing and Clerks Committee, and he was a former newspaper man. He called me in and he said, "You know, I think people don't know anything about history

in Arizona. I think we should have an old fashioned essay contest. You know, you don't hear the word essay anymore. Have youngsters write about Arizona, about the history and teach them something about it. We had a nice Statehood Day last year telling about the early days here. I think to get them interested we'll get some prizes for them." We talked for fifteen or twenty minutes. I said, "I think that's fine, just right up my alley." He said, "You're in charge then. You go ahead." Well, it was an undertaking, but we did it.

**ZL:** Now what age group?

**PR:** We had seventh and eighth in one group, ninth and tenth in another and eleventh and twelfth. They all wrote on the same subject. It went by trial and error. The first year I called Carolyn Warner who was head of the Education Department and we blundered through it pretty well. I said, “We might get one hundred, I don't know." We sent out notices. We started from scratch. So we got less than one hundred, I think. No name ever appears on a paper. There is a sheet that goes with it, an identification sheet. It's numbered as they come in. The first year we were at a loss, sort of, as to the title. We had one title to write about for seventh and eighth, another for ninth and tenth and another for eleventh and twelfth. We knew that in another year we would have to rehearse them so that they could get up in front of the microphone.

**ZL:** Because the winners would then come down to the . . .

**PR:** Old capitol building to read their essays. Every school in the state could participate. We sent applications to them. That first year I realized we could make it a success. We asked the parents, the school teacher and the principal of the high school, if he could. We wanted to make it a community affair. “Arizona Treasures” is what the subject was. That gives a lot of latitude. When I came in I saw a very prominent lawyer down stairs and I said, “What are you doing out here today? Lobbying or something." His wife was with him. He said, "My granddaughter is a winner." I knew right then and there we could make it a success. The first year we had a few and we gave them each a fifty dollar bond. Now a fifty dollar bond is a nice little gift.

**ZL:** It's a very nice gift.

**PR:** I think Rose Mofford was Governor and she always had things to bring to them. So, the next year we knew a little bit more how to go at it. The things went out early, and do you know, we finally got up to where we had almost fifteen hundred entries. So the teachers were interested and oh, how the essays improved over a period of years.

**ZL:** And how many winners did you have in each category?

**PR:** I think we got to where we gave about 12 prizes. We couldn't have too many. The teachers made the first selection and we asked them to please just send their winners. We had some very interesting ones. The next year everyone wrote on the same topic, "Arizona's Treasures." It went up to almost one thousand, I think. We always had the parents and students come early. Eight o'clock the doors were open. We had coffee and donuts and orange juice. Some of those people would drive for miles, come clear in and stay overnight.

**ZL:** This is tape three of an interview with Polly Rosenbaum. The date is July 25th, 1996 and we were discussing the essay contest.

**PR:** Yes, so I knew we could make it a success. But we learned. We would send the parents and teachers on a guided tour. We had it on a day that was a holiday so that we could have all the parking space here and offices would all be closed and we could devote our entire attention. But the museum was kept open and I think the Governor's office one time was kept open so that they could see it. By that time we had a new person out of the Education Department; first we had Lois Eastman and then Muriel Rossman came after that and we worked on a formula. Everybody knew what their job was. We would rehearse the students. We would have a microphone and I would always say, "Has anybody in here ever had public speaking?" One little boy raised his hand. So I said, "You go first and I want everybody to watch you so they can do better than you can." They got to where they were quite good and they were not afraid in front of the microphone. The thing grew beyond our wildest expectations.

We went to Phelps Dodge and asked them if they would donate savings bonds. I always saved one category for the "Unique and the Unusual" because you will have somebody that is a nonconformist. I think a youngster from up around Prescott won once and he was so surprised because he was kind of doing it as a joke. But it was funny. He got up and did a beautiful job. It was fun judging them and we had the same judges year after year. We'd meet down here. Sometimes it took us two days, because we read them carefully. We'd get them mimeographed and take them home the night before. A couple teachers and I always had one or two - Mr. McClendon helped judge, Jane Hull helped judge one year, the people who'd been teachers that were in the legislature. You had no idea who wrote the paper. If a teacher was there who recognized a student's essay she excused herself. We got to where we got excellent essays. I remember one we got from out in Apache Junction, I think. It was on Barry Goldwater. And the teacher there told me, "That little kid eats out of garbage cans, but he was so interested in that. He did tremendous research." So after it was over I wrote Barry a letter, sent him a copy and said, "You'll probably never have a more devoted tribute by somebody who doesn't know you, but who has studied about you." For a while we published the essays. We wanted to get them in the districts. It gave an impetus to writing. It really did.

**ZL:** Oh yes, and when it's published they can show that.

**PR:** Yes, they can show it. When Rose Mofford was Secretary of State, before she became Governor, she had little things to give. We would have a photographer, usually from the Highway Department, who'd come over and take pictures of them. It gave a boost to families; it really did. At least one parent came with them. I remember was one time a youngster didn't show up. We waited and waited. Finally the teacher came in from Apache Junction and brought the girl. She said, "The people she was supposed to come with ran off and left her." I thought what family, what mother would ever let a girl come here looking like she looked, with the clothes. But she stood up, read her essay and she won a prize. I said to the teacher after, 'What mother would ever let her come with those clothes?" She said, "We pasted that together with scotch tape underneath." I said, "Why didn't you let me know? I could have found enough stuff around here. We've done it more than once to get clothes from the legislators." She said, "She's very proud." But she stood up and it was good. I've often wondered what became of those people. Then we had a little Navajo boy. Did I give you the story of the Navajo boys?

**ZL:** No.

**PR:** "My Father Ben Gorman, the Medicine Man." It is a gem. It's beautiful. I talked to a Rotary club one day out here and read the story to them. And Judge Hughes came up to me and said, "I'd like a copy of that." I said, "Take this one. I have another one at home. I just brought this along to show you what talent there is if you just discover it." Then we always had the big picnic in the park and they went. It was a whole new world for a day. You were king or queen for a day. Do you remember that old program? Queen for a Day? Well, they were. I don't know of anything that we've ever done that has created more interest, done more things for the youngsters.

You learn a lot about schools. We had more Indian boys and girls writing after they found they could. I remember coming out at seven o'clock one morning. And here was this Navajo woman. She was there waiting. She said, "I stayed up all day yesterday to make the dress for my granddaughter." And when the granddaughter came she was fine. The parents sit in the balcony. We usually have photographers come. Later on we got the TV and news media to come and give them a little coverage. It was really a wonderful experience for the youngsters and you have no idea how the writing improved. And especially when they would read what others had done. We had some awfully good teachers. Now I know there is a lot of criticism of schools and some of it is deserved, but don't ever forget the good teachers who really teach the kids.

**ZL:** And fortunately there are many of those.

**PR:** They were quite ingenious. Some would illustrate them. We had one boy whose essay was a brochure, a tourism brochure. He had researched and drew a picture of a coffee pot, camping and so forth and so on. Kids are smarter than you give them credit for. But you have to develop it, you have to

encourage it. A little praise goes a long ways.

**ZL:** And for so many of those kids who lived out in the rural areas it's a wonderful opportunity.

**PR:** That's right. We had some come from Cochise County one time and I had the nicest letter from the mother afterward. She said, "You just don't know what it meant to have her be able to come in and win." We did have them from all over and I think it developed a bond between the parents and the school and the student. They were all in it together.

**ZL:** This is a continuation of an interview with Polly Rosenbaum and the date is July 31st, 1996. Today I thought we would start by talking about the county library system. As an educator, you have long been a proponent of libraries and you have helped to change the library system in the state.

**PR:** Yes, I have long been a proponent of libraries because I think they are the backbone of our educational system. Libraries have so many difficulties in getting support. People don't seem to think they need money, but they do. So we proposed this bill which would allow the counties of Arizona to form districts and assess a library tax which would go into the library system. It was bitterly debated. Cities objected to it, particularly in the large counties, Maricopa and Pima, where they had city libraries. And some of the smaller ones did too. We had many, many sessions debating it and we finally passed it. It allows a small tax and that is distributed to the libraries within the county. There is a main library, the county library, and then the branches. And in Gila County, so many little tiny branches have sprung up. Some of the other places, where it is difficult, they don't really have library facilities. It was bitterly debated, passed, went into effect with two or three counties beginning it. I think Cochise County was one of the first, Yuma County joined, Gila County. But it has helped a great deal.

Then a group sued saying it was unconstitutional and we couldn't do it. It went to court, but luckily, Charlie Stevens, who is the attorney for the libraries in this state, won the case so we would proceed from there. It has been much better since, because the counties can go ahead. We hope to have every county, sooner or later, have funds to keep the little libraries going. And now that we are going to join the internet it will all work out. I was in some of the libraries across the northern part of the state. They were libraries and they were working hard, but their book supplies were meager. The little library up in Alpine was probably in a twelve foot square room. It was used lots during the summer when summer visitors were there. I think that it will help the library system.

**ZL:** Now did the little libraries, like the one in Alpine, borrow books from the main county library?

**PR:** They can borrow the books. We used to have a bookmobile. Then that was discontinued. But they can borrow back and forth through the county library system.

**ZL:** Do all the county libraries have their computer systems up and operating?

**PR:** No, not yet. I haven't checked into that lately to see how we're coming along. But we hope to have everybody on. That will be a godsend to some of these people.

**ZL:** And then if they have Internet.

**PR:** Yes they will be able to bring it right to the little rural libraries.

**ZL:** Another area you have been interested in is health care in rural Arizona because for so long they have been waiting for round the clock care.

**PR:** That's right and so many of these small hospitals in rural Arizona have had to close. They just couldn't keep going. I remember a couple of years ago, the one up in Holbrook had to close. We tried to be able to keep a first aid station there. You see the building was old and the population shifted. Once they let the license go then they would have to build a new building almost, rewire to meet all the codes. You hear lots of tales about the lack of care in rural hospitals. I remember one person being very indignant and he said, "Out on a ranch if a person breaks a leg, I guess all you can do is throw him in the back of a truck and haul him to Flagstaff or someplace." Yes, I remember when Bill Porter was in the House of Representatives, he later was President of the Senate. I introduced him to a friend of mine from up around Payson. I said, "I want you to meet this doctor because he is considering running for the legislature." Bill took a look at him and he said, "I don't need to meet him. I wouldn't be alive today if it weren't for him. He came to the ranch when I'd had a terrible accident and he took care of me." And up in the little place in Pleasant Valley it was so difficult. One of the doctors said to me once, "I love my work, but do you realize on a Friday night or a Saturday if I want to get a way, it takes me an hour to drive to a paved road before I can go anyplace?" So it has been a problem. I don't know how the pioneers did it. But of course there are more people now. But I've been very interested in it.

**ZL:** You were telling me earlier that you had met a young man up in the northeast county somewhere who had been on a dialysis machine.

**PR:** Yes, I was out campaigning one time, handing out cards and telling who I was and this boy came back and he said, "I want to meet you, you saved my life." I said, "If you want to meet me now, how could I have saved your life?" He said, "Well, I have to have dialysis and I know that you were one who voted for the machine that could do it. Now I don't have to go to Tucson or Phoenix. We have the service in the rural counties." And I always think, sometimes you don't know how far reaching the legislation is that you pass.

**ZL:** Yes, so mainly how rural counties were helped in Arizona . . .

**PR:** We've tried in many ways. Many young doctors in school get a reprieve on some of their tuition if they will go to a rural area to practice. Some who are really interested in their profession do go. Others go for a little while and don't like it and leave. Through the AHCCCS program we are trying to provide. Along old Highway 66, there are lots of accidents and very few hospitals. You have to go into Flagstaff or some of the others. But we try our best to make it attractive enough that some doctors will come in. And the communities are very cooperative in working on that.

**ZL:** There was a prison that started up in the Winslow area. And do you know about what year that was?

**PR:** Oh, I'd have to think back. It hasn't been too long ago. But you see, these rural areas don't have much manufacturing, much industry. Most of them are anxious for anything that will bring a payroll into the community. And Winslow was an ideal place for one. They had a manufacturing plant there for awhile which did not stay too long. But the prison would be a steady source and provide jobs for lots of people. So Senator Hardt and I really worked on it. The representatives from District Four worked on that. It has proved to be a very good thing for the city. There are always some people who don't want prisons around. But it has a payroll and brought some industry up there. Down in the larger metropolitan areas they don't like them as well. But the rural areas will take them and be glad for them. We also have one in Globe.

**ZL:** Are these maximum security, medium security?

**PR:** Usually medium security. The one in Winslow, I'm not quite sure. Minimum security the one in Globe. But the rural areas are glad to get industry of any kind to come in.

**ZL:** Now I assume there was an increase in the number of inmates in the state that demanded the need for more prisons?

**PR:** Unfortunately, there is a great increase. I really don't know whether incarceration is the answer, but it's the only one we have right now. Supervised parole works some places but Arizona grew too fast to anticipate what we would have. We couldn't make plans for the future. We sort of had to take what we could do for the present time.

**ZL:** One interesting thing that you and some colleagues did was to change the state constitution. When the state constitution was written, in order to be an elected state official, the requirement was that you had to be a male.

**PR:** Yes, the constitution read "male." And of course, some of the women were quite smart. They wanted to vote. Frances Munds and some of the other people, when they were to vote on the acceptance of the

constitution, they also got an initiative petition out saying that women would be allowed to vote. They had been allowed to vote in school elections, but not in regular. So that went in at the same time. So women in Arizona have had suffrage since 1912. But when the ERA came out . . .

**ZL:** The Equal Rights Amendment.

**PR:** The Equal Rights Amendment, yes. It swept the country and it was bandied about and so many states were going to adopt it. In Arizona there had been quite a bit of opposition to it. Some of the people who had been interested in it to begin with, had doubts about it. So during a special session there were a number of us women who decided that we would go through the constitution and correct what we had, instead of putting something new in that would have to be voted on and all the ballyhoo about the Equal Rights Amendment. So we sat and read it, sentence by sentence, paragraph by paragraph and if it said "male" we deleted . . . we made it so that either sex. Now we had a ruling from Supreme Court Justice, Alfred C Lockwood, at one time and he was very clever in his decisions and he gave this oral decision and he said, "The masculine also includes the female." So it was interpreted. But we just decided that's what we would do. We sort of over-did it almost. But we went through paragraph by paragraph and took it out if it said "male."

**ZL:** Did you say "male or female"?

**PR:** I forget how we put it. I think we may have deleted and just used person. I'm not just sure because it's been a while ago. But we took care of a bad situation very easily and the women and I thought it was sort of a novel way of doing it. We didn't have too much else to do during that special session with other things going on. We sat around a table and we'd read the paragraph and say, "I think we should do this." Women and men have equal rights in Arizona.

**ZL:** And this passed rather easily.

**PR:** Yes, I think we said we corrected our constitution so that both sexes would have equal rights under the law.

**ZL:** One bill that you cosponsored involved child abuse and child molestation.

**PR:** Yes. That's a problem that has always been with us. Sometimes it hasn't been known. It's been kept under cover. But we have tried to see that children are not abused. One of the fortunate things that we did in one of the bills; we gave grandparents' right of visitation. Because they will come in if they have to and try to look after the children.

**ZL:** And often times they are the most stable factor in a child's life. Okay, you have your interest in library and archives. Would you tell something about the one that is at the state here?

