



Oral History and Folklife Research, Inc.

AN INTERVIEW WITH MARYANN PREBLE

INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY

KEITH LUDDEN

AUGUSTA, ME
AUGUST 30, 2019

TRANSCRIBER: KEITH LUDDEN

FINAL

[Note: There are three edits for phone interruptions]

Keith Ludden: Tell me your name again.

Maryann Preble: My name is Maryann Preble. I was born and brought up in Bangor. I lived there for quite a while and then when my mother passed away, I ended up in Pineland, when I was ten. I went out to work for a while, and then I ended up back in Pineland. I went into Pineland when I was ten and I was in the first building where you have to stay for a while before they go through (cast) and stuff. Then I ended up in a building at Pineland that another resident, Marie (Faron) was one of the self advocates that were in the same building and when we went outside we had to be—there was fence around the yard and I'm one of these that like to be not fenced in.

There were bars on the windows and we went from there to another building for breakfast and then I went to work at Pineland for a while and I went out to work until I was sixteen and I ended up back in Pineland and it wasn't a place that I wanted to be and I wanted to go back home and I got to crying and everything and they were going to put me in a straight jacket and so I calmed down and it was like a place that I'd never seen before. When somebody else act out and if they were near somebody that they didn't know, they said it was me that did it and I'd be locked up in a room with just a mattress. I couldn't have any clothes or anything on me and that really disturbed me for being the person that did it, and it wasn't, until finally they came out with the truth. So then we went out to shopping and stuff.

They took us out shopping and we went to this place to have coffee and whatever and I ended up meeting my brother that I'd never seen for quite a while and so it was surprising to see him. Then I went back to Pineland with the person I went out with and I really didn't want to be there. It wasn't a place for me. (Inaudible) other people the way they were and to get punished the way I did. That wasn't right for them to do what they did, and so I really was glad to get out of Pineland and to be in a group home where there were people that we could do—we had our own rooms, we did our chores, we got to go shopping, we had turns making meals and doing stuff that I like to do.

And so I went from there, I found my own apartment, then I moved from the group home to my own apartment. I had a caseworker when I got out and I was still called—we got called names at Pineland and it really hurt me the way they (inaudible) called me names. I really, really, really didn't like Pineland. It was really a bad place for people to be. And so when Marie Theron and I

—when Marie Theron got to be interviewed at Pineland, I went to support her for being from Pineland where no other resident, no other people were there. We went to see it when they were making it into—it was all changed, there wasn't any bars on the windows, they made—the building that we were in downstairs, they made it into, not apartments, but a work area for other people that worked there. It was quite a bit of experience from what it was, from when I was in there, and it was really different seeing no bars on the windows, so I was pleased, I was glad to get out of there.

KJL: Do you mind if I ask when you were born?

MP: I was born in 1949.

KJL: Where was that?

MP: In Bangor.

KJL: That's right, you did say that. What were your parents like?

MP: They were nice, they—I lived with them many years until my my mother passed away, and then I was put in Pineland and then when I came out my father got really, really sick and I was living in an apartment in Hallowell when they called me and said he was really sick and he was in the hospital, like in Bangor, my sister in law came to pick me up. I went up to stay with her so I could go to the hospital to see him and when he finally passed away, I really—well, not lost it, but really was sad. Of course, when I called my caseworker, (inaudible) and [he] came and talked to me and he got me a flight, a bus ticket to go from Augusta to Bangor to be with him in intensive care, and of course, one night, called one of my brothers to tell him that father was really sick and dying, so my sister really didn't want to do that. She didn't want to come in when he passed away, she didn't want to come in to the funeral home and it really hurt me to see her not interacting with everybody that—

I was really glad when I got out of Pineland where I met—really was really glad to meet my brother from me being in Pineland.

KJL: You didn't know your brother before?

