

MABELLE NICKELL MORRIS

Interviewed by:  
Sam Schrage

Oral History Project  
Latah County Museum Society

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# I. Index

MABELLE NICKELL MORRIS  
CHESTER YANGEL

Mrs. Morris: Elk River, Potlatch; b. 1887  
ran drugstore

Mr. Yangel: Bovill; b. 1904  
warehouse foreman; camp clerk. 3.3 hours

Also taking part: Lillian Morris Yangel ( Mrs. Morris' daughter )

minute page

Side A

- |    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 00 | 1 | How she came to Potlatch (1907). Working in the post office for her uncle, she sent much money to the old country for the sawmillers. Her family worked for the Weyerhaeusers through J.C. Campbell. Their relative who was superintendent. She lived with the Campbells after their daughter died. |
| 10 | 4 | Bill Deary was very gruff; his firing of mill workers; he was a nice person. Mr. Deary was quite retiring. Dances and parties on the second floor hall of a town building. Her social acquaintances were mostly people who worked in the offices. Social life.                                      |
| 17 | 7 | Unsettled and undeveloped country near Potlatch.  |
| 19 | 7 | The Potlatch store. Departments. Her work as cashier. Manager MacDonald managed Elk River store as well as Potlatch. Other women who worked in the store. Axel Anderson's wives died. Foreigners didn't mix with others in Potlatch. Lack of contact with millworkers socially.                     |

Side B

- |    |    |   |
|----|----|---|
| 00 | 12 | Her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. T.P. Jones - she entertained. Mr. Weyerhaeuser's visits. Uncle Campbell visited Elk River on condition he would have trout for breakfast. T.P. said he taught her all he knew. Going on trips to the camps with the Jones. Management including T.P. Jones and Munson lived at Harvard as country was opening up. Mr. Laird thought he was above others. |
| 15 | 17 | Her father-in-law told her she should like his son, before he arrived in Potlatch. He was druggist at the store.  |
| 17 | 18 | Church in Potlatch was well-attended. Christmas Eve she went with her friends to Catholic Mass. Sunday picnics in Vida.   |
| 20 | 18 | The Morris's left Potlatch and worked in Yakima. The offer to come to Elk River. Building up the business very slowly.  |

| minute             | page |   |
|--------------------|------|---|
| Side B (continued) |      |   |
| 23                 | 19   | Elk River was developed by Potlatch and Midwest people. Visiting the Trumballs, on the site of Elk River. The town was built east and west instead of north and south, based on the cabin. Trumball's cabins and resort. Their living quarters above their store. Dispensing drugs. (continued) |
| Side C             |      |   |
| 00                 | 22   | Dispensing drugs. Foreign lumberjacks bought patent medicine for the alcohol. They often preferred Mr. Morris's diagnosis to the doctor's. Bear grease for their hair. Lice from the camps; men used salves.  |
| 07                 | 25   | The ladies had to use flour the mice had gotten in.   |
| 09                 | 26   | Her long days' work at the drug store and at home. The rush of people to the store around 2 pm when the mail came by train.   |
| 12                 | 27   | Dances in Elk River. Physical recreation. Mr. Bloom's policy of allowing only good people in town and keeping the town up.  |
| 16                 | 28   | Potlatch built the houses but sold them to people who wanted to buy. Local support in World War I.  |
| 23                 | 30   | General stores in Elk River. No liquor stores allowed. Hotels and boarding houses.  |
| 26                 | 31   | Rugged trips to Spokane in a car in the cold. The extremely long trip from Elk River to St. Maries by train. Their first order of drugs for their store went to Elk City by mistake.  |
| Side D             |      |   |
| 00                 | 32   | Foreign lumberjacks insisted on buying a wine set for Mr. Bloom, one came back to say "good night." A bottle of wine for the store. Many insisted on foreign ways of doing things. In late years foreign families joined local groups.  |
| 06                 | 34   | Japanese children retained U.S. connections when they returned to Japan. A Japanese dentist and photographer. Elk River doctors.  |
| 12                 | 36   | Snow in Elk River. People have tin rooves because water got under the eaves.  |
| 17                 | 38   | (Lillian Morris Yangel:) A man who used sterno for a drunk. Lumberjacks in jail. Tonic for booze. Ike Adams, the sheriff, hit a robber over the head with a hammer. His wedding present cost the Yangels a dollar.  |