**PR:** Yes, the State Library and Archives was created by the Legislature for the Legislature. In the early days, all the bills were written in the Library and Archives. We've had very few directors. Mulford Winsor was the first. The job was sort of tailored for him. He had been a member of the Constitutional Convention. He had also been President of the Senate. He understood the legislative process thoroughly. The second one was Mrs. Alice B. Good. When Mulford Winsor died everything was ready, she took right over. There was continuity so that when the Legislature was in session everything went along. Mrs. Good then trained Marguerite Cooley. When Marguerite Cooley was getting ready to retire, she had Sharon Womack trained to take the job. So there was continuity.

Then along came a time when they were consolidating departments in the late 60s. Consolidated everything into departments, such as the Department of Highways, the Department of Economic Security, etc. Once they were consolidated - it was to save money - all the budgets doubled and tripled. It didn't save any money. Library and Archives was thrown into sort of a catchall. Weights and Measures - everything that they didn't have a specific place for, they dumped in there. Unfortunately, some man got the job of overseeing the department of - I don't remember what they did call it.

Now we have a priceless library. We have the books, the old English history dating back hundreds of years and it's all accessible, but it is a research library. It is not a lending library. The only time it was ever a lending library was when we had the bookmobiles. So this man made the foolish remark that if a book hadn't been checked out in ten years, throw it in the garbage and get rid of it. Well, he didn't last very long. He didn't understand libraries. But it has a priceless collection of books and an excellent research library.

We had quite a time getting it back under the Legislature. You see we had so many newcomers who didn't understand. Raul Castro was governor at the time and I'm fond of Raul and I liked him very much, but we passed a bill in the House to restore it to the Legislature and he vetoed it. So we promptly overrode the veto. No, the first time we changed just a few things in it and passed it again. He vetoed it a second time. Now I don't think we had overridden a veto in thirty or forty years of a governor, but we did then. He sent a couple of people over to talk to me about it. Stan Akers was Speaker of the House, and Bob Stump was President of the Senate. Bob understood about it. So we decided that we would override the veto and put it back under the Legislature where it originally was. I said to Bob Stump, "Will you override it?" He said, "Oh yes, we will override it here. As soon as you bring me a laundry list signed in blood with enough votes to override it, I will override it in the Senate." So I said to a friend of mine, "You take the Republicans, I'll take the Democrats and we'll get them to sign." Well, in fifteen minutes we had enough and called Bob Stump and told him we will do it. The minute it got over to the Senate he had his forces lined up and they overrode the veto and put it back where it was originally intended.

It had gone the full cycle and back where it was originally intended to serve the Legislature. We no longer write bills there because we have a legislative council now. But in those days, we never dreamed the state would grow and the provisions we made weren't adequate to take care of all of the bills and things. All of the bills are filed over there. You can find any bill that's been passed since statehood filed in the library. It is one of the best sources of information. When you can't find something anyplace else, you can usually find it there.

**ZL:** Arizona has a wonderful community college system today. But the beginning was a little rocky.

**PR:** Yes. I was very much interested in community colleges. The universities were growing so fast they just could not accommodate the people coming in. Brigham Young University bought a piece of land out here in east Phoenix and had intended to establish a branch campus here. It was the old farm that grew lots of produce for the state institutions and the land stood idle for years. Then they decided that they would not build a branch campus. We needed community colleges, junior colleges they were in the first days. So many of these people from rural Arizona had large families and the parents could not afford to send the youngsters to Tucson or Phoenix. Some in the northern part got to go to Flagstaff. I was particularly interested in it because my brother had done his master's thesis on the junior colleges in California. I typed the thesis so I learned a great deal about junior colleges. It was a rather rocky road. Bills were put in at different times.

**ZL:** The first school was Eastern Arizona in Thatcher.

**PR:** The old Mormon Academy down there that had been in existence for a number of years. Then in Maricopa County, over at Phoenix Union High School when it was over on Seventh Street, they started a sort of a junior college where you could get a couple of years and they were highly successful. We knew that to take care of the number of youngsters graduating from high school, we needed a junior college system. Well, bills were introduced and it was quite a departure. They had to do quite a bit of thinking about it.

**ZL:** Now I assume this hadn't really taken off across the country yet?

**PR:** It had more in the east I guess, but it was just beginning to. And in those days we were a little more cautious and you wanted to be sure and get it as nearly right as it could be. In the early days the Legislature met only every two years. So bills were introduced in the Senate and in the House. I think Art Shellenberger in the House was the one who pushed it and I was very interested in it. But there were a number of things we had to get settled. Some wanted it under the Board of Regents, some wanted it under the State Board of Education. And I felt that it should be a statewide board. I held out and I voted against

it once or twice until we could have a member from every county on the state board. Every county in this state would be a part of it. Now they might not be able to afford a college at first, but they would be taken care of by others. We still have several counties that do not qualify: Santa Cruz, Gila, and Apache. But they are adequately served by other colleges nearby. And I remember the Board of Regents fought it.

**ZL:** Did they feel it would weaken the university system?

**PR:** Yes and the university system was bursting at the seams. If they had only thought they would get those who were better prepared to enter university. It would provide a technical education for those who wanted it or an academic education for those who wanted it. Then we had the difficulty of transfer of credits back and forth. We still have it. But the bill finally passed. I think it was a Senate bill that finally passed which was amended in the House by making one member from every county on the State Board of Junior Colleges. So it is a state system. It isn't a local system. A professor from Tempe, who is gone now, made a speech on the floor that night and he was very bitter about it. He said, "A state board. We do not need a state board. It could easily be handled by the Board of Regents or the State Board of Education instead of a Junior College Board."

But that has been one of the best things about it. When they have the board meetings there's somebody from Santa Cruz there, there's somebody from Apache, they know what is going on. They can put up an argument, we need service in these little places. Of course, nobody ever dreamed that it would take off as fast as it did. And in Maricopa County it has exceeded the wildest expectations.

Another thing, we wanted to be able to transfer credits from one college to another. It's had sort of a stormy existence in some places, but the student in Apache County, if he wants to go ahead and be a farmer or a rancher there are related courses he can take. If he wants to go ahead to college and become a teacher or something else in the academic world, his credits can be transferred. I think it has been a Godsend to the state of Arizona and to all of the children. Nowadays, more and more adults are going to school all the time. I was down at Central Arizona College which is out in the mountains away from all the cities.

**ZL:** Close to Coolidge.

**PR:** Yes because they had quite a fight. Superior, Coolidge, and Florence all wanted it and their local board decided they would go out and build a new campus. It has dormitories where you can go and live. They said the youngest graduating that night was sixteen and the oldest was sixty-six. So it helps all classes of people. Lots of retirees are getting some of the things they wanted to do earlier.

**ZL:** This is why they changed the name from junior to community.

**PR:** To community, yes. Some objected at first, but community college is a more encompassing word. You would be amazed how many people are taking advantage of it.

**ZL:** Now you're particularly proud of the Payson Community College.

**PR:** Payson is a branch of Eastern Arizona. Eastern Arizona serves Gila County. Gila County has wanted one for a long time but they cannot qualify. They don't have the valuation for one. But we are most adequately served by Graham County. We have a branch there in Globe. Payson is a fast growing community, so they started a branch up there. A couple of years ago, we were lucky enough to get enough money to build the first permanent building on the campus up there. It has quite an attendance, it will pick up more and the community is interested in it. We built a new building at Show Low, a branch of the Navajo County Community College.

**ZL:** Northland?

**PR:** Northland, yes. I love the way they designate the different campuses. They have quite nice names. Colorado City now has a branch campus in Mohave County. Clear up there where they had so much difficulty, they have a branch campus of a community college. It has helped more people than anybody ever dreamed of.

**ZL:** At one time you sponsored a bill which provided education for homebound students.

**PR:** Yes. I think I had more rewarding experience from that than anything else. This woman who was active in education talked to me. She said, "Lots of youngsters are injured, maybe with a broken leg. They can't get to school and they lose out of maybe a year's schooling. Or maybe something else happens." So I said, "I'll have to think it over and talk it around quite a little bit." I went over and talked to Steve Spear who was head of the Tax Research. They looked at every bill to see how much it was going to cost. I said, "Steve, I think it is a very worthy thing." He said, "I agree with you if it just doesn't get out of hand." I said, "We'll try to work into it." We got the bill. And one of the reasons why I sponsored the bill was when I first came to Hayden, there had been an epidemic of spinal meningitis up there and one of boys in the Boy Scout troop died and another boy had it and he had been in bed in for months. His sister who taught said to me, "Charlie would be a freshman in high school this year. Do you suppose that you could help him a little bit so that he could do his work while he's at home in bed?" Here was this great big strapping six foot kid and he couldn't move out of bed. I said, "Oh, I'll be glad to." She said, "He needs something to do." So I went up and I could see he was a bright boy. I helped him quite a bit and he stayed right with his class in school though he was never out of bed. That was one of things that made me interested in the program. That boy would have lost a year. He might not have wanted to go back to school and not be with his class.

I sponsored the bill. It provided that if you were incapacitated, I think for at least six weeks. A teacher would come to where the child was and give them their lessons and they could do their work at home. I never dreamed that out in the rural areas it might be a good thing too. So after we sort of worked all the kinks out of it, the bill passed. It worked very successfully. You see broken legs, many things, where they couldn't get to school and busing wasn't as much as it is today. I think one of the things you never know is how far reaching a bill may be. After it had been passed and in effect, I had this letter from somebody up north, written on the poorest of paper in pencil and addressed to me at the capitol. She said, "I don't know you, but I want to thank you for that law, because my poor little crippled boy now has the same chance that some of the other kids have." I shed tears when I got that letter and I thought you never know how far reaching things are. Well, it went on for awhile; then later on as more people came and transportation got better, it has been absorbed into other programs. But with the boy up in Hayden there was a story in the paper about it. He said, "You might just as well have mentioned my name." Which I didn't, I just said, "A student." He said, "Everybody knew who it was. I was the only one." But I do think that anything that helps to keep kids in school and keep them with their class is worthwhile.

**ZL:** You were going to talk about legislators' behavior.

**PR:** I could talk a lot about legislators' behavior. Yes. It is one thing which appalls me a great deal. When I first came into the Legislature it was an entirely different atmosphere. There was a great deal of dignity and decorum that was still in style. For instance, if you wanted to ask a question you would say, "Would the gentlemen from Gila yield to a question? Would the lady from so and so yield to a question?" It was done properly, it was done nicely. Now at times it got out of hand because you always have a few renegades. But I have seen it deteriorate. There is something nice about good manners and nice treatment. I think you accomplish a great deal more when going about it in a nice way even though you may differ with a person. I think if there was anything my husband taught me - I used to wonder why he had so much patience with his people. He said, "You must have respect for other people's opinions, no matter how widely you differ with them, if you want them to have respect for your opinions. There's always a common ground that you can reach if you are polite and if you are courteous and if you are willing to discuss the issues. You will never win completely, they will never win, but there is a common ground." I think I see it in schools. I see it so many other places. The lack of respect for other people. I think that is one thing that really we need to get back to.

**ZL:** Arizona has had quite a few problems with their politics, I guess you could call it. In 1990 Governor Evan Mecham was indicted and then eventually impeached. What effect did this have on the House being able to conduct its business?

**PR:** Well, I felt that the actions they took could have been taken in a much better way. I disliked the impeachment. I remember once before, way back, I think one of the Corporation Commissioners or

somebody had impeachment proceedings against him. But Mecham stretched the law a great deal and I always felt it could have been much better handled had they let it go to the recall. There were enough recall petitions out, signed and ready. Then it would have been the people who voted to put him in who would have taken him out or retained him. I did not think the legislature should have wasted the time and the money to get into the whole thing. I think lots of people enjoyed it. They loved being on TV. They loved being seen. I seldom went down. I would look in maybe at some of the hearings. It was the same thing over and over and over again. In the Senate, the judge presided. I thought he was one of the fairest, best people I have ever seen.

**ZL:** Now this was Frank X. Gordon?

**PR:** Yes. I thought he did an excellent job. He kept dignity and decorum in all of the proceedings. But I still felt that the million dollars that we spent could have been much better spent on aid to schools or other things. I was one of three Democrats who voted against the impeachment. There were three of us who did. I ran into lots of opposition, but when I explained my reasons why people finally understood. It was an unfortunate experience shall I say, the whole thing.

**ZL:** Well, I am sure there weren't a lot of other issues that were taken care of during that time.

**PR:** We neglected the business of the House to take care of the impeachment. It took precedence over everything else. I felt that the everyday affairs that the Legislature was supposed to handle could have been far better taken care of.

**ZL:** Then not very long after the impeachment of Governor Mecham, Arizona had another problem which was AzScam. They found seven legislators guilty of accepting bribes in exchange for support of legalized casino gambling.

**PR:** I just can't understand why they fell for it, so many of them. You can take money, but you must report it. People now days make contributions to campaigns. But when people get greedy they get in trouble. It was another unfortunate experience in Arizona. I think it ruined many a life. They didn't think first. They didn't weigh what they were doing.

**ZL:** What kind of long term effect did that have on the House?

**PR:** They sort of ignored it in a way. But there were some very decent people who got involved. They just didn't think. Their ambition got away with them. It was something that should have been put to rest. But they all knew that it was wrong. I guess they couldn't say no.

**ZL:** Now you've seen many changes in lobbying laws during the years you've been involved and what was lobbying like when you began your career?

**PR:** Well when I first came in - we've always had lobbyists. People out acquainting the legislators with the things that they are supporting and why they should vote for them. Nobody got into your office because we didn't have offices. The rotunda out there was where the lobbyists stayed. They serve a very useful purpose. A legislator cannot be an authority on everything. You may have a wide range of knowledge, but you have to ask somebody who's in the industry that knows. But you must have an understanding that they tell you the truth and answer the questions. I remember the railroads. I had a very good friend, a friend of my husband's, who was a lobbyist for the railroads. I would call him and ask him a definite question that I wanted to know. A few of them now days get into your office and they want to dominate and they want to tell you about this and tell you about everything. They over-do it. They make it bad for the others. We have so many more now. We have so many more industries, we have so many more occupations, we have so many more things and it is difficult to know the inside track on lots of them. But I think they have overdone it a great deal. As I say, I can name you four or five that represent certain industries and I would call them and ask them about certain things that I wanted to know. But I feel sorry for a new one coming to the Legislature who probably doesn't have a wide experience about things and having a lobbyist get hold of them because some of them are ruthless. Some are perfect gentlemen and ladies all the way through. They will answer your questions and they do serve a valuable place. They don't over-do it.

**ZL:** If you had the power, is there anything about lobbyists you would change?

**PR:** There are probably many ways. But I just can't think now of how because some of them are very ethical and others very unethical. You do need to get information about things from the people who are experts in their field.

**ZL:** And as our state has grown and industry has grown you'd have to have more lobbyists.

**PR:** More to tell you about it.

**ZL:** Another area that has probably changed a great deal since you started is the newspaper and the other media coverage of the legislature.

**PR:** That is right. When I first came in we knew the newspaper reporters very well. They reported what went on in the legislature. They didn't editorialize in their columns. They saved that for the editorial page. We had no TV coverage. It was a long time before we did. It was a very different way of reporting. People would pick up the paper to read what went on at the legislature. They didn't speculate too much on what might go on. I think it has become almost overdone. And too many people, I hate to say, will run to the

press and say, "Did you hear what I had to say? Did you notice this or did you notice that?" Nowadays, the legislators seem anxious to get publicity. In the old days they didn't mention names too much, occasionally a name. I've read some of the old columns; they told what the issues were, what they were working on. Now you get it on every radio.

**ZL:** Well then television coverage certainly changed the . . .

**PR:** It changed and lots of people . . . I remember one person saying at the Ev Mecham trial, "Let's go down and get a front seat so that I can get on TV." It's been overdone.

