

Well Sisters, here it is, the first issue of ON OUR WAY in several months, with plenty of pizzazz and determination.

The Women's Center has been receiving lots of new energy from women who have just started working here, as well as sadly seeing some well-loved sisters depart...

ON OUR WAY reflects these changes with new ideas and directions and a firm commitment to helping fulfill the visions and hopes of the many women who have worked here; of the women who have come simply to connect with other women in womanspace; and of all those who have played, suffered and struggled here, in the process of growing strong with and among women.

So in this cold winter month this issue is dedicated to all of us and to the warmth and beauty of our sharing.

With this issue we hope/plan to begin regular monthly publication. We have expanded the format of ON OUR WAY to include two new features. In addition to the news section, which consists of reports from the projects of the Women's Center, we are adding: *Looking In*, a section in which, through articles and interviews, we will provide a closer look at the process and politics of the Center projects, and the women working in them; and *Looking Out*, in which we will cover important issues taking place outside of the Women's Center.

In this month's *Looking In* section we present an article by the Introductory committee discussing the reasons for their making major changes in their weekly meeting format. In the next issue of ON OUR WAY we will be writing on forced sterilization and the work of the Committee to End Sterilization Abuse.

In *Looking Out* this month we present an interview with Lucy Taylor, Chairwoman of the Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, chapter of the Carolina Brown Lung Association, and activist in the J.P. Stevens boycott. In coming months we will be writing articles on the Winnie Mandela Solidarity Coalition (a coalition of women of color and white women working for the liberation of Southern Africa); Social Security disability benefits: who qualifies and how to effectively work to secure your benefits or those of someone you are acting in support of; the struggles of Hispanic women in the Boston area; and the Harriet Tubman House, a community center in Roxbury.

Welcome to ON OUR WAY and the work of the Cambridge Women's Center.

ON OUR WAY

JANUARY, 1978



Patricia Brandt

RAPE CRISIS CENTER

492-RAPE, a 24-hour hotline. Phone and in-person counseling for women who have been raped or attacked. Staffers will accompany rape victims to the hospital, police station, and related court appearances, if desired. Discussion groups: last Sunday of the month.

We have had several new developments in our internal functioning. We continue to operate as a collective and make decisions on a consensus basis. However, certain needs demanded attention, so in October we invited a facilitator to come in and investigate our internal functioning processes with us. We worked on developing trust in a group situation and on a formal decision-making model.

Another major change for us is the entrance of 18 new members. The energy, support and ideas from these new women is greatly welcomed.

We are currently experiencing a financial crisis. Speaking engagements and donations constitute our primary sources of income. The telephone, answering service, and our small rent to the Women's Center make up the bulk of our on-going expenses. Unfortunately, the Crisis Center is experiencing a great lull in incoming funds. We ask for women to continue to support us through these financially hard times.

LESBIAN LIBERATION

This is an open, relaxed discussion group for lesbian women and women going through the process of coming out. New women are always welcome. We meet Thursday evenings from 8:00-10:00 p.m. in the living room of the Women's Center.

There is no special news from L.L., other than to say that our meetings have been well-attended lately and that, as always, we're open to new women joining us on Thursday nights.



TRANSITION HOUSE

Crisis Line: 661-7203. A temporary refuge for battered women and their children. Provides supportive environment, medical, legal and welfare referrals. Volunteers and donations needed. Call the Women's Center (354-886) for more information.

There are now two support groups for battered women meeting weekly at the Women's Center. These groups are always open to new women, the only condition being that women who attend are, or have been, battered. Women from the Transition House staff help facilitate the meeting and themselves are also battered women. The meetings have been very exciting and have been providing a lot of women with support in and outside of the meetings. The support groups meet on Mondays, 7:30-9:30 p.m. and Wednesdays, 10-11:30 a.m.

INTRODUCTORY

Open discussion groups to which all women are welcome: Wednesday nights, 8:00- 10:00 p.m. Introductory also helps start general and special interest, consciousness-raising and support groups.

