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BEULAH DOLLAR HERRMANN

Nora, Moscow

office worker for Psychianna

.8 hours

minute page

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(20 minutes)

with Sam Schragar

November 9, 1976

## II. Transcript

NAME: BEULAH DOLLAR HERRMAN  
Date of Interview: November 9, 1976  
Location: Troy, Idaho  
INTERVIEWER: SAM SCHRAGER  
Reel No. 0349B- Side 2

SAM SCHRAGER: This conversation with Beulah Dollar Herrmann took place at her home in Troy, Idaho on November 9, 1976. The interviewer was Sam Schrager.

BDH: Let's see, I guess it was '28(1928) and you know, we've lived at Moscow or here all this time.

SS: When you came, where were you coming from?

BDH: We came from Colorado out here.

SS: And what was it that made you decide?

BDH: Well, my husband wanted to get out on a farm someplace; we were living on a farm in Colorado but they had so many wind storms there and it's hard on the crops and he wanted to get out here and he knew some people that lived at Moscow, the Bumgardners, years and years ago. I didn't know them. And he come out here and looked around and he liked it-the country, so the following year we moved out and we've been here ever since. And then, as I said, I can't remember just when I started to work for Psych-iana, must have been about '43(1943) 1943 or 1944 that I worked there.

SS: Had you worked before you worked there and worked around in Moscow?

BDH: No, I hadn't. No, I just worked there because the type of work- about the only type of work that they had around Moscow for women was working sorting the peas and so many people couldn't do that, because they ran on a belt and you couldn't do it. And working-

SS: Like, they couldn't do it because it was hard?

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BDH: It made them sick, you know, it was a movement all the time, you see. And that's why so many of them worked for Dr. Robinson because it was the type of work they could do. It wasn't hard, it was a little bit confining and sometimes monotonous, but then it was a job, and as I said, he was very nice to work for. Of course, he very seldom come around to pay too much attention to the work but then, of course, we always saw him. His office was in the building where I worked and as I said, I saw Dr. Bach when he was there. He was there two or three times while he was in Moscow and Dr. Robinson brought him out and introduced him to all of us. And then after this book come out, why, he gave each of us a book. But, now, I think that you-

SS: You were saying that most of the people that worked there had a very positive impression of him-like, thought he was a good person.

BDH: Well, all of us that worked there definitely felt, as I said, he was very nice. It was more the townpeople that were more or less down on him. But he never hurt anyone. He never did and he done a lot of good for the town. He's the one that put the post office on a first class rate; he did that because of all of his mailing. See, I worked in the mailing department-well, all of our building was advertisement. We sent out the mail for these lessons and then when the lessons-anyone that wanted to fill in the cards and send them back, they went to the other building there and they mailed the lessons out. But anytime there was a fund raising deal in Moscow and they were short, Dr. Robinson filled it out. But it was never published because he didn't care for that pub-

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licity. But, as I said, most of us knew it, but the people in town never give him credit for anything, never. There were a lot of people in town that now like the fellow in this one drug-store there, he mentions him in one of his books; the Corner Drug. He helped him when he first began getting started there. There was a few of 'em that put money in that had, well, that had a little interest in it and they got their money back and everything. But as time went on, why, he didn't need any help, this was when he first started. But, as I said, Dr. Robinson never hurt anybody and you could get a lot of good out of his lessons if you wanted to follow through with them. Course, now, none of us working there ever had them because that was one regulation that and very seldom did any of us ever read the advertisements, because, of course, they changed from time to time, but in the hours that we worked we weren't allowed to be reading it. We were supposed to be working and if some of us wanted to check some of it home, we did. I used to take some of it home, but it's been so long ago I don't even remember what it was.

SS: But you couldn't take the lessons home and look at them?

BH: Well, now the lessons were put out from the other building, whether any of them had ever taken any of them home, I wouldn't know. But in our mail it was a regulation, because we mailed thousands and thousands of letters a day, and see, we had to sort them just like they do in the post office. And if there was any for Moscow, we threw them out. Moscow and Pullman and towns around close, we threw them out, that was a regulation because, you see, he knew that the people of Moscow didn't go along with him or his beliefs,

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so he didn't bother them.