MP: Well, yeah, but I mean I hadn't seen him since I was in Pineland. So we were in this restaurant, whatever and he kind of looked at me and kind of, you know—so I went over and I

asked who. He said it was Frank, and I'm going—so that's when I met, really got back into seeing one of my family members. And so then I went to his house in Camden and met his wife and the two girls, one of the girls, Jenny and then there was Shannon. Then I got married when I was out. My husband, my husband's name was Harold Preble and then I moved, I lived in (inaudible) in Gardiner. I went to live with him. I got married and when he passed away I ended up living in Hallowell, on Brunswick Avenue [Gardiner] and then I moved from there into an apartment in Hallowell, and then from there I moved up here into one of these apartments, so I could be closer to going to the nursing home to see my husband. I've been here, I lived down at the second driveway when I first moved here, and then I moved from there up here so I would be closer. During the winter and stuff it was hard for me to walk up and down the hill, and so I moved up here, it's closer. I got to volunteer over to the nursing home, so I've been here, I'd say about twenty years, almost twenty years, and I love it here. I'm closer to the bus route, closer to everything in this area. I volunteer over to the nursing home where he was. I volunteer over here to the rec center. I go to play bingo, go with friends and I'm like a regular person, not called names, or, you know. I go to the meeting with—I'm on the Disability Council meeting. I'm on the executive committee meeting.

[Phone interruption]

I also do, I volunteer to take meals to people that don't want to come up to the center, I take the newsletters around. It's better than being in Pineland. I get to do what I want to do, not being told from a person that—It's really, really different from being at Pineland, from being out on your own.

KJL: Do you remember your home in Bangor?

MP: Yeah.

KJL: Can you tell me about it, give me a little tour?

MP: It was on second street. I went to school for a while, a special school in Bangor. I have—there was my mother and father, two brothers, four sisters, one passed away, so there's me, I got a sister the lives in Carmel. I can't remember the other town that my other sister lives in. Oh, one lives in Bangor, one lives in Carmel. I've got one, two, three, four nieces, two nephews. I get to see my brother's—Jenny, I get to see her nieces quite a bit. I get to see my other niece's son, when he first, when she got married and then I've been to her house to see the baby. He's not a baby anymore, but it's nice to be surrounded with family and stuff to—We were all nice. It was like a nice family that was to be (inaudible).

KJL: What were your favorite things to do when you were young?

MP: I liked the special school I went to. I went to a Catholic—I liked to do crossword books, going to friend's house, everything that, you know, being home and doing things for my mother and stuff.

KJL: You said you were about ten when you went to Pineland?

MP: Yeah,

KJL: And that was because your mother passed away, is that right?

MP: Yeah,

KJL: Do you remember when you arrived at Pineland? Do you remember that day?

MP: Yeah, we got there and it was like a place that I never—It was strange, it was like, “I don't want to be here.” And so I went over to the administration building. They took me in to like a hospital, or whatever. My folks couldn't come for a while, because where I was just—It hurt me to see them to leave and I got really upset and crying and stuff and they were going to come in and put me in a straight jacket and give me a shot. I finally calmed down, you know, it took me a while, but it was just like they put me there and they went off. It hurt me so bad, you know. It wasn't my kind of place to be.

KJL: You said your folks couldn't come for a while. Who was taking care of you when you went to Pineland?

MP: Nurses and stuff. It's a hospital where I—administration building.

KJL: Okay, who took you to Pineland?

MP: My caseworker I think he took me to the—but I mean it was like going away from my father and the rest of the family, it was like, “No, I don't want to (inaudible)”

KJL: They were going to put you in a straight jacket?

MP: Yeah, because I was getting—crying and stuff, you know—seeing them leave, it was like. “I don’t want you to leave, I want you to take me with you.”

KJL: What did Pineland look like when you arrived?

MP: All kinds of—it looked strange, all kinds of buildings and you’ve got to have permission to go to the canteen and stuff like that, and I wasn’t used to that. It was like, “No, this isn’t for me.” And if you did something, you’d get punished for it.

KJL: How?