The Introductory collective has decided to make major changes in the format of Wednesday night discussion groups. Please read the Looking In section for a detailed description of how we came to the decision to make the changes. Our schedule of topics now falls into four main categories: Women's History; Women and Violence; Women, Work and Economics; and Women and Health.

Discussion Schedule:

Women's History

- Jan. 11 - Women's History - A Consciousness Raiser
- Jan. 18 - Black Women's History
- Jan. 25 - Working Women in History
- Feb. 1 - Lesbians and History

Women and Violence

Feb. 8th, 15th and 22nd

Women, Work and Economics

March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th

Women and Health

April 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th

We are very excited about this schedule and we hope and encourage many women to attend.



EMOTIONAL COUNSELING

ECG is a collective of fifteen women who do long and short term counseling, and give referrals to other feminist counseling collectives and/or individuals. We primarily try to see women who cannot afford to pay for counseling and/or who want to be seen in a Women's Center atmosphere. We ask for a small cash donation or a contribution of time/energy to the Center.

In order to broaden our counseling skills we recently had two workshops for ECG members. Wendy Aurich, a feminist primal therapist, led a workshop in primal therapy; and Karen Schultz led a workshop in bioenergetic exercises. We view these workshops as skill-sharing sessions in which we have the opportunity to broaden our experience and our talents. In fact, if there are any of you out there who would like to share some special therapy skills with us, we would like to hear from you. Please call the Center or leave a note on the bulletin board for us.



WOMEN'S SCHOOL

The Women's School is a collective effort of women wanting to teach ourselves and our sisters what we need to know: things like our own history and the history of other liberation movements, the way our bodies work, our relationships to different culture forms, and skills. Since education doesn't mean much apart from practice, we hope that some courses will evolve into action projects. Our office is located at 595 Mass Ave, Cambridge, Mass, 02139. 492-4845.

The fall-winter term of the Women's School will soon be over and we are pleased with what has been a very successful term. We had a very large registration and courses have been well attended.

We are now in the process of putting together the course catalogue for the spring term. Please write to us if you would like more information. The following dates are definite, however, the courses listed as possibilities are still being negotiated and we are not certain right now if we will be able to offer them this term.

Definite Courses

Marxism; Lesbianism; Politics of Violence; Issues in Socialist Feminism; Introduction to Feminism; Black Women's Literature; Women's History; Women in Socialist Countries.

Possibilities

Nutrition; Theatre; Immigrant Women In Literature.

Dates

Classes begin March 13.
Registration for mothers:
March 2 & 3: 3-7 p.m.
Registration for non-mothers:
March 9 & 10: 3-7 p.m.
March 11: 1-5 p.m.



Staff is responsible for taking care of the every-day running of the Center: taking phone calls, making referrals, handling crises as best we can, meeting and interacting with women who come to the Center, shoveling the walk, supporting one another. We are all feminists who see working at the center as a vital part of putting our commitments into action.

The report from staff mainly concerns changes occurring within the staff membership. Meg and Esther have both reduced the amount of time they will be working at the Center. Meg is now in a carpentry training program and Esther is on a leave of absence and will only be here part-time. We will miss their full-time energy and presence. Several new women have joined the staff: Juanita comes with a long history of political activism in the Hispanic community. She will be continuing that work at and out of the Women's Center along with helping develop a bi-lingual presence at the Center itself; Cristy, an activist at the Center and sometimes staffer joins the full-time staff as worker coordinator of ON OUR WAY. Along with working on the newsletter and expanding and coordinating the mailing list with other feminist groups, she will work on developing community outreach/support programs; Candace, recently returned to the Women's Center and the Boston area women's community is working nearly full-time as a staffer as she is working on reorganizing the entire resource file and referral list at the Center. Also joining the staff are Joann, Lynn and Kathy. More on them next month.



The Women's Community Health Center, Inc. is not a project of the Women's Center. It is an independent, woman-controlled and run health facility, offering quality health care based on the principle of self help. It is with concern and anger that we present this statement from Women's Community Health.

