INTERVIEW: INTERVIEWER: Marcia Cron Sarah Arvey June 24, 2003

DATE:

Interviewer: Okay, so this is Marcia Cron. Marcia you said you live in Grosse Pointe.

M. Cron:

Yes, I did. Yes, I am from Detroit.

Interviewer:

Originally?

M. Cron:

Yes, originally.

Interviewer:

Wow. All right — a Michigan native. So, Marcia, the first set of questions is some basic biographical information. We just want to get to know something about your personal biography and what led you to be active in the feminist movement. Where were you born and when?

M. Cron:

I was born in Detroit, 1939.

Interviewer:

And can you describe your family upbringing, economic circumstances, what it was like growing up there.

M. Cron:

We were pretty middle class. I had three younger brothers. My mom didn't work. My dad was in the bar/restaurant business and I went to Catholic grade school and public high school.

Interviewer:

Ok. All right. Did you have any religious affiliation?

M. Cron:

Well, we were Catholic.

Interviewer:

Oh, you just said that. Catholic grade school. There it is. When you think back about your younger years do you have any ideas of what might have influence you to be active in the feminist movement or to become a feminist?

M. Cron:

Well, I think back even in grade school. The boys just get special privileges the girls didn't get and it really made me angry. I was an all 'A' student and I got to help the boys with their homework and their studies, so they could be altar boys. They were acolytes. And I asked, "Why can't I?" You know? And they're like "No, no, no, girls can't be altar boys. Absolutely not." And I said, "But I'm a better student then these boys," but it doesn't make any difference, and I said, "What can I do to serve God?" They said, "You can clean the altar when you grow up," and I thought, "No." Even then as a kid "No, I don't want to clean the altar." So, I think that might have been the start of it and even throughout grade

school the boys had more privileges than the girls and I would feel angry inside.

Interviewer: You said you had three brothers — was it more clear to you because you

had brothers in your family or was it all the boys around you had more

privileges?

M. Cron: A combination — all the boys around had more privileges and even in my

> family. I had a brother a year younger than I am and then a brother eight years younger and a brother twelve years younger and I was always the one that had to take care of the younger ones. My brother, who was only a year younger, didn't have to. That irritated me because he could go off and play and after

school I had to baby-sit.

Interviewer: Did your mother or father explain that to you or try to justify it in

anyway?

M. Cron: No, no, they really didn't and even though my mom, at heart, is a feminist. They

were just a product of their upbringing.

Interviewer: How about your education? You said you went to Catholic school — was

that all the way through?

M. Cron: No, I went to public high school and then graduated from high school and I got

> married right out of high school. That was dumb. And then I changed my name because that's what women did and then I got a divorce about three years later and I had to run around town with my divorce papers now to change my name back and then that was another thing that made me angry. I kept thinking this isn't right, something isn't right. Then I went to buy a car. I was just twenty-one. I was working. At the dealership they said, "Well you need your husband to sign this." "Well I'm not married." "Well then you'll need your father to sign for you." "No, my dad's not going to sign it." "Do you have a brother?" "Well, yes, but he's younger than I am; he's in school." "Well, we need one of those people to sign for you." No, I wasn't going to do that. I made a scene in the dealership. I wasn't going to leave until they gave me credit. But thinking back to the divorce I remember the attorney saying that the car I was driving...we had two cars: an old junker that was his, and I had the somewhat of a decent car, but of course it was in my husband's name at the time. So, when I got the divorce the attorney told me I couldn't keep the car and I said, "I paid for it." But you can't take the man's car from him; a woman will just have to give the car to the

husband. All those little things just drove me nuts.

Interviewer: Uh-huh, little instances.

M. Cron: And I kept thinking why am I so angry about these things? Why do they bother

me so much? But they did.

Interviewer: We'll get back to that in a minute? What did your husband...you said you

got divorced after three years of getting married? Did you have children

with him?

M. Cron:

No.

Interviewer:

So, you got remarried?

M. Cron:

Yes, but not until... I think I was about twenty-eight at the time.

Interviewer:

And you had children with your spouse?

M. Cron:

I had one son and then I adopted a daughter.