**ZL:** Since the time that you came into the legislature do you think the work ethic and the attitude have changed?

**PR:** Oh very much so. When I first came in we had no secretaries. We had a stenographic pool where the work was done. If you needed to write a letter you could go in and somebody would write it for you. They did all the amendments. But the committee chairman, you read your bills in committee. We didn't have researchers. The judiciary committee, I think, had a clerk that would research constitutional things. I can remember many a time our education committee, I think there were eleven members on it. We sat in one of those little old rooms upstairs with the light dangling from the ceiling. We got the bill out and we read it and we talked about it. Everybody had a little notebook and you made notes on the bill. We didn't pass a bill every day. We might work one or two or three days. We might work on two or three, we'd have them going. We talked about them a lot even when we'd go to lunch together. “Well, I object to so and so." You did your work, you were responsible for it, and you handled it on the floor. Now days we have researchers, we have interns, we have secretaries in every committee and the legislators are just sort of perfunctory persons at times.

**ZL:** You don't think there is as much discussion among legislators today?

**PR:** No, there isn't. In the meetings we would discuss it among ourselves. Anybody could come in if they wanted to and listen to us, but we paid no attention. Now you go to a hearing room, you open up the door, a mob falls in and they get up and tell you what you should do. And if you're not smart enough to know, then you're not smart enough to be out here. It's a job to do. It's like going to school or anything else. You get your own lessons. You learn your own things. You don't get somebody else to do it for you. Sometimes they were most enlightening meetings. We might work for days on a bill. I know in conference committees we'd work for days on them and we usually worked behind closed doors.

We had a conference committee, I don't remember what it was about, but it was controversial. There were three from the Senate, I think, and three or four from the House. We met over in the Senate and we met in

the afternoon, after the session was over, three o'clock maybe and we'd work until five o'clock. We just argued and worked around for a long time and weren't getting anyplace. We had no secretaries in there. We did it ourselves. We read the thing, we argued, we had a couple lawyers. This went on for about two weeks. One man dipped snuff. I will never forget that - never saw anybody dip snuff before. Coffee cups would be sitting around. We went in one day at the end of two weeks and they were ready to open the meeting. I said, "Gentlemen, before we start the meeting, I have something I want to say." I was the only woman on the committee. I think Al Spikes from Cochise County was chairman of the committee. He said, "All right, what do you want to say?" I said, "Gentlemen, I like everybody on this committee personally. I have great respect for you, but I am sick and tired of sitting in this room with you, I am sick and tired of looking at you, I am sick and tired of these empty coffee cups and I think it's time that we got down to business and do something. We don't have any time for ourselves." He said, "All right, just what do you propose to do about it?" I said, "I'll tell you exactly what I propose to do about it. Say we take paragraph one. We read it. One person reads a sentence. Can we accept it or not? If not, throw it in the garbage. If we accept it, go ahead. We go through this bill paragraph at a time and do something. Reject it or accept it." We did. We went through. We made a few corrections or somebody would say, "I can't go with that." "All right, take it out." Within an hour and a half we were through and we had agreed. He said, "All right. I will call in a secretary." Now everybody had their bill. They couldn't make any mistakes because you had marked it yourself for what we had done. We worked at it. So that was it.

The next morning we got to the House and I'll never forget this. John Haugh who was a representative from Tucson and had been on the committee got up and said, "Point of personal privilege. I would like to paraphrase something from 'My Fair Lady.' There's a song in there, 'It's Nice to Have a Man Around the House.' I want to say, 'It's Nice to Have a Lady Around the House.' Yesterday, a lady whipped us into line and we have our report ready to go."

**ZL:** That's marvelous. In recent years we've had more single issue candidates who have been elected to the legislature and have you noticed a change in them after they serve?

**PR:** Sometimes I have. Some come for one purpose. They've come to the legislature to get something through. And they work at it and the attitude is wrong. It's a cooperative effort. It's what's good for the state as a whole. Not for what's good for one individual place. Usually those single type people drop out after awhile if they don't get it through. I think that's one of the things you have to learn. It's like growing up in a family where there are five or six children. You look at the whole family. Not one gets everything. You must look at the state and there are very diverse parts of the state. There's rural, there's manufacturing, there's all kinds of things. But it applies to everybody, the laws you pass.

**ZL:** How about tolerance, in the years that you've served? Do you see that increasing or . . .

**PR:** No, I don't think I do. We've had some strange people in here. And some people just couldn't tolerate them. Sometimes they would win them around and make pretty good citizens. But others just didn't want to put up with them. They wanted their way or else. Talk about tolerance - I remember very well - Dr. Forbes was a professor of agriculture at the University of Arizona. A world traveler in those days, in the early 1900s was rather unusual. We had this other person from Tucson who nagged at him, nit-picked and just wasn't kind or nice. I said to Dr. Forbes one night when we were all down at the hotel, "I don't know why you put up with that man and his ornery little remarks." He said, "If you had been in the darkest sections of Africa where I have been at many times, where people have no government, where they have no outlook for the future, where they have nothing but a bare existence, you would have tolerance for anybody who has tried to make something of himself and tried to get into things. He doesn't bother me particularly."

**ZL:** What was your motivation to continue to run for office long after most people retired?

**PR:** I always had things I wanted to accomplish. Things I wanted to do and get done. I wanted to look after libraries, I wanted to be interested in seeing school issues get through, I wanted many, many things for my constituents. There wasn't anything for myself I wanted, but for the things that they needed in different parts of Arizona. Different things that needed to be done.

**ZL:** Did you consider retiring?

**PR:** No. I will never retire. I never will live long enough to do all the things that I am interested in. I never have enough time to read, I never have. I would like to write about some of the experiences I have had. There is never time enough to go around.

**ZL:** You have an inordinate amount of energy. Do you have any idea why? Do you attribute that to diet or genes?

**PR:** I don't drink or I don't smoke. I thought once in my life I would be a dietitian and I learned a great deal about principles of food. I eat right. I do; I understand that. But I don't make an issue of it. I try to get eight hours sleep, which is almost impossible. And occasionally, if I've been on a real strenuous work schedule, I'll just take a day off and sleep until I get caught up. But I come from pioneer stock. My family on my mother's side were farmers. They tilled the soil. They worked. They moved from Pennsylvania, to Ohio, to Illinois. And then some of the family kept moving west. They were hardy people. They had to be in those days. I guess I was endowed with pretty good genes.

**ZL:** Now who were your role models?

**PR:** I don't know that I particularly had them. I think I learned more from my husband than anybody. I learned a great deal. I learned tolerance. I learned if you want respect for your ideas, you must have respect for the other person's. You must not take things, slights or things, seriously. I remember walking into the hotel one night after there had been a bitter fight on the floor of the House. Nobody would speak to Rosie and I was indignant. He said, "Don't pay any attention. We'll all be friends tomorrow." We fought over issues; we didn't fight over personalities or people. They like me and I like them, but it was a bitter fight over issues.

**ZL:** And the fact that you worked with him for ten years down here before you took his place in the legislature - that was really a tremendous training period.

**PR:** It was a training I couldn't have gotten otherwise because we were so closely associated. We worked together on so many things and we discussed issues. I would always say, "Now listen to the woman's viewpoint on that." And he'd say, "Yes, I should because I have the man's viewpoint on it." Nobody, I don't suppose, was ever better prepared to come in and do things because I knew how it worked. I had worked as a secretary, I had worked here and then I had been with him so closely. In those days, the wives were informed because we lived down at the hotel. We discussed things and the wives and the husbands, they knew what was going on and they were interested. I think they would go home and they would talk to women's clubs and tell what went on. They brought a message to the people. I think the legislators were held in much higher respect than they are now.

**ZL:** How do you see the future for women legislators?

**PR:** Well, they've made a dent in it. We will always have women legislators. We'll probably have different degrees of capability, but I think they're here to stay. I really do. I think some have made tremendous strides because they understand certain segments of society better than men do. I think they understand the plight of children better, they've worked with them more. I think they understand better about families. I think it takes a combination of both and I think the women have a great deal to contribute.

**ZL:** The date is August 9th, 1996 and we are continuing the interview with Polly Rosenbaum and today we are going to start out by talking about some of the historical . . . You have been very involved in preserving history.

**PR:** Oh yes, I think it should be preserved. We have such a colorful history and we haven't preserved as much as we should. We've let it get away from us.

**ZL:** One of the first things you were involved with was the Capitol Museum.

**PR:** The Capitol Museum. After we moved out of the House Chambers here and moved into the new building, everybody took over and wanted a place to store things or build offices. It was the most disgraceful looking place you ever saw. You walked into the front door, you saw boxes stacked around. You came up to the old House Chambers here, you ran into a wall of some kind. It looked like a junk pile, everyplace you went. Historical building turned into a dump was what it looked like. I would say Frank Kelley deserves most of the credit for restoring the building.

**ZL:** Now he was Speaker of the House?

**PR:** Speaker of the House. We decided that we would restore the old building to its proper place in history. It was a long bitter fight, but we finally got the money. I remember one thing in particular, down where the little ice cream parlor is on the first floor. Everything was torn up and we had people out from Washington. They said, "You cannot have a door there onto the patio. That was not that way originally." But we persisted and said, “We need an escape there and if we are going to use the patio there should be a door to go in and out." But the federal people are very firm. We were standing around in two or three inches of dirt, the tile was off the floor. So we acquiesced for the time being, finished it up and got it all settled. After the smoke had cleared away and the building was all restored then we cut the door out to the patio. And nobody knows now but what it was always there. But we needed it so we could go back and forth. We have lots of things on the patio and in the room that we call the old fashioned ice cream parlor with the old fashioned tables. Jerry Doyle was the architect. For weeks and months we researched how things were and people who remembered. The carpet on the floor we found out had come from France and going back into the building we found a few old scraps down in the basement. See the basement was flooded once when they had the terrible flood in the early days. So many records were destroyed. But we found enough and we could find people who remembered. It really was quite an undertaking. We should have done it years before.

**ZL:** Is the tile the original tile?

**PR:** No. There is some that is, but some is a replica. Some of it is original and you can tell the different stages by looking at it what additions were built on. But it has proved to be quite a drawing place for people to come to see how it looked in 1910, 1911, and 1912.

**ZL:** What rooms are open to the public? You have the House Chambers and the Senate Chambers.

**PR:** Senate Chambers and the rest are open as a museum. I think everything is open where you can see except their workrooms.

**ZL:** You have Governor Hunt's office which is quite interesting.

**PR:** And Governor Hunt sits in his chair. It was done by Madame Tussauds Wax Works in London. Arizona was given a choice of one that would be made and the consensus was that Governor Hunt, seven times Governor and the first Governor, was the man who should be there. And the likeness is so like him that when we dedicated it, for one fleeting moment you thought it really it was the Governor. It is a remarkable likeness. We have to have it very closely guarded because somebody stole the spectacles off it one time. Now an alarm goes off that can be heard all over if anybody gets near it.

The woodwork, I think they took off 15 maybe 20 coats of varnish to get down to the wood. We have beautiful wood all through the building.

**ZL:** Yes, it's oak and it's lovely.

**PR:** And the chandeliers, we had pictures of those so they could be duplicated. We have an old Oliver typewriter which was used, I imagine, in the early 1900s. But we've tried to make it as nearly as it was in the past as it could possibly be. And we have so many comments from visitors, how glad they are. We had an old gas lamp that stood in front of the Capitol which we are going to get one of these days, maybe put out there too. Arizona is such a young state and we do have things and we should save them before they get away.

**ZL:** One of the accomplishments of which you are very proud and in which you have been very instrumental is the Arizona Women's Hall of Fame which is at the old Carnegie Library on West Washington Street.

**PR:** The Old Carnegie Library, yes. Mr. Kelley and I were very much involved and so were many others on that. We worked out a deal with the City of Phoenix. Terry Goddard was mayor of Phoenix and of course, Terry is very much interested in historic preservation. The City of Phoenix, and the county and the state all worked together. Many people would say, "Oh, tear the old thing down. It's been inhabited by the bums, the street people, and the bats that got in." It was a mess. I think we hauled truckloads of material away. The old staircase. I was all through it, every part of it. It was worth restoring. It was sound enough but lots of opposition came to it. Some people had the idea, set a match to it, trash it, and put in something different. But the flooring is lovely, it's sanded down.

It gave us a home for the Women's Hall of Fame and for a number of other things. We have had colorful women in Arizona, very colorful. We have lots of good exhibits there. We try to keep them up for a year or maybe two years and then they move on. The year we had the world wide quilting exhibit, it was unusual and so many people came to see that. I think the early medical and dental history of Arizona is up for a little while longer. The cattle people had a wonderful exhibit; everybody came to see that. So that has been

quite an added attraction. We kept the grounds intact with the grass and the trees. I said, "It looks like an oasis in a desert of steel and concrete and mirrors." A green spot. Everybody is happy about it now.

**ZL:** What was the first year that you inducted women into the Hall of Fame?

**PR:** I think 1981.

**ZL:** And how many women each time, five or six?

**PR:** We have varied on that. To date we have inducted sixty-three. We had a meeting. When we started, all were novices. We had both men and women on the judging committee which you need because men have a different perspective than women do about which women were important. We had this federal grant. A great deal of credit must go to Selma Pine because she was working in Governor Babbitt's office. She called a meeting of the people she thought might be interested in starting this. I remember Betty Rockwell and I went, and I said to Betty, "Should we go or shouldn't we?" Betty said, "Yes, let's go."

**ZL:** She was a legislator at that time?

**PR:** Betty was a legislator at the time and an old time resident. Her grandfather built the Adams Hotel. So we came and we were interested in it. They had people from different parts of the state on the committee. We met out at a motel in north Phoenix someplace. Jane Rosenbaum, no relation, who worked in the Governor's office had a nice dinner for us that night. It wasn't a party, a nice discussion and we sat down and talked about what we wanted, how we should do it, how many we should have, what should be the requirements. It was decided that to make it truly historic for a number of years we would have to take only those people who were deceased. Otherwise we would never find the true pioneers. Now days, every social club has honors for the women and most of the business clubs. But we wanted to go back. The women are truly interesting. The one woman goes back into the early 1800s. It was sort of a revelation to all of us. We've had some prominent historians on our committee. Budge Ruffner from Prescott, Ben Avery who covered the Arizona legislature for years, and Kenneth Arline from the Gazette, were the men on the committee and it was a fun affair. The biographies were sent in and given to each of us on the selection committee. We had two committees: a selection committee and then a committee to plan the luncheon. The selection committee read them all. We had several days to do it.

**ZL:** Now did someone nominate these individuals?

**PR:** Anybody could nominate and send in a written biography of the person they were nominating. Usually it was relatives or somebody who had known them. They were all sent into the Library and Archives, or into the Governor's office at first when Selma Pine was there. We read them through and each

of us would pick out our favorite ten, I think. The first year there were sixty or seventy and we picked out ten. And we met down here at one of rooms at the Capitol and we put up a large sheet of paper and we went around and you read your ten nominees. We usually got maybe twenty, then after that we would talk about them a little bit, the ones you chose and why. Then the next round would be to get it down to seven. It was done very fairly, but you could talk and explain. And I remember one year we went back and pulled a woman off because we thought she hadn't been around long enough and put another one on. Then we decided that first time we would have five. Then it came to which should we choose, Lorna Lockwood or the woman from Tucson. The choice was between Lorna Lockwood and Isabella Greenway. We decided both were worthy and that year we decided we'd have six. That sort of became the figure with six chosen.

