

Goldberg

Riggs/McKinney

Riggs: My name is Chuck Riggs, along with David McKinney, this is our assignment for Foxfire Holland, English 113N. We're going to be talking with Becky Goldberg of Dykstra Hall, who had a very interesting experience last winter. Very interesting experience last winter. Where're you from?

Goldberg: I'm from Hudson, New York. (shouting)

Riggs: That's on tape, folks! Where's Hudson, in relation to...

Goldberg: Thirty miles south of Albany.

Riggs: The Albany?

Goldberg: The Albany

Riggs: What kind of (silence) winter was this past winter? (laughs)

Goldberg: Well, I wasn't in Albany—yes I was, part of the time—but I was in a place called Lewiston... Near Buffalo, where they had to big snowstorm. And where I lived, it was nothing, but there it was... Oh, a regular snowstorm, and we got snowed in— what can I say?!..

Riggs: Ok, I'm telling you this because, well, that's what Chuck wants. Um, I was snowed in myself for seven days this past winter, but your story is really, well, fascinating.

Goldberg: Why?

Riggs: I'm supposed to ask the questions!

Goldberg: But I wanna know why?

Riggs: Tell me what happened to you this winter. I don't know the details, all I know is that you were snowed in for seven days.

Goldberg: Ok. Well, let's see, it was me and my uncle, he's twenty or so, twenty-one something like that, and my uncle's uncle's uncle...

Goldberg

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Goldberg: and my grandparents went to Puerto Rico and we stayed there, and had a big snowstorm--and--we got snowed in--and, really, we could have gotten out I 'spose, but we didn't. So we ate up everything within three days not thinkin! It never occurred to me that I'd be snowed in there for a week. And it never occurred to me that I'd be without food. So then we, uh--about the fourth day we started to get low on food and I told him (uncle) he better get out and get some. He just thought it was kind of funny that I'd even suggest that because there was no way he could get out! And like, I say we could've gotten out, to the point that we could've gotten out into the yard, but not into town or anything. And so then, uh, we had--like--four days going on the fifth day we had enough food and we were all right, 'cause she (aunt) had food all around. And uh, but is started getting really bad on the sixth day, and it was really bad on the seventh day. Sixth day we lived on, like, cup-o-soup, and the last day was kool-aid. The eighth day, the beginning of the next week, we got out--we probably shouldn't have but we did. And then when we did get out, they--I don't know about this for myself, I didn't go into town, but he (uncle) went into town and he had a lot of trouble getting food, because a lot of the stores were closed, because it was really bad. And nobody was on the streets, you hadda walk into town, and stuff. And it wasn't that bad there, it was worse in Buffalo. It was really bad in Buffalo, but it wasn't that bad there (Lewiston)

Riggs: But your general area did have all that snow. How long were you in there now? How many days?

Goldberg

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Goldberg: Uh, seven—seven days.

Riggs: You said, uh you shouldn't have gotten out, but you did. What did you mean by that superman?

Goldberg: What did you mean? (confusion)

Riggs : You said just awhile ago,.. "And then we got out—we shouldn't have gotten out, but we did." What'd mean by that?

Goldberg: Oh! Oh! Oh! Oh! I see what you're saying!... Oh! For our own safety we should've stayed in the house. If we'd had the food we wouldn't have even thought about going out. 'Cause it was really dangerous, and people were just—you know, like \_\_\_\_\_

Riggs: Getting trapped in their cars.

Goldberg: Yeah, stuff like that. Yeah, it was really bad in Buffalo, I mean, people were dying left and right because they got trapped in their cars and stuff. But he (uncle) didn't take a car, he walked, but he wasn't that smart (smirks) but I'm saying, it wasn't all that smart, but we had to.

McKinney: Besides the lack of food, what other inconveniences were there? \_\_\_\_\_

Goldberg: Boredom

McKinney: No, I mean was there loss of electricity or water, or anything like that?

Goldberg: Yeah, for a while.

McKinney: What?

Goldberg: Not water, 'cause we have well water \_\_\_\_\_

McKinney: So there was loss of electricity?

Goldberg: (interrupts) It was funny too! (laughs) It was cold too! Cold, but—um—

Riggs: Cold drink of water on a nice, icy winter day!

Goldberg: Yeah. We didn't use water that much. We—like, ..

Goldberg

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Goldberg: we didn't have trouble with showers or anything like that. Um—but, the heat—I don't know, because—I don't know if we had loss of heat because I was cold anyway. And we had a fireplace.

McKinney: Well, when you say "loss of electricity", do you mean\_\_\_

Goldberg: We didn't have light for a couple of days.

McKinney: Well, ok, was the electricity the source of the stove, if you had had food for the—was, was that your source of did you have gas for the stove?

Goldberg: I think we had gas (laughs)

Riggs: I'm kinda wondering—you—everything happened after you were in there, I mean, how did you get into this predic\_\_\_ I mean were you sitting around listening to Christmas carols.