MP: They would—If someone done something and they really didn’t want to say, the other person would get it, and they’d get locked up in the room with just a mattress and stuff. And I ended up in the room for someone that done that and I didn’t like it because I wasn’t the one that did it.

KJL: You got blamed sometimes?

MP: Yeah. I mean I got blamed for something I didn’t do. It wasn’t right. The person that did it should have come right out and said... Then we went to the canteen—our money that we—like I said I worked at the laundry there, and the money that we got, we go to the canteen and buy stuff, but when we had time in the building, we had to share what we got, and I didn’t think that was right, either, share my stuff that I bought.

KJL: You worked in the laundry?

MP: Yeah.

KJL: How old were you then?

MP: Oh, about sixteen, I think. About sixteen, and it was okay, but sometimes, you know, I didn’t like it but it was either do that be doing that or be not doing nothing at all. It was strange for me to be doing something that I wasn’t really comfortable doing, that you get paid for.

KJL: You were paid for working in the laundry?

MP: Yeah, That's what—the money that we got paid for, we could go to the canteen at Pineland to get stuff, so when we had a night in the building, we could have our stuff that we got. Like I said, we had to share it, and I didn't think that was good to share it when it was my money that got it, and I had to share it with people that—because I was brought up to be—not—if someone said something to me I didn't like, I was brought up not to—I was told if you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all. That's the way I was brought up, so that's the way I made sure that when I got on the outside, that I was going to be treated the same way I was brought up. Sometimes people do things and I'll get kind of, like I'll start to say something and then I'll remember the way I was brought up and I won't say it. That's a good way to do, to respect [everybody because] they respect you.

KJL: So you were in a dorm, is that right?

MP: Yeah, like a building. I was on the upper level in that building and then they brought up people, other self advocates that were down underneath. It was kind of level[s] up and down and so that was kind of strange being...

KJL: When you said, "I want to go home," what was their response?

MP: They just told me, "You can't go home," until—I was really glad to meet my brother when I got to go out, and I was one of them to go out shopping or stuff, or whatever and I got to go for a week, he came to pick me up for a weekend and I had to go back, but I mean once I got to go out of Pineland, I was rally glad to be out of there and not being punished for something I didn't do, or—

KJL: Did you get to go out of Pineland on visits very often?

MP: No, I was—that was only the first time that I was out on a visit with my brother and his family. Then I was—I had gone out and worked out of Pineland for a while and then I kind of ended up back into Pineland. Once I got out of there it was a different story, you know. I hated to see the people that were in there, and the way they were, to be treated the way they were and they shouldn't have been treated.

KJL: Tell me about the people who were in the dorm with you.

MP: There was one, like I said, Marie (inaudible). Some of them were nice, some of them weren't, and I got along with them. I met some really good friends there, but when some of them did something and they didn't have anybody to blame, I'm the one that got in trouble.

KJL: Why do you think they blamed you?

MP: Because I was the nearest one [to them]. I'm the nearest one they could find.

KJL: What was your day like at Pineland?

MP: We'd get up, we'd take our showers or whatever. We'd get ready for breakfast . Everybody'd line up, go out, go to the other building to eat, then we'd come back and we'd do our chores, whatever we had to do there and we had to tell them if we were going out into the area, or if we had to go to work or whatever. It was kind of not—I felt like I didn't want to go to work. If I didn't, then I'd end up being punished for not doing work I was supposed to do, so I went along with what I was supposed to do and [went along] other times it was like —Then if we wanted to write letters or anything, they would help us write letters or whatever. We had to go to bed at a certain time when it was time to go to bed, and in the dorm, we had—you weren't in rooms. They were all just in one, two different parts, all our beds, you know. It was like “This isn't for me.” It was just like a hospital, being in there, or... It wasn't for me and I didn't really like being in those.

KJL: You said you were punished if you didn't go to work.

MP: Well, if I didn't, I wouldn't be able to do certain activities. If I didn't go to work, I wouldn't be able to have the money to go to the canteen, or doing things with the other ones, so I just did what they said to do, do what I was supposed to do so people would know that I wasn't going to be punished.