Then one year somebody said you are choosing too many, you should only chose one. Well, that would never work. We would never get people to come. You have to think about if you have a luncheon you want people to come. That year we had four. And I think everybody on that committee was bombarded by newspaper people and everybody else. Particularly the people from Tucson said, "You have always chosen six, why did you drop to four?" So we went right back to six. Then we would have a luncheon honoring these people and invite the family members. The immediate family would come as our guests. But we would have two and three hundred people. I remember the year that Sandra O'Connor came and spoke. We had it at the Phoenix Country Club and we were sold out. We always tried to have interesting entertainment. The entertainment varied from year to year. Sometimes we would accent music, other times it would be speakers. I remember the year that Barry Goldwater was the speaker. Many came just to hear Barry. One year the Territorial Brass came and played the songs of the early days. It was a fun affair. We have this wonderful quilt with the pictures of every inductee on it.

**ZL:** Now who made that?

**PR:** I think it belongs to the Quilters Guild because it can be borrowed on occasions. I remember it was loaned for something up in Globe.

**ZL:** Then it is added to each time?

**PR:** They add every year after the new inductees are selected. It was highly successful for about ten or twelve years. Then we had some problems one year and some dissatisfaction by a number of people over the inductees. But it is coming back and it will be started again very soon, because it is too worthwhile a project to ever let it die.

**ZL:** Another historical project that you have been involved with is the Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum and that used to be housed at the Coliseum Fairgrounds. Those were very cramped quarters and you decided that should be moved and have a much nicer showplace.

**PR:** Yes, we did. The mining people really started that. A man in Scottsdale, John Hayes and others started the relocation.

**ZL:** And John Hayes was a legislator from the Yarnell and Prescott area.

**PR:** Yes, and a number of people. We had a luncheon out at the old Fairgrounds and talked it over. Everything seems hopeless in the beginning, but then you know it can be done. It was closed during the war years, stuff was stored; there was no air conditioning; the old records were subject to all the elements; the minerals never got dusted off. We knew it was time because we have a priceless collection. We tried to buy the Shrine Auditorium at one time, but the deal fell through. I don't remember exactly what the trouble was. But that was the logical place and it had to be moved. It was open, but only the people at fair time ever went. It was too hard to find and nobody to show them around. So that took a lot of work. I remember Rose was Governor, and of course, she grew up in a mining camp and with the backing and the help from all the people in the mining communities we decided that we would again try and buy the Shrine Auditorium. I think that was perhaps one of the nicest negotiations I ever went through. We used to meet over in the House building and the Shriner's wanted to sell. They were building a new building. They wanted to do it. Anybody I saw with a Shrine pin on, I would talk to them, no matter where I saw them. We met time after time with the Department of Administration negotiating. We paid more than we wanted to pay. The Shriner's took less than they really wanted, but it was nice negotiations. It was gentlemanly done. We all shook hands afterward and they invited us out to lunch at the new building after they got moved. But we had some internal troubles on that too. A number of people said, "Just tear the thing down, touch a match."

**ZL:** Well, I think Governor Mecham was involved in this.

**PR:** Governor Mecham was one of those who wanted it torn down. But Rose Mofford and I went up to Hayden to a meeting one time; we flew up on the plane. It was a hurry-up trip. And on the way up there we decided it would be a very good place for some of her memorabilia. She had agreed if we got it that she would loan a certain amount of it to be on display over there. Well, when you get a few women started working, things go. We worked on it and we finally negotiated the deal. Jerry Doyle did the work on it and before we started in, I think I was all over the building - up, down, everyplace. Jerry is an excellent architect and it came out even better. It looks like a mill.

**ZL:** This building was constructed after World War I.

**PR:** About 1920 or '21. It will stand another one hundred years. I remember going there to the Ice Follies one time; they put down a false floor. It was kind of the show place of Phoenix in the early days when we

were in for the legislature. I can remember it.

**ZL:** It has the Moorish influence and it is a very interesting building.

**PR:** Yes, and I think high school dances were held there. It's quite a place. It should be preserved and saved.

**ZL:** The original Shriner's building was in the state's historical property inventory in 1987 and that made it eligible to be included on the National Register of Historical Places.

**PR:** Yes, we knew that to preserve it, as most buildings you want to preserve, they must be accepted by the state preservation and the national, so all those details were taken care of ahead of time.

**ZL:** And who was the director?

**PR:** The director at the time was Leroy Kissinger. He was over there and he worked so hard and devoted so much time to it. In fact, he retired not too long after that and I think that it was kind of an overload of all the work and things. The moving was really something. I said, "It was a long rocky road." It was a pun I didn't intend to make. They moved from the Coliseum over to the Shriner Building at 15th Street and Washington. The attendance has increased by leaps and bounds. You have no idea how many school children and their teachers come and they come back. Every child that comes gets to go to the wheelbarrow of rocks and pick out three of his own choosing. And I might say, many adults get right down with the youngsters and pick out their three rocks too.

**ZL:** The Arizona Mineral Museum was named the E.G. Polly Rosenbaum Building on May 4th, 1991. Now who was responsible for changing that name?

**PR:** Well, the Legislature. I was very surprised. I would say Jane Hull, who was Speaker, probably had a great deal to do with it. All I wanted was to get the building. But I was very, very surprised. There is an unfinished room on the balcony and lots of people have parties up there. They have them catered. It made a nice place and you get to see the museum. One nice thing about the museum is we have a classroom with a projector. Many teachers will bring their students out to have a class there. Another nice thing is we have a workshop where people can come and pay a small fee for the electricity they use. The rocks are cut for them and they learn how to polish them. I saw one woman there making earrings that were just beautiful and she was so thrilled. The museum is also open on Saturday afternoon. I've taken many people through and they said they never realized this was here. They have a nice gift shop, mostly minerals from Arizona. It has worked out beyond our best expectations. It is staffed mostly by volunteers who come because they love the minerals. There is something about mining that gets under your skin. I remember all the

showcases were old. Grandparents would come who were baby-sitting for their grandchildren and they painted those old showcases. They did everything, just for the love of getting the museum started.

**ZL:** Another building that you helped to preserve is the Evans House, which is located at 1108 West Washington and I think you were working on that about the same time as the Shriner's Temple.

**PR:** Yes, I think it came right along just a little bit after it. That old house was an eye sore on West Washington. It was a dirty, old white looking thing. It has been painted over, but it was an historic place and it was one of the few Victorian Houses in Phoenix, the only one, I think, with the onion shaped dome. At first, the architects were going to get it and use it for their headquarters. I was over to look all through the place, dirty, filthy, and terrible. Then they couldn't make a go of it so it sat there for a while longer. Then we started in again on it. Phil Gordon was interested in restoring things. He works in the mayor's office now. We decided that we would go through and restore the building because of such historic value.

George Liebhart was in charge of purchasing things. He called me and said, "That old house over there belongs to a woman who said her husband used to be in state government and she doesn't want to sell to the state government. Do you, by any chance, know the person it belonged to, Gertrude Conway?" I said, "I wonder if she could have been Joe Conway's wife." Joe Conway was Attorney General years and years ago; came from Cochise County, worked his way up by his own boot straps. George said, "Would you call her and talk with her?" I called her and said, "Mrs. Conway, you probably wouldn't remember me, but I'm sure you'd remember my husband if you were Joe's wife." She said, "Of course I remember you. You're a friend of my friend up in Globe, Ida." I said, "Of course, I forgot about that." She said, "I don't want to sell to the state. I haven't had good dealings with them." I said, "But if we promised you that we would restore the house; we wouldn't let it be torn down. Would you reconsider?" "Well," she said, "I might." So negotiations were worked out and we promised her that. We had the house.

Somebody said, "Nobody will rent that place, what do you do with it?" The Department of Tourism had an office way out on Missouri and Vic Heller was coming in to see me. I knew that Vic liked restored places. And I said, "Vic, I understand you kind of like historic places. I'm just back from Charleston, South Carolina and down there some of those beautiful old homes have been restored." He said, "I am," and I said, "Well, we are working on that thing and I know you have to move pretty soon because your lease is going to expire out there." It was a cold January day and the wind was blowing, you know how miserable it can be sometimes. I said, "Phil Gordon and I are going to be over there at one o'clock. Why don't you come over and look at the place?" He said, "All right, I will." So he came and here we were out in back, dirty, filthy. They got out the blueprints. We had to put a rock on to hold them down. We showed him what we intended to do. We got in and you just didn't dare try and take the back stairs. But we got into the house to see it. The architects had seen that it had possibility. He was interested in it. We got the money to go ahead and we restored it. We always have such nice people who do the restoration. Usually they are people

who are very interested in it. So as we were coming along, George Liebhart came to see me again. He said, "Well, I don't know what we are going to do with it. We'll never get a renter for it." I said, "George, we already have a renter. You know the lease of the Tourism is expiring on East Missouri and Vic Heller would like the place." Well, he blustered a while but when he knew we had a tenant for it we went ahead and finished it.

The wallpaper matches what was originally on there. The most minute details were looked at. The old back porch was a screened-in porch. It had been owned by a doctor and his wife originally. In those days it was unusual for women doctors to be licensed in Arizona but both the man and woman were licensed. I think their offices were held upstairs. It had changed hands a time or two. Anyway, we took the old back porch off and put a new room on with windows on three sides. Vic used to always say, "I have the most beautiful office in Phoenix." He loved it there as long as he stayed. Then it went to Tourism for awhile longer. Then it got over-crowded and Tourism had to have larger quarters.

It is now occupied by a division of the Library and Archives, the Extension Department, and the man in charge over there loves the place and he said, "I hope I never have to leave." He said, "You'd be surprised at how many people stop and say, 'could we see the house?'" The night that we opened we had a big party, and Mrs. Conway's grandchildren brought her over. She couldn't get to the upper part, but they would say, "Oh, do you remember when we used to play in here and do you remember this and do you remember that?" I think she was very pleased that it had been restored and that it was going to be nicely taken care of. It's a nice story.

**ZL:** Oh, it's a nice tribute to someone who had a beautiful home.

**PR:** One thing we hope to do when we get around to it. During the war it was used as a boarding house, I think. But we want to try, it will take a little doing, to find everybody who ever occupied that place. Some of the early stories tell about when it was quite a fashionable place. The carriages would come out. The carriage house is gone; it's no longer there, it was torn down. At night there were parties and events held there - quite a social center for the town.

**ZL:** This is tape four of an interview with Polly Rosenbaum. The date is August 23rd, 1996. I thought we would start with talking about the Department of Library and Archives. It was originally a department of the Legislature. Then it was placed with the Department of Weights and Measures and do you remember what year or what time frame that happened?

**PR:** I would say probably in the 70s when they had the complete reorganization. They wanted to reorganize all the departments. At one time we had the Highway Patrol, and they consolidated. It was going to save money by putting all these into the Department of Transportation. The next year with all

those combined the budgets increased twofold at least. They saved no money. The Library and Archives was thrown in with what was left over, I think. The original Library was created by the Legislature, for the Legislature. Mulford Winsor was the first head of the Library and Archives, well qualified. He'd been a member of the Constitutional Convention, he had been President of the Senate, he loved Arizona and he knew all about the history. It was a process where we never were caught unprepared. Mulford had hired Mrs. Good, Alice B. Goode from Globe after her husband died and she came to Phoenix. He trained her in every department. She knew everything about it all the way. When Mulford died unexpectedly, suddenly she was appointed to carry on. There was no searching for somebody else and no lapse of time. Mrs. Good was an excellent librarian. Then she had a young lady by the name of Marguerite Cooley who came to work for her. And Mrs. Good trained Marguerite in every department so that she could go anyplace if anybody was unable to come, Marguerite could fill in. We've always been so that we'd never get caught without somebody who knew. Then when Marguerite got ready to retire was when we had quite a bit of controversy. Arizona was getting a little more political. I think there were a few people who coveted the position, shall I say. In fact somebody said, "Well, I can think of a lot of political old hangers on who would love to get their feet up on a desk, smoke a cigar and tell the others what to do." We had much controversy then. But we selected Sharon Womack whom Marguerite had trained. Leo Corbett was President of the Senate then and I was on the Library board. There were four of us. So Leo appointed one of the young fellows in his office who had worked around the Legislature, and he said, "I want you to devote the next several weeks to looking over all of these applications and come back with your recommendation. Who is the best qualified?" Kevin was his name. So he did and Kevin came and talked to me later. He said, "You folks were right in your original choice." We hired Sharon on a temporary basis and then after he had done his searching, we hired Sharon. Sharon did an excellent job. She had appointed Arlene Bansal as her deputy.

In the meantime in this consolidation of departments, along in the late 70s when they created the big departments, they threw the Library and Archives in with everything that was left over in the department. I remember Weights and Measures was in there. We had a man who came in who didn't last long because he didn't know much about libraries. This is an excellent research library; it is not a lending library. We have priceless volumes of early English history and he said, "If a book hasn't been checked out in ten years, throw it in the garbage and get rid of it." He didn't last long. Then we went ahead with Sharon Womack and Arlene Bansal was the next. So we've had a continuous process.

Formerly all bills were written, before we had a legislative council, in the Library and Archives. We've always been short of money over there, but we have kept excellent records and we do have copies of every bill that has been passed since Statehood. I've done a lot of research over there lately checking former members. It has been a great asset to the State of Arizona. I hope we can always keep it out of politics.

**ZL:** How did you work to get it back into its own separate department?

**PR:** Oh, we had quite a time. Stan Akers was Speaker of the House and the papers were taking it up. There was quite a bit of controversy. At that time, a few of us who knew the history of the Library and Archives wanted to get it back. We thought of various ways of how to do it. Finally a bill was put in with much controversy; we passed it and restored it back to the Legislature where it belonged. You see so many new legislators had no idea, they didn't even know it was over there and it was a lack of knowledge about it. But it's back now where it belongs.

**ZL:** Did that happen in the 80s?

**PR:** I'd have to check the dates on that, I'm not sure. I have lots of clippings on that. A new library board was appointed consisting of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate and they each appointed one person. We kept it a small board and usually people who knew about it. I remember Stan Turley was Chairman of the Board one year; Frank Kelley was Chairman of the Board one year. We understood the problems. We understood all about it. The last few years it's sort of drifted again. But it is an asset to the State.

**ZL:** Well, it has Archives that you can't find anywhere else.

**PR:** That's right. For instance, they have an excellent research staff. I called the librarian one day and I said, "About 15 years ago, I was back at a meeting in Baltimore of the Women Legislators. They put on an excellent skit of the first woman freeholder in the United States and how she had fought to be a member of the House of Burgesses. But because she was a woman she could not. I have forgotten her name. It slipped my mind. Her first name was Margaret." I said, "I wish you'd find it for me because it will save calling back there. You'll have to look back in history because she was there in the early 1600s." About six or seven hours later I had a call from the library and they said, "We have located a Margaret Brent. We have quite a little bit of information." I said, "That's the name, Margaret Brent." I marveled at that.

**ZL:** But that was in the Arizona State . . .

**PR:** It was down here in our research library. I think everything had to be hand written in those days. There was a good article, a couple articles of how she and her sister and two brothers and the number of maid servants, the number of men servants that they brought with them. They had a special dispensation from Lord Baltimore. So you knew that our library has the resources and we need to keep it up.