Goldberg: Oh! No! Oh, you know how snow comes down, it just comes on—you know, and it wasn't that—it was like—it was about—I don't know, how high is three feet of snow (Chuck motions with hand, showing approximate height) Well, maybe it wasn't that high, but it was high, you know, just a regular snowstorm, but we hadn't gotten it. And I was just there enjoying myself (giggles). And I woke up the next morning and we were snowed in.

Riggs: Fantastic...I have—I'm wondering what it's like. I have fasted for a weekend after reading an article that "fasting is really beautiful," So I didn't eat anything for an entire weekend, just drank water, and I was hallucinating after about fifteen hours of that. And I'm wondering what it was like to go that long—like after four days just eating cup-o-soup and kool-aid.

Goldberg: Well I didn't go four days eating cup-O-soup and kool-aid I went\_\_\_

Goldberg

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Riggs: I mean after like about four days.

Goldberg: Well, I-I lived on pretty decent food for four days, before going on five days. And I ate everything in the house\_\_\_ you know how grandmothers are, they always have, you know, good stuff; turkeys and steaks and what not. And, uh, you know, it wasn't that bad. I wasn't too thrilled about living on Kool-Aid that one day—I mean, that's what it was, we ate the Kool-Aid

McKinney: Powdered?

Goldber: Yeah (laughs) But what can you do? I mean, I wasn't really worried about whether I was— what I was eatin'; I just\_\_\_ as a matter of fact, I was just so—kinda, I—the last day I was really worried to the point that I—didn't really bother to be hungry.

McKinney: Ok, you—you mention this "getting worried," well, besides the obvious\_\_\_ well, were you—was the word FEAR in your vocabulary?

Goldberg: Just the last day.

McKinney: Ok, then, up until the last day, it was so weird that it was fun\_\_\_

Goldberg: \_\_\_ So weird that it was fun right!

McKinney: \_\_\_ So weird that it was fun, but, ok, past that\_\_\_

Goldberg: (interrupts) No—I guess at times I was kinda scared, but I just—well, I'm like that anyway, I won't—I won't—I'll put off fear—it's just weird, I don't know.

McKinney: Well, pa st that, let's say, if it had gone on for three or four more days, would you have really

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McKinney: been scared?

Goldberg: I think so yeah—I don't know, though, I can't really say because, I mean, I was scared, but I just don't let stuff like that get to me. I mean, he—he's the closest of anybody I had. (uncle), you know, and I guess that helps a lot, like if he was just either one of you two or something like that, I woulda really been scared, because I don't trust you guys, like—I don't mean to say this I trusted him, and I—I couldn't picture anything happening.

Riggs: You figured he'd get you outa there someway.

Goldberg: Yeah! that's what it was, 'N'—I guess in the same way he was kinda countin' on me for the samething, but were just didn't let each other know that.

McKinney: All right. I can understand what you're saying (Mr. Kindness)

Riggs: Did you try to get help at all while you were stuck in there, like banging on the phone, or yelling out the window?

Goldberg: We tried calling, but—the lines were dead. We tried turning on the T.V.!' But we didn't have any (electricity)

Riggs: Right, yell to Walter Cronkite, "Get us outta here!",

Goldberg: (laughs) Yeah.

McKinney: Ok, where was your nearest neighbor, how far from sixteen nearest neighbor were you?

Goldberg: Oh, about three-hundred yards.

McKinney: Oh, I take it even if they were there, they're probably in the same situation that you are.

Goldberg: Worse—'cause they're two old people. See, were

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Goldberg: right here (motions middle) and they're to our left 300 feet, and then--300 yards!--and like, about 500 yards away is a big highway. And very rarely were there cars. Very rarely-if at all. And if it--I can't think! (laughs)

McKinney: Well, OK, you say-you mention the fact that, that the two of you had that built-in, over-the-years type trust, so it-it didn't bother you. Now let's say--um, you're going--let's say you're with a person you'd just met, a friend from school but not someone you could put your total trust in, simply because you did not know that person. You say that-that fear would've set in a lot sooner?

Goldberg: Well-I said that, yeah, but I can't guarantee it. It doesn't take much for me to trust somebody, and if I was in a situation like that, I guess I'd have to trust the person I was with, I mean you kinda really hafta depend on 'em that they'll--that they won't go nuts on ya or something. And that's probably ~~the~~ where I would've gotten upset, if somebody that I had been with was just so, um, dependent on me, you know--

Riggs: You mighta cracked up, huh?

Goldberg: They-they-that person woulda gone nuts , you know, at the littlest thing. And-and, it wasn't really anything, like, really, because we just-we were ju-

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Goldberg: st so-having so much fun! Because this had never happened to us before! It was so neat!.

McKinney: It was like a frolic.

