

Interview with Marjory Stoneman Douglas

Date: June 16, 1983

FIU Number: SPC 956

Interviewer: I

Marjory Stoneman Douglas: MSD

[51:20]

I: Marjory, I wanted to ask you to describe that picture of your father that we just a

MSD: Oh yes, well, it was originally a photograph and a very successful one. My father was a very handsome man. He was over the kind of man who gets handsomer as it gets older, I don't know why exactly. He was six feet, two or three always you never got bent or anything. He had rather a big nose. His hair was gray and sort of whitish. I think that was more becoming but don't remember when he didn't have gray hair. He had his mouth as he hadn't had false teeth from fairly young. So his mouth was not as strong as it would've been if it had been more natural, you know what I mean? The mouth has a weakness because of the false teeth that has nothing to do with him. Well, anyway, the photograph is very successful. It was after and I had it. Then I had a friend who came down here to visit me, whom I had known years ago in Boston. Her name was Betsy Graves, who was a very good portrait painter and artist and she took that photograph. And then this, which is really an extraordinary likeness. And she caught the likeness from the photograph that is real. I don't see how she did it except that was her genius. She had done a great a lot of times she came down to see me. I knew her when she was a student in the Museum School of Fine Arts in Boston. And then she developed this portrait thing. So she'd done a number of very famous people. Came down and she lived in England for some time and then came down here. And she did that when she was here oh good many years ago. She had been dead for some years now. I think about all there is to that.

I: Had she ever met your father?

MSD: You know, she never met him. That's what's so extraordinary. So extraordinary about it that she was able to get. The photograph was not any better and I'm not at all sure the photograph was as good. She was uncanny about it, she really was.

I: How old was your father at the time the photography was taken?

MSD: Well it would be hard for me to remember I would have said he was perhaps in his late seventies. Something like that I'm a little vague.

I: He looks to be a younger man?

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MSD: Well, he didn't look so awfully old even at 84. He always carried himself well. He his hair was not dead white and I've known other people who are younger, young men who are younger than he, who had a had a fragile look. Father never look fragile. He was big boned and tall. And he always seemed so to me, he never seemed awfully old. I can remember on his 80th birthday we had quite a celebration, but really he didn't seem then, they just seemed to be quite old. But he didn't seem eighty to me then. And I was really, it was very surprising that in four years after that he died because it didn't seem to be very much the matter with him. However, it was finally it was a kidney stone and then he'd really, I don't think he had known much about.

I: Was it a great shock when he died?

MSD: Well, of course he she'd been ill, but only briefly. But he went downhill very rapidly and couldn't be operated on. They didn't feel they could be operated. I'm always in a way felt. Why didn't we why wasn't he operated on anyway? Because he died anyway and made it might've been a challenge, but they refused to in at his age. But I've often thought was old people. Their too quick about saying, I would rather take a chance of being operated on. And think, well okay, I'm gonna die anyway and pretty soon. So why not try it? I've always regretted a little. But of course, we were in the doctor's hands. We had a very good doctor. I couldn't have wouldn't have gone against that.

I: Is it possible for you to remove your glasses?

MSD: Oh, yes. Yes. Yes, I guess so. Yes. Well, I'll see how it affects me. It's quite bright. But for the moment that's all right, but I get to blinking so you see that is better.

I: Before you had them up.

MSD: Well, I can have I think actually that's all I need now it gets a little shade, is that alright? The sky is rather shuts the sky out. That's good. I have evidently, I have my father's eyes. We have the same color eyes and a good deal, the same shape, sort of a brown, gray, Hazel. I don't know quite what the color I've never known myself. But as I said, you know, he never seemed fragile at any rate.

I: We were talking before about the spirit of Boosterism...

MSD: Oh yes!

I: ...in the community.

MSD: Oh yes!

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I: Can you tell me something about that?