**ZL:** Now one of the most delightful things you've been involved with has been the Arizona Quilt Project.

**PR:** Yes, that was with Judy Schubert. She was a member of the Junior League in Phoenix. She

called and told me they were going to start a quilt project, teaching youngsters to make quilts in the schools. She said, "We'll start a program and target two or three schools in different parts of the city. I went to their first meeting and heard their plans. They were going to get fourth and fifth graders. I said, "Well, I think it is wonderful. I wonder if maybe you are starting a little too early. Maybe it would be better with sixth graders." But their plans were made and I didn't interfere in any way, shape, or form. And do you know the fourth graders did the best? They worked all year and then we had a big party at the end of the year here at the Capitol. The youngsters, their parents and their teachers came to the Capitol. They had their quilts on display. They were probably a yard square. They didn't make too many, but it was the most heartwarming, the most ingenious project. I remember they had to get lots of help from mothers. It took school time, but it also took people who knew how to quilt and how to do things. I remember one woman telling me, "It made for such good relations among the youngsters. In one room was this little boy that nobody paid much attention to. He just wasn't one of the crowd, but suddenly they found out that he knew how to thread needles and they would say, "Would you thread my needle for me?" And she said, "It just created so much interest." When we had the party, they had their quilts displayed on the first floor of the Capitol. I think we had apples and punch and maybe cookies at five in the afternoon. The fathers and mothers came and you could hear them shouting "Come see my quilt. Come and see this." The boys amazed me with the interest they took. They drew their own designs.

**ZL:** Were these depicting Arizona history?

**PR:** Some of them were. They could do anything they wanted. But most of them did Arizona history. I remember one little boy had a flag - upside down - but he had the flag on it. They learned how to do things. They learned about Arizona. It was a project where they all got together. Everybody was on an equal basis when they were making their quilts.

They continued it again the next year; they tried to get somebody to take it over and nobody would. So it was one of those worthwhile things that just died. I think it could be incorporated back into the schools again, with youngsters making things. I've always felt any way you could teach history or teach about Arizona, whether it was writing about it or doing a pictorial representation, it was good for the state.

**ZL:** Another project that you were involved in was talking books.

**PR:** Yes, I remember years ago we've had several blind people who were elected to the State Legislature. They were handicapped, there was no doubt about it. I remember this one man came down from Apache County and his wife came with him. She read every bill to him every night. She sat in the balcony. They wouldn't let her come on the floor of the House. Then we heard - I got interested through the library - that they had these recordings. They called them the "Talking Books." It has been something that has grown by

leaps and bounds. I wish I could think of the number we have of the cassette tapes. I went out to watch them at the Library for the Blind. That's what they called it first. I think we've changed the name a little bit. We have people, retired actors and actresses who will donate their time to come and read. Everybody who makes a recording is carefully screened. We have daily newspapers through fiction, all kinds of books.

I have been instrumental in getting some for the people. For instance, years ago we had a young doctor living next door to us up in the mining camp. He moved away, was in the service and came back and had a wonderful clinic and worked many, many years. Then all of a sudden he had a stroke. He was completely incapacitated. His wife told me, "I don't what we are going to do. He just doesn't know what to do with himself." She said, "He does listen to a little recording somebody brought him." I said, "Have you heard about the 'Talking Books'? We furnish the little machines at no cost to you. You can make a choice of a least six books. They will be mailed to you. When you are through you return them. We'll get them for you." She said, "It was the most miraculous thing. He could hear what was going on in the daily paper." First she said, "All the books he wanted were wild west stories. Something to entertain him." Then as time went on, "It really did more for him than anything else." Then I found another fellow, his wife told me he was retired Navy man. He was losing his eyesight. And I said, "You should get on the program for the 'Talking Books.'" So we did and he told me later. "I had to go to work right out of high school. I didn't get to go to college. I didn't get the reading done that I should. But now a whole new world has opened up to me. The books I've heard about can be read to me."

In Mesa we have the largest group of retired telephone men. They do all the repairing of those little machines, free of charge, and they have a wonderful time. Once a year they have a luncheon and invite the people who are interested in it. It's one of the nicest places to go because they are all so thrilled that they are helping people. So many people don't know about it. But through the Library and Archives you can join. There is no cost. I remember sponsoring a bill years ago after the man from Apache County served. I realized the handicap, and when they needed legislation I was delighted to help get money.

**ZL:** That's a great service.

**PR:** It's a wonderful service and it is free. Servicemen get first preference. We've done so many worthwhile things that people don't know about. I always like a chance to let people know about them.

**ZL:** In 1990 you faced a challenge because your Globe residency was questioned. Certain individuals said you no longer lived in Globe and that your residence was in Phoenix. Then in January of 1991 the House of Representatives, in a unanimous vote, dismissed the residency challenge.

**PR:** Yes. It was a disgruntled candidate for office. When the session only lasted sixty days, my husband and I would always come down and everybody moved into the Adams Hotel. But it was over in sixty days.

We didn't have many special sessions and if we did, they only lasted a little while. Then later on, when the sessions became longer and longer and you did summer work, practically everybody from a rural county, who lived over a hundred miles away, kept some kind of a residence here. I know one woman kept a trailer here all the time. Another one had a mobile home that she always brought up. Another fellow bought a house here which he rented out the rest of the year to his relatives. If you get a call you have to have a place to come. Hotels and motels became so much more expensive and they didn't want you. See with the tourist season on, they don't want to rent to legislators. After the depression I remember you could live at the Adams Hotel for $3.50 a day.

**ZL:** Is that right?

**PR:** Because it was a depression and there was no business, so we were all sort of spoiled. But gradually you learned that you had to keep a place here so that if you got a call you had a place to stay when you came in. Some stayed with relatives, but most don't do that. The man I defeated was so disgruntled. He was a strange person anyway. So he sued me - that I didn't live in Globe. You had to have a place when you had to come in to stay. You might have a special session that would last two or three weeks. You don't just come and find housing. So yes, it was a bad situation.

**ZL:** But when the House voted it was with prejudice, meaning that they could never bring it back.

**PR:** Could not bring it back again. I was the one that was singled out, but there were so many others in exactly the same shape that I was.

**ZL:** So that meant the issue was laid to rest for everyone.

**PR:** Yes, I hope so. It was in my case.

**ZL:** Arizona has changed from a rural state with mining, railroads, utilities, ranching and farming to a state with a very large metropolitan area. And today's industry - manufacturing, land development, tourism - brings in a lot of the state's income. In what ways have these changes affected the State Legislature?

**PR:** They have made many, many changes. The first thing, the one man, one vote came in the 60s. Before that Arizona was ideally set up, patterned after the national Congress. Each state had two senators and representation according to population. Arizona in those days had fourteen counties and two senators from each county and the House was based on the population. Membership in the House varied from fifty-one, then as the population grew, it got up to eighty at one time. In the early days my recollections are, when I first became associated with it, the rural people had just as much say as the city people. You had the good

old ranchers and farmers who came at a sacrifice. The pay was eight dollars a day, no expense money. They were interested in their state. They had nothing to gain personally. In fact, I don't know of anybody who really came for any other reason than service to the state. Because most of them were farmers or ranchers they weren't interested in any other type of work. Then after the one man, one vote they had these huge districts all over - gerrymandered. In fact, the one district had parts of eight counties.

**ZL:** That was your district?

**PR:** That was my district. You cannot get acquainted and know the little strips and the little places where they go. That did away with the good old-fashioned people who came for the interest of the state. You had people who saw a chance to get ahead to do something. I remember one man who had recently moved here from Pennsylvania and was elected. I think he lived here just a very short time. He said, "Oh, this water business makes me sick. As long as the water turns on at the tap, why should I care about anything else or anybody else's water?" So many came in, "Well, I can use the legislature as a stepping stone for something else. I'll make a lot of friends, I'll meet a lot of people, and I'll know a lot of lobbyists." We've always had a lot of lobbyists but I don't remember them playing an important part. Now it became a means of getting ahead, furthering your own interest. It's very different. I've heard some people say, "Oh, I'll get elected to a couple of terms and I'll make enough contacts that I can probably get myself set up pretty well."

**ZL:** The State of Arizona has prospered, as have most of the western states, under the type of development which has been familiar throughout the west: mining, railroads, farming, ranching. In recent years environmentalists often feel that these industries are harmful to the land and the people. From your historical perspective, what do you predict will happen?

**PR:** I really don't know. We sort of lived in peace and harmony. The cattle people were interested in looking after their cattle and the cotton farmers . . . We had a diversified economy here. But we all got along pretty well. We used to have mountain to mountain crops and orchards and things. Now we have mountain to mountain people, subdivisions. I think that the influx of people, without planning, has been bad. Every day you see more and more citrus groves torn up, making way for people. A lot of them come with money and plan to retire which is nice with Sun City and the other places. I think there was a lack of planning and overcrowding. Things are getting to a place where it's almost as bad as New York and San Francisco. I don't know what the answer is going to be. I don't know how we are going to do it. I still think that ranching can be carried on. I think mining can be carried on. But you are going to have to work together and a lot of people are going to have to give and to take. The sad part of it, when the people don't have any more lumber industry, we have forest fires that destroy the whole thing. I think there is a lack of foresight and a lack of planning. I think it is going to be one of the big problems as more and more people come.

I think we're at the mercy of the outside world to feed a place like this because if transportation were cut off what would we do? I think that's one of the big problems that they are going to have to face in cities. Small towns can get along pretty well. They are self sufficient, some of them. Mining camps are not particularly because the main industry is the mining. But in other rural areas where you raise a lot of your own food, and things. But I really think it's the most serious problems facing us today.

**ZL:** To go to a slightly lighter note, at one time you served on the boxing commission.

**PR:** No, I got mixed up with the boxing commission. I didn't serve with them. I never knew much about boxing. I'd never been to a boxing match in my life. But some of my constituents up in Show Low - there was a group in there taking these little kids and fighting them, mostly behind closed doors.

**ZL:** Like ten years old, twelve years old?

**PR:** Yes and they were doing it on Sundays. So of course, some of the parents, who do they go to? Your legislators. I knew some of these people. Well, I got some legislation ready. And as I say, I was really kidded a lot by people who were familiar with the boxing industry because I didn't know much about it. But they really were very nice about it. They came in, they laughed at me. There were articles in the paper about a person who had never seen a boxing match going to regulate the boxing industry. But I did have some friends and we sat down and we worked things out. Yes, I think I took more ribbing on the boxing than anything else.

**ZL:** You made some changes?

**PR:** Yes, we made some changes and they saw what was going on. I think they really didn't know about it. It wasn't around here, it was in rural communities and they would get these youngsters and one or two of them had been pretty badly hurt.

**ZL:** So you raised the limit to . . .

**PR:** I don't remember how we handled it. But the boxing commission was given much more authority over every match and was supposed to regulate it. That's been a number of years ago and I have heard no more complaints.

**ZL:** So it apparently solved the difficulties.

**PR:** I think it did, yes.

**ZL:** I'd like to talk a little bit about women's issues. In the 1960s, you introduced legislation that would allow women to work overtime. This must have been a real interesting . . .

**PR:** It was more than interesting. It was quite a thing. I had worked with the bank women and I didn't realize this. At first you know women had difficulty getting into industry until they were absolutely needed. An eight hour day was what they had. The banking industry was so different in those days and the bank women were the ones that brought it to my attention. They had an eight hour day and then they must quit if there was work left to be done. But the men could come and get time and a half to finish up the jobs that the women had started. They wanted to be able to go ahead and work.

**ZL:** And this was in the 60s?

**PR:** Yes, I think it was. I introduced legislation almost every year. The unions fought it; you'd be amazed how many people were protective. Women shouldn't have to work. But you know a woman in the home, her work's never done. A ranch woman works from six in the morning till it's done at nine o'clock at night. It would be hard on the women, it would be difficult. But after all those lengthy tries to get it through . . .

**ZL:** It took you ten years?

**PR:** When reading the clipping the other day, it said after ten years we were going to get this through. I'd have to get the legislation out and look at it. But I think we worked and negotiated. The first go around they would let executive women, and do you know how we defined executive women?

**ZL:** No.

**PR:** Those who made eighty dollars a week. That was the term that was bandied about. People have to realize, you don't get anywhere fast. You take it and ease in until you get what want. Then electronic industries were coming in and with the different shifts they were working, women were being employed. Yes, it was quite a thing.

**ZL:** Were the women in the legislature willing to support you?

**PR:** Some were and some weren't. But I remember the last year. I think it was 1966, every women in the House signed on the bill with me. By that time more and more women were willing to support it. You realize in the early days here, women were not particularly trained and they got in gradually to the business world.

**ZL:** Did you see a difference in men and women in their willingness to compromise?

**PR:** Yes, sometimes. Both sides were difficult on compromising. There was a difference in compromise. Yes, I remember being invited up to - it wasn't exactly a caucus - just a few men getting together and I was the only women and they said, "Just come on up." I sat around with a number of men. Unless you have something to really say, you don't say it. As they continued talking about something the language got a little bit worse and a little bit worse. Finally one young fellow said, "Don't forget there's a lady present here." This one fellow looked all around and he said, "Oh hell, I forget she's a woman. She thinks just like a man."

**ZL:** Do you think women are more willing to compromise or . . .

**PR:** They are getting more so. But I think it's more difficult for women to compromise in legislation. I think in other things, maybe not so much. But remember, they were a long time getting in and making laws. I think they'd have a vision they wanted to get through and they didn't want any changes. You can't do it, you have to make changes.

**ZL:** What do you think about the theory that men know how to compromise and work together because they played on teams, sports teams . . .

**PR:** I think there is a great deal to that. They know that nobody can be the center of attention all of the time. I've heard many of them talking. Down in the hotel rooms at night when they'd all be sitting around talking I've heard them say, "Well, I could give a little bit there if I could get a little bit here. And pretty soon they will do it.

Where I think women come in, especially those with one purpose in mind, it is very difficult to get it just the way you want it, but you can't do it. And what some women forget is, you get what you can and come back later and get more. But you have to be able to compromise because you are not perfect and you are not right all the time. There are many facets to all and any of these bills. Yes, I can remember some of the women earlier, it's getting a little bit different now. But I can remember one or two of them would come in with just one thing in mind, one cause and they wanted it just the way it was written. It might not be written too well. But I think, too, you have to remember that all legislation is a compromise. Like it is in the family. Nobody just runs the whole family, and none of the children run it.

**ZL:** In the 1960s you also worked on a piece of legislation about obscene phone calls.

**PR:** Yes, it was telephones. You remember there was a time when telephones were not for visiting, they were just for a sole purpose of business. I can remember in the mining camp, you didn't visit over the phone, just if you had to call somebody on business. People were getting a lot of obscene calls. So Ruth

Peck and I and Andy Gibbons, who worked for the telephone company and was a lobbyist at the legislature, sat down and we discussed how we could stop that. We got a bill through the legislature on obscene calls, how they could be reported and how we could look for them. Of course, things have changed so much now with all the difference in communications, but it was a step in the right direction. We had pretty good support on that, but it took two women to introduce it because the women would be the ones at home and they were called, maybe at ten o'clock at night. I think they would just pick out random phones to call. But the telephone company was most cooperative. We sat down and we worked out a pretty good bill.

**ZL:** But it was important at that time.

**PR:** Yes. It served a purpose.

**ZL:** In 1992 the National Organization of Women endorsed you. Were you a member of that organization?

**PR:** I belonged to the National Order of Women Legislators. That was the one. There was another organization very similar to which we did not belong. You cannot belong to too many, because you can't spread yourself so thin. I always feel it's pretty good when women will endorse another woman. I feel that it's quite an accomplishment.

**ZL:** I've seen you quoted in several places that you feel women are very instrumental in building the West.

**PR:** Oh, they were. They really were. It was the women who put down the roots. They came in covered wagons. They planted the garden, they milked the cows, and they wanted the education for their children. They were the ones who promoted schools, did things like that. I don't belittle men, but women were the ones who stayed home and I can think of so many of those pioneer women. They helped the neighbors. They delivered the children. One neighbor would go to another place. And if you read in our Hall of Fame of the pioneer women and see the things they did. They were nurses, they looked after people. They helped one another and I don't belittle a man in anything. Their job was different.

