

CLARICE MOODY SAMPSON

Interview Two

Interviewed by:

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Oral History Project

Latah County Museum Society

I. Index

II. Transcript

I. Index

CLARICE MOODY SAMPSON

Moscow; b. 1894

homemaker, teacher

minute page

Side A

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 00 | 1 | Father liberalized his views about family and gave her more freedom. Charging at stores. Father's ledger. Mother's broken collarbone and serious surgery. |
| 11 | 4 | Brother's death in the Phillipines. The children said mother favored boys, father girls. Her resentment of brother's freedom to go places; he was accident-prone. |
| 24 | 8 | Mother managed to give a poor family mittens without them knowing. Sister got very cold chaperoning a sleighing party. |

Side B

- | | | |
|----|----|--|
| 00 | 10 | Poor families. Use of first telephones and baths in town. |
| 3 | 11 | Wild Davey. Kids pretended he was after them and said he ate his dogs. Hotels fed him. Hearing news of Dr. Watkins' shooting. Killing of Steffens. |
| 15 | 15 | Children's curiosity about red light district. Father found a diamond ring, probably dropped by someone who'd won it gambling. |
| 19 | 17 | School in Moscow. Program on the last day of the year. Speaking pieces. Subjects. Mothers came into the classroom to visit, unexpectedly. |

Side C

- | | | |
|----|-----|---|
| 00 | 20A | Her reading as a youngster - Elsie Dinsmore books. Assigned card number one in the library. |
| 9 | 23 | Flower girl at wedding. First cars and movie theatre. Summer stock in Moscow. |

Clarice Moody Sampson

minute page

Side C (continued)

17	25	Prep school. Interest in physical education. Father's limited view of what women could study. Dislike of home economics study. A woman teacher training to be a doctor inspired her to become a doctor, but father was strongly opposed.
28	29	Red Cross work in the flu epidemic.

with Laura Schrager
January 25, 1975

II. Transcript

LAURA SCHRAGER: Did she have much say in money matters?

CLARICE MOODY SAMPSON: Well, you know, my father, you pretty near always had to ask him for money. He ^{didn't} wouldn't just. . . But you could charge and he'd pay the bills. But like we youngsters, of course I was the last one and if anyone would have had an allowance I'd been the one because he liberalized his way of thinking about his family so much. And my brother ^{Maurice} who was five years older than I, we did so many things that our older brothers and sisters couldn't do. We weren't told you have to be home at ten thirty from a party. I was never told that in my life. But we didn't go and stay unearthy hours or anything, but my older brother and sisters even if they went to a dance they had to come home at ten thirty. Of course, the dances started earlier, but that was just the rule of the house. But as far as money was concerned there wasn't a lot of it but we had to ask. And I think I showed you a check the other day my father had written; I think it was to buy a hat one time. But he never said you can't have it. ^{But} you had to ask for it, and sort of say ^{but} what you were going to do with it. And ^{what} with running the house, my mother was never restricted as to what she could buy or anything but of course, once every year when Creighton's had their "Red Tag Sale" she would go in and buy so many sheets. Well, she made the sheets, you see, she ^{bought} bought the muslin and made the sheets way back when

I was a child, and so many white tablecloths and like, yardage. And then I think it wasn't charged on a monthly basis, it was probably paid twice a year, the account at Creighton's Store. And as far as the groceries were concerned, the man would come around to our door each morning to see what we wanted. We always had a charge account. And Mama would order what she needed and they would deliver it later in the day. But, of course, ^{you} didn't need to go in because there were no fresh vegetables or anything, you didn't need to go in to see what you wanted. It was just a matter of staples and things like that that you ordered because ^{if you had}, the vegetables, you had, they were canned and in your own cellar rather than being in bins at the store.

But my dad, every night, ^{would spend} he'd read the evening papers after we'd had supper. And he'd read the papers, the daily papers, and then he'd go to his desk which was in Papa's and Mama's bedroom and sit at his desk as long as it took him to account for all the day's spending and put it in ~~the~~ book in a ledger. And that was done every day, and he knew exactly the amount of money that had been spent or that ^{had} been given to each child or if he'd given Mama any cash. I know in that book that I'm going to let you see, that register: "Wife--\$2." Well, ^{now} I don't have no idea what Mama wanted to spend two dollars for, but that was the way it was recorded in the book: "Wife--\$2."

And as far as our school books and school supplies, Hodgkin's were the only ones who had school books in those days. We got what we needed and charged it, and my dad would pay the bill. And we weren't extravagant, I mean buying junk and stuff we didn't need. We knew we should get what we needed and that was it. And my mother's health wasn't very good. When I was a little

child, about eighteen months or two years old, she was taking my oldest sister out to visit friends in the country and some boys came along on horseback wearing chaps, and yelling and shouting and having fun. It frightened the horse and he ran away. And he went off of the ~~dread~~ and down an incline and I don't remember this of course, but it broke my mother's collar bone and somebody brought her into town, and I guess got the horse and the buggy and so on. And I had wanted to go so bad with Mama ^{that morning} but she left me at home with my other sisters. And it was very fortunate that she didn't have the baby sitting in her lap or something while she was driving.

But the way they, and I think it must have been Dr. Watkins, I don't remember, but the nextdoor neighbor came over to help when the doctor came. And he had her make out of muslin, an old sheet or something, ^{like} two big doughnuts, stitch 'em together, and my mother's arms were put through the holes; they stuffed 'em with cotton, and my mother's arms were put through the holes and they laced 'em together, front and back, to hold that collarbone in place.

