

## Starting Her Own Business

**Contributor:** Margaret Buckle

**Collector:** Marie Marshall

**Marie Marshall:**

This is Marie Marshall, I'm here at Margaret Buckle's she's going to tell me a story about how she started her business. First, her grocery business in her house and then her hair dressing business. Okay Margaret. You can talk away now.

**Margaret Buckle:**

I guess, it started when we... about the second or third year we were married. Ah... we lived away from everybody else and we didn't have very easy access to groceries because we had to walk a long way, at that time.

So we started ah... we wanted to have ah groceries and things available, so we ordered in some things from Corner Brook. Ah... bulk supplies and ah...then there was a couple of other families built houses here and was good for them too. When we started our business first, we had it in our house upstairs.

**Marie Marshall:**

Yes, maid.

**Margaret Buckle:**

Pris Fowler and them use to come over and Kathleen and Andrew and them. That went on for a few years and ah we started to grow a little bit, so we ah... then we build a little place, close by the house. I guess we had it about five or six years, so I went to work then with the telephone company and we kind of ah...it wasn't a very big business, it was only small.

**Marie Marshall:**

No, that's true.

**Margaret Buckle:**

Family. And we kind of got away from the business then, just kept things for our own use.

**Marie Marshall:**

Okay. Was it all charged then Margaret? Would people use to come and get it charged?

**Margaret Buckle:**

Well, yes, mostly. Scatter one use to come and....

**Marie Marshall:**

Yeah.

**Margaret Buckle:**

.... with cash.

**Marie Marshall and Margaret Buckle:**

But mostly charged,

**Margaret Buckle:**

.... and that makes it hard for a business. As you know?

**Marie Marshall:**

Yes, hard for sure.

**Margaret Buckle:**

Hard for a business to survive.

**Marie Marshall:**

Yeah.

**Margaret Buckle:**

I guess that's about it, I can tell you about that little business.

**Marie Marshall:**

Okay. Now you had your hairdressing business...

**Margaret Buckle:**

Yeah.

**Marie Marshall:**

I can remember when you had that.

**Margaret Buckle:**

Yeah. So while I was working with the telephone company, I did a correspondence course in hairdressing. It was something that I was always interested in, right from the time I was ah.... I say from the time I was eleven or twelve years old. I use to cut hair, like grandfather's hair and the boys hair.

**Marie Marshall:**

Yeah.

**Margaret Buckle:**

That's where I got a little bit experience.

**Marie Marshall:**

Hmmm.

**Margaret Buckle:**

And then I use to ah... do perms and perms for people... you know Toni's and ...

**Marie Marshall:**

That was a big thing then, hey?

**Margaret Buckle:**

Yeah. I use to do that for a lot of people. And I really, really enjoyed doing it so I ah...when I saw this course, I ah... found out about it in a True Story magazine. Saw this there, so I ah... I applied and I had all the information come and ah... I'm not sure. I probably, I think it was somewhere around seventy nine dollars or something like that, I paid for it.

**Marie Marshall:**

Yes, maid. That was a kit was it?

**Margaret Buckle:**

Yeah. Yeah.

**Marie Marshall:**

Okay.

**Margaret Buckle:**

Yeah, so seventy nine dollars, I think, for the first lot. Then after that I had to pay, I think somewhere around thirty six dollars to get ah....like the scissors, and the shawl and.

**Marie Marshall:**

Oh, yeah.

**Margaret Buckle:**

...all the equipment for cutting hair.

And then I set up a business, I gave up ah.... working with the telephone company, I use to work . I use to cut hair and things while I was working but.... ah.... I couldn't put as much time into it, but I gave up with the telephone company. I really ... I set up a little room in our basement, there. And I use to have a lot of customers....

**Marie Marshall:**

Yes.

**Margaret Buckle:**

I use to get people right from.... will I was the only one.

**Marie Marshall:**

For sure.

**Margaret Buckle:**

... I was the only one on the coast. I was the first hair dresser on the coast then at that time.

**Marie Marshall:**

And you know, there's not enough around here yet.

**Margaret Buckle:**

No. That's right.

**Marie Marshall:**

No, it's not.

**Margaret Buckle:**

Needs more people, especially like in the summer time.

**Marie Marshall:**

You got a job to get an appointment now, unless....

**Margaret Buckle:**

...that's right.

**Marie Marshall:**

...you know.

**Margaret Buckle:**

Hmmm.

But I use to get a good many customers. People use to come from Red Bay and well, people wasn't in to gettin' their hair done then ...

**Margaret Buckle and Marie Marshall:**

.... as they are now.

**Margaret Buckle:**

... because now you know, it's ah...

**Marie Marshall:**

Most they use to get done then Margaret is perms I'd say, most of it.

**Margaret Buckle:**

Perms, yup. And some cuts.

**Marie Marshall:**

Hmmm.

**Margaret Buckle:**

I remember Miss Edith Pike and Hilda Moores and ah.... Eva Ryan and Betty, and ah..

**Marie Marshall:**

Oh, yeah.

**Margaret Buckle:**

Yeah, they use to come up. Yeah. And then people use to come down from L'Anse au Clair, Martha Jones and a few of them use to come from L'Anse au Clair and some people use to come from Forteau. And ah...

**Marie Marshall:**

How much was a hair cut then, compared to now?

**Margaret Buckle:**

Two dollars.

**Marie Marshall:**

Oh my God.

**Margaret Buckle:**

Two dollars then.

**Marie Marshall:**

Now it's fourteen to get your hair cut is it?

