

18 MS. STARRET: This is Tradeswoman G.

19 TRADESWOMAN G: Thank you members of  
20 the Commission and Office of Labor Securities  
21 for hearing my experiences. I would like to  
22 tell you how I was discouraged from succeeding  
23 as a carpenter's apprentice because I am a  
24 woman.

25 I am a New Yorker and a woman. I have

1  
2 worked as a carpenter's union apprentice here  
3 in New York. I applied to the carpentry  
4 school on E. 26th Street. They told me to go  
5 to get a list of jobs from the union. I was  
6 hired and joined the union local.

7 I was hired and joined the union local.  
8 My boss on that job seemed friendly at first.  
9 He had a couple of 18 year old male apprentices  
10 and other men from 24 to 50 in age. In front  
11 of them he would say, "Steve, you deserve a  
12 break, take (her) in the office for an hour or  
13 so," (referring to me).

14 I would say, "What's this?"

15 He would say, "You have to be able to  
16 take a joke," even when I said it was  
17 demeaning.

18 It got to a point when he would give  
19 all the men jobs and make me just walk around  
20 with him. He would make me go up stairs first  
21 and then say, "I want to look at your ass."  
22 He was teaching me and he looked through my  
23 legs and made the comment. He would ask me  
24 personal questions that were none of his  
25 business.

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2           When I didn't respond to his advances,  
3 he became nasty and said I shouldn't be late  
4 when going floor to floor delivering coffee.

5           He would move the men and not tell me  
6 where to go to find them. I had no way of  
7 knowing. The other men saw how he treated me.  
8 When I would ask what coffee they would like,  
9 they started to respond, "I want you to give  
10 me a blow job." They knew the boss would not  
11 reprimand them. One guy would ask for beers  
12 in tall cans (which he shouldn't have drunk on  
13 the job) and made me go out of my way to buy  
14 it. The boss O.K.'d this.

15           My duties included finding everyone to  
16 get lunch monies and order. Before I came on  
17 the job, another male apprentice would go get  
18 coffee, but the men tipped him to do so and  
19 were kind to him. The boss told him where the  
20 men were.

21           One of the younger guys started asking  
22 me about sex. At first it was a joke. I  
23 joked back, but he then got abusive. This guy  
24 had the keys to the shanty where all of us  
25 kept our coats. He knew the boss didn't care,

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2 and decided to have fun, too. He locked me  
3 out of the shanty one weekend so I couldn't  
4 get my coat or drop off my tools. It was  
5 winter.

6 This job lasted a couple of months. It  
7 felt horrible to go to work, but I had to pay  
8 the rent. I had a real fear of being a bag  
9 lady, especially with a child.

10 As a carpenter's apprentice, I moved  
11 wood around, unloaded dollies, got coffee and  
12 only after that got to learn anything. Only  
13 once or twice did the boss show me how to cut  
14 wood, but he stopped once I refused to have  
15 sex. If I wasted any wood trying to learn,  
16 the younger guy would threaten to tell the  
17 boss. This same young guy gave wood away for  
18 private use, constantly.

19 The male apprentices were taught by the  
20 mechanics - I was not.

21 I had an accident which was witnessed.  
22 I told my boss who said he would try to get  
23 compensation. I mailed in receipts and was  
24 told to mail in one more receipt. I got the  
25 second letter back marked "Return to Sender"

1  
2 even though I had sent it to the woman I'd  
3 spoken to at the company. I believe this was  
4 because I was a woman.  
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8 (Continued on next page.)  
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