Well, as a result, it mended across at the end--it didn't heal directly the two parts of the bones together, one was on top of the other. And she always, always had aches and pains in that collarbone, you know, damp weather or anything. But it must have been neuritis, ~~it~~ probably pressed on a nerve or something. And so years later--I remember this--Dr. Gritman did an operation on Mama's collarbone and sawed the bones apart and wired them together and she was that way ~~for~~ the rest of her life, with her collarbone wired together. But from the time, ^{I was about} oh I would judge I was eight or ten, she had to have some very, severe surgery. I think it was for a kinked bowel, a kinked colon. But it was very serious surgery and they despaired of her life, but my mother always went to prayer meeting, every

Wednesday or Thursday night, whenever it was at our church they had the mid-week prayer meeting. And so that particular night they turned it into a prayer service for Mama. And she finally recovered. But it was such a big incision they made in her abdomen that she was never strong again, you know. And so I remember my father got her, it was bigger than my little girl rocker, just a next sized rocker. And she would sit in that because it was hard for her to sit in an ordinary rocking chair. And she wore what we called dressing sacks. They were like our house robes now, only they were short, ^{and} she wore a skirt underneath. But her abdomen was ~~always~~ quite big ^{always} after that because of the surgery. I suppose the muscles never recovered from such a big incision. And so she always wore a dressing sack. We usually had our clothes made at home, but a dressmaker made her a fancy one. And I can remember, it was lightweight wool, grey, and it was tied with a ribbon around the waist and it had a fancy collar. So that was sort of her dress up clothes while she was recuperating from her surgery. But so my mother never could do heavy housework or anything after that. And everybody had their chores to do in our home.

L S: What did you do? ~~remember so much~~

C S: Well, I don't remember so much, only I always had to wipe dishes 'cause we wiped 'em then, you know. And I can remember having to wipe dishes after supper. And my oldest brother was in the Philipines then because he graduated from college in 1901, and he took his degree in absentia because he was sent to the Philipines. And I have a picture of Albert telling Mama good-bye out on the front ^{door} porch, and she had this dressing sack on ^{that} I've told you about. And Albert ^{stood} there in his overcoat with his suitcase, and he'd for some reason had gotten a wide-brimmed hat like, well, ^{we always thought of} ~~say~~ Teddy Roosevelt wearing them, you know, I don't know why, it probably was a Stetson, a good

hat or something. But he was sent to the Philippines by the United States government, he was a civil engineer. And he had charge of lighthouse and bridge construction in the Philippines. And it was considered a very fine job, and I think President Taft was president then. And they had a great deal of social life in Manila and my brother kept polo ponies, you know.

Their houses were built up and the animals were below, but they were built up for--well, it was healthier to live up off of the ground because, I don't know whether it was swampy ground or what it was. But Harry and I visited Manila in 1963 on a trip to the Orient, and it was three to four weeks voyage to get there, y'see. And when my brother, older than I, Morris, who was five years older than I am, he was in prep school at the university. Well, he was at the age, he just didn't think he was getting anyplace.

And my father was pretty lenient with Morris like he was with me. And Albert wrote that if Morris wanted to come over there, he knew he could get a job. And so Morris, I think he was eighteen or nineteen, he hadn't finished prep school, and he went over there. My father let him go over there. And he lived with Albert in his home over there. And of course they kept Filipino boys to do their work and Morris just really ^{just} thought that was the height of perfection, to have a Filipino boy come and hand him a book or his cigarettes or something, whatever he wanted, you know, to be waited on. He just ate it up. And Albert had told him, you had to have your white clothes all made, you know, made to measure. They wore whites entirely because of the heat, white ducks and so on. I think they were all duck material. And so he told Morris he could go to his tailor and have him ^{make} what Morris thought he needed. Well, Morris liked clothes awfully well. So ^{he} went all out, he had everything. He had just everything he could use. And then after he'd been there a little while he got a job with the Manila General Hospital, which was a huge hospital

as chief clerk, that was who kept the books and the accounts and so on. So he did all right for himself even though he was very young. And of course there was a great deal of social life which he enjoyed. But my oldest brother, Albert then, had to come home in 1908 because his health was getting bad--the climate and his work and all. And even before he could come home he went to some health clinic on the coast or some place, or San Francisco. I don't know where because I just was young enough that I didn't pay much attention, to build himself up a little before he ever came home. But he arrived home in time for my sister Ethel's wedding which was in December of 1908. But in 1911, Morris, who was still over there and working as chief clerk in the Manila General Hospital became very ill and had to have surgery. And it was evidently a gall bladder operation. Well, my mother and my father didn't know about this surgery ahead of time but somebody wrote in the meantime that he was in the hospital and had had surgery. But in February of 1911 the cablegram came to my brother Albert who was living in Tacoma then, he'd taken a job with a big construction company, in fact he built that big, famous depot in Tacoma that has been made a national monument. And the city of Tacoma is keeping it although it isn't in use as a station anymore. But it's a beautiful building with a big dome on top, it's beautiful. Whenever I've gone there, I always admire it with great pride because my brother built that, the company he was with. But this cablegram came to Albert that Morris had died of septicemia, which is blood poisoning of course. And they were to have a funeral service there in Manila and then his body was to be sent home. So about the middle of March his body arrived in San Francisco and my brother and my father went to bring it home, and he was buried in the Moscow Cemetery at the age of ^{twenty} ~~twenty~~ -two which was pretty sad. And my mother never quite got over that, it just about

broke her heart.

LS: Was Morris sort of her favorite or something because he was young?

C S: Oh no, he was just her boy. Of course when we were kids we always said Mama favored the boys in the family and Dad ~~fav~~^{or}ed the girls. (Chuckles). You know how kids are. But to Mama, her boys were just perfect, and they were good to her. But my brother Albert, my two sisters were in college, and he was so good. He sent them money every year, and they bought nice material and had a new ball gown every year, party dress. Because they were in college and maybe Dad couldn't always afford it, and having two in college at the same time was expensive in those days for their family income as it is now. But Albert always did that for the girls every year, and I know they were so proud of the dresses ^{that} they had that Albert had sent them the money to buy the material to make their party dresses.

L S: Was that unusual for women to go to college in those days?

C S: Oh no, no. Many Moscow girls went on to college, and of course by that time the Ridenbaugh Hall had been built so they had a dormitory for women although they had no accommodations for ~~men~~ ^{on the campus.} students. But there were quite a few girls who went. And Moscow, well many Moscow girls went on to college, ^{of course} that was the thing in our family--everybody was supposed to go to college. Although my oldest sister, Mabel, did not finish college, and this is a long story, shall I tell it?