As part of the attack on women's right to abortion, anti-abortion forces are using the tactic of attempting to close facilities that are offering abortions without a clinic license. Women's Community Health has been trying for two and a half years to obtain a license and has met with every conceivable obstacle. During this time, however, we have been operating legally under our doctor's license, a common practice.

The last remaining hurdle for getting a license is meeting state building code specifications. The Department of Public Health, responding to the pressure brought by misogynists and anti-abortionists such as Raymond Flynn, is insisting that these changes be made or we will be closed down. Because we rent our present space and have no lease, and because renovations here would cost us \$30,000, we have decided to move. This was not an easy decision, to say the least, and is going to take a lot of work and community support to accomplish. We have signed a 5 year lease, with an option to renew for 5 years, for a site in Central Square, Cambridge. Renovation costs at the new

site will be less, we will be on a major public transportation line, and the space is more versatile. We must still get final approval from the State for making the move.

Moving is going to be a very expensive process and we really need to rely on the help of women in the community: we need to raise a lot of money. We are looking for donations and for women who have (or know of someone who has) money to lend at low interest rates, and we are also looking for women who can help us get building materials and furniture for free or cheap. Please call or write if you can offer us help in these areas.

Finally, the women of Women's Community Health want to say that it is clear that all these regulations have nothing to do with the quality of health care. Rather, in the selective and harassing manner in which they are enforced, these regulations and procedures reflect the many obstacles placed in the way of women when we begin to take back control of our bodies, and our lives.

-- Women's Community Health Center, Inc.
137 Hampshire St., Cambridge,
Massachusetts, 02139 547-2302

*From the Newsletter Staff:
Projects not reported in the news section this month: Core, Staff/Projects, Coalition to Stop Institutional Violence (an affiliated group of the Center), and the Lesbian Defense Fund. These projects will be reported on next month.*

Financial Policy: we are undecided what policy to follow in terms of charging/ being able to support the cost of putting out ON OUR WAY. Options we are considering: free to all with a strong request for donations of various amounts; \$2.00 subscriptions for a year, 15¢ per copy when picked up at the Center; \$1.00 subscription for six months; 15¢ per issue with everyone somehow getting that to us for each issue received. We want to wait for a month in order to get a clear idea of the total cost

of producing ON OUR WAY in its current format. Part of our dilemma is that we would like to simply charge 15¢ per copy, a charge which we feel is reasonable, affordable to most women (ON OUR WAY is free to women who cannot afford to pay for it), and sufficient to cover our costs. Would it work to ask women to drop 15¢ off at the Center for each copy they receive...what do you think? Please write us and let us know. We also welcome any letters in response to the content of this newsletter. While we are considering our financial policy, please feel free to drop off or send in donations to help pay for this issue. When you're at the Center ask a staffwoman for the On Our Way donation box...

Recently a Hispanic woman, Juanita, started working at the Women's Center (see Staff report). She will be working with the newsletter staff helping develop and write articles in Spanish on issues of importance to Hispanic women. So the next issue of ON OUR WAY will be bilingual. A Portuguese woman, Zarida, has also said that she would like to work with ON OUR WAY writing articles about Portugal, the women's movement in Portugal, and the struggles of Portuguese women in this country. These articles would be both in Portuguese and English. We are all very excited about the possibilities and about working together...In order to continue to grow though, we will need financial support from women already reading ON OUR WAY...and remember, 15¢ per copy will get us through. Thanks.



Messages and Announcements:

Over 40 Women: from Lorraine, Women's Center Staff.

Where are You? I'm a 42 year (old) woman and been coming to the Center for three years, off and on. You ask, What's there for me? Information galore: do you know what your rights as a woman really are, such as legal, health, work, learning? There are bulletin boards with all this information for you...So come on in, come as you are, no fees, no hassle, just a place to meet other women and gain more knowledge on your rights now, as a woman, person and over 40.