KJL: How long were you at Pineland?

MP: I can't remember the year. I'd say—I don't know. I'm glad that people that were in there —disability people that were in there, I'm glad that they're in a different setting than what they were. They're treated better that what they were in Pineland.

KJL: How did you come to leave Pineland?

MP: My brother and his wife got me out of Pineland, and I got to go and live with them for a while, until I got my own.

KJL: Tell me about that. How did that come about?

MP: Well, I made up my mind once I got in Pineland that I was going to get my own place, be out on my own.. I went from being with my brother and his wife (inaudible) from there into a group home in Winthrop. And once I was in that place, I mean, with other people, I got to go to see my family, quite a bit and then I said that I was going to go out and find my own apartment, which I did in Hallowell. I got to work at the preschool in Hallowell. That was nice working with kids, and I got paid doing that. Then they had to let be go because they couldn't pay me any more. So then I got—I moved from Hallowell to Gardiner—no, from Hallowell to Augusta, and then from there to Hallowell with another person. Then I moved from there back to Augusta. [When] I met my husband, I was living in Gardiner. (Inaudible) to his house in the night and we would—[he'd] take me back to the apartment and we had a couple two or three dates and stuff. Finally I went to live with him. We got married.

I graduated from Gardiner High School, got my G.E.D. from there. I lived with him, lived with my husband in Litchfield and then when he ended up at the nursing home I lived in Gardiner, up on Brunswick Avenue. I had to be out to get the bus at a certain time, or I wouldn't have any way back. So finally when I got in here it was a lot easier. All I had to do was walk from the second driveway down the hill, up back and forth to the nursing home and so that's how I got to volunteer up at the nursing home, the activity director. So when I moved—it was only a transfer from the second driveway up here, because it was closer for me to—because I had a cane, and then walking back and forth during winter was hard to get up there. So I've been here about twenty years. It's nice. It's closer to the bus route, closer for me to volunteer and I can go when I want, come back when I want, so I love it.

KJL: Tell me about the day you left Pineland.

MP: I was glad when it came the day for me to leave because my experience being there when I was ten, it was like, "Good, I'm not there any more. I'm out in the community with my family and stuff. I don't have to go to bed when I'm told or line up to go outside during the winter or..." I was safe from what I was in Pineland.

KJL: Was it your brother that came and got you?

MP: Yeah, my brother.

KJL: Now, when you were at Pineland, did anyone help you with your money or making decisions about things?

MP: No. Well, they. I can't remember—we had to get the money—we kept the money that we earned for getting stuff at the canteen, but when we'd come back, they locked it up, locked the stuff up, what we got. So when it came a night that we could have what we got we'd have to wait until they gave it out to us (inaudible).

KJL: So what were the hardest things about living at Pineland?

MP: Not being able to do what I wanted to do. We had to—at a certain time we had to—they unlocked the closet to go in to get our next day clothes, or whatever was supposed to be done. That I really didn't like being—having been told—the closet that we kept our clothes in, at a certain time we had to get our clothes.

KJL: Could you choose what you were going to wear?

MP: Yeah, but I mean we had to get it at that certain time. I [would have] like to be able to get them when I wanted them, not being told that at this time you've got to do it.

KJL: Did your clothes stay your clothes?

MP: Yeah. We had kind of a certain place, a cubby hole for our stuff to be

KJL: Now, did you watch TV sometimes, or...

MP: I can't remember if they had TV or not, but they had games and stuff, you know, we could play, certain stuff like that, but we had to be—We were told a a certain time when to go to bed, and when to get up.

KJL: Now, when you left Pineland and you lived with your brother for a while—

MP: Yeah.

KJL: And then you went to a group home?

MP: Yeah.

KJL: Okay, what was the group home like?

MP: It was nice, we got to share in —

[Telephone interruption]

KJL: I was asking you what the group home was like.