L S: If it's a good one.

C S: Do you want to shut it off for a minute?

L S: Sure. (Break)

C S: I suppose their boys went through a time when they didn't like girls. Of course, I know my brother, Morris, when I was, he was five years older, and when I was about ten and he was fifteen, he thought I was the scum of the earth, you know. And I used to resent it that the boys could go out to the

sandpit and swim and good little girls never could do things like that.

And the boys would go on hikes and girls couldn't. Of course I was enough
 than he
 younger, that Mama wouldn't have let me go because I would have been a
 responsibility for him. But it al^{WAYS} seemed like everytime he went on one
 of those hikes that the boys used to have, something always happened to
 him. Whether he was accident prone or what, I don't know. But my dad had
 given him--this shows how lenient he was--a .22 for Christmas. And one time
 Morris had taken his .22, which any mother^{would} worry about, went out with
 several boys and some way, whether he was walking along or what, I don't
 know, but he got shot through the calf of his leg. That was one accident.
 And then another time, he was always collecting, wherever he went he was
 collecting something. And on this hike he was looking for some special kind
 of rocks. And some boy in the group threw a rock against a tree, a live
 small tree and it bounded right back and hit Morris in the mouth and knocked
 out his two front teeth, his upper teeth. So I can just imagine my mother
 hating to have a Saturday come when the boys wanted to take a hike for fear
 something would happen to Morris. But I don't think she ever deprived him of
 going. But those were two things I remembered that happened to him on these
 hikes.

L S: Did you play outside much?

C S: Oh yes. In the winter we did lots of coasting. And I can remember I always
 stayed too long and my hands^{would} get so cold. My mother knitted my mittens,
 and she made me new ones every winter, whether they were worn out, whether I
 needed them or not. And if the old pair, there was a real poor family who
 lived around the corner from us and they^{had} so many children, but they were
 proud. But she'd take those mittens out, a^{little} way from the sidewalk in front
 of our house and drop them down. And when they'd come along for school they'd

pick them up, and of course they didn't know to whom they belonged so they had a pair of mittens. ^{1 Cause} But they were always bare-handed. And she used to feel so sorry.

But I'd come home from coasting and I'd squall because my hands were so cold. Well, instead of putting them in warm water as we think the thing is to do now, she put 'em in cold water and ^hat made 'em hurt all the worse. ^{So} Well, I'd cry all the harder, but she was very patient. But we'd stay out too long, you know. We were having such a good time and all at once we'd just be so cold we had to go home and get warmed up.

But the snow was different then, it stayed on so much longer. Sometimes we had snow for Thanksgiving but not always. But it would stay on for several months as I remember. And then as I got a little older we had sleigh ride parties and go to Pullman and have oyster stew or something over there, you know. ^{Or} ^hgo out in the country to some friend's house ^{and} have a supper. And that was a form of our winter social life, going on sleigh rides. And I remember once my sister, Myra, who was home, chaperoned one of our sleigh ride parties, boys and girls. Of course the man who drove the team had this big bed on the sleigh and he'd ^{filled} ~~cover~~ it with straw and we'd all take blankets and we were cozy and warm. But because my sister Myra was the chaperone they thought she should sit up on the seat. And I know I had a muff, and the style then in muffs, they were kind of flat and they weren't with a lot of filling in them, ^{and} ^{so} I insisted she take my muff. And why, she practically froze to death. She held the muff up in front of her face, you know, I don't know that she ever chaperoned a party again for my group of friends because she was ^{too} just entirely uncomfortable on that sleigh ride. ^{party}

Do you want to shut it off a minute?

L S: Um hum. (Break)

C S: We didn't, as far as ~~boys~~ and ~~girls~~ being together, I can remember when we were around twelve and thirteen we had a club. Oh, there must have been twenty-four or twenty-five children, boys and girls mixed. And we would have parties every once in a while somebody in the group would have a party. And we called our club the Q. A. E. Club. Did I tell you this?

L S: Um hum.

C S: Well, we better cut this out, well, you've heard this, um hum. (Break).

(End of Side A)

C S: . . . ^{from} ~~when~~ poorhouseholds. Sometimes ^{they} ~~they~~ just didn't have adequate, warm clothing. But I don't know ~~that~~ there was every any. . . We didn't have rummage sales, and maybe church organizations, women's aid societies and so on, ladies' aid societies in the churches did something to help out those people. But this family around the corner from us, the father was a blacksmith, and in the winter, I suppose, he didn't have too much to do. And we always considered that they were poor people, they didn't have as much as some of us did. But of course then none of us had. . . Telephones weren't too common. Not many of us had phones; we couldn't call ^{each} ~~each~~ other up. Only, we had--did I tell you this? ~~We had a~~ neighbor who was a young lady in the family was one of the telephone operators, you know. And they lived about two blocks from our house. So I used to go down to--their name was Ralph--to the Ralph home and call up Lillian ^{Caruthers} ~~Caruthers~~, my friend, because her father was a doctor and they had a telephone. So I could call her up. I think she was about the only one of my friends who had a telephone. But I always thought that was pretty fine to be able to go to the neighbor's and telephone. And ^{then} ~~well~~, another friend of mine--this is funny--and it was the

Naylor family. They lived in town then, and Roy and Ralph and their sister, Ruth lived out on the farm. They were through high school and lived out on the farm. And Mr. Naylor had an insurance business in Moscow so they lived next door to Ralph^s, two blocks. And the youngest girl in the Naylor family, Nep^a and I were great friends. And they had a bathroom put on their house before we did, the sewer hadn't gone up as far as our house. And so Saturday morning Mrs. Naylor used to tell me, "Bring your clean clothes over and take a bath at our house." And so I used to do that, and oh it was fun, you know, to have a bath in a real bathtub. But of course it wasn't long after that the ~~sewer~~^{sewer}.. We had city water, of course, but the sewer came up Lynn Avenue so my father built on a bathroom and we had our own bathtub with toilet facilities right in the house then.