MSD: Well everybody was a new little town, everybody felt that it had to grow, my goodness, it had to have more people. There is a clear way about that kind of Boosterism. They feel it can be a big city was as if they didn't quite believe it and they had to work awfully hard to bring people down, and they worked so hard and now we can't stop them. They didn't realize that the people are outgrowing the city, so the city is getting to be, almost old-fashioned in some ways. I mean, inadequate, inadequate is the word I mean. The city is now inadequate to the numbers of people that come pouring in; well, the whole state is getting that, but particularly South Florida. And in spite of everybody being for it, in those days I don't quite believe they think that it would have happened. They had to work at it, so they advertised and the Chamber of Commerce was doing all kinds of things. And they go on now by the way they go on now by bringing the tourists down. Oh my, you've got to have tourists you know and all that. It's silly because this town has never stopped growing and it has never caught up with itself. It hasn't had time to, really, to grow quietly as a city. If it's got to grow, it should have a quiet, slow growth in order to build itself up properly as a city, which I think fails in a great many ways because it's grown too fast, and it's continuing to grow too fast.

I: Do you think it's possible for the city to grow more slowly under these conditions?

MSD: Well, not under these circumstances, no. We had no idea that after the Second World War, people would flood down here to that extent, but I think it was what we'd been speaking about a while ago, it's because life is easier here, and because of the sun. And now of course, with air conditioning they can stand the summers. So that's why more and more people are coming down and may I say at the moment the thing I said the other day in Tallahassee to the Governor at the conference. I think people are not realizing at all that the time is coming when there will be less and less agriculture, because the people will want the ground to live on, rather than to grow vegetables in. And I think, more and more, the people will crowd out agriculture also because it will be a fight between agriculture and people as to who's to get the water. Now, with a limited water supply, the agriculture is getting more water in proportion than people, but I don't know how long that can keep up. And I think eventually the development will cover just about everything that can be covered, I think that is the way the thing is heading. But the agriculture is not so important. I don't know if they believe me, I've said so. I said, you people are planning for things the way they are today, but, to my mind, you've got to recognize that the development is going to go on more and more strongly, and crowding out the agriculture, and you've got to recognize that in the course of time. And I really think I'm right. It might not come right away but it'll come faster and faster if we have more and more people. They're not coming down here to raise vegetables, or even to eat them, you know, they're coming down for the way of life, the ease and the sun and all that.

I: There has been some talk for quite a while by some members of conservation groups about the necessity to halt population growth, or to slow it.

MSD: It's almost impossible. How did they think that they were going to do that? Did they say?

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I: No.

MSD: 'Course what they should do is stop all advertising, and they should even stop advertising for tourists because they get tourists down here and then half of them come back. The only way they can possibly do it is to stop getting, urging people to come, and they won't do that. You can't get them to do that. The businesses will always want more and more people, you see. They're cutting off their own noses to spite their faces because there is such a thing as a law of diminishing returns that will take place... and businesses will not succeed because there are so many people...and that... even the businesses are gonna have to change. But I think agriculture is going to feel the push first of all.

I: Do you feel that that is going to be... the changes that you describe are going to be on the whole beneficial for Florida's environment or not beneficial?

MSD: Well, when you say environment... I think the... if we can have less agriculture we can probably get our water supply maintained better. So, it'll be better for the people. As far as the environment goes, I see nothing but building all the way right up to the waterline of the Everglades and all that... that's where the building is crowding it now. And in fact they are making a mistake in letting people, as in the East Everglades, build in the floodplain of the sheetflow. They're making that mistake and they are going to get in terrible trouble because they let the counties let the people build where they don't belong. The State and I told the Governor and the people, the State should make up its mind how wide the course of the lower Everglades should be, which varies according to the amount of water: high water it's wider and low water it's narrower. But the people are going to be building right up to the edge of it, and if you don't look out the counties will let them build and they're already building in it. So, the State is going to have a terrible time someday cleaning up, getting the development out of the Everglades. That would be 'cause the land getting too expensive for vegetables. The developers are going to be using that because of the people coming down; they want to live here. They don't want to raise vegetables; they want to live here. And, by taking it as it is today, as the last word, they're not foreseeing anything. They're not looking forward as they should.