Mabelle Nickell Morris / Chester Yangel

|        | minute | page |  |
|--------|--------|------|--|
| Side D |        |      |  |
|        | 22     | 40   | (Chester Yangel:) Rumor that Sam Pivach killed Big Red is disputed because Sam was such a good man. Sam kept his workers over winter. Pat Malone told stories about his reputation back east.  |
|        | 27     | 42   | A fire bright enough to read a newspaper by at night; a tree borne to the ground by birds fleeing the fire.  |
|        | 29     | 43   | Pat had his star pinned to the seat of his pants.  |
| Side E |        |      |  |
|        | 00     | 43   | (Chester Yangel:) The stockade for the IWW's in Moscow during the First War. They brought in the eight hour day. The '36 strike had agitators coming into the area.  |
|        | 04     | 44   | Meeting T.P. Jones. He started as a water carrier at age nine. Baseball rivalry between Elk River and Potlatch.  |
|        | 09     | 46   | Boehl's cabin was a sportsmen's paradise. Mr. Yangel's work as office clerk at camp. Finlanders in the woods.  |
|        | 15     | 48   | Depression in the woods.   |
|        | 19     | 49   | (Mabelle Morris and Chester Yangel:) Shutting-down mill ruined Elk River. Moving of homes. Mill moved out because Lewiston mill started. Mr. Weyerhaeuser said mill should never have been taken out of Elk River. Shock of removal of mill; the town never recovered. Milltowns are often short lived. They tried gold mining for a while with T.P. Jones and the Jorgersons. Most friends left Elk River; running into people who knew the town. High level of education of youngsters from Elk River. |
| Side F |        |      |  |
|        | 00     | 54   | (Mabelle Morris:) School is financed by timber tax from Forest Service. Closing the drugstore in the afternoons. Elk River doctors.  |
|        | 06     | 56   | Her fear of foreigners at first in the store. Some foreigners were said to be criminals shipped out of Europe. Friendly with foreign families, though not much contact.  |
|        | 10     | 57   | Popularity of bands. School band took second place in Idaho. The great decline in activity after the mill went out. Growth of drifters in town since then. The Morris's own land in town which ties them to Elk River. How she puts in her time.   |
|        | 13     | 59   | Community church, and its use before the depression. Catholic church was moved to Bovill.  |

Mabelle Nickell Morris / Chester Yangel

| minute       | page |   |
|--------------|------|---|
| Side F       |      |   |
| 17           | 60   | More about Mrs. T.P.Jones. Before marriage she cared for Mabelle Morris and her siblings, and got them mad at her strictness. Marriage to T.P.Jones. Her red cross work in the First World War. She was almost overly efficient. Difficulty with some people doing Red Cross work properly. |
| 24           | 62   | A lumberjack who always came to Mr. Morris to get sober. Lumberjacks were kind; they insisted on buying her Christmas presents. Most foreigners worked in the woods.  |
| 28           | 64   | The Jones's felt on an equal footing with the Weyerhaeusers. Mr. Weyerhaeuser was a very common man. The Jones's had farm backgrounds.  |
| 31           | 64   | Sunday gatherings of family for supper and fun. (continued)   |
| Side G       |      |   |
| 00           | 65   | Singing parties. Lodge get-togethers made some activity going on nearly everyday. Many who left regarded their Elk River years as the best in their lives, and still like to return. There was enough prosperity that people were independent.  |
| 05           | 66   | They have thousands of dollars of credit on the books, all since the mill has gone down. Deadbeats who use credit. Husband and son have been lenient about credit.  |
| 08           | 67   | Taking over Mr. Morris's brother's hardware store during depression. Many businessmen who started again elsewhere failed because of the depression. The planer stayed open to cut the remaining lumber. Brother-in-law's struggle after leaving.  |
| 11           | 69   | Drugs for various ailments. Buying extracts for alcohol. Cutting ice at the pond for keeping ice cream.   |
| (16 minutes) |      |   |

with Sam Schrager  
May 14, 1976

## II. Transcript

MORRIS

This conversation with Mabelle Nickell Morris took place at her home in Elk River on May 14, 1976. Also taking part in the conversation were her son-in-law, Chester Yangle and her daughter Lillian Morris Yangle. The interviewer is Sam Schrager.