Goldberg: Oh, it was so neat! And-but now that I think about it, it's nothing that big, it wasn't anything drastic, and I don't think we could've ever really gotten really--I don't think we ever would've died

Riggs: Hey, like this is a story--we're not treating it as if you'd been trapped in a car or something for four days, it's just kinda interesting that you were stuck in a--you were snowed in a house for seven, eight days, and you were living on Kool-Aid that last day, that's--that's interesting!  
That's NEWS!

McKinney: That's NEWS!

Goldberg: I don't even know if I--those--mmm--

McKinney: Well, well, OK, OK--when uncle got back, or when you went back home, what were the reactions of the first relatives, or friends, that you related the story to?

Goldberg: Oh, they didn't care, they go through that stuff all the time. I mean like--well, my mother, it's a farm they've got, OK, and we were trapped in a farm house, and my mother is a farm girl, and she's been through that and worse, so--

Riggs: What would your reaction be if you went without food

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Riggs: for two days, I mean, you're living on Kool-Aid--  
then you have to come back here and eat-----SAGA!

Goldberg: (laughs) Well, I don't think SAGA is that bad, I  
mean, I can put up with it, it's there.

Riggs: Just a little levity here.

Goldberg: But I mean, anything's better than not eating any-  
thing.

McKinney: Well, did that sort of situation--did that sort of  
situation make you paranoid to the fact that--like,  
now you think that it's good to have a back stock  
of food in the house, or doesn't it bother you?

Goldberg: M-m, it really doesn't.

McKinney: Do you now hate powdered Kool-Aid?(chuckles)

Goldberg: I don't like Kool-Aid anyway!(laughs) I didn't  
like Kool-Aid when I started out! Nah.

Riggs: What is your general attitude about the entire ex-  
perience? Now, I can see that you're not "uppity"  
about it, but what is your general attitude?

Goldberg: (laughs) Well, I---

McKinney: Is it careless?

Goldberg: Well, I suppose I was lucky--not lucky because I  
got out of it--well, I s'pose I'm lucky--but, but  
it's an experience that I don't think everybody  
can have. But--mmm, but--(laughs)

Riggs: (tongue in cheek) Was it a good experience?

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McKinney: Did you learn anything?

Goldberg: Did I learn anything? (cynically)

McKinney: --from the fact--having--let's say--OK, what'd you do minus the television--which young people in America today are accused of watching too much of--obviously minus music, and--and um, did you read to pass the time? Did you just talk, or play cards? Or--what?

Goldberg: (laughs) We played cards! WE played cards, not much, a little, we talked a lot. We, um--I slept alot!! We didn't do anything spectacular. I guess we did talk an awful lot.

McKinney: Well, um--was the talking a defense mechanism--in terms of--well, if we talk we can't think about what's happening.

Goldberg: Nah, 'cause we talked about what was going on a lot. We thought it was--well, you guys are taking the attitude as if it was something really drastic that I went through--and it wasn't that. At the time that I went through it I thought it was fun as hell--the only time I even thought about it was when I didn't have that much.(food)

Riggs: That's not the attitude I have, like, "WOW, she lived through it!", I just find your experience very, very interesting.

Goldberg: But see, I just can't.

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McKinney: I know, the publicity. (to Riggs) She told me before that she's not that kind of person, and I honestly believe it. OK, but--during the time you were eating and before you had to go on this Kool-Aid deal, was it like --since you were snowed in and bored--it's a fact that when you're home and bored people tend to eat. Not everyone, but a general trend. Well, did you have your basic three meals, or was it one, continuous meal? Like, "Hey Becka, let's have some snacks"

Goldberg: (laughs) Well, like, we ate a lot. Like, um, we ate a lot anyway because I eat a lot. I didn't think anything of it the first four days. I didn't eat breakfast because I didn't get up early enough; but I ate lunch and dinner and in-between.

Riggs: I think this is all so fascinating, I really do.

Goldberg: Well, I'm glad, next time I'll bring you along.  
(laughs)

Riggs: Did a feeling of "Let's wait it out", prevail?

Goldberg: Wait it out?! You don't wait it out! That's not how you do it!

Riggs: Oh, that's the general idea, isn't it?

Goldberg: Well, no, you just--it's not so much that! I mean--OK--I mean, I made a big thing out of the closeness between me and my uncle (loud belch from cluster outside, all laugh) and I made a big, um,-----

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Riggs: Welcome to the transcript!!

Goldberg: ---I made a big thing of my uncle and me being real close, I s'pose it's only because we are so close. And, um, but I don't think it would've mattered.

McKinney: (snickers) Let's see what we have so far.

TAPE ENDS TEMPORARILY

BEGINS AGAIN

Riggs: We're recording? Dig it. We've got---some stuff here that's not too bad. (dramatically) We have grown to know and love Becka even more through this experience. Thanks very much, Beck, we really appreciate your time--and, uh, I thank you, David thanks you-----

McKinney: I thank you.

Riggs: ----and Foxfire Holland thanks you.