I: Back in the '20s people were coming down, and uh...

MSD: They were coming down, but they're not coming down, they're coming down more in proportion to what they did in the old days. After every war, more people have come down. I think after the First World War is when it really began, with the '26 boom and bust, and since then we've had this wave-like action. But the waves have been longer and longer and we've had very little recession.

I: Were you involved, in some way, in writing material about Coral Gables or doing something...?

MSD: I did a booklet for George Merrick at one time when he was building Coral Gables. That's the only thing I did.

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I: I see. What was in that booklet?

MSD: Oh, descriptions about how wonderful it was to live in Coral Gables. It was a sales pitch. They were selling lots in Coral Gables. I'm not too proud of it.

I: Oh! (laughs)

MSD: I don't feel that I was, I was a little bit off my beat at that time. I have never quite approved of all this accent on growth, cause I was brought up in a much slower-growing country, or at least very slow indeed. And I, I thought that the town was inadequate when I first came down, it didn't have a lot of the amenities and the things it should have had. I started for *The Herald*... the first charity that was not a church charity in this town was *The Herald* baby milk fund. My father told me to start it, and I did, and we provided money for babies' milk. And that was the first charity that was not a church charity -- We had no family welfare we had no welfare of any kind at all. And I had come from a country where we were trained in social work and all that. I could, I would try to write an editorial about our needing family welfare and father wouldn't print it. Because he said "well, we don't need that now, "Well we did. But the didn't, he and Mr. Shutts and those other people, they didn't recognize that, it's another reason I got off *The Herald*. I didn't want to keep on working, it was too "daily" anyway for what I wanted to do. But I, I knew more about some things about a city than my father knew and Mr. Shutts did, and I did not approve of their policies always. And I was just the daughter of the establishment, egads, you know, they didn't have to pay any attention to me, so I got off.

I: What did you know about this city? Tell me about...

MSD: What do I know about cities?

I: Tell me what you saw that you felt this city needed?

MSD: Well I said, I was just telling you it didn't have half of the things that a city should be to give service to its people. It didn't have welfare of any kind, it didn't have family welfare, it didn't have family guidance. It didn't have, um, charity things. It was only the churches who did charity work and I was used to a place like Boston where, I, my senior in college, we studied a good deal of the social work things of Boston, and I saw the things that were needed, especially for a place like Boston or a place like Miami, where people were still coming in from other countries. And Boston handled the incoming people very much better than Miami did; it didn't handle them at all in the old days. And you saw with the refugee problem we've just had this city is totally unprepared to handle anything of the sort. They didn't, they had to hastily put them in concentration camps, that's just about all they could do. Yet, that is not going to be the end of the refugee problem. We're going to have it over and over and over again, because we have, we have been paying no attention whatsoever to The Third World to the south of us, beginning with either the Bahamas or certainly Haiti. We're not doing anything about any of that and we're going to have more and more people intruding and we won't know what to do with them at all. We should begin, the United States as a matter of fact, I could tell them, the United States needs to realize that these people who are flooding in over the border from

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California all the way along to the end of Florida. You can't keep people out of Florida because of this coastline. You couldn't blockade it if you had a ship every mile, people could still get in. The whole United States is totally unprepared and unthinking about the people that are flooding in. Why are they coming in? Because they're hungry, and when people are hungry they will do anything to go where there is some food. We should be considering Mexico, I'll tell you exactly, instead of vegetables in Florida we should be getting our vegetables from Mexico where they're cheaper to raise, where people need the work. Where they can build, raise them in quantity. We shouldn't be bothered with vegetables in this country. We're giving up valuable land for vegetables that shouldn't belong here. The same way, we should consider sugar, that doesn't belong with us up around Lake Okeechobee. We'll we're getting rid of that over the course of time because they've destroyed the soil, they've destroyed thirty feet of peaty muck that they originally built, grew sugar in. There's not under five feet of peaty muck they want everything but rock in another fifteen years. We should be getting that sugar raised in the southern slopes of Haiti, where the people are starving. Instead of having them coming here to us, we should go to them and see that they've got proper things to keep them... we're not just handing out money. We had out money to Duvalier, and what does he do? He has a big wedding that costs millions of dollars and doesn't do the people any good at all. We should see to it that these countries that send us our refugees are better equipped to employ their own people in their own places. We're just completely blind about this whole thing.