MP: The people that was there, I got along with them. We got to share in the cooking, we got to share in the housework. People had different things to do at the group home. One or two people would do the living room or the kitchen or the halls. We did our own bedrooms and stuff like that, on a Saturday, whatever. It was nice, it was like being in a regular setting, like you were in your own place.

KJL: You all had chores to do.

MP: Yeah. Chores, and then we got to choose what we wanted to do, and we got to choose what we wanted to make when it was our turn to help out with the meal.

KJL: You made your own meals?

MP: Yeah, we made a meal for everybody, but we got to choose what we wanted for that. When it was our turn we got to choose what we wanted to make.

KJL: Now, was there a guardian there?

MP: It was kind of like a house person, but she had her own apartment, you know, in the same group home, but I mean—If we needed something all we had to do was go to her door and knock on it and tell her, but otherwise that that it wasn't like—

KJL: So she wasn't around all the time.

MP: No.

KJL: So who was in the group home with you?

MP: There would be different people that would come in. They would stay, they would come in for that day and they would stay that night and then a different person would come in and take over for ones who want a day off, or whatever.

KJL: What was your favorite thing to cook?

MP: It didn't matter. I liked all kinds of stuff that they—we made. We made quiche, we made spaghetti, potatoes, vegetables. We would, all of us would make out the menu, what we would like to—and it was nice, it was like being on your own, not being in Pineland, or—everybody shared what they wanted to (inaudible).

KJL: How has a disability affected your life?

MP: The way I was when I was in Pineland from now, it's like I don't have a—
Sometimes I sit here and wonder, “Hmmm, I don't have a disability like they say I do. I use a cane, use a walker. I have a brace, one foot's shorter than the other, but I mean I don't take that in stride—people look at me kind of funny and they'll ask me about my brace and I just tell them, you know, my leg's two inches shorter and if I didn't wear the brace, I'd drag my foot. I'm very careful when I go out, especially in the winter time because my walker don't go good in the snow, so I have an ice pick on my cane. I use that and I'm very, very careful, I'm not—I've fallen when I was with my husband we went to Old Halloween Day one time, I went across the grass and that wasn't good. I fractured my hip, and of course, that wasn't good, so I have to be very careful in not doing the other one (inaudible). So I usually go—when I—I try to go out without either one of them and my hip lets me know whether or not I need that (inaudible) aches and pains and I know that I have to slow down and go with my walking to aggravate it to...

KJL: Every once in a while I have to remind myself I'm not nineteen anymore.

MP: (Laughs) I'm not ten or sixteen, I'm seventy and I'm—one of my friends now said—She just turned eighty and she's no spring chicken, you know, she likes to go without—We tell her to

use her walker. She won't want to do it and I tell her she can't, I says, "You've got to do it or else, you know," She goes, "Yeah, I know." It's like, "I'm not going to be that way. I'm going to use it." When my hip and stuff tell me, then I use it. But I usually try to go without—try to be a young person, which I'm not, trying to go without it, you know, when I go places, but when I come home, when I'm on it all day like that, like uh uh, never again.

KJL: So do you have somebody that helps you now?

MP: I used to have a homemaker that comes in that helps me—takes me to do my shopping, grocery shopping, helps me do the things around the apartment, which I try to get done before she gets here, but otherwise that that, I do everything myself. I have a laundry place that's right—you go down the stairs and it's right around the corner, so that's easy, I don't have to bag it up and take it to the laundromat and do it, or—Then there's KVCAP that comes on the hour, on the half hour. Then I have friends that take me to—if I need something at the store or whatever, they come to pick me up and take me to the store and... Apart from that I do everything myself, my cooking and my cleaning. Then I'll be having somebody coming in in December because I'm going to have—I've had one (inaudible) shoulder done. It was my right one, now I'm having my left one done. I've got two tears in my [rotator cuff] (Laughs). And I don't know how I did it. I went to be fine that night, got up and couldn't even hardly move it.

KJL: When Pineland closed, what did you think about that?