MABELLE NICKELL MORRIS: ...department for the Weyerhaeuser people in Cloquet. And they had a daughter<sup>of</sup> the same age as I was. And she died. There were six girls in our family. So my uncle, he wanted me to stay with them<sup>for</sup> a while after Winnie died. So I came to Cloquet and I was there for a year with my uncle. And in the meantime, this Uncle Tommy from <sup>Bovill</sup> was sent out here as woods superintendent. And so when they come out here, this job in the post office was open and they wrote for me to come and I could have it. Work in the post office. So that's how I got out here.

SS: Was this T.P. Jones that you went to Cloquet to stay with?

MM: No, my mother's oldest brother, who was J.C. Campbell. And I stayed with them a year and then I come out west. I worked in the post office in Potlatch. And my uncle in Potlatch, another uncle had the post office. And in those days, the post office changed as the Republicans and Democrats did. You remember that don't you? Whoever got in, they had their own post office man. So my uncle lost the post office, he was a Republican, a Democrat got it. So after I left the post office I went in as cashier of the Mercantile store in Potlatch. I worked there until I was married.

SS: How old were you when you came out to Potlatch?

MM: I think I was around 17 or 18. Maybe 19.

SS: Did you have any concerns about coming out to the wild west?

MM: I liked to travel, I always have liked to travel. See the country. I've been all over the world. Traveled a lot.

SS: What was Potlatch like when you first got there? That would have been what year?

MM: Well the mill was running. It was 1907. Just started.

SS: Was the town busy?

MM: Yes, really. And they, in those days, everybody, they bought coupons, they used

those in the store instead of money. Everybody that worked in the mill. There was a big hotel there. <sup>I guess</sup> The hotel's gone, isn't it? It burned down quite a while ago. It was a busy place. I stayed there until I was married.

SS: Which was?

MM: 1910.

SS: When you were in the post office, were you getting foreign mail for the men?

MM: Yes. They sent thousands of dollars out of there every year. Every month. As soon as the men got paid, there were so many fore<sup>g</sup>igners. And they'd come in there and they'd write out the things they'd have to write out for the money order. And they'd write it in their own languages, close as they could get it into American. I used to just have to copy it. I couldn't tell where it was going or anything. I often wondered if they ever got them. (chuckles) It was a busy place, there wasn't any doubt about that. I often wondered why they let them send so much money out of the country, *but they did.*

SS: They were sending it back to their families?

MM: In the old country. Thousands of dollars every month. You'd be surprised how much.

SS: What countries were they going to mostly?

MM: Yugoslavia and <sup>fact,</sup> Italy. There was an awful lot of Italians here then. And Norway and Sweden. Finlanders. There wasn't very many Finlanders, but there was some. Of course they were all different. YOU know how the write. So you can imagine my trying to copy all that, send it over there.

SS: Did many of them operate through their crew foremen? Did they have some of them leaders that you could tell?

MM: Well nearly all of the men that sere, in fact they were all people that were sent out here from Minnesota and Cloquet. They were all Minnesota people, practically, Wisconsin. Menominee, Wisconsin, and Winona, Minnesota, practically every one of 'em come from them two places, Some of them from Cloquet.

SS: When you moved to Potlatch, where did you live ?

MM: I lived with my uncle. My uncle lived there.

- SS: T.P. Jones<sup>?</sup>
- MM: No, with Campbell, James Campbell.
- SS: What was he doing at that time?
- MM: He was <sup>the</sup> post master first. After he left the post office, he went into logging. He worked with Uncle ~~T~~ommy.
- SS: So you came out with Mr. Campbell?
- MM: No, I came out all by myself.(laughs) They sent for me, I came out and I stayed at, what was the name of the hotel in Spokane, been gone a long time now.I don't remember the name of it. I came from Spokane to Palouse and Uncle Tommy was living in Palouse in those days. Right after that they moved to Harvard.
- SS: He was, Mr. Jones was your uncle and Mr. Campbell was too.
- MM: Mr. Campbell was my mother's brother. And Mr. Jones was her brother-in-law. Mrs. Jones was my mother's sister. There was eleven in the family. And my uncle, J.C. Campbell in Cloquet, came to Michigan <sup>when he</sup> was a boy and he started logging there and he kept coming on out until he got to Minnesota and he stayed there til he died. He worked, he was the superintendent for the Weyerhaeuser people in Cloquet for many years. And the other brothers worked for him. Uncle Will and Uncle Tommy and Uncle Jim. They all worked for this uncle, J.C.
- SS: That's how they got started working for the Weyerhaeusers?
- MM: Yes.They all worked for the Weyerhaeuser people all their lives. From the time they left Ontario.
- SS: It was J.C, that you were staying with?
- MM: In Cloquet.
- SS: How did the daughter die?
- MM: They had a tent in the yard for them to play in. And there was something sticking up, a piece of the tent or something. It was holding it down.