Interviewer:

Okay, okay great. What was your career? What did you do?

M. Cron:

Well let's see, I work for FTD; originally, I worked for Chrysler as a secretary because that's all they allowed women to do. And as a matter of fact, another thing that got me upset was when I worked at Chrysler, the women had to park in this parking lot way in the back. The parking lot across the street was for the men because they could get into management position that we couldn't get into and I said, "That isn't right," because we had to walk across this field at night because at the winter time it was dark at 5 o'clock, and we had to walk across this muddy field and there were banana peels there and expectoration, and the guy from personal said, "What were expectoration?" And so anyways, I put together a petition at the company to try to get the women to be able to park across the street. So, they gave me a day off, but I continued to park across. Then they said they would give me a day or two off without pay. Then I did try for a management position, just a general position that most of the men were in. And they say "Well, you're going to have to take a test" and I said, "Okay." So, I took the test and they said, "Well you score as high as the people in our law department, so you must have cheated, you're going to have to take it again." They made me take it a second time and I still scored high on it and they still won't give me the job. They found another excuse.

Interviewer:

Oh gosh, so this lead up to talking about your activism, and it's all these instances that you said you got angry?

M. Cron:

Yes, but I couldn't understand why I felt so angry inside and I kept thinking it must be me. I felt I was getting short change and I didn't know why. Then when I got married again, I decided I was not going to change my name and people insisted they were going to change my name for me and I said "No. I am Marcia Cron. I am not going to change my name" — and I wasn't a member of the feminist movement at that time — but I refused to do it, and then I remember my sister in-law insisted that I was going to be Mrs. Richard Teranes and I'm like "No, I am Marcia Cron." So, she sent me a Christmas card I guess,

it was addressed to Mrs. Richard Teranes. So I sent one back to her address to "occupant" because Mrs. Richard Teranes is anyone that happened to be married to Dick at that particular time, an occupant is anyone who has to live at that house at a particular time. So what is the difference?

Interviewer: So you said you weren't a feminist at that time?

M. Cron: Well, I haven't joined the feminist movement.

Interviewer: Uh-huh, I and what...I'm sorry go ahead.

M. Cron: I'm sure that inside I was a feminist. I just didn't know that the feminist

> movement was around and then one day I saw in the paper there was a meeting of the feminists and they were going to address some of the issues that I have been concerned about. Wow, there are other people that feel like I do. So, I went to the meeting. They were so nice and so friendly and joined in taking care of me and introducing me to other people. So, it was great and I joined really quickly and became involve in the various committees and so on.

Interviewer: What group was it?

M. Cron: That was the National Organization for Women.

Interviewer: And they put an ad out ...?

M. Cron: I don't know if it was an ad or if it's just some information on it that the

newspaper were publishing and I happen to see it. I couldn't run to that meeting

fast enough.

Interviewer: So what year was that when you first got involved? Do you remember?

M. Cron: 71.

Interviewer: So, in the seventies. Had you heard about NOW before?

M. Cron: Not really, because if I had I would of joined. Absolutely I would have joined.

Interviewer: Was there a moment that you could recall, like a click moment that you

were sure that you had to dedicate some time to this organization, to

feminist activism?

M. Cron: That I felt that I had to devote some time? I don't know. I just got into it. It

> wasn't a conscious thing that this is what I had to do but certainly something that I knew I wanted to do and the more I got involved the more I wanted to do.

The more I got involved the more inadequacies I saw.

Interviewer: What issues were you interested in?

M. Cron: Well, certainly the abortion issue, the credit issue, the equal right amendment.

Interviewer: And what organization roles did you play?

M. Cron: Well, lets see: with NOW I was on the board, I was treasurer, I was various

> committee chair and then I got involved with Michigan, the state, and I think I was their, I was the treasurer there again and the reason for that — that I finally did go back to college and I did graduate and I have a degree in business with accounting and that's how I ended up as treasurer in these organizations.

Interviewer: I see, I see...and the roles you played: did you have to dedicate much time?

> How did you reconcile [that] at that time you had a family, had a job, and also went back to school? What did it mean to you to allocate different

times to these things? How did you manage?