SS: I guess the one thing that I heard was that he was afraid that he would be accused of trying to take people away from the other denominations.

BDH: Yes, that was part of it. Like I said, he never interfered with any of the churches up there or anything else, but, as I said, he just didn't bother 'em at all. They were a well thought of family and I knew all the family very well.

SS: But, he discouraged you-the people that worked for him from looking at his lessons or from being a part of the religion? He didn't really want the people-

BDH: He never did tell us that, but then the supervisors, you know, always when they hired anyone as a rule, why, lots of the girls would come in there, knew when they hired them but sometimes they didn't tell 'em that, but every once in a while you'd see them reading it and any of us that had worked for a while we'd just go and tell 'em that to just go ahead with the business in hand, what they were supposed to do, they weren't supposed- if they wanted to read them they could go ahead and take them home with them with them, not while they was working. And, of course, if one of the supervisors seen it, why, she always come over and bawled 'em out and the rest of us would do this on the sly to keep 'em from getting a bawling out.

SS: How were the supervisors to work for? And what were the working conditions like? How much was expected of you as far as output and all that?

BDH: Well, they expected us to <sup>do</sup> an awful lot. If we put out 35,000 in



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a day they thought we should put out about 40 or 50,000 in a day. Of course, that always depended on how many of us was working on the mailer, because you could only do so much of that. But, then one of the supervisors is still living, she lives here in Moscow on ~~Hyes~~ Street, Jennie Nesbit. If you wanted to-of course her husband isn't very well and so I don't know if she-if you stop there sometime-but then she is still living and she is the one that I worked for and under all the time I worked there. Of course, there were some others that worked closer to her, too, you see if she couldn't be there, there was other supervisors that would take it over.

SS: She was in charge of the whole operation?

BH: No, she was in charge of our building-

SS: Which was?

BDH: See, in the back of our building was where the-all the machines was, where they done all the printing and the folding. And then they were brought in from there into our part of the building and we had to, oh, most of the time we had four or five different folding things that we put in an envelope and then, you see, they were put in these envelopes that were-already had the names on 'em and then when we got so many hundreds and hundreds of 'em, why, part of us had to go to work on the mailers and sort 'em all out. And it had to be done and got to the post office each day so they could be sent out. And we run them through those mailers, as I said, lots of times I know that we mailed as high as 65 and 70,000 a day. Of course, we really had to work fast to do it. But then lots of times we didn't put that many out because sometimes where

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we had to change-each group of names went by numbers and when you got those filled, why, you started on another group and they all had to be kept separate, you see, until they were put into the mail. So that way when the cards were numbered that were put in there, they'd come back to the other building and they could tell what percent of a certain group of advertising names-what percent they got back.

SS: And what was your own job? What were you doing?

BH: Well, I did a little bit of all in that part, of course, I never worked in the part of the building where the machinery was. We had-I stamped cards, as I said, they had to have each card that you filled out-but each group of advertising names that you got like they come from this company in New York, this company in Chicago or someplace else, they were kept separate and if they were 40,000 of them names, you stamped 40,000 cards with that number on them. And that was one of my jobs, but you see, you would get tired of doing that, of course, there was only a few of us that could stamp those cards because you had to do it fast. Well, and then, as I said, we had these stacks of folded material in front of us-sometimes it was three or four and then the card and we put 'em together like this and put 'em in an envelope and then we put them in these boxes and when you got these boxes full, they were about this size, they went to the mailer and they had to be run through the mailer.

SS: And the information in those envelopes would be just a general-mostly advertisements for Psychiana?

BDH: Yes, and the card then, if you wanted the lessons, you filled the

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card out and mailed them back and they went right up to the other building.

SS: Right.

BDH: And they sent the lessons out, this other building.

SS: These lists that he got, were they from-how did he get them? Were they from organizations or where would they come from?

BDH: Yes, a lot of people yet today wonder how they get an advertisement in the mail.

SS: Uh-huh.