She skinned her knee. She got tetanus in it and she died. Those days I guess they didn't know what to do. They didn't realize what it was all about. She was the only girl of course, at that time. That was the only child they had. And he felt pretty badly. After that they had three boys and two girls.

SS: You stood in her place for a while.

MM: He just wanted me to come out. He said I always looked like Winnie. <sup>He</sup> Wanted me to come. That's how I come west.

SS : Where did you come from?

MM: Ontario. I was born in Ontario.

SS: You still have a ~~t~~ trace of a Canadian accent.

MM: When I go back there and come back here everybody says, "You're a Canadian, aren't you?" I pick it up. And then of course it gradually goes away again.

SS: When you were living with your uncle in Potlatch, were you on Nob Hill?

MM: No, I lived, you know where the old school was. Well we lived right across the street from that in two of those houses. I forget the name of it. Dr. Thompson lived <sup>ON ONE CORNER</sup> and we lived next door to him. I've forgotten what the number of the street was. I don't suppose I know anything about it any more anyway because I think it's all changed down there now.

SS: It has to some extent, but you can still see where Nob Hill is.

MM: I had a lot of friends up there. The Humistons, I used to go up there. <sup>a lot</sup> Mrs. Humiston and I were very good friends. She was a lot older than I was too but I guess she liked me or something. I used to go up there a lot. They used to go up to the Dearys once in a while. When I had time.

SS: What was their place like?

MM: they had a nice place. They had a lovely home up there. I don't know if the house is still standing or not. Do you know?

SS: I don't know which was their house.

MM: I can't tell you. Even now I've forgotten where any of those houses were. <sup>That's</sup> all changed so much, seems to me.

SS: You remember Bill Deary being alive?

MM: Well, he was a gruff, he'd come into the post office there and you'd think he was going to take your head off. He <sup>didn't</sup> mean any of it at all, that's just the way he was. But I used to get awfully mad at him a lot of times. Come in, say something, then he'd laugh.

SS: You mean?

MM: Something that make you kind of peeved at him.

SS: Bawl people out?

MM: Yeah, he would. And then it'd be all over. But when he had the mill there, about every two years the men were all fired and some of them were rehired and some of them wasn't. It was really funny.

SS: He'd do that all at once?

MM: Yeah. All at omce, the whole bunch of them. And then pretty soon, why he'd fire, he'd take some of them back and some <sup>of them</sup> he wouldn't.

SS: What was he like at home? Was he milder?

MM: I think, oh yes, Mr. Deary was a real nice person. Everybody liked him, but that's just the way he was. And everybody knew it, how he'd get off the handle and then he'd go back.

SS: Just his manner.

MM: Yes, it was. I had an article someplace on his life. I tried to find it, but I couldn't.

SS: What was Mrs. Deary like?

MM: Well, she was a very nice person, but she never went <sup>very</sup> much. She was very quiet person. She was quite a homebody, she liked to stay at home. I never knew her too much. I used to go up there once in a while but not very often. She, you hardly ever see her downtown. Very, very seldom. She might have gone with a lot of other people, but I never happened to see her <sup>around</sup> where I was when I was working.

SS: Was their home much of a gathering place, or where was the social center for the management?

MM: Well, they had a, over the bank there was a bank and then in between the store

and the bank there was a pool hall and a candy store out in front. And for a while after my uncle had the post office, he run that. And those great big hall, huge hall above that part of the building and that's where they used to have all our dances and everything, We used to have a dance there every once in a while. They always were having dances. Hallowe'en parties and all kinds of parties.

SS: Would lumberjacks take part in that, or was this more for the townspeople?

