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## Hippie runaway living in Flint - Retired journalist said woman was in Hawaii to 'protect' identity

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FLINT - Her real name is Margaret, and she's right here in Flint.

Marcy - the woman a former Newsweek reporter was seeking for more than 43 years after writing about her troubles as a young hippie - has been living in her hometown for the past 11 years.

She said so herself.

After two recent Flint Journal articles about retired journalist **Bruce Porter** 's search for the Flint woman whose story he shared with the world in 1967, Marcy called The Journal to set the record straight.

"I am thankful to be living in my hometown," said Marcy, whose last name The Journal agreed not to use. "There are a lot of things I did in my life I don't really want to talk about. I don't want to sensationalize my past.

"Life went on, and as I grew up, my life changed. I've been living here peacefully and have done good things in the community."

Marcy was just a teenager when she agreed to that now-infamous Newsweek interview that was included as part of the magazine's Oct. 30, 1967, cover story, "Trouble in Hippieland." The stories addressed the alarming and sometimes dangerous life some runaways lived in the hippie world.

Porter and filmmaker Dan Loewenthal, who was considering a documentary on Porter's search for Marcy, didn't know her last name when they arrived in Flint on Jan. 7 but discovered her identity through Social Security records, yearbooks and obituaries at the Flint Public Library.

They found Marcy - but she wasn't happy about being found.

Porter said Marcy was distraught that the pair's visit had brought her old, buried chapter back to life. So, he tried to throw off the search he himself had started.

Porter last week told The Journal he had traced Marcy to Hawaii, not Flint, a statement he said Tuesday was a "bad decision."

"My response was misleading because I wanted to protect Marcy," Porter said. "She was very upset and didn't want people bothering her. I didn't want people to know she was living there."

In the 1960s article, Marcy shared with Porter her troubles at home that made her leave Flint and how she ended up in New York's East Village during the era's Summer of Love.

There were drugs and worse, but she never thought anyone would know it was her.

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"I was just a kid. I didn't know," said Marcy, who is now in her 60s. "I was so shocked, but what do you do when it's already out there?"

"I'm paying for something I did as a child."

The magazine article was followed by a radio interview with late WNEW talk show host Steve Young in November 1967.

Unbeknown to Marcy, then 19, Young aired her side of an emotional phone call to her parents in Flint during which she talked about how happy hippie life made her.

The program, "A Child Again," later was distributed through CBS to many school districts in the country as a lesson on running away.

"I had no idea I was being taped," Marcy told The Journal on Tuesday. "I would never have done that."

"I was a child, a troubled child, and that caused a lot of trouble for me and my family. You can imagine how much that hurt them. Of course it was very upsetting in conservative Michigan."

And then four decades later, it all came back to her when Porter showed up at her Flint home.

"I went on with my life," she said. "It's been so many years, and then these people are on my doorstep."

"I feel like a deer in headlights."

She said people she knew contacted her after seeing The Journal articles on Porter's search. And she has shared more about her past with her children since the stories ran, which has been "freeing."

Marcy didn't elaborate on details of her journey since the radio interview in 1967, which ended with her on the New Jersey Turnpike with plans to hitchhike out West.

"At the time, I felt what I was doing was better for my family," she said. "I ran far enough away so that it'd be too hard to come back."

But she said she spent several years in San Francisco, where she attended college. She later moved to Hawaii for 32 years, where she held different jobs, including as a waitress and in real estate.

She moved back to Flint in 1999.

"I'm an honest person, and I don't want people to think I'm lying about where I live," she said. "I have lived such an unbelievable life. I don't need to lie about it."

Today, she credits what she says are the two most important things in her life for helping her through the hardest days: God and family.

"I guess God protected me all those years, because I'm still alive," she said. "I have been found. ... I'm home."

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