BDH: Well, it's very easy for me to know, because that was one of my jobs. I opened up the boxes by the hundreds and hundreds. One advertisement company will sell them to maybe, 5,000 other companies. Like if there's an ad in the paper for something regardless of what it is, you know how many people may send in for it-they've got your name on the mailing list. They sell that list of names, as I said, if there's 5,000 other companies that want 'em, they sell 'em.

SS: Do you have any idea of where his lists were coming from?

BDH: Yes, I knew where they all came from. As I said, it was just maybe everywhere, maybe it was somebody that was advertising some foolish, ridiculous thing to sell, like I said, Dr. Robinson-what Dr. Robinson put out didn't hurt anybody where some of this stuff-where they got the names at wasn't-

SS: I wonder like if he got the lists from seed companies or some place like that-

BDH: Yes. Yes, any place.

SS: Anywhere he could then?

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BDH: Yes, any advertisement that you see in any magazine, they have the right to sell those names and they do sell 'em, they sell 'em to hundreds and hundreds of advertisers. And yet, today, now like you can get something in the mail that you didn't send for or anything and you wonder where it come from. That's where it come from-it was sold by someplace that has your name.

SS: Well, when we talked a little about the kind of people who would be interested in the lessons; did you have any idea yourself of who would be the people who were asking for Psychiana?

BDH: Well, I never met any of them, no. But I think they were from everyplace else in the United States and in the world. You see, we mailed a lot of them to different places in Europe, different islands and as I said, no, I never met any of the people.

SS: Do you think that a great part of the people who were getting the material were from the big cities?

BDH: What?

SS: Were from the big cities? Do you think many of the people-

HBDH: An awful lot of 'em, yes, an awful lot of 'em. But, of course, not all. But they had to be, you could tell that because now like when we went through the list of New York City names, you know, why, that part of the mail would be full, five or six times a day or Chicago or San Francisco or all like that. But then, of course they were from little town, too. Because in sorting your mail unless you had ten from one town they had to go separately, you know. So, as I said-but it's been a good many years since I worked there and a lot of it I've forgot.

SS: What makes you figure that the lessons-what's your own personal

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knowledge to feel that the lessons were good? For people.

BDH: I think so because it's like I say, they wouldn't hurt anybody if you wanted to follow through with them and there was a course of lessons, I can't remember any more how many, they were sent and then they were followed up and anytime if they wanted to discontinue it they could, or if they wanted their money back they got it back, that is, if they hadn't got all the lessons. But then outside of that that's all I really know about the lessons because that wasn't in our department.

SS: Do you know what the cost of them was?

BDH: No, I used to know, yes, but I-

SS: I ran across in the literature-

BDH: No, I don't think you would in any of that. Now, you might in some of this literature because Lonnie said that he knew that all of his writings and literature that he had at home after he passed away-you see, then she moved from the house soon afterwards and he knew that it was turned over to the University(Idaho) and some of the books that he thought hadn't been put out or something like that. He said all of that was turned over there and he said at that time when I told him about you, why, he said "I'd like to talk to him." And I said, "Well, you bring the books up," and I said, "we'll give him a ring." But as I said, you know, he kept forgetting to bring it up because he was busy working down there.

SS: Well, what was the pay like that you got? Do you remember?

BDH: Not very much because that was during the Depression that I worked there. And when I started in I was getting sixty some dollars

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a month but that was pretty good pay at that time, you know. And, of course, we got a few raises but there was one thing that he never done, if we were out a few days sick we were never docked our pay.

SS: Oh, really, you got paid for those days?

BDH: We got paid for it, yes, we did. But, as I said, that was during hard times and it isn't like your salaries now, but that was pretty good pay for us. Because now, the girls that did the typing, they got more pay and of course the supervisors got more pay.

SS: Did you have breaks in your work day?

BDH: Fifteen minutes was all.

SS: How often?

BDH: Just once a day.

SS: That all?

BDH: Once a day because that has been changed because at that time people didn't have coffee breaks all day long.

SS: So that fifteen minutes for lunch?

BDH: No. Well, we had an hour at lunch, but we had fifteen minutes, we could either take it in the morning or we could take it in the afternoon and only two of us went out together and that was it.

SS: You mean the others kept working?

BDH: Yes. The others kept working.

SS: You went off in pairs?