L S: Can you tell what you know of Wild Davey?

C S: Well, when I was a little girl, we lived down Lynn Avenue, 1222 Lynn Avenue.

And Wild Davey lived, I don't think it was in the city limits, but it was down at the end of Lynn Avenue toward the bridge that crosses the creek down there on the Highway 8. And a little house, and I think it must have had about two rooms in it. But when we'd go on picnics or anything and walk by there, Of course a favorite place for us to take Sunday walks was to go to the cemetery and look at the monuments. And of course I was very interested ^{because} of my father. But we had to walk by Wild Davey's house and we always went by pretty fast because we weren't actually afraid of him, but we just knew that was his home. And then he always had at least three dogs around and I don't remember even that the dogs barked at us, but we didn't tarry when we were passing Wild Davey's house. But he did go along Lynn Avenue going

to town with his three dogs and I thought his hair was braided but I see it was just flowing long hair in the picture. I don't remember of him wearing

a gun or anything as he had in the picture. But he would pass our house, and of course if I was out in the yard playing or anything, ^{why} I always looked at Wild Davey as he passed by. But did I tell you the experience ^{out} at Naylor's farm?

L S: Not on tape, I don't have it on tape.

C S: Well, when I was a little girl then at this time that Wild Davey lived down here, I was invited ^{out} to the Naylor ranch every year for a week two or three different times during the summer. And he used to drop in at Naylor's every so often and they'd invite him to eat at noon, he'd be hiking around the country. And they were always good to him, they gave him dinner. And Neppa Naylor and I, you know, Ruth the oldest sister was living with her brothers and they were running the farm and she was always scared we might be kinda smarty or something with him. And she always cautioned us. But then a favorite game of ours was to run through the rows of corn and pretend that Wild Davey was after us. And I don't know that he ever chased anybody in his life. I don't think that he was that kind of a person, but it was fun to imagine that.

L S: Was it just his looks with his dogs that were so...?

C S: I think so, and then he was very much to himself. I don't know that he ever. . . And how he happened to stop at Naylor's for his noon meal, I don't know that. And the Naylor farm was four miles out of town or something and probably it was just a good morning's walk out there, but we were always told that whoever ran the hotels were very good to give him leftover food. And ^{then} Mr. Creighton, who owned Creighton's Store, would give him clothing we were told. But as far as his ever doing anything, working at any job, I never knew of it if he did. But he was a character in Moscow and we all accepted him as such, you know.

Nobody seemed to step over ~~b~~onds and try to communicate with him or anything unless he wished it.

L S: Did he just leave town?

C S: Well, I don't actually know what ever happened, and I can't remember how old I was or when we didn't know there was Wild Davey anymore. But finally somebody bought the house and moved it out on Orchard Avenue where it still is. Rooms have been added to it. And then in the upper part of that land that his house occupied people built a home, and if was afterwards, I can't remember who built it, I could if I thought a while. But afterwards, Mrs. Lainey, that was Dr. and Mrs. Lainey's home. He was on the faculty at the university, and that was on the land that Wild Davey had lived on.

L S: Did you ever hear that he had written a book?

C S: Well, I don't think I've ever heard that Wild Davey wrote a book, but I know a man came here, not too many years ago, it ^eseems to me, getting information on Wild Davey. And I didn't know that Wild Davey had been with Kit Carson and so on. I just knew him as a child as Wild Davey in Moscow, and that was it. Course the children used to say that why he had so many dogs if he didn't have any food he'd kill and cook one of his dogs but I think that ^{was} just childhood speculation, you know, I don't believe that was ever true because I'm sure, I know the hotels were good to him to give him food .

L S: Are there any other people that were like him, that were sort of unusual?

C S: Well, we did have a man here later, and they called him "Seven Jackets." And it was because he actually wore seven jackets. I don't know whether he wore all the clothes he had. But he wasn't around very long. And I don't know where he lived or anything about what he did or anything. But he was called "Seven Jackets", and he actually wore seven jackets. And whether he did it

just because that was all the clothes he had or not, I don't know, but he wasn't around Mos^Ocw for very long. And of course, they were eccentrics, those two men, but we had ^{some} ~~one~~ other people ^{here} ~~who~~ ^{were used} ~~I~~ ^{just} to wonder as a child and I never asked for an explanation how they came to Moscow. And one was Sir John Moore. Did I tell you this before?

L S: No.

C S: But I don't know why he was called, but my parents always called him Sir John Moore. And whether he had come from England or what. . . I know where he lived in Moscow, but I don't know anything about him. But I know that he was always known as Sir John Moore.

L S: Was he an English fellow?

C S: Well, I just rather imagine he was. And of course you know about the Bovills?

L S: Um hum.

L S: Did you meet them as a child?

C S: The Bovills? Oh yes. I went with my family up there on a camping trip at Hog Meadows, I think. They expected to fish, and I was a small child on that camping trip because my mother drove her horse and buggy, and I was the baby. ~~and~~ They left so early in the morning that I wasn't even dressed; I was carried out in my nightgown and wrapped in a blanket and put in the buggy. And I suppose when they stopped for a lunch or something later on, ^{why} I was dressed. But I don't remember too much about ^{that} ~~the~~ camping trip. Only that that was when Dr. Watkins was shot. And as we came back home on Sunday after the week's camping trip, out at the half-way stopping place where the Negro family, the black family lived, a man drove up with a team of horses in a buggy or a hack or something and told the news about Dr. Watkins being shot that morning and what had gone on in Mos^Cow. But by the time we got to the

afternoon, which was real late afternoon, there was no evidence of it at the Steffen home. But afterward we were told there were bullet holes in the house. They would have been on the other side anyway, than the roadside on the road because the posse came down through the field and were in that. The creek was different in those days, they ^{had} dredged it and made a new ^{channel} for it. But it did cross the Steffen's place, Paradise Creek, so it was summer you see, and the posse was down, perhaps the creek was dry or almost dry and that was their barricade, the bank of the creek. But of course as you know, the story was told of how young Steffen's mother came out and said, "Don't shoot any more, he's dead." And so the posse didn't. . . I don't know how they happened to see her or whether she carried a white something so they didn't shoot or what. And several in town claimed that it was their bullet that killed him. I know there were two men in town that I know of, thought they were the ones who shot him. But maybe he killed himself, you don't know. But that was an event in Moscow, of course, that will always be remembered I presume by oldtimers. And of course it's in Carol Ryrie Brink's book so it.. .