MP: I was glad it was no longer a facility for people with disabilities, that they had taken them out and placed them where they could go either in a nursing home or a boarding home or or whatever to be able to do what they wanted to do, not being treated the way they were in Pineland. Then when I came out of Pineland, Paige Barton was in there and she's the one that got me into (inaudible) speaking up for (inaudible). She got me in to being in that which I like because the other self advocates that were in a group and so I got to be in that group with self advocates; I got to speak up more, you know, so I got to speak up, [I] got to—before I got into that I really didn't speak up for what I wanted. It was like—

KJL: You've been able to advocate for yourself?

MP: I've been able to advocate for myself and able to advocate for other people that were—because I've been to the statehouse and I've advocated there. But on the Disabilities Council, we've had some stories brought up about group homes and nursing homes and stuff like that and if I thought of something that they'd want to know, I'd tell them. I'd tell them that, you know—I'd advocate for people that couldn't advocate for themselves and it's brought me closer to doing something for other people and—I wouldn't be on these committees if it wasn't for me, for

doing, for advocating for, speaking up for—because a lot of people that are in group homes and stuff, they've always—I've heard them say they want to be out on their own, They want to have an apartment, they want to get married, you know. It's like, you've got to speak up and tell them. You're not going to be able to do it if you don't.

KJL: Now when you were in a group home were you able to make your own decisions about money and what you were going to eat, you set the menu?

MP: Yeah.

KJL: —and where you were going to go when?

MP: Yeah.

KJL: That must have been nice after Pineland.

MP: Oh, yeah it was, I mean it was quite different, quite an experience being able to do what you want and not being told what to do. I've been more happier now than when I was put in Pineland.

[Telephone interruption]

KJL: You were talking about how different it was in the group home making your own decisions.

MP: I like it that I was [moved]. Since I've been in a group home, I like what I'm doing. I like making my own decisions, being able to go where and when I want and not being with a whole bunch of other people. It's like (inaudible exclamation) I'm free, I'm out on my own, it's like, "What am I going to do next?" I've had a good—It's been good. I can come and go when I want, I'm not being told what to do, so it's been—like I said, I've been here almost twenty years and I volunteer and after I volunteer, you know it's like I feel good. It makes me feel good doing things for other people just like Kate calls from over across telling me that the newsletters are ready, so later on I take and deliver—if I don't deliver today, I'll deliver tomorrow to building twelve. So it give me something to do instead of sitting here not doing anything.

KJL: You said you worked in the laundry at Pineland. Did you get a job later after you left Pineland?

MP: No. I went right from doing that, my brother coming to—I went right from Pineland to being with my brother and my sister in law, you know, the whole—kind of seemed strange being out of there from being there for so long. I finally got used to being...

KJL: That must have been quite an adjustment.

MP: Yep, well it has been quite an adjustment to—I'm no longer associated with DHHS, I'm my own guardian, I'm—I've got a rent payee. That's my ex sister in law, but I'll have money put in an administrative account for my spending. She writes out a check for my rent, comes and give it to me. If I need anything for the apartment, if I need anything, all I've got to do is call her to tell her. She'll come and get me and we'll go do like I needed. My new computer here, she can help me with that. I needed a new TV—that's good, you know. I have someone to help me out with my finances, like my rent, my—It's nice to have someone to be able to help you with your stuff, like getting a new computer chair, or the TV, or—it's what I need and they make sure that if I don't have it in there, have enough, they'll let me know, you know, "You can't get it right now, when you get the money built up, you know" It's not like, "No, you don't need that, you ain't got the money for it."

KJL: Have you been able to help other people, too?

MP: Yep,

KJL: Tell me about that.

MP: I go to BEANO and there's a lady that—because I've been winning, I went quite a bit. If she doesn't have the money to go, I'll lend it to her and she gives it right back to me. It's not like, "Oh, I haven't got it. I'll give it to you next time." and that, you know you don't get it. So I don't do that to people. When I lend it to them, they'll—I'll tell them I want it back when they have it, not a month from now, not a week from now. We're pretty good, she—If I don't have it, she'll lend it to me and I'll pay her back, vice versa, it's...