I: You've been aware of people's needs and You mentioned the baby milk fund? How did you become aware of that?

MSD: Yes. How did you become aware? Well, my father became aware of that. He decided we ought to start it. So he said go and start it. Well he found out that there were children who were starving, who were not being served by the churches. And let me add, even then there was only for the whites. We didn't supply milk for black babies. Oh, nobody considered that. So it wasn't very adequate. I was aware of that all alone, you know. It's only half the problem. It wasn't just me, my father was aware of that. But it's the whole, the Americans have not. You see we're all so busy making livings. And from the time we were a new country, we don't realize now we are the people and the country where other people want to come because they are under privileged. We've got, we've got to have a greater force. I tell you where I got acquainted with the refugee problem and that was in Europe, and those years and that year that I was overseas and the Red Cross. A great deal of the work that I was interested in doing and seeing, that was publicity was with the refugees. Wherever you have disturbed conditions, you will have refugees. And in France they had refugees from all the parts of France and other countries. But it had been invaded by Germany. And they had to provide for them and the American Red Cross and the French and everybody had to take care of them. You couldn't let them starve you know so they did. The problem with getting rid of them after that was not so great. Because after the war they were very anxious to go back to their own countries and the problem would've been a much greater than one if it hadn't been for the Marshall Plan. The Marshall Plan, was the American Marshall Plan saved Europe because it helped build up the countries to which the refugees were going back when I, we should have a Marshall Plan for the West Indies, for the Caribbean. We should have a Marshall Plan that would realize that these are starving not only starving people,

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but people who are over breeding. Overpopulation is now coming from the third world. We ought to have to have birth control clinics down there. We're gonna have to introduce the pill. We're going to have to take steps to keep the population down. Are we going to get them all into this country? And once you get them into this country, then we don't know what to do with them so that it needs a great deal of forethought. And I see very few people having that forethought. Period. I'm glad to get on record about a thing like that. I've been having it on my mind for years and I don't know if I've ever said it before. But it's much on my mind.

I: Very important issue in South Florida.

MSD: It's all over the border. All in southern states have the same problem.

I: Yes. Yes, that's right. You were involved and not just in the milk funds, but also in some other community issues. When you'd mentioned the thing about the green water and indoor toilets to the uh...

MSD: Well, that was later that was long after I was on the Herald. Later.

I: Tell us something about your involvement in going to Tallahassee for the first time for women's suffrage.

MSD: Oh that?

I: Yeah.

MSD: Well that, you see... the amendment had been offered and the states had to ratify. And in 1916, it came up for ratification before the Florida legislature. So, Mrs. Williams Jennings Bryan, who had come down here not too long before, organized a committee of Mrs., oh, Mrs. Napoleon Bonaparte Broward, the old Governor's wife, and Mrs. Frank Jennings, another Governor's wife and down here me and Mrs. Frank Stranahan of Ft. Lauderdale, now dead, but she was younger than they were. She and I were the more younger elements in that! (laughs) We went up to Tallahassee to get them to pass, to try to ratify the Suffrage Amendment. The Senate had said they would ratify, so we didn't have to bother with them. We had to speak to a committee of the House, which we did. It was a big room with men sitting around two walls of it with spittoons between every two or three. And we had on our best clothes and we spoke, as we felt, eloquently, about women's suffrage and it was like speaking to blank walls. All they did was spit in the spittoons. They didn't pay any attention to us at all. That evening Mrs. Williams Jennings Bryan made a speech before the combined House and Senate, one of the best suffrage speeches I've ever heard in my life, and I heard a good many because I heard them in college, even. We were interested in suffrage and heard a great many of the great old suffrage women who were wonderful women. Mrs. Bryan made a wonderful speech, and a man next to me scared me to death: he was spitting in his spittoon that was right over there and I had my good dress on, so I was worried! (laughs) Well, the House absolutely refused to ratify. So Florida didn't ratify that until years and years later. It passed as a war measure, so when I came back from abroad in 1920, it was the first time women voted, so I voted then. But Florida still hadn't ratified it until

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very much later. You see, it passed, but that was the result of our efforts! (laughs) I got a very good idea of political action, and some of these redneck people... you know what we used to call black... um... the Wool-hat boys in the red hills beyond the Suwannee. They were the ones that ran the state. They sure did. I thought then that it was a very backwards state and I still have some of that idea.