I remember when they wanted the Children's Colony. There was no place to put mentally retarded children. They were all kept at home and some of them could benefit, could learn certain things to do. I remember it was along in the eighteenth legislature. Ed Jamison was the Speaker of the House and I heard him say, "This year we have to do it. I cannot go home and face those women in Kingman. I wouldn't dare go back to town." So they did.

**ZL:** Was it always located in Coolidge?

**PR:** Coolidge. We owned the land there. The land had served various purposes, but we had it. We were lucky to get an excellent man at first, Mr. McIntyre. Some people didn't want it and they gave him an office up here in the old building on the fourth floor with a light dangling from a cord. They put in a desk and a typewriter. And instead of complaining he said, "Thank you gentleman. I can make my surveys. I have a desk and I can go ahead and do it." He was an excellent person. He surveyed this state. He would stop unannounced there at the Children's Colony to see what was going on. We were most fortunate to get it. I can remember him saying to me once, there was a boy there who had gone down from Miami and he said, "One of these days, I am going to find a job that boy can hold. There must be no deviation. It has to be attractive. But he will be excellent if he has something to do. He will know at a certain time he has to do it."

After he left, we had a series of different ones, but we got off to a good start with him. I still feel it should be kept up. Some people want to abolish it and put them in group homes and do other things, but I always think of the wonderful start we made on that first Children's Colony. I remember stopping once; they had a train they had made and the kids could ride around. Somebody came up to him and said, "Can we go to the fair?" There are stages of retardation, a great variance in them. He said, "Now I have to think about that. I am hoping we can. If you folks are all good." He said to me, "You never lie to anybody. Because these children are particularly sensitive and they know and if you say, 'Yes you can go,' and you break your promise you've just lost ground. If you say yes, then you must fulfill it." He understood the mentally retarded which a lot of us never did. It was quite a place down there. It was a happy place and they had fun. They had a little store where they learned to go buy things. They had script for money. They were well behaved because there was a genuine interest in them.

**ZL:** You were given a title by your colleagues in 1982, "First Lady of the Arizona Legislators" and it was unanimously adopted by the House. On that day, you had all kinds of former Arizona Governors here.

**PR:** You know, having taught school I am not surprised very often. As a school teacher you have to anticipate everything that is going on around. It never occurred to me that there was anything special. We knew that they were going to have something, but I was totally surprised and it was wonderful. Yes, all the living Governors came, I think.

**ZL:** Howard Pyle, Ernest McFarland . . .

**PR:** Ernest McFarland said to me, "I want my picture taken with you." My husband and Ernest McFarland had been very good friends. Paul Fannin, Jack Williams, Sam Goddard, Evan Mecham, Rose Mofford, yes, all the living Governors were there. An old time Speaker of the House, Freddie Fritz came. It was wonderful. It was such a happy occasion.

**ZL:** And Freddie Fritz was the one that made the speech to honor you?

**PR:** I think a lot of them made speeches that day. Then we had a big reception over in the old building. We just visited and had the best time. Jack Gilbert, a former speaker came and he brought me a lovely little piece of turquoise that he had made specially . . .

**ZL:** He was from Cochise County, I mean Bisbee.

**PR:** There was such camaraderie. I think that's the last time I remember the camaraderie. Everybody was so thrilled to see each other. I remember Evelyn Muheim came up from Cochise County. I hadn't seen her for so long and I had no idea because it just never occurs to you. Yes, it was really a nice party and everybody liked each other in those days.

**ZL:** Can you tell me something about Freddie Fritz?

**PR:** Oh, Freddie was a wonderful little cow puncher from up on Blue River. He told me that he and his sister were such good friends because, “We never got to go to school. We always had a teacher come in and live at the ranch who taught us. We had each other to play and do things." He was very much interested in the state. Freddie stuttered a little bit. Freddie loved to dance and they used to have lots of dances here in those days. He was the first one there and the last one to leave. He lived up there at Blue River, hard to get in and out, across the creek 17 or 18 times to get up to the ranch. We went up once and got stuck on the way. He was later president of the Senate, but he had sort of retired from ranching. And he just devoted his life to the state of Arizona and what he could do for it. Those were the good old people that appreciated the state.

**ZL:** Some other people that I'd love to have you give some of your memories of and these aren't in any order. Just kind of free thinking, but one of them is Nellie Bush.

**PR:** You know there's an old song, “Nellie was a Lady.” Nellie was one of the most interesting people I have ever known. They moved here from Missouri when she was a small child. They lived in Tempe and I heard her give a talk one time. She said, "You know, we were poor folks. My mother took in washing and I delivered it in a little red wagon. I didn't know there was anything demeaning about it. I was glad." She went ahead and taught school several places. Then she decided she would like to be a lawyer. Now she married Joe Bush and moved to Parker in the early days. Joe bought the ferry across the Colorado River. They had two boats. They ferried cars across the Colorado and they also carried ore. There was no bridge across the Colorado between Parker and California.

**ZL:** Now what's the community on the other side of Parker?

**PR:** I really don't remember the name where they ferried it across. She was the first woman to have a pilot's license as a river navigator. They had this one little boy and she said she never left him. She always took him on board in the pilot house. She said, "Sometimes when the waves would get high, that was before the dam was in, we'd have awful storms." She'd say, "Oh God, if you'll just let me get this kid off this time, I'll never bring him on board on again." But she said, "I always did, because I never could leave him." Nellie was quite a resourceful woman and she decided she would go to school at the University of Arizona.

**ZL:** Now this was after she was married?

**PR:** After she was married and she took Wesley down with her. He told somebody, "My mother and I are both in the first grade. We just go to different schools." She was in law school and I remember her talking about the discussion on rape cases. There were a couple of women, Lorna Lockwood was there at that time too. They wouldn't allow the women in when they said "bad things about people" or something like that. So Nellie said to them, "Gentlemen, did you ever hear of a rape case where a women wasn't involved?" They let them stay after that.

**ZL:** Unbelievable.

**PR:** It is unbelievable. She was forceful, but she was never obnoxious. She was very resourceful. They had to be in those days. The story is told, and I'm sure it's true having known Nellie as I did; she and my husband were very good friends. A long time before we were married, she, Charlie McQuillen, a Republican from up in Winslow, and my husband were here. They would drive out to Mesa for dinner at night. That's where a lot of legislation was discussed. She said, "Now boys, I love going with you. I enjoy these meetings, but we go Dutch treat. We all are making the same salary. I know it is humiliating to a man to let a woman pick up the check, so we'll just make arrangements. I'll pick it up one night and you another. Or we'll just ante up for Dutch treat, so that there is a perfect understanding about it." And they did. Everybody respected Nellie. They might not agree with her.

**ZL:** Now did she practice law in . . .

**PR:** In Parker. Yes, she was resourceful. Those pioneer women had to know how to do things. The story is told, it was a hot summer afternoon and something was wrong with the car and here she was stranded. She could change a tire, she could do everything. She decided something was wrong with the timer. So what did she do? She took off her corset and took out a stay. And she fixed it until she could get into Phoenix. That's why I say the women were resourceful; they had to know how to do things.

**ZL:** She was probably one of the few lawyers in Parker?

**PR:** Oh yes. She passed the bar examination before she even finished law school. She set up a practice in Parker. Nellie had been many things. She was a coroner. She'd held many offices up there and she practiced law. When her son was getting about sixteen he became interested in aviation. He wanted to study aviation, get his pilot's license. She said, "All right. You study and I will too. I'll get my license before you do." So she took up aviation and she did get her license first. She was a skilled pilot. They built the first air strip in Parker. She also became an attorney for the Santa Fe railroad. She would do her work in Parker, get in her plane and fly to Yuma to file her papers. She also was admitted to the bar in California. She was a worker and a very resourceful woman. She was the one that Governor Moore named "Commodore of the Arizona Navy" when they got in the dispute with California over the Colorado River.

**ZL:** This is a continuation of an interview with Polly Rosenbaum. The date is September 6th, 1996. Last time we were talking about some of the very interesting people that you have known over the years and today we would like to continue with that. One of them is Ben Avery, who was a 1995 Historymaker. He lived all over Southern Arizona, and then he lived in Globe where he started his newspaper writing career.

**PR:** Yes, I would say that Ben was probably one of the best newspaper reporters we have ever had in this state. He was fair, he was factual in his coverage, he knew what was going on, and he had an excellent background. Ben never editorialized in his columns. He reported what went on. He had worked on little newspapers around the state and he worked there in Globe. By the way, he married a girl that went to school to me, a girl from Hayden.

**ZL:** Oh, she was a student of yours?

**PR:** Yes, Donda was a student of mine the first year I taught there. Of course, being a little place like that, I knew the whole family. I sort of kept track of them over the years. Ben was an excellent reporter and he was probably the most knowledgeable person in the state on the Colorado River Compact. He was an authority on it. He was very modest, always very matter of fact. I think the last work I did with Ben was after he was retired just a few years ago. He called me one day and said, "I'm coming out. I think we need some new gun control legislation in this state." He was glad to get back to the Capitol a little bit to see people. We sort of decided what we needed in the legislation and took it over to the legislative council to have it drafted. When it came back it wasn't quite what he and I anticipated. So of course, as we did in the old days, we went right back over. We said, “We need this changed and this changed. You must not have quite understood what we wanted." He was thorough; he wouldn't let anything go half done.

**ZL:** Was this on juveniles and firearms?

**PR:** Ben did a great deal. He and Sandra Day O'Connor did a great deal of the gun control laws in the State of Arizona. They worked together. Both very modest and they never talked much about it. It was additions and tightening up and making a few changes in there. The shooting range is named after him. Ben was honest and sincere; he understood and he knew what needed to be done. Sad to say that it didn't get through that year. You could call Ben and ask him something that went on ten or twelve years ago. He could usually, especially if there was a little controversy about which way things went, Ben would know because he had a very retentive memory. He remembered the things. They don't make them like Ben anymore.

**ZL:** He was a wonderful man. Arizonans had a number of women in politics who had been strong, wonderful role models and capable leaders. And I thought we'd touch upon some of them and the first one is Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

**PR:** Yes, Sandra. I served in the House when she was serving in the Senate. Sandra was an asset to the Senate. She had the legal mind, the legal training. Sandra knew how to get along with people and she did her homework. Now many people over there hire somebody to do their homework, I mean with the extra attachés. She had help but she was especially good there. She was never putting herself in the foreground but she knew the points of law. She understood everything. She was always a lady and she guided that Senate when she was there. I am delighted that she was appointed where she is now because I think she is thoroughly enjoying herself there.

**ZL:** On the Supreme Court.

**PR:** On the Supreme Court, but she was perhaps one of the best leaders, floor leaders they ever had in the Senate because she knew whereof she spoke.

**ZL:** And she was the first woman who was the Senate President.

**PR:** Yes, the Senate. For years the Senate was an exclusive men's club. They had a woman in the first session of the legislature. Then for years, no woman ever ran for the Senate. Later on many of them did.

**ZL:** I'm sorry, she was Senate Majority Leader.

**PR:** And did an excellent job.

**ZL:** Another woman is now Secretary of State, Jane Hull.

**PR:** Yes, I was here when Jane came in and sat next to her in the Education Committee. Jane had a purpose. She wanted to understand the workings of everything. And she's done an excellent job.

**ZL:** And she was the first woman who was Speaker of the House.

**PR:** First woman who was Speaker, yes. Times have sort of changed. A few years earlier she couldn't possibly have been, no woman could have been. But she came along at the right time and the right place. I remember, having the longest tenure in office, I would preside over the opening session. The women attorneys and the women of Arizona said to me that they wanted to make a special presentation that day of a gavel to the Speaker. We had that all arranged. After presenting her with the gavel I said, "I'm sorry, but I have to take it away. We gave it to you, but I have to take it away from you now. It goes in the museum and we'll have another one here for you to use for the rest of your session." She was a very fair Speaker, very good and I think she thoroughly enjoyed it.

**ZL:** But then she decided to run for Secretary of State?

**PR:** For Secretary of State. Yes, she resigned. She was very fair, very ethical about it. She resigned her position toward the end of her term so she could run for Secretary of State.

**ZL:** So she's in the position now if something were to happen to Governor Symington she would become the Governor?

**PR:** She would become the Governor, yes, because she is an elected official. When Governor Bolin died, Rose Mofford was Secretary of State but she had been appointed. She hadn't run for the office yet. It had to go next to the Attorney General, so it went to Bruce Babbitt. You must be an elected officer before you can ascend to the office of Governor.

**ZL:** Well, that leads us to Rose Mofford.

**PR:** Yes, I've known most all the Governors, some much better than others. I've known Rose for many, many years. Rose grew up in Globe, where she was born. Her father was a hoist engineer with the mining company. Her mother took in boarders, an excellent cook. Rose was the youngest of six children and everybody in town called her Baby Rose; beautiful golden hair. She went to school over in Noftsger Hill.

**ZL:** Where' s that?

**PR:** It's a walk across the canyon from where she lived. You see, Globe is divided by canyons. Yes, she trudged across the bridge over the canyon to Noftsger Hill.

In those days schools graded one, two and three, one being the highest. Never in her life did she, in any subject, get a grade below one. She was a worker. She was president of her class most the time. They used to laugh and say, "Nobody dare run against her," because she was very athletic and the joke was that she'd beat them up. But no, she was their choice and I don't know what Globe would have done in athletics without Rose Mofford. She was an athlete herself, but so many of those high school boys were late getting assignments in. Now she wouldn't do their assignments for them, ever, but she would type their papers so that they would be readable and she would be after them to get their work in on time so they would be eligible to play. She was a cheerleader. She was president of her class all through junior high and high school, valedictorian of her class. She was very athletic.

You know she had a chance to go professional before she was out of high school. I think it was the "All American Red Heads," out of New York who wanted her to play with them. She was a tremendous athlete. Her father didn't quite want her too, she was only seventeen. The choice was hers but she was influenced by her folks. So instead of that, it was during the depression days, she came down here to Phoenix to work at the Capitol. Joe Hunt, who was another athlete, brought her down. I think she probably first worked in the tax commission. She has worked in offices all over the Capitol, so she had knowledge.

During the war years she was editor of the Highway Magazine. The men had gone to war. When Wes Bolin became Secretary of State, he appointed her as his deputy and she worked there for years. Then after he became Governor, he appointed her as Secretary of State. She was still an appointee when Wesley Bolin died while in office; she could not ascend to the office of Governor because she was not elected. So Bruce Babbitt took over at that time.

When Mr. Mecham was impeached she went into the Governor's office. I would say, that was one of the most traumatic jobs that could have possibly come up for her. People were on one side of the fence or the other whether there should have been an impeachment or whether there shouldn't have been. She was most generous and most courteous to Evan Mecham and I think she still occasionally sees him, but she tried to work with him. It was a bad situation and she said, "I couldn't help it because I went in. I went in by law. I didn't seek the job."

**ZL:** Then at some time point in time she must have run for Secretary of State?

**PR:** Yes, she had run for Secretary of State after Wesley Bolin died. The next election she ran and she held that office for a number of years. She was elected for several terms so automatically she went in there. She said, "I tried to get people liking each other again." It was bad. She had no help. She couldn't take the people away from the Secretary of State's office. She in turn appointed Shumway, who had been her deputy, to the job. She took some of her people with her. There was ill feeling by those who had been in

office, who would go out when Mecham went out. It was a bad situation, but she tried to bring people together and she did succeed very well. She decided not to run for the office and I could understand why. There had been so much bitterness.