BDH: Yes. But as I said, it isn't like it is-like it has been for the past twenty years-coffee breaks all the time.

SS: Right. You were expected to put out a lot while you were working?

BDH: Yes, we were.

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SS: You worked very fast.

HBDH: Yes we were expected to put out a lot and we did. What I mean is we- like some days where there was a change over with a lot of different numbers or-of course, we didn't always run with as many, sometimes we-there'd be maybe twenty of us working and then there'd be kind of a slack period and part of 'em'd be laid off, but there has been as many as forty-five or fifty working in the two buildings.

SS: Does that include the people working on the printing as well?

BHDH: Yes. Of course, as a rule there was only four in the printing but then they run those all day long, the printing machines and the folding machines, you know. And a lot of the girls that worked there, they were girls that were putting their husbands through school, through the university and they had very little to live on, you know, but they were glad to have the work while they were there.

SS: Eight hours a day five days a week?

SS: Yes, that's what it was.

SS: Were some of the people-were many of the people also local people like yourself?

BHDH: Yes, they were all local people, right there. A few of the girls 'came from Deary and a few of 'em from Troy and once in a while you got some from Pullman, but most all of 'em were local people right here. Yeah, they all were and they were all glad- I know that one girl that worked there-her small brother was killed out on the highway and the mother was a widow and they didn't have very much and I do know that he paid all the funeral expenses and

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everything. But the people in town never knew that; they didn't know that. As I said, he didn't want them to know those things. And, as I said, other than that I do know that when they were short in funds, when they were raising funds for things and they were short, why, he made it up. But he never got any credit for it.

SS: What do you think of the people who disliked him in Moscow? Why do you think they didn't--there was so much of this giving him a hard time?

BDH: That would be only in my own opinion; so many of them--Moscow is a town that is a little bit hard to get used to. I've always felt that--years and years back they always felt a little above most other towns or something, why I didn't know. But I think most of 'em were just more or less down on him because they didn't believe <sup>in</sup> what he was doing. But if you pinned 'em right down to it, they didn't even know what he was doing. And as I said, Most of it-- of course, I very seldom ever talked to anybody about it, because, if anybody, if I was around somebody and they started saying something about him I'd always just say, "Well, now let's drop it right here; I work for Dr. Robinson and he's a very fine man to work for and you don't know anything about what you're talking about." And I know he set up a youth center up there. There was no place for the younger school kids to go to and he put up this youth center, every bit of it; he paid for every bit of it and paid to have it kept open and paid to have someone stay there. He did that.

SS: Was it free to the kids? To use.



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BDH: Yes, it was free for the kids. He did that and another thing - where Robinson's Lake is at Moscow, that he- he gave that to the county and for years there was never anything much done about it they didn't try to keep it up. But now, in the past ten or so years they have tried to do something with it. Of course, it's like a lot of other parks and things they try to fix up something and then it's destroyed. But now, Dr. Robinson did that, too. And I don't know of anybody else around town that's did those things!

SS: Anything like that. That's right.

BDH: And as I said, that is my opinion and it was most everyone's opinion; course, we ourselves that worked there, we didn't discuss those things, you know.

SS: It's interesting what you say about Moscow being a little cold because other people who came to Moscow in the twenties have told me the same thing. It was not an easy town to be accepted in.

BDH: No, it isn't. And we lived up here twenty some years-twenty-three years and so I felt that I, you know, as I say, was really on-that's the way Moscow is. Of course, now in the past ten or fifteen or twenty years there's been lots of other people come in but believe me, a lot of those older people up there are still just like that. They are not a bit friendly, they never were, and as I said, they were against Dr. Robinson, as I said, of course he didn't let it bother him any. But he knew that that's the way they felt so that's why the regulations were what they were. And, as I said, we went by the regulations. We respected 'em and we went by them. But there was a lot of us that worked there that we

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couldn't work any place else. Of course at that time there was very few places in Moscow where you could work. Nowadays, the most of the wives can work at the university and places like that putting their husbands through school.

SS: Do you feel that there was something spiritual about him as a person?