Lorraine, 42 going on 43.

From Dotty Prout, long time staff member and friend of the Women's Center:

A Gift of Life

I am but one being
and in so being

Let me give of myself

So, I may not only grow
to learn of life
But also live it.



Self-Help Groups at Women's Community Health

Woman Controlled Natural Birth Control:
starts January 18, 7-10 p.m.

Lesbian Health Care:
starts February 22, 7-10 p.m.

Paramedic Skills:
starts March 22, 7-10 p.m.

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LOOKING IN

The Introductory Committee is currently planning some radical changes in the format of our Wednesday night discussion groups. The Introductory discussions have always followed a structure in which each woman in the group would speak about her personal experience on the topic without interruption. After each woman had spoken there would be an open discussion.

We've been questioning the effectiveness of this traditional consciousness-raising format for several reasons. First, women often come to these discussions with no prior knowledge of, and no particular interest in, the topic being discussed that night. Women often come because the Center is an interesting place to go Wednesday night and it is an opportunity to make new friends. It has been our experience that on any given night with a group of ten women, perhaps two or three have given previous thought to the topic and have anything to say about it when it is their turn to speak. The fact that few women participate fully in these groups has been defeating the whole purpose of consciousness-raising. Since discussions are dull, women get bored and, consequently, don't return to the Center. Attendance at these discussions has been declining and recently been as low as four women. Needless to say, we, on the Introductory Committee, have been frustrated and discouraged by this declining interest. The old C-R format may have led to an exciting exchange of ideas between women in the past, but no longer.

Starting in January, we're trying something new. Instead of having completely different topics every week there will be four major topic groups, each running a series of several weeks. The four topics will be on Women's History; Women and Violence; Women, Work and Economics, and Women and Health. This change will enable us to cover topics in more depth, with more continuity and, hopefully, encourage women

to attend a whole series of Wednesday nights.

The really major change though, will be in the structure of the discussions themselves. Instead of just traditional C-R, we plan to bring in guest speakers with specialized learning and experience for one or more nights in each series. For example, a possible speaker for the Health series would be someone from the Women's Community Health Center. For the Work series, we plan to have women who have gone into such non-traditional fields as welding and bricklaying.

The purpose of these speakers is to stimulate ideas for the discussions that will follow later the same evening or the next Wednesday. These discussions will take the form of question and answer sessions, traditional C-R, debates, etc. Women who come to one Wednesday night group will be encouraged to come back for the whole series with more ideas from suggested reading lists.

The old C-R format still has its merits; it is still important for every woman to get a chance to talk about her personal experience and hear others talk about theirs. The Introductory Committee will continue to start independent C-R groups and occasionally include the structure into Wednesday nights. We feel, though, that the above mentioned changes can only vastly improve the quality of the discussions.

We're excited about doing these topics, and we think other women would enjoy becoming part of Introductory and working with us. Please contact us if you would like to work with us and/or if you would like to be a guest speaker.

LOOKING OUT

Fighting for Breath and Boycotting J.P. Stevens: Lucy Taylor

So we had a man who drowned in the reservoir and I guess I was, um, a smart-alec, so I asked the boss man how long he would stand him up in the corner before he'd come out and call him dead. He didn't think that was very funny, of course, so I was known as a person that would organize and I was watched very closely. But in the meantime I was also breathing in the dust. I didn't know it would make me sick. I was always going into the hospital on leave of absence to get oxygen. I would come back out. The doctor didn't tell me what it was. I'd go back to work.

Lucy Taylor is from Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina. She is president of the local chapter of the Carolina Brown Lung Association and is actively involved in the Boycott of the J.P. Stevens Company, the second largest textile manufacturer in the United States. Lucy spent 36 years of her life working in the mills, mills owned for part of that time by J.P. Stevens. Though Lucy survived some of the worst industrial working conditions in existence today in the U.S., she now has byssinosis, also known as brown lung, an incurable lung disease caused by inhaling toxic levels of cotton dust. Lucy gladly agreed to an interview with ON OUR WAY. In person she was warm and dynamic...the interview came very easily in light of what she was relating. In agreeing to be interviewed, Lucy's only demand was that women who read of the textile workers struggle would join in the fight by boycotting J.P. Stevens products. J.P. Stevens products are listed on the last page of the interview. If you would like the addresses of groups involved in the boycott, and of the Carolina Brown Lung Association, please call or write the Women's Center.