**ZL:** That was a very tough situation to move into.

**PR:** Very, very tough situation. She understood more about state government than any person who has ever gone in, I'm sure, because she had worked so many places and she knew the workings of all. And then Arizona had grown so much. She's very happy nowadays doing lots of things that she wants to do. She said she never has time enough and I don't think anybody would ever know of the charitable, humane work she has done behind the scenes. A little boy someplace in Pinal County was left homeless. He was with a family, but for years Rose supported him, looked after him, saw that there was money every month to take care of him. She goes and hunts up all the people she'd known in Globe and Miami and Gila County who are in rest homes or in places here. She goes to see them or calls them. She has a card index of people she knows, telephone numbers, I don't know how many are on it.

She told me once that Governor McFarland said, "Rose, would you address my Christmas cards for me this year?" She had known him for so long. In fact, when he ran for the U.S. Senate he came up to Globe. She was about twelve or thirteen. She said, "Oh Mr. McFarland you just give me your cards and I'll get you elected because I know everybody in Globe." They laughed and they said he did and she did. He said to her, "Rose would you address my envelopes?" She said, "Oh yes, I'd be glad to." He was not too well. She said, "I didn't know that he had 5,000 names that he sent Christmas cards to. I addressed them all." Rose always was working. You'd go in to see her and maybe she would have papers to sign and knowing what they were, she would sign them and she would talk to you.

I'll have to tell you one thing about her that a lot of people don't know. As I say, everybody in town knew her. Now in Globe the kids played where there was a vacant lot or where there was a place to play. There was an old smelter up there on Smelter Hill as they called it. She and some kids were playing around one day and the men were talking. The smoke stack looked like it was a mile high. As a youngster you look up and you can't see the top. They were talking about nobody but a steeple jack could ever climb that smoke stack and they wouldn't try. She said, "Oh, I can climb it. I can't reach the rung, but if you'll boost me up." Somebody foolishly boosted that youngster up.

**ZL:** How old was she?

**PR:** Probably seven or eight, something like that. Away she went clear to the top and they were scared to death. What if she would fall? But she went to the top and she came down. But on the way down she had misgivings. When she got to the bottom and they took her off, she went home. The news got there before

she got there. In small towns the news always beats you home. She said, "That was the only time in my life my father ever paddled me. He paddled me that night and I was told, 'Don't you ever, ever do that again.'" Well, of course sooner or later they put a fence up around the smoke stack so nobody else could. Everybody knew Rose.

**ZL:** What about Justice Lorna Lockwood?

**PR:** She came down from Cochise County. Lorna was a very interesting person. I think that she had been quite athletic and loved to play basketball. She contracted tuberculosis but they caught it in the early stages and she fully recovered. Lorna had always aspired to be a lawyer like her father. That was what her training was geared for, what she wanted to be. Her mother was a thoroughly delightful person. In those days, the people in the legislature knew the other people and I remember being out to their home for dinner.

**ZL:** Her father was a justice on the Supreme Court also.

**PR:** They had some of the friends of Lorna's out for dinner one night. It was a hilarious evening. Her mother, Daisy Maude, I think was her name. She was very bright and they were a happy family. I know we just had the most wonderful discussions and talked about everything. She always aspired to be a Supreme Court Justice as her father had been and she did. Even to using his desk long after he had retired.

**ZL:** Did she practice law in Phoenix?

**PR:** She practiced law in Arizona, in Phoenix and she became a Superior Court Judge. She was the first woman Superior Court Judge, the first woman in the United States to serve as State Supreme Court Justice. This legislator told me that he had a boy that was sort of wild who got in trouble. Lorna was the presiding Judge of the Superior Court and they had to appear before her. He said, "She took me, the father, and that boy into her private room. I never heard a boy get a better lecture than she gave him. She laid it on the line to him as to what she expected, what she demanded of him, that he never get in trouble again." The father said, "I was just almost overcome by it too." He said the boy stayed out of trouble. She had nephews and a niece and she had very close contact with them. In fact I still keep track of some of the children. They towed the line too. They respected Lorna and they knew just how far they could go and what they could do and what she would not accept.

She belonged to a number of women's clubs and was very active in things. Whatever she did, she did well. She didn't take on jobs lightly. I think she set an excellent example both for men and women. I remember her telling me once, when she was in the Superior Court, about a couple of smart aleck attorneys coming in, just showing off a little bit and she rapped her gavel and said, "That's a fine of $5.00. Contempt of

court." They looked and they laughed, and she rapped the gavel again and she said, "That's another $5.00." She said, "I got their attention. I didn't have any trouble with those two young boys after that." She felt the dignity of the court and she practiced it. I would say she has been an example for many young people coming up.

She was back in Congress with Representative Murdock a year. She resigned from the legislature to go back. When she served in the legislature she was Chairman of the Judiciary. Then she went back to Washington for a while and came back and ran for the legislature again, was elected. Lorna understood youngsters very well. She never married, never had any of her own, but she did have nieces and nephews. They all were close to her. It was a close family and I think she made quite an impact upon the people of Arizona and especially among the woman.

**ZL:** What a role model.

**PR:** Yes she was. She had red hair.

**ZL:** There were a couple of men that you were very fond of in the House, and they were the two retired doctors.

**PR:** Oh, two of the most delightful people I have ever known. It was a strange coincidence that they both served at the same time. Dr. Sechrist had been a doctor in Flagstaff for years, beloved up there, large practice. Everybody knew him. He retired and decided he would run for the legislature. I had known him slightly through school legislation. He had been a school board member. Well it so happened, at the same time, there was a Dr. Sherrill here in Phoenix. I think he was a pediatrician. He had retired and didn't want to just stop so he decided he would run for the legislature. Well to watch them, they were like two school boys getting acquainted again. Each had been an expert in his own profession, but they were novices as far as legislation was concerned.

I remember talking with Dr. Sherrill. He was a Republican, but we caucused together. It was a cold windy night and we'd come out of the caucus. I was getting ready to get into my car and he came along and stopped to talk. He said, "You know, Polly, I thought I was a pretty well rounded person. I thought I understood things. I had been civically active and I had worked with different organizations. I get out here and I don't know anything. And I say to myself, 'Doc Sherrill, where have you been all your life?'" The two of them loved talking to each other. They'd laugh about how little they knew what went on in government, but how well they knew their own profession. They were such gentlemen and were a change. They were different. I remember on Valentine's Day, Dr. Sechrist brought every lady in the legislature an orchid. Well, nobody had ever done anything like that before.

**ZL:** Or since.

**PR:** Well, he charmed us all. Those two had nothing to gain, but they had much to give. They were invaluable in the health committees, as they knew. They were two wonderful and interesting men that everybody liked. I wish more people retiring, instead of just stopping, would bring their wisdom and judgment and experience to the legislature instead of saying, "I'm through, I'm going to enjoy myself." It's something we need badly. You'd enjoy yourself greatly out here. Their experience would mean a lot; they know how life is. So many of the younger ones only use the legislature as a stepping stone.

We had no doctor who came to the legislature. Now a doctor comes and offers his services every day. We had a terrible epidemic and the doctor looked after everybody. I remember one woman legislator when the epidemic was bad. Everybody in the legislature was sick. He gave her a prescription, all free of charge. He said, "Now take this every four hours around the clock." She said, "How can I get up at night to do it?" He said, "Set your alarm." She said, "I don't have an alarm." "Get one then if you want to get well." No nonsense. They contributed much to the way of health problems and how we handled things.

**ZL:** Jack Gilbert was Speaker of the House at one point.

**PR:** Yes, Jack Gilbert. He was an engineer. He had grown up in Globe and I heard him tell many a time of how he pumped the old pipe organ at the Presbyterian Church that didn't have electricity. He pumped it and got one dollar a Sunday for doing that. He was a wonderful Speaker. Those were the days when we had coalition, Democrats and Republicans.

**ZL:** At the time he served he was from Bisbee and Cochise County.

**PR:** He was from Cochise County. He had been in the service and had lost the hearing in one ear, but he heard plenty with the other ear. He was a very fair person. He could get more work out of people. A friend of mine and I were talking the other day. We were both here at the same time and she said, "Jack Gilbert had everybody working. They were on committees and he'd just assign a job and you knew you better do it". He had been used to running construction crews and you did your work. He wasn't unkind about it, but this was your job and you do it. I think Jack Gilbert was Speaker and John Hall, a Republican, was floor leader. We got lots done during those days. Everybody was happy, everybody liked each other. We knew the state departments. We'd go visit the state departments, unannounced. Instead of calling, in we'd drop in. I remember another person and I were on the same committee, so we went over to the Department of Corrections. We found they didn't have computers. They weren't up to date. They were entering everything by hand. And my goodness once we saw, we were generous with the money to get them set up. They would bring in their budgets and so often the people on the Appropriations Committee had never been over, they didn't know. They just kind of took somebody's word for it. But Jack had everybody out.

We went, we saw. And I said to the man at the Department of Corrections, 'Why didn't you put in a requisition for extra help?" He said, "Well, I knew I'd never get it." I said, "You'd get it now because we've been over and seen how you're really wasting time and money by doing it by the old process, handwriting things."

Those were happy years. The two years that Jack was Speaker. I knew everybody, first name. You've seen places where you can work and work together. I would say he was a success, everybody loved Jack. He later ran for Governor. It was too bad he didn't make it. I think he would have made a good Governor. He was honest and knowledgeable; he was fair and we liked him.

**ZL:** In 1993 Bill Clinton was inaugurated as President and you attended that event.

**PR:** I went back. I had seen them on TV, but I had never been there. It was quite an experience. The weather in Washington was wonderful. There were a number of people back there. It's kind of a blur now, but I remember parties and dinners that you went to. Everything was getting ready and going someplace else. Karen English was new and I was over to see her new offices. She was moving in and everything was turmoil. Dennis DeConcini had a party one night. I went to that and saw so many people I hadn't seen in years. The time flew away and you thought you'd remember when you got home. You remember a lot about it; you remember it being nice. I had been to Washington many times. But when you go to meetings, you get off the plane, you go to your meeting, and you come back and sometimes the weather is horrid. But this was a very nice interlude in a busy session.

**ZL:** And the weather was very nice.

**PR:** Very nice, very nice. In fact, I took a heavy coat and I didn't have to wear it. I wore a lighter coat. That's what I remember, lots of music, lots of fun, lots of entertainment. Entertainment everyplace. It was interesting.

**ZL:** You've received three honorary degrees from institutions of higher learning.

**PR:** Yes and I never had such a surprise in my life. Some people think about things like that, but I don't. Yes, from Flagstaff. Eugene Hughes was President of Flagstaff. He gave me a call and he said, "I've sent you a letter. I would like to have you come up this year for graduation, give the graduation address and we want to present you with an honorary degree." Well, I was just floored. I said, "Oh, I don't think I could." He said, "Oh, I'm sure you could." So I did and it was really a nice experience. Never thought about it. He said, "You've done a great deal for the State and you've done a great deal for education." So it was a thoroughly delightful experience.

**ZL:** Now this was a Doctor of Humane Letters?

**PR:** Doctor of Humane Letters, yes.

**ZL:** That was 1991. And then in 1992, you received one from the University of Phoenix.

**PR:** University of Phoenix, yes. Dino DeConcini called me one day. Dino has been a lobbyist and I've known the family for a long time. He said, "I'd like to come out and see you this afternoon if you have time." I said, 'Well, certainly. Come along." I thought, "I wonder what Dino wants to lobby me about." I couldn't think of anything. He came in and we talked a little while about the old days when his father was on the Supreme Court. Then he said, "I guess you're wondering about the purpose of my coming?" I said, "Well, I don't know what you want to lobby me about." He said," I didn't come to lobby you. I came to ask your permission for the University of Phoenix to confer an honorary degree." I said, 'Well, I'm certainly surprised." And he said, "You did a lot for them in the early days." I had, because when they were coming in here there was skepticism everyplace about the University of Phoenix. It is different. It was a much needed institution when it came in and it still is because they take advantage of people's practical experience and they apply it.

**ZL:** And also peoples' work habits and their hours . . .

**PR:** Work habits and all of that. You don't have to practice your teaching, you've already done it. I remember when I got aquatinted with Dr. Sperling. He came out and the legislature was very anti at first. I remember Dr. Prince who is President out here at Phoenix College.

**ZL:** Of the Maricopa Community Colleges . . .

**PR:** Of the Maricopa Community College. I called him and said, "Dr. Prince, I've known you for a long time. You've lobbied out here. You have never lied to me about anything. Now what about this University of Phoenix? I've talked to Dr. Sperling and some of the others. I am interested, but I want to be sure that it has the backing of substantial people, that it won't be a fly by night thing." He said, "I would never lend my name to anything I didn't fully agree with. I have done that and I think that they are needed here. They are legitimate. They will do a good job." So I thought well, that's one. Then I called John McGowan who had been in Paul Fannin's office when he was Governor. I had worked closely with John McGowan and I called him and I said the same thing. "John you've never lied to me in all the years we've worked together. What about the University of Phoenix?" It was the same thing he said. So then I decided that I would help them because we did need it. It was a rough go for quite awhile. Everything imaginable was brought up to deter it. But it finally came through. They were accredited by the North Central Association. It was going real well. Once you finish a job you just don't think much more about it. Occasionally you'd check back.

So I was really delighted. I felt that was really an appreciation. They have been highly successful. I know nurses would call me. We never could have kept the hospital at Globe open if it hadn't been for the Community College there which trained them and the University of Phoenix where they could go ahead and get their degrees and use their practical experience. Many of the engineers in places where there is a shut down in the mines or people are laid off, with their practical experience they can go back to school. I knew two women here in Phoenix. One went out to ASU and took night classes. The other went to the University of Phoenix and they were comparing notes. The one who went to the University of Phoenix said, "I did everything the hard way because I didn't have people in class to discuss things with. In a night class you have the members there and you can all discuss things." But she said, "I really felt I earned my degree. It had to be done and it had to be done properly." She was quite a booster for them. Yes, I was surprised about that. I was delighted.

**ZL:** And that was also a Doctor of Humane Letters?

**PR:** The same, that's the honorary degree when they confer.

**ZL:** When they confer that, it's all Doctor of Humane Letters?

**PR:** Yes, Doctor of Humane Letters. Then I never thought anymore about it. Then the next year I had a letter from Lattie Coor whom I had known and respected highly, saying that they would like to confer a degree upon me over there.

**ZL:** At ASU.

**PR:** At ASU. That was a very nice experience and my very good friend, Dwight Patterson, had one conferred on him at the same time. There were other people. It was kind of like an old home week on that. I feel I have been very fortunate. Never expecting, never entered my head in any way, shape or form.

**ZL:** And to have three of them.

**PR:** To have three of them within the State. I thought that was very nice. Then the degree was conferred at that time. So later on the actual plaque presentation was done here in the House Chambers. I took lots of kidding from people. Everybody called me Doctor that day and it was very nice and I am really most appreciative, especially when you never think, or it never occurs to you, to strive for anything like that. I have always been highly supportive of education.

**ZL:** Oh, yes.

**PR:** All the way down the line, I really have. I feel education takes priority over a lot of other things. You really need to take care of the youngsters coming up and see that they get everything that they are able to get in the way of education. I've always been supportive of the universities too. But I've had many people tell me, in fact I was talking to a woman the other day and she said, "We have sent three children to the University of Arizona. I feel that they have just as good an education if not better than some of the Ivy League colleges in the East." I am very pleased. The education is there if they want to take advantage of it.