I: You came back to Miami after that. Did you do anything further for women's suffrage?

MSD: No.

I: What were their local community efforts that you guys did before you went off to war? Before?

MSD: No, I don't remember particularly I was working on the Herald. I didn't, oh, I started the Business and Professional Woman's Club, just a group of women gotten together that later became no it was the Business Professional Women's League. I guess that was after the war I started that. But they went on and I didn't keep up with them because I really can't join organizations. I might be able to start them, but the only way I've been able to keep up the Friends of the Everglades is because we don't have regular meetings and things like that. We're not the usual organization we couldn't possibly have regular meetings. We have one annual meeting a year and that's bad enough.

I: so you went out to the war soon after that.

MSD: Oh, well, I went over in 1918, came back 1920. Then I was my father's assistant editor on the Harold for three years. Then I got off and became a freelance writer and was for 15 years. I sold The Saturday Evening Post and other national magazines. And then, uhm...

I: Wait. What made you, what influenced you to go and join the war effort?

MSD: Well my dear it was a little more exciting then staying in Miami in Florida, heaven sakes.

I: You did it for the excitement.

MSD: Certainly. What does anybody go to war for? Men do it why not women. well, I was, I was deeply interested in France, you see being half French. And I was terribly concerned about France and men I knew were going to the war and I had a chance so I said Why not? I want to go with the American Red Cross. So I pulled wires and went.

I: And you were a writer for them?

MSD: Well, I went over in what was called civilian relief, which was exactly this refugee thing. So for the first month or two, I got over there before the Armistice. I worked with refugees, with people in that department. Then at the end of the war, in November when the war was over, they began to send the women home, and I didn't want to go home. I just got there. I met a gal right



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there at headquarters whom I had known in college who was publicity for the Children's Bureau, the American Red Cross and she said, What are you doing without a typewriter? And I said, Well, I got a typewriter what I need is a job. I'm hanging on by my eyelids so they won't send me back. She said come with me, I've got a job for you. So she was gonna leave for home soon she had the report on the Children's Bureau. To. To, write. And yet there was still things going on. We were giving up. We were turning over children's hospitals that we'd started. We were turning them over to the French and that had to be covered. So she's sent me around immediately covering the stories in France and various places of their taking over the American children's, American Red Cross children's hospitals from us. So I went right to work. Then after she left and the Children's Bureau work was ended, then I was taken upstairs to the big Bureau of the publicity depart regular PR and I was the only woman in that department for several months. Quite a while. Well, practically, I guess uh well, I guess there were a couple of women later, but that was there uh I was their rest of the time. I was doing much the same kind of work.

I: Were those living conditions difficult for you?

MSD: Oh, no, not at all. I had a very nice quiet little room up in both student. I had a room but a bath down. Oh no, Paris is a very easy place to live in you know there's always rooms to be had. I love Paris, I loved that. I was very much at home there. I hated to come home really.

I: You might still be there today?

MSD: No, because the Red Cross was folding. I wouldn't have had a job and I wouldn't have taken any other worker. Well, I had to come home anyway. Of course.

I: Tell us something about the traveling that you did in Europe.

MSD: Well, I mean, you have a ticket, you get on train when you when you get there, you get off.

I: I don't mean how you?

MSD: Well it wasn't quite as easy as that because in those days there were broken down third-class carriages. And I went through France that way and Italy. But in the Balkans, ya had to ride on a horse a good deal of the time because there were no there were hardly any roads, even no buses or anything. So, in the Balkans you had to travel by horse. That was alright or Jeep or truck or anything there was.