L S: Another thing I wanted to ask was were there any divorced women in town and was that a. . . ?

C S: Well. . .

L S: Because Carol refers to a few and she makes them sound like they were very ostracized by the people in town.

C S: Right off I can't think of any that I actually knew who were divorced. Of course divorce was very much out of line in those days, you know. And I just can't think of any. Of course we had what they call the red light district. And of course that was always a great source of curiosity amongst the youngsters in Moscow because we knew the houses that they occupied

down in the part of town where they were. And of course, ^{Harry has some} ~~Carrie Olson~~ ^{tales} tells about delivering things down there to them, but it was just all hearsay as far as we children were concerned. We were terribly curious about the red light district and so on.

L S: You didn't know. ..

C S: Oh no, we didn't realize what they were talking about. In those real early days, maybe before my father and mother and the family came to Moscow, before I was born, there was a great deal of gambling in Moscow and for high stakes, too. But I don't know where the gambling took place or anything because if it was still going on after they came to town, my father was not a gambling man and so we never heard of who participated in these big, high stake card games. But I think I'll tell you this.

One day my father was going to town, and he, walking along, he was going to work. He saw a ring and he picked it up, and it was a diamond ring. Nobody ever put an ad--well, we did have a paper but there was never any advertising for that ring or anything. And evidently my father didn't run an ad that one had been found because he just kept it for a while in safe keeping. But we presumed that somebody had bet that diamond ring on cards; ~~that~~ was always what our presumption was in our family and perhaps were intoxicated and lost it. But by and by, my father had my mother start wearing that ring, she just had a wedding ring. And she wore it, and that's been handed down in our family. I don't have it but it still belongs in the family. It's an unusual mounting. My sister Myra wore it after my mother died, it was given to her. And then when she died she wanted it to go to a niece in the family, and it's there today.

L S: Can you tell me some more about some of the things that went on in the grade school that you remember and high school?

Things like, you know, what the school day was like. Things like that.

C S: Well, I went to three different schoolhouses; we had three during then.

And none of them are in existence now. But my first two grades were in

what we call the old high school on Third Street, which is where the educational unit is there now, across from the Methodist church. And

then my third grade was up in the old Russell School, which was a wooden structure, which was the first schoolhouse that was built in Moscow.

But it was just a two room school, one above and one below, a room below, when it was built

but they'd added a wing across the front with four rooms--two above and

two below. And I was in the lower room toward the north when I was in the

third grade. And Miss Clara Wethered, an old family here in Moscow was

my schoolteacher. And there were outside toilets. You had to go out of

the building to go to the toilet and I think they were just a privy sort of a toilet at first. But then I went back to that building when I was in the

fifth grade, in an upstairs room in the original part of the building and by

then the toilets were outside but they were the kind that when you sat on

the seat that caused the water to come down from the tank or something. You

didn't flush them yourself, they automatically flushed when you sat on the

toilet seat. And then after that, my fourth grade, however, was up in

Irving School which was a wooden structure up on the corner of Adams and

A Street, right on the corner. And I think there were only four rooms in

that building as I remember, they were huge rooms because the teachers

carried a very great student load in those days.

L S: How big were the classes?

C S: Well, I think there were at least forty children when I was up there in

my room in the fourth grade. And Miss Lena Whitmore was my teacher. And

my sister Myra, that was her first year of teaching, and there was a little

building down in that same block where the Russell School and the Irving School were that they called the Annex. And she taught a fourth grade that year. There were lots of fourth graders it seemed in Moscow that year. And she didn't have that many students though because the building was small. But all my friends went to my sister but she didn't want her little sister in her room so I went to Miss Lena Whitmore. But Miss Whitmore was a lovely, lovely teacher and I enjoyed my year in her room. And I remember so well at the close of the year, I probably have it yet some place, she gave us a little folder with her picture on the front, and then maybe it was the program for the last day of school or something inside because we always had a program and spoke pieces and sang songs, and our mothers always came to the program. There was never any fathers because they were working. But our mothers always came to the last day of school for where we. . . the afternoon program. I used to speak pieces there, and then as I told you before, I gave readings as I got older so that was my particular talent.

L S: What kind of things would you do at readings/? What was the difference between a reading and a piece?

C S: Well, a piece was usually poetry--that's what we considered then. But when I graduated from the eighth grade we had graduation exercises just like high school. Only of course we just had a new white dress to wear for graduation. And I read the class reading, I gave it that year, was James Whitcomb Riley's, "The Bear Story". And you probably don't know that; it was several pages long. But it was, he sort of wrote free verse, you know. And that was the reading I gave. It was on the program as a reading. And then when I graduated from high school I gave the class reading, and that was a chapter from Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch. And I don't suppose you've even heard of that book.

L S: I've heard of it; I never read it. How were you picked to give the reading?

C S: Well, just because you had spoken pieces all your life, I guess.

L S: Did most people go on to high school from eighth grade?

C S" Well, our eighth grade class was very big; I think there were two eighth grades, probably all these fourth graders had come on to be eighth graders together. And that was in the Irving School, and we had the two upper rooms then, the eighth grade. And Mr. [?] who was principal of the school taught one. And well, I think they were, how was it? I don't think there were any little children downstairs, no seventh grades were downstairs. And it was departmentalized, we had different teachers come in for different subjects, you see. They'd come to ^{that} ~~the~~ stage in our education. And before you go I'll show you a picture of that eighth grade class. I've got it downstairs already to go to the museum. But the eighth grade classes were big because there were several families who had gone to country schools. Well, all the families had ^{n't} moved to town because Arthur Hyke was in my eighth grade and his family still lived out on the farm. So whether the country schools quit having anything above a sixth grade then I don't know, the country schools surrounding Moscow. Because there was a girl, Clarice Abrahamson, they called her Clara, but her name was Clarice, like mine, came in from out here at Blaine. And I think she was driven back and forth by the family. And Arthur Hyke would have had to have been brought in to school. And I think there were others in that eighth grade who--Ward Gano was in that class, but his family had moved in from the farm by the time he was in the eighth grade.