M. Cron: I don't know, I just did. It was important enough so I just did it, and I think at

the time though I got involved in the organization I was with a company we had

formed called New Options. You might have heard of that if you had interviewed any of the other women, and so I was involved with them.

Interviewer: What was exactly New Options?

M. Cron: Well, it was placing women in non-traditional jobs — that was basically it. So,

> since it was my own company and I was working at my folks bar also at the time, I kind of could do what I wanted with my time. So, I guess that did give me a little more leeway than if I had a nine to five job working for someone

else.

Interviewer: And you owned a [company] — what did your family and friends say? Was

your husband supportive?

M. Cron: Yes, he was very supportive and my folks were too. As a matter of fact, before I

became involved in the bar and restaurant business I used to call my folks:

"Okay, we're going to have a NOW meeting there, open up the bar."

Interviewer: Open up the bar and the tap! And you were treasurer, and that fell in line

with your training and business. Did you work on any campaigns? Were

you there to do it all?

M. Cron: Probably like all of us at that time, we were there to do it all. We marched in

anything we could march in, we got involved in any demonstration we could be

in. We did whatever.

Interviewer: Do you remember any specific demonstration or activists you would like to record?

M. Cron:

Well let's see...if you could recall, we couldn't walk in the front door of the DAC, women had to go to the side door.

Interviewer:

The DAC?

M. Cron:

The Detroit Athletic Club. And so we organized, we had at least fifty, maybe more. We marched down the street and all in the front door of the DAC were all these old men sitting in their big leather chairs and they were just appalled. There was a circular staircase there and we all got ourselves up in the circular staircase and sang, "I am Woman." So, that one was kind of fun. There was a conference of Catholic Bishops being held at Cobo Hall and so as members of Catholics for Free Choice, we decided to have a press conference there and we wrote a prayer talking about how the church uses women as sacrificial lambs and also how they limit our reproductive freedom and we asked the Blessed Virgin Mary, as one who's family was limited, to please grant enlightenment to our brother the Roman Catholic Bishops. Time magazine said we had offended a number of people in the audiences. The local paper said it was blaspheme, but it was interesting. And there were protests and marches in Chicago for the Equal Rights Amendment. I took my kids for all those marches.

Interviewer:

You did? And what did that mean for you to take your children?

M. Cron:

Well, my son is pretty much a feminist and he feels strongly. He's still single, but he feels strongly. He has to have a woman who is independent and he says "Like you, mom. I'm so used to you and your friends." He said, "I wouldn't know how to act with any other kind of women." And he's very very strong pro-choice. So, that's really really great. The other young woman I took was a foster child and I don't have her anymore. The daughter I adopted — I got her later on — she was older when I got her. She was a little Vietnamese gal.

Interviewer:

Did you took her into feminism as well?

M. Cron:

She's pretty much a feminist. Not quite as much as I am and not quite as much as my son is, but she's pretty independent.

Interviewer:

Can you talk about you reconciling your religious beliefs with the feminist movement — it seems as if you butted up against some of that — and what did that entail?

M. Cron:

I don't know how I came about that. I just felt that the church was continue maybe because I felt the church was so male-oriented and that they didn't allow women many freedoms and that it was just another way of holding women down. And I thought I'm just going to think for myself and this is what I believe and the church is not going to tell me that I can't practice birth control,

that I can't get a divorce, that I can't get an abortion if I choose to do so. I'm going to make my own choice.

Interviewer: And were you active in a church in particular? Did you...

M. Cron:

No, I go to church. I am not active and I still have a problem when they have the right to life people come and speak. I would get up and walk out. I'm the only one that does it and I'm obvious about it. I don't think those people belong in the church talking. If the priest wants to talk, I don't agree with him, that's one thing, but don't bring in an outside political organization. So, I make it pretty obvious that I'm going to walk out. Trying to think of some of the other things that we got involve in. When Michigan Republic Accommodation Act which outlawed discrimination against women in public places — we kind of push a few scenes in that one because they used to not check women's coats and they wouldn't allow women to sit at a bar unless it was with a male. And there was some restaurant that had a bar area and you couldn't even sit at a table unless you had a male escort, and so, of course, with some of my friends in the movement and we decided that this is not going to be allowed.