I: And there were just rucks in the?

MSD: Just rucks. Yeah. Had to cross the river on a horse no bridge. Get soaking wet and keep on going. It was great fun. I loved it.

I: And were you, how long did you spend in the Balkans?

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MSD: Well, I really don't know. I can't remember. I think I was, I went through, I went, I left Paris. I must have been a couple of months on that trip. Cause I went down, let me see. Uh, how did I go? Oh, yes. I went down by train to well, to Italy. And I was to have gone to Rome to check, to report to the American Red Cross commissioner in Italy, my commanding officer. But when I got to, those days it was before Mussolini, the train service was not very good. So you could kind of get off, I think I, I think I got off at Turin. And I'd been traveling in the night, so I went to a hotel and went to the bathroom. Got a bath, cleaned up. And uh, somewhere there how I've forgotten. I got word that my commissioner was no longer in Rome, but he was in Florence and that I was to go to Florence. So I went down from Turin to Pisa and changed trains at Pisa for Florence cause I didn't have any ticket but to Rome. Those days, you had to beddragged a Red Cross uniform in the back of an old ticket. And when you could do all kinds of things, even when the conductor came along and get my ticket he didn't speak Italian and so I didn't know what he was talking about. So anyway, I got to Florence, got off and the British (unintelligible) police were in the station, and he says, Where are you going? He says Turin. And I said, Well, I'm [unintelligible] sister. I'm going to report to my commanding officer whom I understand is here in Florence. Well, he said, I don't know about, the English, the English were in that sector after the war and the Italians were in some places, I mean, the French were in some places and the British were in someplace. British were in Florence. So he said, Well, I can't let you go up in the town. They've been having some rioting, and I won't be responsible. But he said I'll take you over to this hotel that's right across the street from the station, and I'll come and get you this evening in the meantime, I'll make inquiries, and I'll come and get you and we'll go and see how to get to find all about your commanding officer. So he came that and said, well, he's oh you'll have to go he's he lives, he has a villa outside of the was an American who had been living in Italy. He has a villa outside of Florence, so you'll have to go to get fiaker and go out and report to him tomorrow. So I didn't want to I got to his house. They said, well, he's not here, he's in, he's in a Montecatini which is in a warring place. So I had to go back to the hotel. But I didn't I had my pocket pick somewhere along the line. I didn't have any more money except to pay for my fiaker back to the hotel. I couldn't even pay my hotel bill. I had a typewriter and figured I could sell it. But even so, so I spoke to the clerk, and we called Colonel Bartlett in Montecatini and I spoke to him and I said Colonel Bartlett, I'm from the Paris office and I've been ordered to report to you. I think you have my papers. Oh no, he said never heard of you before. Well, I said What am I gonna do? I'm hear and you're there and I haven't gotten any more money. I'm broke. He said, Well, let me speak to the clerk. So he arranged with the clerk to pay my bill and give me some money. So I got on the train up to Montecatini this warring place where he was, and he was staying for a while and I stayed there and he sent for his car from Rome. And he took me. I was supposed to have gone down to cover an earthquake that was in the Mugello Valley, back of Florence. And I was going down with five car loads of corrugated iron barracks, because these people were homeless. Thousands of people were homeless and a great many were killed. I lost him in Rodan which is the crossing into Italy. And I don't know from that day to this one what happened to those five carloads of corrugated iron guards. I don't think the people in the Mugello Valley ever got them, I don't know who got them the railroads were all mixed up in those days. But anyway, he took me out to a lovely family estate in the Mugello Valley. These people had. Part of the house had been damaged by the hurricane, but by earthquake, the rest of it was alright. I stayed with them for a week or so, going around and getting stories of the earthquake and the Italian Red Cross were in there. And we cooperated with them. I got the stories of them

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and all that sort of thing. Then from there from Florence, what did I do? I can't remember. I think I went to Rome. May have done some...I don't remember really what I did and I think, I guess I went back to Paris.