BDH: Yes, I do. Yes, I really do because I think there had to be for him to do what he did. I really do. Of course, now there again, the people of Moscow didn't think so. And I can't truly remember of any minister around Moscow that ever had anything to do with Dr. Robinson. And me, myself, I don't <sup>think</sup> that's speaking very highly of the ministers up there then. Of course, there's none of them there now that were there then. I, myself, don't think that was speaking very highly for 'em. Now would you?

SS: No. No, I think they should have spoken to him and spent time with him.

BDH: I think so, I think so. But, as I said-

SS: It must have put him, even if it didn't bother him much, it must have - when people doubt you, it makes things more difficult for you, just seems natural to me, if people think that you're-they suspect you, they don't trust your motives, you have to feel hurt and it has to make you feel isolated.

BDH: Yes. Well, now, he more or less was. Of course, as I said he come in there without interfering with anybody you know. Dr. Robinson always drove some of the most expensive-well, the most expensive cars that were ever in Moscow. And there again, I think a lot of people were jealous of him. And there is a few people up

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there years and years ago that held up for him but they never discussed him with anyone or anything because that was just something that you didn't do, because everybody knew how the town was and so you just didn't. But he come and went--of course he was a busy man he was gone an awful lot, always. You can tell that by his books that you've read. Now, Mrs. Robinson, she belonged to some different clubs up there and, as I said, everyone always spoke very highly of her.

SS: I heard she was a very wonderful woman; that's what-- people that do not care for him will still say that they really did enjoy her.

BDH: Yes.

SS: And the kids.

BDH: Yes, they did. And both the boy and the girl was very nice. The girl, Florence, worked with us one summer. But she did that--it was really a little funny. All through grade school and high school she went with this boy that she finally married, Raoul Ashby. And one summer the doctor and Mrs. Robinson and Al was going to spend the summer in California and Florence didn't want to go and he said, "Well, either you go or you go to work." "Well," she said, "then I'll go to work." So he brought her down to the Psychiana building and introduced her to us, of course, most of us knew her anyway. And he said, "Now, you put her to work." And he told the supervisor, this Mrs. Nesbitt, "She doesn't get any favors at all." And she just loved working there. Of course she didn't know a thing on earth about it, it was just like anyone that come in. But, you know, she was taught and she wor-

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ked with us all and she really loved it. She loved every bit of it. Ane when they came back then, and of course, she had to quit then when school started. So she felt so bad because she was going to have to quit so she talked the folks into having a big party for us up to their home. And all of us women working there could invite our husbands and all of the husbands that worked in the other part in both buildings they could have their wives to come and we had this big party up to Dr. Robinson's house. And Florence stood at the door as we were leaving and shook hands with each one of us and told us goodbye and cried as she did this. Now, that's how much that she enjoyed working there with us. But she didn't know a thing about it when she went in there.

SS: Boy, she must have really been close to you.

BDH: Yes, she was.

SS: Do you feel that was true of the group of women that worked there generally, that they were fairly close-that there was a close social-

BDH: Yes, they were. They were. And then Florence went on-as years went by and she and Raoul got married. And the last I knew of him he was a captain-well, he's retired, he's a retired captain in the army. And, oh, after they were married quite a while-of course they had three children and then Florence had polio.

SS: Oh, she did?

BDH: But it didn't leave her very badly crippled. And I don't know where she and Raoul is any more, of course, they were stationed oh, in different islands and places. They would come back now and then. But anyway, the doctor just felt that-she'd always

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went with him-she never went with anyone else. He was a professor's son up here at the University. But he was a good kid, you know, know what I mean-they put him to work down there helping doing a little bit of the janitor work. Of course, he used to give all of us working there a rough time because he'd say, "You gotta all move, when you do this, I've got to get out of here." And we'd say, "Now, Raail you know you don't do any of this work until we are out of here. But of course, we'd go along with him but anyway, the doctor really <sup>didn't</sup> want her to marry him, but they did. And as I said, he got to be a captain in the Army and he is retired with a very big salary.

SS: Well, you know that-

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SS: -figured that there was no boy good enough for his daughter.