[Lucy Taylor]

Some brief information on J.P. Stevens that we felt is not adequately covered in the interview: 37% of the labor force in North and South Carolina is employed by the textile industry: 589,000 women and men in all. At the J.P. Stevens mill in Roanoke Rapids where the current boycott and organizing efforts are focused, 41.7% of the workers are women, 40% of the workers are black women and men. Black workers have only 3% of the white-collar jobs and 7% of the skilled craft jobs: black women hold, if any, only a minute proportion of these jobs (the exact statistics were not available to us as we wrote this article). 91% of white women employees are working at semi-skilled and unskilled jobs; 73% of white male employees are classified as managerial, administrative, professional or technical.

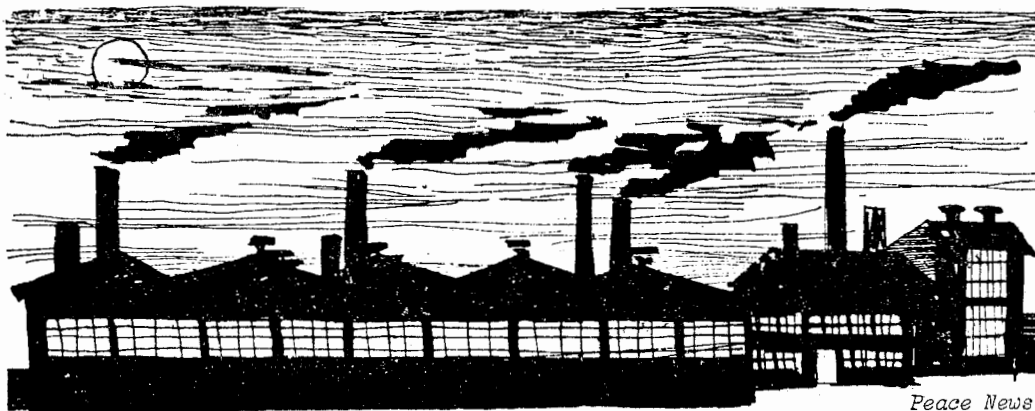
It has been estimated by the U.S. Department of Labor that as many as 100,000 textile mill workers are now suffering from brown lung. Medical researchers have

estimated that 25% of all textile workers have been partially deafened by the noise of the looms. The average wage of \$3.71 is the lowest in the U.S. for manufacturing industries, and women are earning an average wage far lower than \$3.71, with black women earning the least of all.

The southern textile industry is the only major manufacturing industry left in the U.S. that is not organized - where the workers do not have union representation. The struggle for union representation in the mills has been a long and violent one. In the 1930's there were several long and bloody strikes. Management used mass firings, physical intimidation and violence, scabs, and the tactic of simply closing a mill that was being struck and moving its operations elsewhere in the Carolinas. J.P. Stevens in recent years has used the Ku Klux Klan to try and intimidate workers into dividing along race lines. Despite this, according to Lucy Taylor, unity among black and white workers in Roanoke Rapids is high, and both black and white women are in leadership positions in the struggle.

Having been crushed in the 1930's, union activity did not regain its earlier momentum until the 1960's. Finally, in 1974, a majority of the workers in the seven J.P. Stevens' mills in Roanoke Rapids voted to be represented by the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, AFL-CIO. J.P. Stevens has refused to enter meaningful contract negotiations, continues to harass and intimidate workers, and has blocked free elections in other mills and plants.