I: What is a fiaker? What is a fiaker?

MSD: A cab? Taxi? Cab, taxi. A horse taxi, a hack as we would call it in the United States, a horse-drawn vehicle. Italian for cab. I think when I was ordered to the Balkans, I went through Trieste and I had a camera man and we went to Zagreb what was then like Croatia. Someplace like that and took a little train to Ragusa on the Adriatic. We got some stories of men who had been refugees there, Greeks who had their first papers in this country and they couldn't get back without the second papers and they were stuck there in Ragusa so we did some work with them and tried to get their papers expedited. Went on...oh I think it was an Italian gunboat. I went to Montenegro, did some work I did a lot of work in Montenegro. A couple of weeks. We're seeing clinical work that the Americans had been doing, especially with women and children. We did well, no little clinics that we set up as best we could. Perhaps if we were in a city like Tirana no that's no, that's Albania, Podgorica or something like that. Would we get, I guess we had a house and had beds in that and we were turning over that work to the local authorities. So I got stories about that. Went up in the mountains where we had a clinic. Just the clinic. It was all, for women and children because in the Balkans they wouldn't let men doctors see women and children it had to be women doctors. We've had to get together, a lot of old women doctors and send them down to start these Balkan clinics. So the women and children could come to that, to them. And I saw the work there and we were trying to get the local authorities to take it over and they probably weren't, all that. But anyway, so then I went on down to Albanian, did some work in Albania.

I: What was Albania like in those days?

MSD: Well, very rough going, in those days. very interesting, little city Tirana. We had a Red Cross commissioner there who had been doing some work. I saw I was very much interested in Albania because practically unknown country and it still is. But mountainous. That's why you did it on horseback because there weren't any buses or anything. Then I went across the mountains into Serbia by truck, I guess it was. And down to Salonika, oh to Monastir in Serbia. Well, we've done a great deal of work. Well, a woman, Dr. Dr. Rosa Lee Stromer, very famous old woman physician. She had a great clinic and a hospital there in Serbia. But I went on to Salonika. Then took the first train I've seen for a long time a train looks really very fancy. Down to Athens. I remember I met a British officer of some kind in Sarajevo. So he took he bought my dinner on the train. We had a real dining car with little pink candles and all that. Such a surprise that you change from riding on his back up and down mountains in the soaking rain. And we were going with just about twilight and there was a line of sunset and it was a big mountain. So I said to the waiter, what mountain is that? He said that madam is Olympus. That was Olympus was really very exciting that kind of thing. Suddenly brought back to the past. So then I was in Athens for awhile. I wanted to go to Constantinople, but nobody wanted me to. I didn't have any tickets. I would've gone anyway, but they had Bubonic plague and I didn't have any in Constantinople and I didn't have any shots for that, so I decided not to try. But I would

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love to see Constantinople. I had a hunch would be the only time I could. I never have since from Athens and I took a boat ship in the pareis and went back to Marseilles and back to Paris.

I: Were you traveling on your own at that time?

MSD: Yeah, sure. Well, I had a camera man and I left him. He was going from Athens to go back through Italy. And I didn't want to. So I went on back to Marseille. Well, I mean, I've traveled alone a great deal. I happen to have a camera man then what really will travel along? There's no problem.

I: Was it difficult in those postwar years at all? Was it difficult in those postwar years?

MSD: No, the food was rather was a little, little uninteresting. You're mostly eating, either goat or a kid in the Balkans. It was really glad to get the Avignon and get a good square meal or something else. It was rough going but not bad, not at all, and it wasn't really bad. You sleep in funny places, but that's all right. Nothing very great in the way of hardships.

I; What, what were the things that impressed you most about?

MSD: Listen, all Europe impressed me. I mean, I could, everything impressed me and I loved it. I liked France particularly. I got to see a good deal of France on my own. I mean, I was sent around different places.

I: Why were the stories important for the Red Cross?

MSD: Well, publicity and that's how they get their money. Publicity, you know about publicity.

I: Yes. So they circulated these stories?