BDH: Yes, that's right. And I can remember so well; oh, quite some time before the doctor passed away, Al was supposed to come down and kind of learn the business a little bit. And I remember the first time he come in, he come around to all of us <sup>you</sup> know, we sit at these long tables unless we was working on the mailer. And he'd come around and stand by our chair and he'd say, "Well, now can you tell me just what you're doing?" And we would tell him. (telephone rings and the recorder is shut off) He said that he was going to kind of look after some of the business a little bit. But, he said, "Frankly, I don't know anything about it." So he said, "If all of you can explain to me what you are doing." Well, we did and he come and talked to all of us. And of course, he did the same thing in the other building. And then it wasn't- he was

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down in the office at different times, but then we never knew too much about what he was doing. But then it was shortly after that that doctor passed away. So then, it wasn't too long after that that the manager and Al decided to just close up the business and they did. I had quit working there by then when they closed it up. Jennie could tell you all about that because she was still with them.

SS: About why they decided that?

BDH: Because, the thing was, once the doctor was gone, why, I think that they felt it really couldn't go on because he was the one that always more or less kept the lessons going and anything new that was put out-and where none of them in the family could do that, so- And Mrs. Robinson had quite a bit of money in the newspaper there, it's The Idahonian now, at that time it was The News Review. And they just kept the interest in that, she and Al, of course <sup>by</sup> then Al was married, too. And so as I said-

SS: I had heard that his father wanted him to take over after he died but Al really couldn't do it. He didn't feel that he could.

BDH: He didn't feel that he-he didn't know anything about it and as I said, when he come in there he told each of us, he said, "I don't know a thing about it." He didn't know what we were doing and when we'd show him he still didn't understand it, you see, because his father had never told him anything about it. And, as I said, I think after-I know he would want him to have went on with it, but I'm sure the manager, I can't remember who the manager was, it used to be Anderson, I forget what-Elmer Anderson, I think that's mentioned in some of his books. He's the

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one that I knew that was manager.

SS: He's gone now, isn't he?

BDH: Yes. And I can't remember who-oh, Cass was the one that was at the last. Can't remember his first name, but Cass. I think there is some of the Casses still living in Moscow. But he was, and as I said, Al didn't know only what little he'd found out just, you know being around there and working some with his father before he passed away. And I don't think they felt that they knew enough about it to keep going. So, they just-

SS: And the children really were not involved?

BDH: No, they weren't involved at all.

SS: Mr. Robinson was completely sincere about his religion and the philosophy of life that he had through the religion. That Psychiana was a true faith for him.

BDH: I think so. I don't think that he could have did what he did without believing in it. And he was a very unusual man. And, as I said, of course he was a man that-well, most anyone could talk to and so many of these come from-like Doctor Bach and some of them, you know, that was so deeply interested in his work it wasn't that any of them ever had his lessons and things, it was just that they were deeply interested in it. But, as I said, I always felt that he had to be sincere to do what he did. Wouldn't you think so?

SS: Yes. That's what really struck me in reading the books I have is that they all seemed to me <sup>to speak</sup> from his heart, that is deeply felt beliefs. And you see what those people who didn't like him and had to say about him, is that more or less that he was just trying to

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con people and that he wasn't sincere. That it was just set up as a big promotional deal. I'm sure you've heard that. That criticism and my response to that is just what you say. How could he have written what he wrote in the way he wrote it if he didn't feel what he was saying? Because, when you read it it's just the feeling that-

BDH: That's what I've always said. And I'm sure with the lessons-they were sincere enough that there were thousands and thousands of people taking it and if they hadn't of been that sincere I don't think they'd have ever went on through with them. And, It's like I said, I happened to know that they wouldn't hurt anybody. But, anyway, I always felt that he was sincere about it, but it's like you said, the people that were down on him, they said he wasn't. Well, it wasn't up to them to say, they didn't know. And I know a lot of people that was down on him, like some of the business people up here, if they thought what he was doing wasn't fair or was a little bit crooked, they themselves were on that side.

SS: On what side?

BDH: Well, they themselves weren't on the up and up. Because, as I said, regardless of what their business was a lot of them wasn't doing-they wasn't doing things that were right.

SS: Yeah.