Organizers like Lucy Taylor are focusing their attention on the mills in Roanoke Rapids, believing that if they win a major victory there, organizing efforts at textile mills throughout the south will be made much easier. The boycott was chosen as the primary tactic because it undermines Stevens' ability to simply shut down operations in a particular area, by attacking the profits of the company nationwide...



Peace News

I was born in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina. When I was going to school you could go in the mills anytime you wanted to, at whatever age and we would go in and help people do different jobs. So when I got old enough to work I knew how to weave, I knew how to join the patterns. So I didn't go in as a learner when I went to work.

How old were you when you started working for a salary?

I went to school and worked when I was fourteen. I went to school and worked too. Why just about everyone in Roanoke Rapids did. I mean the ones that were not rich.

At that time you didn't pay as much attention to class because we all went to the same schools and things like that. We lived in the city limits, my father had raised hogs, we had three cows, a big garden, chickens and all that. So far as money was concerned it wasn't talked before the children...but it was the thing to do to go in the mills...everybody was going to school and working too. So I went in. We didn't notice the dust, of course, that made your nose itch and made you feel like you were taking a cold. But we didn't notice it then, cause we would get out and, well I was on a softball team then...All the plants had their own softball teams then...we'd play against one another. It was a very sporty little town then. That was when Simmons [the company that owned the mills before J.P. Stevens] had it.

Well, then I got older. I was married when I was nineteen. I was twenty-three when I had a daughter. Then my husband and I separated and then I really had to go to work. Then I really had to be responsible because I was her sole support. So it was work, work, work. It didn't seem to be so hard then because Stevens hadn't bought the mills. They didn't buy the mills until '56 and they made such a drastic change when they bought them. They brought their own men from other places. I think that some of them were the scum of the earth. In '56 soon as Stevens bought it, he started bricking up the windows in the mills...all that dust...I had to come in with the heat and humidity...just get you so hot...and the lint: so much you could just pick it off you...And you have no lunch period and you eat your sandwich in one hand, your drink in the other...set it down, run on down, start up your loom.

You have to keep working while you are eating your lunch?

Yes. You can't shut your job down. And you bite the sandwich and you bite just as much lint as you do sandwich and a lot of people go in the rest room to eat. Even the rest room is dirty, and I think it would take my appetite to even think about going in the rest room to eat. Really the company doesn't want you to go in there to eat...really they don't want you going in there, period. I remember when they transferred me to Rosemary #2...they moved my looms up there...and right at the end of the rest room door was a cow bell and I went in the rest room and just as I got in there I heard this bell ringing real loud. I said, "Is that a fire drill?" I didn't know what happened...I never heard such a sound. One of the girls said, "No, that's the boss man telling everyone to get out of the rest room". And that's the way J.P. Stevens operates. I think they send them away to bad school. You can't understand how...they have promoted some of the people I went to school with, that I've known, and they have changed into devils. Just to keep their jobs...just to get the pay or something...Mistreating people...Why, I think if they were to promote a boy, one of the men, up to be supervisor, he'd mistreat his own mother.

What would happen if someone refused a promotion to supervisor?

Um. My nephew, my niece's husband, was offered a supervisor job on another shift and his wife didn't like to stay alone at night because their child had asthma and they had to rush him to the hospital. She didn't like to stay home alone. And he refused it...and so it wasn't long before he was looking for another job. He got a better job over at Allard Steel, but he was killed over there. They don't care what happens to you, all they care about is the dollar. And that's the only way you can hurt J.P. Stevens and that's why we're boycotting. And they are having to cut the costs of things they are selling in order to sell them and it is hurting.

But they will try to tell the people that the Union is trying to take their jobs away from them by the boycott. They have the people so confused that some of them are frightened...afraid that their jobs are going to be closed down. When there is a union meeting...J.P. Stevens has this Wilson Lambert...I guess you've heard of him... the man in the trench coat and dark glasses...he stands out and counts the cars and the people that are going in. So he told a friend of mine, James Harold, Ola's husband, he said, "Alright, you keep on going in that Union Hall and they'll shut the mills down"...and James said, "I don't give a damn if they do" and he kept on going in that Union Hall.