So, we went to the Golden Lion and we sat down the bar and we didn't move until they served us. I remember that particular place I went to check my coat and they said "I'm sorry we don't check women's coats" and I thought well it has a fur collar on it, then some man walk up and he put a full length fur down and she said, "I'm sorry sir we don't check women's coat," and he said, "Oh it isn't a woman's coat. It's mine." and she said, "That's different," and took the coat and hung it up. Of course I had to make a scene and the manager came over and he said, "Why are you doing this to us? You make a scene at the bar. You're in the restaurant, you're making a scene here" And I said, "Well I'll tell you what I'll make you a deal: you give me a discount on my food, my beverage and I'll accept lesser services." He's like, "Well I can't do that," and I said, "Then I want the same service as everyone else." And at Lelli's Restaurant one night, they refused to check my coat and they threw it on the floor. I'll make a long story short. They threw it on the floor and I picked it up and gave it back to them. The manager said, "We don't check women's coats," I said, "I want my coat checked" and "No we're not going to do it." It's just a trench coat it wasn't a big deal, but it was principle with me. So, I'm like, "Okay fine. I'm just going to call the police." So, I called the police. It's Saturday night at Lelli's, a crowded restaurant, and I called the police. All they heard was sex discrimination and six cops showed up in the middle of this busy restaurant and the manager kept saying, "We'll handle this up in the office" and I said," This will be fine right here." Anyway, we ended up going up to the office and another cop came in and what's going on. The first one said, "You're going to love this one, Charlie." We did all those kinds of things, but you had to, otherwise they'll just go along with the old ways.

Interviewer: And, first, I want to know what's the purpose of not checking women's coats?

M. Cron:

I never did find out. I have no idea.

Interviewer:

And then these are very specific little events that happened everyday. Did those events change? Did you change Lelli's policy immediately?

M. Cron:

Not immediately. I did file a complaint with the Civil Right Commission and they did notify Lelli's and they probably did change it right after that. Although that particular Act didn't really have any teeth in it, but just the fact they got a letter from the Civil Rights Commission. I think they did change the policy after that and the Golden Lion did change their policy. And I know a woman by the name of Connie Combey sued Carl's Chophouse because they wouldn't check her coat.

Interviewer:

So, even though these events were very specific and sort of a local bit of activism you did follow through with making them formal and going through the legal system?

M. Cron:

Yes, and we all did. Yes, so that they wouldn't continue and once a few restaurants started to change, they all did.

Interviewer:

Really? And was this on par with the rest of the nation at the time?

M. Cron:

I don't know, because everyone had different policies. I would imagine that it was. In New York, if you remember, if you read about I think it was McSorley's that wouldn't allowed women to go in there and some women protested that.

Interviewer:

What do you think about — you seem to have made the connection with your very specific activism and a broader movement the way that this local event of going in there and sitting at the bar by yourself without a man would effect the rest of the restaurant in your city. How do you think about these events as far as local events and federal events, things in the nation, how do you think your activism here would effect the rest of the nation?

M. Cron:

I'm not sure that we gave it any thought as to how it would affect the rest of the nation. We just knew that we were encountering problems and that we felt it was wrong and we were going to do something to change it. It's the small things, I don't know how it affected the rest of the nation except that we would read articles, again the McSorley's thing, other women around the nation were probably doing the same type of thing. Suddenly women were saying, "No I'm not putting up with this any longer."

Interviewer:

I know you talked about this in a roundabout way — could you specifically address why these issues was important to you as Marcia Cron.

M. Cron:

I don't know. I kept feeling angry inside and I kept wondering, "Why — why do these things bother me? There's other people that doesn't seem to bother them at all." I would then — I was at Lelli's making a scene about my coat, I had a girlfriend sitting there saying "It's just a coat" and I said, "That's not the point." I said, "You're Jewish - what if they wouldn't check your coat?" She said, "Well that's different." I said "Why? Why is that different?" You know? So, I don't know why, they were just important things.