MM: You know, they had a big office with people that I knew more or less was people that worked in the main office. They <sup>had</sup> several people, I can't tell you right now the number of people they had in there but they had a <sup>lot of</sup> young men and young women. And those people would run the telephone office. And that was the crowd that I was with more than any body else. I couldn't tell you about the others.

SS: They were the ones that would have the get togethers?

MM: Yes, we always get together. We had picnics and all <sup>kinds</sup> of things.

SS: Would it be dances in the hall?

MM: Yes. Used to have, in fact I <sup>got</sup> a picture of one of the parties we had. One of the Hallowe'en parties upstairs. It was taken in the hall, it was a Hallowe'en party and they took pictures after they had their lunch in the evening. I run across it the other day. I never thought anybody'd be interested in anything <sup>from</sup> Potlatch.

SS: I am. I thought we'd talk about it <sup>before</sup> we talked about Elk River. Did you find it to be a very active social life in Potlatch?

MM: It was for me because I was young enough that I had never been in any place, I was raised on a farm in Ontario and we used to go to dances. <sup>and all that</sup> But as far as socializing in a town like that, I never had anything to do with it. I just kind of drifted in with the people who were there at <sup>the</sup> time. But there were all kinds of young people worked in the mills, there was an awful lot of young people <sup>came out</sup> from Wisconsin, Cloquet, through that part of the country. Young people, when they were interested, We used to go horse-

back riding and there was lots of horses there at the time. We had picnics and get together at our own homes.

SS: Were the young people worked in the mill, were they laborers?

MM: Mostly in the mill. They were trained men because they were sent out from the mills back east. Practically all the men who were put in the mill there when it first started was trained men from Minnesota and Wisconsin.

SS: Many of them brought their families, right?

MM: <sup>That the</sup> They were all families. They had houses there, dozens of 'em. Families lived in that come from the east. Fact, there were very few of the men around Potlatch and that part of the country that worked in the mill, because they were all farmers, practically. When I first came out here, there wasn't any homes from Potlatch to Harvard. It was all timber. I used to drive with Uncle Tommy up from Potlatch and then on up to Bovill and it was all timber <sup>in</sup> those days. There wasn't any farms or anything. Even at those places that they named all those, Cornell and Harvard, those places that <sup>was</sup> named <sup>along</sup> in there, there wasn't anything but a depot practically. Maybe a few old shacks that somebody was living in.

SS: I've heard it said that Potlatch is what built up the country.

MM: It sure was. I can remember going up to Princeton, to farms up there and visiting. <sup>Uncle Johnny Commerford.</sup> Lot of the people who lived up in that part of the country who used to go up and visiting them and have picnics out at their place because a lot of those people worked in the store.

SS: In Potlatch?

MM: In Potlatch. They had, I got a lot of pictures of the crew that worked in the store in Potlatch. You'd be surprised how many people were in there. They had a meat market and they had a grocery store and they had a men's department, they had a shoe department and they had a dry goods department. They had a candy department and they had a drugstore. Huge store. It was all these young pople too that got together with the rest of us.

SS: What did you do in that store?

MM: I was the cashier.

SS: For the whole store?

MM: Uh huh. They had a little cubby hole built up where they sent those little, round cages, ran on wires. That all used to come up to that part of the store. And the boys down in the grocery department used to put mice and everything else in <sup>'em</sup>. (laughs) I could have killed ~~them!~~

SS: I always assumed that the store did a good business.

MM: They evidently did. They had a furniture, all the upper part of the store was furniture. And my father-in-law run the furniture store. They had a huge furniture store there. So it was really a big store, there wasn't any doubt about it.

SS: A lot of people paid in script?

MM: They had cupons. So many cupons, I don't know if it was five or ten dolla coupon books they had. And that way they didn't have to charge anything. I don't think anybody ever charged anything. They didn't allow them to charge. They may have gave these cupons as credit, I don't know anything about that whether it was or not. I wouldn't be surprised.

SS: I've been told that new families could get coupon books off of their first checks.

MM: Uh huh.

SS: Was Mr MacDonald there when you were there?

MM: Yes. He was the superintendent, he run the store.

SS: I've heard that he was quite a hand for the sales and knew how to bring people into the stores. Would you say that's right?