Are the mills the only available work in the area?

Well, there are other plants...

So everyone is dependent on the mills and the plants for their jobs.

Yes.

Were women and men doing the same work in the mills and were women being paid a different wage than the men?

Well they weave, both sex...the loom fixers were all men and, of course, they got higher pay. The weavers as far as I know...I didn't have a man working in with me to compare the wages...

We were paid by the pick, by piece work...they started right in, Stevens' did, saying that you can't talk, don't speak to one another, don't have anything to do with the person next to you unless it's about your job, and that only for a couple of seconds...So women learned to read lips and make motions... and so that's the way we did it...If we wanted to tell somebody something we would make the words with our lips, "Meet me in the rest room, I'm going now". But the boss man would follow you around. They thought that women were supposed to obey the men. You know the old saying about keeping the women pregnant and barefoot? Well, I think J.P. Stevens wanted to keep us barefooted... they wanted to be our boss...they wanted to make us jump...lose our self-respect...not know how to organize. When you would talk back they would either send you out direct or give someone else your job and give you some job that wasn't as good. And they would say, "We care nothing at all about friendship" and if you have any children at home...if you went to the boss man and say, My daughter is sick, well, he'd say, "We can't have that, you'll just have to choose between your job and your child. Get somebody else to look after your child."

You were talking earlier, before we started recording this interview, about Liberty Mutual Insurance Company and J.P. Stevens...and about lost-time accidents...would you talk about that now?

Well, the place was dirty, just all the cotton, lint, on the floor...it was hot...



"Every person is born with the capacity for dignified work and a human existence."

the water from the humidifiers was coming down and that made the cotton more dangerous because you would slip on the floor. J.P. Stevens had no lost-time accidents because they wouldn't report them. If you fell down on a slippery floor they would put you in the office and let someone else run your loom or run your job. They would let you go home the next morning, and you would go home in shock...which I did...this happened to me...and my husband saw me and he knew that I was in shock. He wanted to know what was wrong and why I was looking so funny. I said, "I fell down last night" and he called the doctor. I had a concussion, had some cracked ribs. I was put to bed. I was just given a leave of absence because I had stayed in the mill after I had fallen, instead of being given a lost-time accident for which I could have collected compensation. They will send you over to the doctor and if the doctor puts a cast on you, as soon as the cast dries they will want you to go back to work or go back in the mill. There have been instances when the mill will ask the doctor to let them send an ambulance over to the hospital and bring a patient out...and just let her go in the mill and they would furnish a nurse with the person and let them stay in a few hours in the mill. Then they'd send them back to the hospital in the same ambulance, so it would not be a lost-time accident.

Oh, but they pay you. Someone pays you...cause they have a big feed every once and a while when they have about a million hours without a lost-time accident and the people go in for the feed with their arms in the cast, and with their heads all bound up and some of them crippled, on crutches...but they feed them because they have earned that. I don't know if the Liberty Mutual Insurance Company of Boston pays for that, or if the Stevens Company pays for it. They mostly serve barbecue and can you imagine working in a place and smelling barbecue from early morning till time for you to go out, and doing your job in a hot place...you'd smell barbecue all day and be so sick you wouldn't even eat your share, when they called you out.

And that's the attitude they have and they haven't changed yet...It's still going on like that. But I came out of the plant in '63 with byssinosis or brown lung.

Brown Lung

If I had known that I was getting brown lung I would have stopped work a long time before and I would not have been as sick as I am now. But they just don't tell you those things. Then when you find out that you have it they don't tell you that you can get compensation. They just don't tell you anything. I'd been in the hospital so many times with leave of absence with a breathing problem, but no one told me what it was or what caused it.

And it's caused by the dust, the lint from the looms?