Interviewer:

Did you have personal and organizational allies, people who you identify with, mentor you that you remember and worked with as well?

M. Cron:

During the period of time I was involved with in the movement or throughout my entire life?

Interviewer:

Whichever one you prefer. You can talk about both if you like.

M. Cron:

Well, of course once I was involve in the movement I certainly was aligned with a number of women who felt as I did, and there were some who had been involved a lot longer then I had and so of course they were mentors, and maybe, although I was never close with my grandmother, I admired her because she was just a really strong business woman and I liked that.

Interviewer:

Do you think you could of done what you did without being allied with the organization?

M. Cron:

Probably not. I would have pushed for things such as what I did when I was twenty-one to buy that car and such as I did about my name. But, so I would of done some things yeah, I would have been pushing for some things, but certainly being part of the organization helped. Actually being part of the organization, I think it was 1975, if I'm not mistaken, I wanted to get a liquor license because I bought the bar and restaurant from my folks, and so I was putting liquor license in my name — and I was still married at the time, though my husband was not involved. It was my money, my time and the liquor control was not going to allow me to get a liquor license because I was a married woman. He - my husband - had to be interviewed and investigated and the license then issued to him and I said, "No," and I fought that all the way to the governor's office. I did get some help though from some women in the movement and some women I knew on council and we fought all the way to the governor's office, so I did get a liquor license in my name without any involvement at all with my husband.

Interviewer:

So you were able to tap in to the organization to help you for your own professional, personal life?

M. Cron:

Oh absolutely, and I have to say when I first got started in the bar/restaurant the

women in the movement particularly really supported me. They were there, they came in, they spent their dollars, you know, they came in to have lunch, they came in to have dinner, they came in for the entertainment. They brought more friends. Then it became known as the feminist hangout.

Interviewer: Really? What happened at the feminist hangout?

M. Cron: Well, we just had a sing-along. Gerry Barrons, Gerry O'Conner Barrons — you

might have interviewed her — she was singing there and we did a whole lot of songs. We would always sing, "I am Woman" every night, just a lot of feminist songs. You look around you, there's more feminist then anything in the place. It was fun. If it not has been for those women, I don't know if it would of been as

successful as it was and it did become a landmark in the city.

Interviewer: What was it called?

M. Cron: The Woodbridge Tavern.

Interviewer: Does it still exist?

M. Cron: Although the property is still there, I'm close now because I'm on the riverfront

and I got caught in the ill-fated casino fiasco and the city just blighted the area.

Interviewer: Yeah, yeah. Did you have opponents? Were there people who actively

didn't want you to do what you are doing?

M. Cron: Oh I'm sure, especially the anti-choice people, and there were people who

thought I was crazy for supporting the Equal Rights Amendment.

thought I was crazy for supporting the Equal Rights Amendment.

Interviewer: Why?

M. Cron: You'll have to use the same usual arguments that you get. Mostly doesn't make

any sense. I really don't know why they oppose that.

Interviewer: Nobody close to you that said, "You know Marcia, I love ya, but you really

got to stop?"

M. Cron: Not really. I was pretty set that this is what I was going to do and so, though

there wasn't anyone I know, there's some that rolled their eyes but no one that

really said anything.

Interviewer: Good. What were your main achievements? First personal and then your

organizational.

M. Cron: Personal? I would say I guess opening, operating, and running the Woodbridge

Tavern and making a landmark in the city, and I went from a menu that had

eight little items on it to a two page menu and I added decks and patios and I ended up with a 350-seat restaurant. So, I guess that would be it. It just became a landmark — people knew it all over. People came from Ann Arbor, from Grosse Pointe, from Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills. They came from all over.

Interviewer: How about organizational achievements?

M. Cron: Oh, let me think. I been on several boards, March of Dimes, and all these

various committees and boards with them, with NOW, and I was on board with NOWBO, the National Organization for Women Business Owners, and I was on the board of MAAL, Michigan Abortion Action League and what

else trying to think I did got the feminist of the year award

else...trying to think. I did get the feminist of the year award.

Interviewer: Oh when was that?