**ZL:** We have good institutions in this state.

**PR:** We do.

**ZL:** In 1994 you ran for the House of Representatives again and you lost that election which surprised everybody.

**PR:** It really did. It was a write-in campaign. I have always questioned the write-in ballots, but I never contested. Somebody said, "Oh, I'd go contest. I'd go look at them." I said, "What's the use?" I have worked hard. I have worked faithfully for my district. I have helped them in every way possible from dams on the rivers, from all the many things you name and we've had a problem with. I've enjoyed it. The strange part was that year Senator Hart and Jack Brown and I sat down and talked and said, "Shall we run again or shall we not?" Most places we felt that we didn't have anybody. Usually you sort of pick somebody coming up. My husband, this was long before he died, but he saw a very bright young man come back from the military. He said, "He's the kind we need down there." So he brought him down to work as an attaché. He later became Speaker of the House. He wanted him to be here, to get acquainted, and to know what they were doing. When I started the program for the pages I thought the students will get out here and they will learn about it. They may not like government. On the other hand, they may be interested enough that sometime later in their life when they can afford to, they will run for the legislature.

I was very surprised. At midnight I was running ahead and didn't have the radio on the next morning. I was coming into a meeting. Everybody was stunned. It was well organized, well planned; I know exactly where it came from. I know how it was managed, I know who the people were. And why contest the votes? Even though many people urged me to do so.

**ZL:** Now that it is two years down the road, how do you feel about it?

**PR:** I feel very relieved. Jack and Bill Hardt and I had all talked about it and we had agreed that we would run another time and maybe in the meantime try to find somebody you can trust to carry on the work that you have done; somebody that understands government and the purpose of government. So I thought it was sort of ironical.

But I've enjoyed so much the work I'm doing now. There isn't the pressure. Years ago when I first ran for office after my husband died - I was appointed and then I ran - I remember giving a talk someplace and I've never forgotten the words that I coined for that thing. I said, "Anybody in public life, anyone who runs for office is always subject to the whims and the caprices of a fickle and demanding public." I thought those words were very true. People called me and said, "Oh, if I had known it, I would have done this." Or "I didn't get out to vote, I'm sorry." There has been a trend with the ultra right. But I have been very fortunate to go in as a consultant to the Secretary of State's office doing research work which I love. I work my own hours.

**ZL:** So now you are working as a consultant for the Secretary of State and you are doing . . .

**PR:** And we are doing the Blue Book

**ZL:** Now will you explain about the Blue Book?

**PR:** The Blue Book is a publication put out by the various states which gives information that people want to know. You have the list of the boards and commissions, their addresses and where to find them. You have a list of the legislators, where they come from and this year we are putting in maps of the districts. It tells things that you would ordinarily ask about government; it has a little bit of the history.

The first Blue Book was about the size of a little notebook, eighteen pages and in 1912 just listed the members of the House and Senate. It is down in the Library and Archives. That was before we got any protection of the paper; it's falling apart and disintegrating. We never had money to make copies of it; it's a disgrace.

Then Rose Mofford was anxious to do one. It was time. They would call her office and ask, "Where do I go to hunt for this?" "If somebody didn't repair my roof right, is there any place I can go?" Well, you go to the Registrar of Contractors and look up your person. It's sort of a big dictionary or encyclopedia of where to find things in the state.

So this year we would be a little more innovative. Last fall the Creighton newspapers put out a list of former legislators and it was a pretty good list. Newcomers had done it and they really didn't know the nicknames and the names by which people went, but it was good. So I said to Jane Hull, "I think it's time. It will probably be the first, last and only one we ever do because with term limitations you'll just have a rash of new people in, they'll serve a few years and be gone." So I asked permission to use Ned's list to go by. I have been looking through every journal since statehood. I would look at something with such and such a name. Now I was there and I didn't know such a person. Then I'd look. Maybe they would have two

names like David Walter and he went by David instead of Walter. And then some others that went by nicknames. A man up in Pinal County, I never heard of a Jonathan Miles in my life. Then I realized it was Jonathan Ney Miles; everybody knew him by Ney Miles. Another representative, everybody knew him by Swede. Now these old timers, they'll say, "I never knew such and such a person." That has been fun and I'm on a crusade that we keep track of these people. I was talking to Stan Turley the other day and he said, "One of the smartest things we ever did was to hire Morris Richard to go through these old records." The information was meager. I have been through every one of his records. But they never published it. People are indifferent to history. Then when they want to find something, they can't understand why they can't. We've never published the work of Morris Richard.

And then I thought this is the Year of the Woman. Last year, 1995, was the hundredth anniversary of women being elected to public office. They had been appointed before. Mrs. Hull could not go to the committee meeting, so she sent me. I went to all of their meetings. They were a good group of people. It was also the 75th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment by the Arizona Legislature. Now women had the right to vote since statehood, but they had never ratified the 19th Amendment. We had quite a celebration. They marched from the old Carnegie Library like they did 75 years ago.

**ZL:** This is a continuation of an interview with Polly Rosenbaum. The date is September 6th, 1996.

**PR:** The march came down from the old Carnegie Library. Some were dressed in period costumes, some rode in convertibles. Sandra Day O'Connor was here and participated all day long in the activities. We had a ceremony in the front of the Capitol where we passed the torch from generation to generation for the new generation to carry on. It was really a very nice ceremony.

Back to the fact, women had suffrage since statehood. Francis Munds was the suffragette of the time, the one from Yavapai County and the first woman Senator here. You know she worked tirelessly for suffrage for woman. She came down from Prescott, went to every session of the legislature trying to get a women's suffrage bill through. She would get it through the House maybe, after much trouble. And then it would probably be killed in the Senate. The next year she might get it through the Senate, but they had an agreement, the men did. And she'd get it through there, then she couldn't get it through the House again. Well, finally one year things sort of miscarried a little bit and she got it through both the House and the Senate and the Governor promptly vetoed it. So she was smart. She got out with initiative petitions and put it on the ballot at the crucial time, when they were voting for statehood. Everybody had to vote for that and women's suffrage went right along with it. I found that in going back in history and studying what these women did. So it passed. We've had it since statehood. When people say they've [women] voted since they became a state, they haven't.

**ZL:** What do you like to do when you have leisure time? What are your special interests? I don't know if

you have any leisure time.

**PR:** I don't have much. Of course I never get time enough to read. I love to read. All kinds of things, different kinds. You'll laugh at this, but if I'm real tired I love to go back and read some children's books, the Oz Books. One thing I remember, they went all around Rigmarole Land before they could get anyplace. And I think, "I better quit going around Rigmarole Land. I better get right to what I want to do." I have to be in the mood for different kinds of reading. I love historical novels. I think as a youngster in school, I read everything on the Civil War that I could find in the public library. It was romantic. It was different than living in the West. It was a different culture. Oh, I loved it. I like mysteries. But if it doesn't interest me, I'll just lay it down. I have a book or two now that you can't read rapidly. I remember when the book came out on the Northern Arizona University Campus. Plat Cline wrote it and he sent me a copy. I wrote him and I said, "I love the book. It's very slow reading. I know too many people in it and then I have to stop and think about them." But it is delightful. I love historical works of all kind. I used to play golf, but I've never had time since I left Hayden. I don't watch many movies. I don't care much about them, though as a child I adored them. Every Saturday we went to the movies. I used to like to garden when we lived in the mining camp, my husband and I both did. They told us things wouldn't grow with the smelter smoke and of course, we had to show them that they could. I just don't have time enough to go around with all the things I want to do.

**ZL:** Now an interesting thing, this isn't exactly leisure. But I read that you often times would finance prospectors.

**PR:** I did. You know I have a soft heart. And one place where I lived in Globe, rooms were hard to find. I found this room with a family. He was a chemist at one of the mining companies, but he ran an assay office on the sideline. He had a little place there and I used to watch him assay the ore. One or two old fellows would come in. You know, they have that starry look in their eyes. They were always going to find it. One that I helped with small contributions; it didn't take much for bread and beans in those days, but he had a lead mine up in the Pinal Mountains. Well, it was successful. He found the lead but it was too expensive to ship it to a smelter. But there is something about that dream in their consciousness that they are always going to make it rich. As I say, I never lost enough money to kill me but . . .

**ZL:** You didn't get rich off it either.

**PR:** I didn't get rich off the stuff, so I sort of quit.

**ZL:** Now I also read that you used to stake out uranium and lead claims on your own.

**PR:** No, they'd stake them out for me. They really did. They'd say I had this. It was just another case of

five dollars here and five dollars there.

**ZL:** This was fun . . .

**PR:** It was fun and you met the most interesting people. I' II tell you, you met the dreamers and they're a different breed, the miners. They're always going to strike it rich. I've always been interested in mining. I'm interested in geology. One time I had to renew my teaching certificate. I couldn't get away to go to summer school and it had to be renewed. Almost any course was acceptable, so from the University of Colorado I took a course in geology. I loved it. I learned how little I knew about the whole thing, but it was very interesting. Now when I see rock formations I sort of have an idea. Over at the Mineral Museum I'm always interested in the things that they bring in there. I went out a time or two with an old prospector. And there's something I want to do if I ever get time. There's an old fellow up around Globe who has prospected a lot and he's promised to take me out. When I get some time I'm going to go out and see a lot of those old places. An interesting development came up there and some of them got in touch with me. That country is honeycombed with old mines and they want to put in a subdivision. One day they might just drop down into the shaft of a mine. We had to watch legislation that was in then. I like to know, they always say, "Jack of all trades and master of none." But I love to know the different things and I am very interested in many things.

**ZL:** Have you enjoyed traveling?

**PR:** Yes, I have enjoyed traveling. I haven't had too much time lately, but I used to do quite a bit. I had a friend who liked to go on trips. She and I would take quite extensive trips. We usually would take the package tours. Then we didn't have anything to worry about. I went down into Mexico for a three week trip once. It was wonderful and I enjoyed that. I took another one up around the Gaspé Peninsula. It was getting a little cool in the fall, but it was a delightful trip and particularly for me because I knew that some of my ancestors, on my father's side, way back years ago had come from Canada.

**ZL:** I saw a picture of you one time in front of a computer. Do you use a computer?

**PR:** I'm not adept at it yet. But I will be as soon as I get time. Yes, they gave me a computer when I left here.

**ZL:** Oh did they?

**PR:** Oh yes. It intrigues me. But you can't sit down fifteen minutes one day and five minutes the next. Once I kind of get out from under a lot of other things, then I'm going to get up every morning and work on that computer until I master it.

**ZL:** And you will.

**PR:** I think I will.

**ZL:** Of all of the things that you have accomplished, of what are you the most proud?

**PR:** I think I would say what I've done for schools. Seeing little kids, the little ones are so eager and so many nowadays don't have a very good chance at life. The school has to assume responsibilities they wouldn't have years ago. One of our friends came up today, a girl that works in the Secretary of State's office, with her tiny baby to show her off. I say to everybody with a small child, "Read to them whether they can understand the words you are saying. Read to them." I was read to as a child. I could read before I went to school. I sort of taught myself. And play good music, soft music and I think it helps a lot. It sort of brings out the best in people. I do think we have been very remiss in getting little youngsters happy in school. Now I don't mean "fun school," I mean happy and enjoyable where they like to learn. I was in a school up on the Indian Reservation a few years ago. I walked into that room, and I wasn't in there three minutes when I knew it was a good teacher. I said to the principal, "You have a good teacher here." He said, "She's one of our best." I was campaigning years ago and I was up in Payson. So I thought I'll go over to the school. That was many years ago, before Payson grew, when it was still a little country town. I walked over to the school and went in and told them who I was. I knew it was a good school. The work was all up on the walls and the kids were all busy studying. They looked up and saw me and paid no attention, just went back to work. You could tell. I remember the teacher said to me, "Would you like to go over to the intermediate school?" I said, "Yes." So she looked around and she chose a little boy to take me. He took me over to the school and introduced me, just a little kid. Good school. I have walked into a few when there was utter pandemonium. I thought, those kids aren't getting a fair deal.

**ZL:** After serving in the House of Representatives forty-five years, what do you think your legacy will be to the State of Arizona?

**PR:** Well, I don't know. If I believe in a thing, I'm not afraid. A lot of people are afraid to tackle things. I guess we were taught never be afraid of anything. I've seen things go through that you thought just never could. But they were good things and you just have to have the courage of your convictions. I always say this, "Nobody does anything alone. You have one vote, you have to have a lot of others with you." It takes thirty-one votes to pass anything in the House. You have to have thirty people with you. You have to talk with them because some will say, "That was good legislation that we passed." No, you can't take credit for anything. You can certainly spearhead it and nag them to death till they kind of agree that they will look at it. If you feel that you are right, you have to be persistent until you accomplish what you want to do.

Yes, I remember one of the things, this is sort of beside the point, but we put in a medical school in Arizona. After Arizona had their own medical school, problems developed about Arizona students who had their medical training out of state being allowed to do their internship in this state. Several students had gone down to the Autonomous University in Guadalajara, Mexico. One of these students had been a student of mine in Hayden. He was then forty years old and was about to achieve the dream of his life to become a doctor. He and a friend came to see me about the internship program. They would have to go out of state. I went in to see Speaker Stan Akers. He said, "I'm busy, I don't have time to talk to them." I said, "All I want is ten minutes." I took the two fellows in and I left. Later I saw Stan and he said, 'We will take care of the situation."

**ZL:** One of the things that you worked on and I don't think we talked about, was an agreement with other states to accept students in dentistry and veterinary school.

**PR:** Yes. The Western Interstate Compact for Higher Education. That was early in the 1950s. Arizona did not have schools in dentistry, medicine, public health or veterinary medicine. The Compact consisted of ten western states. Alaska and Hawaii were still territories when Arizona joined. Arizona would pay the tuition to the receiving state. Tuition would be waived if the student returned to practice in Arizona for a designated number of years. If not, the student must repay the tuition to Arizona. A gentleman came from Utah to talk with the Education Committee and encourage us to join. It was late in the session when the Education Committee decided favorably. The man who drafted the bills was very busy. So Julie Willis from Tucson, Ruth Adams from Phoenix and I sat down one evening with copies of the enabling legislation from the other states and drafted our own bill. We discussed every sentence to see that it would conform to Arizona. We worked from after dinner until nearly midnight. I typed it up as we went along. The next morning we took our draft out to the man. He asked where we got it and said, "I couldn't have done a better job myself." The enabling legislation was passed and Arizona became a member of the Compact. It has been a most successful program. Many students have taken advantage of it who could not have afforded to go, and others could not have gained admission. I still meet many doctors in Arizona who tell me that they are a product of the WICHE program.

**ZL:** If you could speak to young people today, what message would you share with them?

**PR:** I'd say study hard. Remember, nothing is impossible if you believe in it and you're willing to work for it. Read everything you can get your hands on. Try to select the better things, but read. Take advantage of every opportunity that is offered. No job is too menial if you are earning money for your education. My husband said when he was a kid he was a "devil" in a print shop, "Fetch this, fetch that." He said, "I learned everything that a kid could learn about printing. When I came to the legislature I was put on the Printing and Clerks Committee. I was the only one on the committee who knew how to talk to the printers in their own business and they knew I knew what I was talking about." Whatever you do, do it well. Take

advantage of every opportunity. Learn everything you can in school while it is free because when you get out of public school you're going to pay for your instruction. Spend your time doing useful things. They are just as much fun as other things. Be honest, be kind, be courteous, be friendly, and be interested in people as they have much to offer.