BDH: But they were so down on him, and as I said, and another thing part of 'em I think were jealous of him because he drove these expensive cars. They had expensive things. But to visit with 'em and talk with 'em they were just as common as they could be.

SS: Really?



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BDH: Yes, they were. Just as common as they could be.

SS: Mrs. Robinson and-

BDH: Yes.

SS: And him, too? To speak to him.

BDH: Yes, yes he was. And he didn't go around town talking religion to anybody. If anybody wanted to talk to him, well, that was fine but he didn't hesitate to tell 'em what he thought. And that is why some of the ministers were so down on him because if some of the church people would tell him that they didn't believe this or believe that- like what he put out, he'd ask 'em how they could believe some of the stuff that was being taught to them. And, of course, as I said, they were all down on him but I, myself, always felt that any of the ministers that was down on him-and they all were-and I didn't think that it was speaking very highly of them and in my opinion they just wasn't what I would call good Christian people, any of the ministers. And nearly always the Catholic priest, they come and went, of course, but they never would have anything to do with him, never. And I said, they're afraid he's going to take a little of their congregation away from 'em. But, no, I've always felt that Dr. Robinson-he was a very unusual man. He was an interesting man. And I've always felt that he was sincere about it all. Of course, that would be my opinion.

SS: Do you feel that people that worked there felt the same way?

BDH: Yes. Yes, they did. We had lots of help come and go, as I said, they were students, you know, their husbands were going to the university and they were glad to have the job to help while they

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was there. And I met lots of them. They come and went, they was from all over the United States. And of course, you always got some that he had to let go, they couldn't keep up with the work. Lot of 'em, you know, it was just their paycheck was more what they was after, but you find that with anything.

SS: Was your husband farming at the time?

BDH: He did at that time.

SS: And were there other women therewhose husbands were farmers, too, working?

BDH: Oh, most of them lived there in town. We lived right out there- and we had a dairy for while with the farm. But most of 'em lived right there in town. And a lot of 'em were widow women, you see, that needed the work and couldn't work other places. And, as I said, if you were sick a few days, why, you were never docked.

SS: Did you get raises while you were there?

BDH: Yes, I think we had three or four raises, of course, at that time too, they didn't amount to too much, but you know, it was a help. It isn't like it is nowadays, or even twenty years ago.

SS: Well, you started about when? In the early forties or was it even earlier than that?

BDH: I think it was about '43 (1943) and '44 and '45 somewhere along in there. I think I still have some papers on some of my paychecks when I was there if I went through them. I could tell but I just can't remember exactly.

SS: What do you remember his bearing as being like-his bearing, you know the way he seemed? I've heard he was pretty heavy, a large man. That he was large and tall.

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DH: Well, he wasn't what you call a heavy man, of course, he was tall but he was big boned, you know, his structure was. He was very good looking. But, now as I said, he come and went- his office was in our building, he'd come and go and sometimes we'd see him come in-the door was always locked until he'd come and he'd open it.

SS: -blank space- moved out here by Troy after living in Moscow, did you find the people to be friendlier?

BDH: Oh, my yes, there was all the difference in the world with the people around here. Did you think so?

SS: Well, I never lived in Moscow, myself.

BDH: No, that's right, you never lived there. Where did you come from to Troy?

SS: Well, I lived in Portland.

BDH: In Portland, I see.

SS: But I was going to school there so I wasn't exactly just living there, you know, there is a difference. But I was wondering the contrast, if there was a real difference there.

BDH: Yes, you bet there is, you bet there is, there's an awful lot of difference. Of course, in a smaller town, of course everybody knows one another here, you know and if anybody needs any help you never saw a town that pitches in and helps like they do, always. If somebody's been in the hospital and had big bills you know, hard luck and stuff, why they put on all kinds of things to raise money for them, everything. Or if anyone loses their home, why, they just pitch right in and help 'em. And everybody does it. Of course, we're getting so many new people

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down here now, it isn't the same any more. We've got four families right here from New Jersey; can you imagine that? Yes, there's four of 'em, I know part of 'em, from New Jersey. And the father of one of 'em was out here this summer, he was in the shop when I was and he said--was asking about there being quite a few people and I said, "Yes," and I said, "really. I know there's nothing we can do about it." But, I said, "We don't like it too well." He said, "Yes, but you still have lots of space here." I said, "Yes, but we're not going to have it at this rate." And I guess we do have a lot of space from where a lot of them have come, but at the rate they've been coming in here, you know right now, I can go down on the little street and half the people I meet, I don't know. It's just surprising. And it's the same way at all of these little towns. Now Post Falls--have you ever been up to Post Falls?