The dust...that causes brown lung...you don't see that...they speed up the looms so fast...and the dust is so fine that unless the sun shines through, you can't see that. And you coughed a lot...coughed up white stuff...and you wouldn't have enough oxygen to breath...you couldn't take in enough oxygen and of course you'd go to the water spigot to get water and then the boss man would follow you over there and supervise you...and he would count how many times you went to the spigot to get a drink of water and all those things...anything he could get you on...especially if you were more or less a person that would be easy to organize.

Once you know you've got Brown Lung...what is the treatment...is there a cure?

There is no cure, but they can help you. In other words when your lungs give out, that's all. In the hospital each time they give you oxygen...Louis Harold has a oxygen tank next to his bed at home, and yet he still has to be carried to the hospital. It's just something you can't get rid of. I'm hoping that we can get future medical bills from Liberty Mutual because someone might come up with something that could help us. They are inventing plastic lungs, kidneys...maybe they can come up with

something to help us. But with brown lung you feel like you're in a vise, or that someone has a fist around you and just squeezing the life out of you, just all the time, just about. I take medicine to keep me from coughing so much and then I have to take another medicine...well, it gets tight in my chest...so this other medicine is so that I can cough up. So it's medicine here and medicine there, all the time and my medical bill is over \$200 every three months, sometimes more, sometimes less, and that's not counting doctor and hospital bills, and no sympathy at all, no pension after thirty-six years. I have a suit in now for Workman's Compensation. The only other coverage was if you leave the plant sick you can have it, they take care of your hospital bills, for three months.

When was brown lung discovered?

Doctors say it has been known to be around here for over one hundred years, but they started paying compensation for it around 1941 in England. Well, J.P. Stevens, they said, "They have a worse grade of cotton over there" and we were sending the cotton to them...So if we were exporting the cotton over there to them, the cotton they were weaving over here wasn't any better than over there. So you see they try to get out of it anyway they can.

When did brown lung organizing begin?

First time I heard about it was in '75. I heard Ralph Nader on T.V. A law was passed in '73 and the manufacturers and the cotton growers gave Nixon a contribution for his next campaign...it was kept quiet until a grant was given to a doctor...it was the union...they were the first to listen. They got the grant for a doctor to go out to find out about the cotton dust. No manufacturer would let them go in their mills to test for byssinosis, so he went to Atlanta Prison because they have a weaving mill there in the prison and that's where he found out that cotton dust does cause brown lung.

Well, when I first heard about it from Ralph Nader on the T.V., then I got in my paper...there was a little ad that said, "If you have a breathing problem and you work in cotton dust - answer this ad" ...and I answered it, that's when we organized our local chapter of the Carolina Brown Lung Association. Then we got an office and we had our first clinic. Now the office has either drawn up or the crowds gotten larger because it's not large enough to hold us and we're all sticking together and we go to each other's hearing to try and get Workman's Compensation from Liberty Mutual.

You know, the people who are coming out of the plants at Stevens now are telling the same story about the cotton, the lint, the water, the heat, that I told when I came out. The goal of the Brown Lung Association is to reach everyone who has brown lung and try to get compensation for them...but also, to clean up the mills. I'll keep fussing to get the mills cleaned up so that there won't be another generation of brown lung. That's what we're trying to do.

ENCLOSURE # 24 TO MARTIN DON'T BUY AN J.P. STEVENS:

Sheets & Pillowcases	Carpets	Towels
Beauti-Blend	Contender	Fine Arts
Beauticale	Gulistan	Tastemaker
Fine Arts	Merryweather	Utica
Peanuts	Tastemaker	
(comic strip figures)	Table Linen	Blankets
Tastemaker	Simtex	Forstmann
Utica	Hosiery	Utica
Utica & Mohawk		
Designer Labels:	Finësse	
Yves St. Laurent	Hip-Lets	
Angelo Donighia	Spirit	

Liberty Mutual Insurance Co. is headquartered in Boston. Their address and phone #: 175 Berkeley Street, Boston, Ma. 357-9500.

J.P. Stevens sells its products under these brand names.

Jordan Marsh is the biggest outlet for J.P. Stevens' products in the Boston area.