M. Cron: I don't remember, but that was kind of nice.

Interviewer: You mentioned some other causes you worked on beyond women's issues

— were there other things that you, but that was a women's business

organization right?

M. Cron: Yes. I was a member of the Michigan Restaurant Association. Oh, I was on the

board there, too. But my main focus was on women's issue.

Interviewer: Did you have fun?

M. Cron: Yes. In the movement or in the bar and restaurant? Actually both.

Interviewer: It sounds like they're both intricate to you.

M. Cron: Yes, I really enjoyed all of that. Yeah, in the bar and restaurant business you

have your ups and downs; basically I thoroughly enjoyed what I was doing, and in the women's movement, yes, sometimes you're overwhelm with all the things

that need to be done. I really did enjoy it.

Interviewer: The next few questions are more reflection upon second wave feminism. If

you are hard pressed to define feminism what would you say?

M. Cron: I'll have to think about that. What would I say? I don't know — with me it was

always a feeling, because women could be feminist in different ways. Don't have to go out to work to be a feminist. Not every feminist is necessary prochoice, you know? Not every feminist is heterosexual. So, feminist is different

for everyone. I mean it's how we see it ourselves and how we address it

ourselves.

Interviewer: Looking back on the movement in which you participated do you think the

press reported accurately or reflected what you were doing?

M. Cron:

I thought we got some good press. There were a number of women involved in press who were feminist, so we used to tap in with them. They work with us to make sure we got some positive coverage. Of course there's always the negative coverage too. But like I said, we did get some good press. I don't think that we were continuingly badmouthed but then they would interview someone like Phyllis Schlafly.

Interviewer:

What do you think were the main achievement of your wave of feminism?

M. Cron:

Well, I think that we, we managed that women can get credit — that was a big one. Women could not get credit in their own names that means women couldn't buy a house, it was difficult to buy a car, you couldn't get a charge account. In today's world a lot of young women take that for granted; they have no idea what it was like. So, I think that was a real big one. Then being able to stress equal pay and equal jobs and having access to those jobs even though there's still a difference between what men make and what women make, we made some inroads there. At least we could be more then secretaries there and that's all — it didn't matter if you had a degree, you were still a secretary. So, today women can be executive; we've gotten beyond that glass ceiling there, so I think that's important and I think that a lot of young women take that for granted. They didn't know — they don't recognize that all they could be was a secretary or a sales clerk or you could be a nurse or a teacher. They did allow that, but that was it. There weren't a whole lot of opportunities for women back in the 60's...50's, 60's, 70's.

Interviewer:

What do you think were the main failures? Do you think of anything was a failure during the second wave of feminism during the 60's through the 80's?

M. Cron:

I'm sorry that the Equal Rights Amendment failed. It was so close, only three states short. So, I thought that was unfortunate.

Interviewer:

Most people mentioned that.

M. Cron:

Did they? Yeah. I wish we have been able to narrow that gap, that big gap, so we didn't get that accomplished; we made inroads, but we didn't accomplish 100%. Trying to think of some other failures. I guess like I said the ERA is what really comes to mind.

Interviewer:

Do you have any thoughts on the fact that some analysis on second wave feminism have describe it as overly middle class in its concern and racist as well. Do you disagree, agree, what do you think about that?

M. Cron:

Well, there as far as racism was concerned there were a number of Black

women that were involved. So, I wouldn't think it would be a racist organization at all, but perhaps they viewed it a racist because it dealt with women's issue rather than a Black issue or an Asian issue or whatever. Maybe some people see it as racist that way, but we're all sisters; we all have the same problems that we address from a women's standpoint, and as far as middle class — although I think that the whole feminist movement does cover all classes, it's the middle class women that have the time to work on it. You know the people who are poverty stricken they don't have that time. So, is it middle class then from that standpoint? Of course, that's how it's going to get done. If you're raising four kids and you have no money and you're working two jobs, you don't have time to work on these issues. So, they need people like us who can do it.

Interviewer:

Do you think you know there's a common assertion that the women's movement originated with bored suburban housewives? Did the women you know even fit this model?

