

Video Title: Maryetta & Claudia Video 1
Interviewee: Claudia Brick
Interviewee: Maryetta Russell
Interviewer: Unkown
Transcriber: Rachel P.
Transcriber: Mikhail Z.
Formatter: Serena R.
Recording Date: July 2011
Release Date: May 9, 2020
Location: Unknown
Interview Length: 00:02:14

Interviewer: Alright, retake–

Brick: Retake three!

Interviewer: Ruth is directing now. Actually, she's the camera person–

Brick: I'm a queen.

Interviewer: Okay.

Brick: Okay. I'm Claudia, this is Maryetta. Maryetta and I have been friends since 1972 when we played softball together in Portland on a team called The Lavender Menace. And– [laughs] It still sounds funny.

Russell: It does.

[laughter]

Brick: Well, when we started, the only prerequisite about being on the team was that you had to be a lesbian.

Russell: You didn't have to know how to play at all.

Brick: It was a bonus if you knew how to play. Which is how we ended up with a pitcher that wore hiking boots.

Russell: Right.

[laughs]

Interviewer: Did she know how to play?

Russell: She wasn't too bad.

Brick: Yeah. She understood it. She was no jock, but she knew the rudiments of the game, and wasn't—as the Legally Blonde person says, “not too unfortunate.”

Russell: I hope she never sees this.

Interviewer: And how did your team do?

Russell: We won a few games, but we were kind of shunned, and—they were horrified that we were out lesbians. Of course, all the other teams were a lot of PE teachers, and they thought we were way too out. And—

Brick: They were fearful that, you know, guilt by association—

Russell: Right—

Brick: That they would be pegged and that they'd all lose their jobs.

Russell: Right. Which was accurate.

Brick: Yeah. Very realistic possibility at that time.

Russell: Yeah, But we weren't teachers, so we weren't paying any attention.

Brick: Yeah, we didn't care. [laughs]

Russell: I actually managed the gas station on Broadway in Portland.

Brick: That was in—during the—

Russell: Right.

Brick: the '77 gas crisis?

Russell: Right. They hired all the lesbians.

Brick: Yeah. Give them all a job. And then we played tournament ball also, and—that's the kicker—so we not only freaked out lesbians in Portland, but—

[shout]

[both Claudia and Marietta rush off-camera in response to a noise.]

[END OF VIDEO]