L S: Was there any difference between the kids that came in from the country?

C S: Not that I remember, um hum. Not that I remember ^{there} ~~there~~ ^{were} They fitted right into the school program here. But there ^{were} big classes and how the teachers could handle so many. . . But having it departmentalized it made it easier with those

big classes because probably one teacher ^{taught English} in all four seventh and eighth grades, y'see. So that they actually didn't have to cover as much as if they taught all the. . . Because I know one thing we had was agriculture. We had a little red book and just about farming and land in general, you know, that was what it was, It wasn't a very big book. But that was one subject that was taught in eighth grade--agriculture. And I don't know of anything else that was different. Of course they weren't divided into social studies and scientific studies and so on as they are now. But we had physiology, and spelling and even writing, we had writing lessons and reading, and a separate course in grammar from the reading, 'cause the reading was actually reading literature out of a book, y'see. And you were asked to read orally. And I think that's why the children don't read so well today, many of them, because they haven't had oral reading in school, but we did. And it was always a great pride if your mother came, and my mother would visit the school several times, visit my room several times during the year, unannounced of course. She'd knock on the door and the teacher would open the door and here was my mother come to visit the school. But many of the children's mothers did that. But if it would happen to be reading class and you were called upon to walk up front and read you were quite delighted, you know. And that was one of my better subjects so it pleased me greatly to be asked to read when my mother was present. I read a great deal as a child, though to myself, books.

(End of Side B)

C S: Quite often some member of my family would get me a new book for my birthday or Christmas, but when I was a little girl, and this was before my oldest brother left home because he used to tease me so. I read the Elsie Dinsmore books. Have you ever ^{heard} of them?

L S: Uh uh.

C S: Well, Elsie, ~~her father was away~~ and she seemed to live with her grandparents.

This was a whole series of books. You took Elsie through many years. But her father would come home to visit occasionally, and he expected such perfection in her, you know. And he would punish her if she didn't come up to his expectations, you know. And so my brother would tease me and say, "Well, come ^{here} again Elsie, father's going to spank you for not doing so and so." And of course Elsie would weep. And so I shed many tears along with Elsie. And that was a whole series of books--Elsie Dinsmore books. And then a little later the Five Little Pepper books came out. And I have Five Little Peppers and How They Grew and Five Little Peppers Abroad. And then of course when I was a little older I read Louisa Alcott's books, ^{and} ^{so} I progressed through my reading. But when the library came to Moscow they had a room ^{a part of} up over where ^{Brown's} furniture is now, where they keep their appliances, maybe you've had this story told to you about one summer. Well, every so often a big chest of books, ^{and} ^{as} I remember it, it was a big wooden chest, would come in from Boise with a new series of books, and you could borrow a book. And one of the books I got, I think the books were in Moscow for a month from this one chest load. And of course, you'd try to read several, you know. But the last book I got was quite a big book and I didn't get to finish it and I had to return it and I don't know to this day what that book was, but I thought it was fascinating. But when I've described it to people, they have told me they bet it was ^{Hans} Brinker and the Silver Skates because it was quite a thick book. And it may have been I didn't get far enough into, that I just don't know whether I was reading

Hans Brinker. Of course I read it afterwards. But I just can't associate what it was. . . .

L S: What kind of books did you like to read?

C S: Oh, just children's stories. Of course I can remember ^{that} from a child I ^{always} was interested in the newspapers. I didn't sit down and read the newspaper through but there were certain things I loved to read as a little child in the newspaper when I could read. And then of course the magazines that came into the home like the "Ladies' Home Journal" which was like this then, you know. And the "Delineator", which was a style magazine and so on. Those things even as a small child I enjoyed. And then when Carnegie gave the money for the city library, why of course I started getting books there right away. And because no home library had enough books to keep you supplied with reading if you were a reader in those days. And so I started, and you got a new card every so often, ^{they} checked your books out on a card. And I don't remember what my first number was. Mrs. McBride, her husband had been-- now there's a case about a divorce--a dentist here. And she became librarian, and I don't know whether she did before he died or not. But she was the librarian for years and years ^{and years} and finally whoever held number one card, my card ran out and Mrs. McBride told me, she said, "You've read so many books in this library I'm going to give you the number one card now. And so I held that number one card until they quit using that card file system. And I thought that was pretty nice. Do you want to shut it off just a minute?"
(Break)

L S: How did people feel about him and about her. . . ?

C S: In the divorce. Well, I never knew Dr. McBride personally, he wasn't our dentist. But she was a very intellectual sort of person. . .

L S: His first wife.

C S: His first wife. And I think she probably had a great deal to do with like

the Historical Club and study clubs in those days because she was that type that liked that sort of thing. And I don't know why they were divorced but he did marry this younger woman who became the city librarian. I can't remember her name. But as far as I can remember right off that's the only actual divorce case I know of.

L S: What you said reminds me of what you had to say about Mrs. Lebrooke, a little bit Can you describe her?

C S: Well, no I really can't. She was a great friend of this Mrs. Heddington who boarded in our home when she was in Moscow, afterwards she gave up her own home, she was a widow and had lost her little girl. And she lived in our home for several years, was a boarder. And at that time she was very active in the Historical Club, and I know Mrs. Ledbrooke was too. And then later Mrs. Ledbrooke moved to Spokane and Mrs. Heddington used to go up to spend the weekend with her and so on because they had such similar likes and enjoyed the same things so much. But I don't know anything about the Ledbrooke homelife more than the episode that Carol tells about. I didn't even know they were Methodists or anything but Carol of course tells about the episode.