SS: Uh-huh.

BDH: I've always felt that it was one of the nicest, quietest places and now then it has almost doubled in size and they've got a problem up there.

SS: They sure do.

BDH: They sure have. And it's that way with so many of these. And you see, we don't have school room for all of them any more.

SS: Well, you know the difference that I was thinking of was in Moscow, you lived there for some years and you still saw that kind of aloofness in some people. But here, when you moved out here, did you find that they just accepted you fairly fast?

BDH: Yes.

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SS: Just right off?

BDH: Yes, that's right. Because we didn't know-well, of course, you can't live this close to Troy without coming through it. In fact, we own some land up towards Bovill-we used to run cattle up there, well, we'd always come through and like that. But as far as knowing the people here, we only knew two families down this way. But then, you know, as I said, everybody is so friendly and everything. And, of course, I always told everyone that Moscow was the most stuck up town that I was ever in.

SS: Do you think it was unusual for a town of its size then?

BDH: I do, I do think so. Because I've lived in cities. I lived in Sioux City, Iowa for a long, long time and we were in Denver for a while.

SS: What do you think it comes from? Is it because the university's there or what's the deal?

BDH: I can't figure it out. I've always-right now, the university's what makes that town. Of course, it's a good farming area and it's been a rich farming area. But right now, I think it's a disgrace that a town the size of Moscow and the university's what makes it that there isn't places for those students to live. Now, I just think it's a disgrace and I've told some of the business men what I think about it. And then when they come up to that billion dollar dome up there, I said, "Sure, that's fine for Houston, Texas, but the town of -the size of Moscow, and there's no place for the students to live in. Now, I happen to know that some of those dorms and those fraternity houses and the sorority houses-four years ago there were two in the rooms

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last year and this year they've got three and four in the rooms and there's no place for them to put their things. And over at WSU, I know too, because I know some of the boys that were over there and the same thing as at Moscow they was sleeping in sleeping bags out in the halls in some of those places. Well, now, you can't go to school and do that. And, as I say, don't you think that's a disgrace to the towns? Of course, Pullman's all building and building and building. But look what the rent is. And, you know, time those students has paid the rent-you was a student, you know-

SS: Yes.

BDH: And I tell you, you see, this Lonnie, this grandson of mine, he spent five years up there and he's an architect and he always had a scholarship and he always worked through the summer, but even so his folks, they had to help him all the time or he couldn't get through school.

SS: Sure.

BDH: And the daughter, she's teaching up in Spokane now. She had four years up there and I tell you it was rough for 'em to keep in school.

SS: Uh-huh.

BDH: As I said, you can put up a million dollar-billion dollar dome and no place for the students to live. Now, maybe I'm not looking at it right, I don't know.

SS: No, I agree with you. I think that's a wrong priority, it really is. I know a lot of the social life in Moscow seemed to go around the churches in the early days and I wonder if that's

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really part of what it is, too. That you have to be an established member of a congregation or something, too.

BDH: That's right. That's right. I'll tell you one thing, though, the Mormons that come in up there, they see to it that there's a place for them to live, because with the Mormon Church and all they see to it that there is a place for them to live and I think it's great. But so many of the others, just like you said, if you can't belong to the Presbyterian Church or the Methodist Church--well, the Presbyterians they don't want to have anything to do with the Methodists--that's one thing that I've got against Moscow. Each church, you know, is his own.

SS: Uh-huh.

BDH: And they look down on the others. And that I don't go along with. I always say, I don't care what church you belong to, there's only one God, so I don't care what church you belong to. But anyway up there they're like that, you'll find that in Moscow.

SS: I'm going to run-

END OF TAPE

Transcribed by Frances N. Rawlins

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