**Margaret Buckle:**

Yeah. Two dollars, then, to get your hair cut. I think, probably... probably a perm was about ten or twelve dollars.

**Marie Marshall:**

Imagine maid.

**Margaret Buckle:**

I use to do hair colors too.

**Marie Marshall:**

Yeah.

**Margaret Buckle:**

I learned how to do colors. I remember the first color... the first color I did, to bleach was Mag Beals.

**Marie Marshall:**

Yes, maid.

**Margaret Buckle:**

Mag Beals, she was then.

**Marie Marshall:**

Yeah.

**Margaret Buckle:**

Yeah, mom came home from ah... from ah... I guess when she was living in Schefferville. She wanted to get her hair dyed.

**Marie Marshall:**

Oh, Okay.

**Margaret Buckle:**

And that was.... that was the biggest decision I had to make., because you had to bleach it first before you could dye it and ah... I just learned, what I picked up myself through the correspondence ...

**Marie Marshall:**

Yeah.

**Margaret Buckle:**

And ah... I was .... I was worried about that, how it was going to turn out.

**Marie Marshall:**

Mag liked it.

**Margaret Buckle:**

Yeah. Mag liked it.

**Marie Marshall:**

So that's about it is it Margaret?

**Margaret Buckle:**

I think that's .... that's all for those two businesses.

We.... we started another business after that but that's after I give up working with the shrimp company. You want that one?

**Marie Marshall:**

Yeah.

**Margaret Buckle:**

I worked with the shrimp company for ah... I don't know. Probably somewhere around five years and the children were home, just starting school, Darren and Dwight and I wanted to be home with them so. Not the easy thing for us to do. So we start up a business then because we was growing in this area and ah...people still needed to have easy access to things so we started up ah... small business in ah... our old house.

**Marie Marshall:**

What was that?

**Margaret Buckle:**

That was probably in '80 I think. I think that was in '85.

**Marie Marshall:**

Oh. Okay.

**Margaret Buckle:**

That was in '85 we started it up and ah... well we kept things on the go until 1992 but the children weren't interested in to it. We didn't want it we only just started it more or less for them. Thought that if they were interested in to it...

**Marie Marshall:**

Yeah.

**Margaret Buckle;**

...interested in to it. We'd build something bigger and let it grow, but nobody wanted to take part because like we spoke about earlier, there's so much charged..

**Marie Marshall:**

Yeah. It's no good then. Yeah.

**Margaret Buckle:**

It was no good and ah... and the children didn't like the idea of it when somebody come, to refuse them.

**Marie Marshall:**

That's true.

**Margaret Buckle:**

And they didn't know what they should do, so they didn't want any part of it.

**Marie Marshall:**

Nope.

**Margaret Buckle:**

We... we let it go. So we made two attempts at it.

**Marie Marshall:**

Hmmm.

**Margaret Buckle:**

Although, it was a good learning experience for the children as well as...

**Marie Marshall:**

I bet ya.

**Margaret Buckle:**

....for ourselves. Yeah.

**Marie Marshall:**

Yeah.

**Margaret Buckle:**

They learned a lot about business and about bookkeeping, because we use to get them involved in all of it, just to...

**Marie Marshall:**

Yeah.

**Margaret Buckle:**

... teach them how ... how it was done.

**Marie Marshall:**

Yeah.

**Margaret Buckle:**

And if they start up their own business anytime, well then they'd have an idea.

**Marie Marshall:**

That's true.

**Margaret Buckle:**

So its all... you know it's all a learning experience. I enjoyed it as we went through but ah...

**Marie Marshall:**

Back then see Margaret, there was no money around, hey.



**Margaret Buckle:**

There was no money around.

**Marie Marshall:**

No such thing as all cash, 'cause they never had it.

**Margaret Buckle:**

No. There was only a few people employed and ah... you just had to wait and you just couldn't get a business goin', you know. You've got to have a cash flow.

**Marie Marshall:**

You done that for how many years all together?

**Margaret Buckle:**

The last business?

**Marie Marshall:**

Seven years.

**Margaret Buckle:**

Yeah. Until Rosita got married and we gave Rosita the house.

**Marie Marshall:**

Yeah.

**Margaret Buckle:**

We closed up the business then.

**Marie Marshall:**

That's the same house, now isn't it?

**Margaret Buckle:**

Yeah. We closed up the business and ah renovated the house for her. When she got married then, she could move into it. Business is a good experience.

**Marie Marshall:**

Good experience.

**Margaret Buckle:**

You know what the experience is.

**Marie Marshall:**

I loved it when I was at it, but I wouldn't go back at it though.

**Margaret Buckle:**

No. No.

Well, you got to put a lot of long hours in it. A lot of long hours, it's okay if the family is interested too help out. But ah.... one person can't work at it alone, really without it's a big business.

**Marie Marshall:**

It got to be big now or....

**Margaret Buckle:**

It got to be big.

So this is why we closed up. Either we wanted to go bigger, or not at all and the children weren't interested in it. I say if Caroline had to stay around, we probably might have done more with it. She wasn't interested into it. She was away working too at the time, so.....

I don't ah... you don't do it without you got help with it.

**Marie Marshall:**

That's true, you got to have help.

**Margaret Buckle:**

You got to have help with it. And Wilfred wasn't well at the time either so, you know, that kind of put a damper on things too.

**Marie Marshall:**

That's very good Margaret. You had two grocery business, and a hairdressing business, hey.

**Margaret Buckle:**

Hmm....hmmm. Thank you very much.