L S: Did they make much of an impression in Moscow?

C S: Well, I'll tell you, Mrs. Ledbrooke lived down in Moscow for quite a few years. But I don't remember that there was ever much discussion in our home or amongst my friends about that. But of course we didn't go to the Methodist Church and we didn't know this family of Booths like the Methodist people, you see. And the Ledbrookes were also, evidently he was a Methodist anyway.

L S: Did most of your friends as a child go to the Presbyterian church also?

C S: Well, it just happened so. One or two didn't when I was real small, one or two didn't. But my real close friends, because we were in the same Sunday School class. I remember when we were about ten, I judge, or maybe eight or

nine,^{or ten}₁ the oldest Butterfield girl was married and so she asked four of us to be flower girls. And she taught our class in our Sunday School, but Butterfields were originally, I think, Episcopalian.^s₁ But I know Ralston Butterfield was a great Episcopalian afterwards. But Mrs. Butterfield, the mother, in her later years she lived at Hotel Moscow, I believe,^{and} she always came to our church. But anyway this Miss Butterfield, and I can't say her name right off--her first name-- asked us to be flower girls at her wedding and that was held ~~in~~^{at} the Episcopal church. And that wasn't this church that's here now, it was a wooden church. It burned up later. But there was a center aisle and it wasn't very big, just as I remember about the size of the Episcopal church as it is now. And I remember when we had the rehearsal the night before. Mrs. Butterfield, the mother of the bride, we were taking it so seriously to walk up the aisle two by two just as we were supposed to do and with our little baskets of rose petals. But we were so serious about it, I remember so well she said to us, "Smile children, smile" because she didn't want us to be like that at the wedding. She was trying to put us at ease I think, and she didn't want us to be little sour pussies at the wedding.

L S: Were most weddings big?

C S: Well, that church wasn't too big so I'm sure it was filled for that wedding. And as far as the--I thinkⁱⁿ~~at~~ they had the reception up in the big Butterfield home which is up on Polk Street. Because Miss Butterfield used to have us to her home for parties, her Sunday School class. And of course none of us had come from big homes like that and we just thought it was wonderful when she had us for a party.

L S: Do you remember the first cars coming in?

C S: Yes, I do. I think Dr. Carothers had the first car. And I can just remember of seeing it, but I never had a ride in it or anything. And then Dr. Gritman got

a car. But then some friends of ours had moved in--this was the Brown family from the country--and they lived in ^ahouse built home just within the next block and around the corner from us. And their daughter and I were good friends. And somebody they knew had bought a car and it was a front seat and then ^aone little seat--it wasn't a rumble seat, it was just a little seat sitting behind. You didn't lift up anything, the little seat was just there. And so he was going to take my friend, Alma Brown, for a ride, this man, who was a friend of her father's and so she asked me to go along and I sat in the little seat behind. And of ^aI thought it was marvelous to ride in the car. That's my first experience with cars. And then Ward Gano, when we were in high school his father got a car, and I used to go places with Ward sometimes in the car. ^{that is,} Always he'd fill the car with high school kids to go someplace.

L S: Do you remember the first movies or motion pictures?

C S: Yes, uh huh, I do. And there were two movie houses here. And I think Mr. Kenworthy had one on one side of Third Street and somebody else had one across the street. And we went to the show so often on Saturday night, and they cost ten cents a piece ^{each} for children. And if you had a quarter we could go to both shows and have our bag of popcorn too, which we did. And I don't remember of us going any other time of the week--only Saturday night. And then later on they started having matinees for children on Saturday afternoons. But I think that was when the theatres had moved out on Main Street, and that was when they started the matinees for children. And of course I thought I was much too big to go to a matinee then. But along when there was a theatre on Main Street, we had a stock company in the summer. And they just lived here, you know, and I don't have no idea how they made enough money to keep them all on. But my sister, ^{myra} and I were at home. This was after 1908 because I don't know whether I was in high school or where I was. But we went to every change

of program, which was every week. We just thought the stock company was wonderful.

L S: What kind of things did they do?

C S: Oh, they pretty near always had sort of a wild west show with a love story going in because there was pretty near always shooting and I had to hold my ears of course because I didn't like the shooting. But oh the man who played the leading man we thought was just--the young girls of the town thought he was perfectly wonderful. I don't think the company consisted of more than four or five people. Sometimes they had to do a dual role, you know, to take ^{a //} on a ^{the} part. And the scenery was, I imagine if we'd see it now we'd just think it was--they had backdrops, you know, with a city street on. And of course the front curtain, before they'd raise it was all these little ads of businesses in Moscow painted all over it, you ^{see I suppose.} know. They had printed programs ^{of what was.} the cast. I can't remember the names of any of those, but they were--oh, they were quite some shows we thought.

L S: When you went to prep school from high school, what was it that made you decide to go up there? What kind of kids would go up there?

C S: Well, we just thought it was kind of--this same group of girls that we'd been all through the grades together, my friends, three of us, and we were three that ^{we} were always together. We just thought it was kind of smart, you know. We were just doing something different, we were at that age. But of course, I just went ^{the} one year; the other two girls stayed on. ^{up there} They didn't live as far as I did, though. To get to an eight o'clock class wasn't as hard for them probably.

L S: Did many people come from the high school to the prep school?

C S: Not too many, no, no. Not too many. Most of them stayed.

L S: Did you have to have good grades or anything?

C S: No, no. They were just glad to have the students in prep school. Because the

floor wasn't used for classes for the university. It did draw in from over the state, young people where there weren't high schools, you know.

^{Because} And I know in my class, Fred Terno, from southern Idaho, he was a state legislator from down in southern Idaho someplace for years afterwards. ^{Oh, no, that was Aiden Hyde, he came to prep school.} Last

I knew he lost out on an election. But then Fred Terno ^{rr} came here from someplace and I never would have gotten through physics if he hadn't helped me set

up my apparatus every time. And then I remember a boy, I don't know where he was from--a country boy--who came. And they all stayed on for college, y'see. It was just a chance for them to get their high school ⁿ and then go on to college.