KJL: What role have you played in disability rights?

MP: I've been able to go in the statehouse, tell them about what I think about other people that live in what I've heard from them—I went back to the statehouse when I got to testify. I go so that they know I'm the other self advocate's voice, taking their voice to the statehouse when they have issues come up. And it makes me feel good to be able to do that [for] other people. To give back from what I've learned from being in self advocacy. That's what...

KJL: Do you think you've been listened to?

MP: Oh, yeah, they've listened.

KJL: What have you most enjoyed in your life?

MP: Well, I've enjoyed being able to go out in some of the evenings to go play BINGO, I've played BINGO over here on Fridays. We pay like \$2.75, and they take and split that up in the pot for everybody pays for what we get. If we win a game, we get what—you know, and then they have a pot for the last game and you know, it's fun doing that, it's not much, but I mean at least we get—and we don't, then maybe the next one. I like taking, delivering meals to people that are shut in. I like doing the newsletter. I like some of the activities they have. They have a newsletter that comes out once every month and it has like a calendar on the back that tells you different activities. I go to church.

I used to go to Wiscasset, but that's too far to go so I go—one of the ladies here that goes—I go to that Hope Baptist Church in Manchester and they're wonderful there. I get out before noon. She comes and picks me up at ten and we get there and we have—we have singing and stuff and then they'll have like a greeting for other people that you don't know. They'll have coffee and they'll have water, then we'll go back and sit down and we get out before noontime sometimes.

The place that I was going to it was like we had groceries we could get, but not being able to be home when church gets out it was like that takes half of the day away when you don't get home before one or (inaudible). And I like being out so I can be able to go somewhere from—you know, when church is over, you know, I love what I do. It's rewarding to hear other people say how thoughtful I am, or—And then we'll have a time over there that they'll give us—I volunteer (inaudible) with handicapped—we volunteer over here like (inaudible). We'll get kind of like a little gift and then we'll have—they give us a barbecue. It's nice for them, then they'll give us a Christmas party. Things like that, you know. I try like, you know...

KJL: What do you wish had been different?

MP: Not much, because I like what—the vicinity where I’m living, it’s close by to Shaw’s, it’s close by to the shopping center, you know, I don’t have—I can take the bus, or my friends will come and pick me up and take me. It’s really different than what—being able to do that, being able to be close by, to do things, like I volunteer over at the nursing home, talking with the residents, like taking them up front inside, so we can look out or take them out of the door where they can sit and get some fresh air, or stuff like that that are like, different than when I was brought up, when I was put in Pineland (inaudible) like garbage. It makes me feel happy to do things for...

KJL: What do you want most for yourself?

MP: Myself? I’d like to be able to do things that I never was able to do, like—I like doing crossword books that—[when] I’m not doing something that I should be doing I love watching TV, doing stuff on the computer. Whenever they want to have something over at the rec hall they’ll call me and want to know if I’d like to do—and I’ll say, “Yeah.” It gives me a chance to do things that I never was able to do. I love the way that—the setting that I’m in (inaudible). And I get to see—I’m able to, like if my sister in law goes to Shannon’s, or Shannon calls (inaudible), you know, I’m able to go—They’ll come pick me up and I’ll go with them down to see Shannon, down to see my nephews, it’s like I’m doing things with my family (inaudible). And I like doing it.

KJL: Well, I’m about out of questions here, but I do want to ask if you’ve enjoyed this conversation.

MP: Yes, I did.

KJL: I have.

MP: I told them that anytime I’d like to get my story out there, what it was when I was in Pineland, so people will know what it was like and what it is from now.

KJL: Is there anything that I’ve overlooked that you want to point out.

MP: No, no.

KJL: Well, thank you.

MP: You're welcome.

END OF INTERVIEW