MSD: Well, it went on the AP five stories a day on the API and then other stories to magazines with feature sections and Sunday pages and all that kind of thing at all? Well, it is all they had it all fixed up.

I: Your experiences over there change you or influenced greatly in any way, had a lasting effect on you when you came back to United States?

MSD: Well I think it did. I think it broadened my whole attitude toward, say to Europe and to the cities and the people and had a greater understanding of them. I think it was very helpful to need. I've gone back since then, but mostly to France and England. I've been to Spain and Portugal. I've never been, I haven't gone back to Italy or the Balkans. And I've never been in Germany and certainly not in Russia. So I couldn't say I knew all of Europe, but I know a certain amount of it. Switzerland. I've never been in Switzerland. I've seen it from the other side of Lake Geneva, from the French side, but I never got into it. I didn't have orders to. But now, I think we're just just kinda gassing. I don't think this is very apropos.

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I: Talk about World War I it's one of the wars that people don't know very much about.

MSD: Not anymore because you've had this other one since. But of course to me, it's very vivid. Yes. Well, many people have been born since then, don't know anything about it at all. That's right. I think that I couldn't have done a lot of the things I did do, running around Europe after the war alone and all that kind of thing. I couldn't have done it after the Second World War. That was a different picture. That's a different picture. You can't understand how you couldn't get around that though. You could go around because I know about what happened after yes. Yes. I was a different way. Oh, yes. I'm very aware of it. I couldn't have done all that. I remember getting back to Paris, I had gone down to see a friend of mine who's taken ill in the hospital in Orlean in France. And I've gone down to see him. I went down to Orlean at the hospitals, stayed overnight, came back to Paris and coming into at the Gar. An American MP, stop me and says, wanted to see a green ticket sister. It says there and I sort of green ticket granting ticket. What about a green ticket? It says you're supposed to have a green ticket or when they come back into Paris as well. I said I have got one. I know it wasn't even issued when I left three days ago, went over them and he said you're out of luck. I'm gonna have to take your passport. And I say, well, over my protests, I wish to an enter a protests because I know what was given with the green ticket. Well, he said I can't help that I orders to take all the passports people who haven't got green ticket. He said, I'll have to, you'll have to report to your head of your American Red Cross to get your passport back. So I reported to the head and he said, My God, you know all that because they've already said you're gonna have to go up and the recent on the police you see you have to go to that report. You'll have to go and report to the head of the military police, get to passport back. I can't do it for you. So I went up and said I came in and I have a green ticket. I didn't have one when I left because there wasn't any and I don't think it's right. I think it's very unfair. I think I don't think that was a thing to do. We talk back to them in those days. So of course he couldn't hold couldn't keep my part. He said, Well, I wanted to stop you girls running all over Europe. Just the answer. We was just running all over Europe you couldn't stop us. A lot of fun. The railroads are so disorganized, get by with anything in the way of what we call it an order de mision, which is a piece paper ordering you to go some who wanted a ticket adult, you flashed order de mision to meet the arm in front of some poor, miserable guard and Bartlett and an old farm and all we had a lovely time. But you say, right, I couldn't have done it this war.

I: There's a lot more serious the results of this war.

I: And it wasn't that one already frightening over there. If you saw the effects of the war or,

MSD: well, of course I saw a great deal in the hospitals and y and sick people and completely, I saw men with mutilated faces. That was the worst I think, special ward in Nugee hospital for the mutilay. That really was dreadful. And we had people making masks for these people with mutilated faces. They had to have their whole faces often had to be reconstructed. And they were being reconstructed with old photographs. And I knew at least one I forgotten who he was famous sculptor was making masks. People could go on the street before their faces were totally reconstructed because they were so horrible looking, they couldn't go on the street by themselves. People would be so shocked. But things that could not be shown to the general

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public really. Of course, an awful lot of that. That's what you saw. The damage of war, the terrible effects the war was what you saw. Of course, this last war would have been a lot worse.

I: All right. We'll stop there.

MSD: Yeah, I think so. Thank you. Don't mind me.