L S: Was it any harder than regular high school?

C S: No, no. Only it was departmentalized, you had different teachers of course. But we had that in high school too. Only I think instead of the teachers changing room in high school, the pupils shifted to another room because the halls weren't very big and there was always much confusion. Of course we didn't mind that a bit when we were ^{at} that age.

L S: So prep school wasn't really that different.

C S: No, no, no. It was just like high school. Only ^{you} we were a little freer. You didn't have to sit in a studyhall, y'see, if you weren't having classes. We just always hung around in the hall and looked out the door by the front of the building. And from the third floor we always saw everybody. And of course college wasn't so big now, and there were girls we admired very much and we'd watch for them, whom we thought were very pretty and. . . I think it was just a desire to be adult and grown up. We figured it was more like going to college, y'see.

L S: But then you went back to the high school for your...?

C S: Yes, and then the prep school went out within a year or two. They closed it out ^{because} when they felt the state then had high schools--that everybody had a chance for high school.

L S: Can you tell the story about your wanting to go to college and your father's. . .?

C S: Oh, well. ^{The year I} Well, it was the year I was in prep school, the physical education teacher said, "Why don't you figure on (this was a coming thing, you know, physical education in the public school) why don't you go on with that?" And well, at the university everybody was required to take physical education. It wasn't much more than calisthenics; I don't think we even played volleyball or basketball or anything. It was just ^{folk dancing,} mostly calisthenics and folk dancing. And so the Lewiston Normal offered a course in physical education. . .

L S: I want you to tell the story about enrolling at the U of I.

C S: Oh, yes.

L S: Your father, you know, thinking that there were only certain majors.

C S: Well, yes. My father was of the old school. And he thought you should either be a teacher. . . And finally he came to being a secretary was all right too, but or stay at home. And he was always a great admirer of fancywork we called it, handwork and so on. He thought it was wonderful when young girls just could be satisfied to do that sort of thing. Well, I wasn't of that disposition and so I did start to college, registered and went to college. And I took home economics which my father thought was a very fine thing. And the home economics, that was before they were even in the Administration building. That was one thing they did in the Administration building when they got rid of prep school, when they put the home economics later on up there. Of course it was the law school for a while too, in the third floor. But I registered in home economics and the first assignment in home economics over in Ridenbaugh Hall, where they'd set up this temporary home economics department, was to can fruit for Ridenbaugh Hall. And it was of course fall, and the pears were on. And we were to can pears. Well, we had to wash the jars, and so everybody took their jars--old Mason fruit jars--to the sink to wash them. And I ran hot water on mine and

broke it. And of course that wasn't the thing I was supposed to do and so the teacher--I don't know that she said to^o much--but she explained that that wasn't the way to wash fruit jars, just running hot water over them and so on. So I ~~just~~ didn't last very long that year because I just knew that I wasn't the right temperament for that sort of thing, so I didn't finish the year. And so then the next year my father let me go down to Lewiston Normal to take my physical education. And it happened that ^{the} head of the department in Lewiston was a Miss ~~B~~ocker from New York who was teaching to earn money to go on through medical school. And I liked her very much and I liked what she taught us, and I just thoroughly enjoyed her, and that just made me want to be a doctor because we had to take so many courses that were so foolish for young people to take. We took the same anatomy that th^ey took at medical school and kinest^ehiology. She'd had a year or two of medical school, y^e'see, so as I remember, she didn't teach any of the floor work as we call it in physical education. She just taught the book subjects that went along with the course. And we just adored her. And she had a skeleton that hung ^{with} a screw up in a box case, you know, ^{on the line.} And we knew physiology and we had anatomy and bacteriology. The bacteriology was over in the home economics building because all girls in home economics at Lewiston Normal had to take the course in bacteriology too. But after I was through and I wanted to go on medical school--my father, no, no daughter of his would go to medical school. That wasn't a profession that w^men should be in. That was a man's profession. And so I just was at home ^{then} until. . . And I told you my experience of teaching in the Kendrick schools, didn't I?

L S: Yeah. Did that bother you when your father said that or did you just accept it?

C S: Well, I just had to accept it, that was all. And my brother was the same way

with my niece, she wanted to be a nurse. And she would have been a wonderful nurse, they lived back in Chicago. But she went to Beloit but he wouldn't think of her ^{going} to study nursing. That just wasn't done in their way of thinking.

Do you want anything else, we've got to get our breakfast pretty soon.

We can finish the tape.

L S: Okay. What was it as a young woman after you came back from Lewistn, what things did you do?

C S: Well, I'll tell you, there really wasn't too much in the way of social life. There was quite a little group of us who were not in school and we'd get up a dance occasionally. But then you see during the flu years, we had soldiers at the university, in ROTC. Well, it was just a general, it wasn't ROTC, it was just they were sent in to be trained. And the flu epidemic came on and I worked in Red Cross then because I was needed and other young women in town who weren't in school worked in the Red Cross. There were so many ill people among the soldiers that they had them in many places, in just temporary hospitals, y'see, they took buildings in town. ^{And} so there had to be bedding provided and pillows and sheets and everything. It just seemed to me every week I had some certain amount of solicitation among the residents of Moscow to ^{provide} something. But people were so good because ^h the necessity was so great. And then some of the young women they had a place where they prepared meals for all of these outbuildings that were hospitals. And so, well the food had to be taken, you know. And I was driving at that time, my father had gotten a car; he didn't learn to drive it, but I drove it. And so I often was called upon to drive. But that was a very difficult winter here in Moscow because of so much flu. And like Harry was in the store then, in David's and he'd measure a man, he ordered all the uniforms, and maybe the young fellow would be dead

before the uniform ever came. There were so many deaths. It was very sad. But that's the way I occupied my time. Until I was married.

i LS: Did you help a lot at home?

CS: Well, yes. Yes, I helped with the housework. I didn't learn to cook, but I did other things, because my sister Myra was home and my mother died in 1918 and of course she hadn't been doing the housework anyway. We both did...

End of tape

Transcribed by Kathy Blanton