M. Cron:

No, not at all as a matter of fact. All the women I know that were involved were all working. Working or in school. I don't know of any them who were housewives. There might have been some, but no I don't think so. I think perhaps the working women were the ones that really noticed what it was like out there. They were the ones that really encountered some problems and so they were the ones that were more apt to get involved initially.

Interviewer:

Who were some of the outstanding figures that you met?

M. Cron:

Well, lets see in the movement there were Patricia Burnett, then Gloria Steinem. We know Dorothy Haener, Millie Jeffrey, the — Betty Friedan — all the various NOW presidents. I think we met them all.

Interviewer:

That's great.

M. Cron:

Well, I've been to Washington for various organization things. New York, Chicago.

Interviewer:

Were there any of them that you especially learned from?

M. Cron:

Not in particular. I think I took a little bit from all of them. They all had some thing different to give. I think I took a way little from each of them.

Interviewer:

Do you have any advice to the second, no to the next generation of feminists? What do you think are the outstanding issues they're going to have to confront? What would you say? What advice could you give them?

M. Cron:

I don't know what advice I could give them, except that they have to be their own person and they have to really stand up for their rights and I'd like for them to really know about what we did back in the 70's, so they don't take things for granted and they know that they have to really push or it would be easy to step back — for instance Roe v. Wade: that's something that may be taken away from these young women. They need to go out there in the forefront and really make their voices known. I think it's really important just don't take it for granted.

Interviewer:

Do you think that not having to live the unequal gender atmosphere that you all did makes these feminists not that aware, or more soft, or do you think they're just thinking of different things?

M. Cron:

All of the above. I think they're not aware. They do take it for granted and so as a result of taking things for granted they are thinking of other things because they feel there's nothing to think about. We did it all and if they even know what we did. I think a lot of them had no idea, definitely no idea what went on.

Interviewer:

So what, what could you show them would you want to...For example we're creating these videos. Do you think that would help them be aware?

M. Cron:

Oh I think so. If the early suffragists, if that haven't been recorded how would we know what went on? How would we know when women got the right to vote? How would we even know that women weren't allowed to vote? And how would we know that they chained themselves to the White House fence? So, it's really important that we know what went on in the past and where we're going to go from here. You can't take it for granted. I think it's important that these young women see these videos.

Interviewer:

Sort of a living memory.

M. Cron:

Yes, yes I think they could learn a lot from it and I'm really glad we're doing this. As I said how would we have known if it hadn't been recorded.

Interviewer:

Do you have anything else that you would want to say to the camera as a living memory or anything you think I should be asking the other women that I interview?

M. Cron:

No, nothing that I can think of.

Interviewer:

Well that concludes the interview. Thank you so much for coming if you'll just sit there. I'm going to take...we're able to take a few still shots of these whatchamadoodles. Let's see, okay, let's take a couple more.

M. Cron:

Can I talk while you're doing that? I was just thinking about... I think I was taking my mother's name after she died or something — I forget whatever. I was not using my husband's name so therefore I was neither Miss. nor Mrs., so they insisted if they're going to put a title on me then I'll much rather preferred

Princess rather than the ones they had available.

Interviewer: Did they put princess?

M. Cron: No, no they did put Ms. on them.

Interviewer: That's a good story.

M. Cron: Maybe I should of included it.

Interviewer: I tried to record it but it didn't get the first part.

M. Cron: You want me to start over.

Interviewer: Yeah.

M. Cron: Okay, tell me when.

Interviewer: Go ahead.

M. Cron: Okay, a number of years ago — this was probably back around 1975 — I was

changing some bonds over and I sent them in and I had to add my name on them and I sent them in with Ms. Marcia Cron on them and they sent them back and said they couldn't do it that way; I had to have a title on them — either Miss. or Mrs. I sent it back and sent them a letter and said I'm sorry, the thing is I am married but I have kept my own name so technically I am neither Miss or Mrs. however if they insisted upon conferring a title on me, then I would really prefer Princess rather then the ones they had available. So, I got the bonds back

with Ms. on them.

Interviewer: Oh it's too bad we're not princesses. That's great Marcia, alright thank

you very much. That was really fun.

[END]