MM: Uh huh. He had a very good personality. I boarded with them for a while after my uncle left. They moved up to Bovill and <sup>I</sup> stayed with the MacDonalds. <sup>they left.</sup> After<sup>n</sup> But we never got to see much of him because he was up early and down to the store. He boarded a lot of the girls that worked in the store. Several of us stayed with the MacDonalds. Then he had a stor<sup>y</sup> up here for a while. The store at Elk River for a while.

SS: Did he run them both at one<sup>7</sup>,

MM: He, it was just I suppose it was <sup>f</sup>partially he run the both stores at the same time.

SS: Was he salaried or did he have a concession?

MM: Salary, they were all salary. I think the Potlatch, they paid everybody to run it. You know, there's a lot of it that I've forgotten.

SS: It's been a long time.

MM: It has been a long time. And coming up to Elk River, lot of times I get things mixed up. <sup>too</sup> But Mr. MacDonald did run the store here for a while. And then Mr. Hood, he was one of the men that worked in the Potlatch store and he come up here and run the store for Mr. MacDonald. And he was in the store here when I first came to Elk River, I do remember that. (laughs)

SS: Thinking about the store, was it much of a meeting place?

MM: Not too much, no.

SS: It was a business place?

MM: It was a business place was right. We used to have all kinds of fun. They were always pulling tricks on everybody and MacDonald was one of the worst ones himself. But outside of the store people, there wasn't too much like that going on.

SS: Did they have those big sales when you were there?

MM: That was later on. After I left there. I don't know anything about it. It happened then a long time after I left. 1910. I was only there a little over a year.

SS: Were there many customers that were coming in from out of the town?

MM: Well the farmers around Potlatch all came in. But outside of that, I don't remember, they didn't have transportation to come in! In those days. There wasn't too many cars at that time. And of course, the train run in from Palouse. I think it only came in once a day.

SS: Who were the other girls that were working the store the same time you were? Where they came from or how they happened to be working there?

MM: Well, Elma Dart, she was one of the girls that worked in the office and

her father run the hotel in Palouse. And Lolla Board, she came from back east. I don't remember where she did come from. <sup>Now</sup> Anyway, she's still living in Spokane. She moved to Spokane <sup>after</sup> they left Potlatch, And...

SS: Did she have any relations?

MM: She had a sister who came out later. Wasn't very long before I left, she came out and she worked in the store a long time after I did. And there was Neva Adams that worked there, and she <sup>is</sup> <sup>married and</sup> living down in Los Angeles, now. The Boyds, I don't know where they did come from. There was some, Johnny <sup>Commerford</sup> he run the shoe department and he was born up around Princeton. You probably, don't you live around Harvard?

SS: I live around Troy.

MM: Well you're not familiar around there too much.

SS: I know some of the people from talking with people.

MM: There were several kids that worked in the store there that was boys that was raised on the farms out there, but I can't tell you, I don't even remember their names any more.

SS: Then ~~the~~ your responsibility was take the bills and make change?

MM: Uh huh. Lolla Board worked there as cashier for a long, long time. I used to fill in for her and then eventually I took it and she went up into the office and worked there.

SS: Was it a ten hour day?

MM: I don't remember about the store hours. I remember I used to have to get up at six o'clock in the morning and send the mail out. From Potlatch, I remember that. (chuckles) My uncle, he used to have other jobs and things to do so I used to have to get up and get the mail ready to be sent out. But I don't remember what time we did go to work. I think it was eight o'clock, but I'm not sure. As I say, it's so long ago.

SS: There are so few that are still around who were at Potlatch. That early.

MM: Did you ever see Axel Anderson?

SS: I sure have.

MM: You must have got a lot from him

SS: A great deal.

MM: I just wondered if you ever got up to see him.

SS: I've spent a lot of time talking with him. Have you seen him in recent years?

MM: Oh, two or three years since I've seen him. But I was up in Spokane a month ago and I run across one of the girls that used to work in the telephone office here. She had seen him. (pause) ~~That~~<sup>were</sup> neighbors to us. Here in Elk River.

SS: His first and second wives both died?

MM: Betty died in, I don't know the year. But anyway, the oldest daughter took care of the home for a long long time. And then Axel moved away from here and after he moved away he married a woman from Cavendish. And she died. He's been married three times. His other wife died here not too long ago. The last one, I think she was a teacher, he married. I never knew her very well, I met her several times. They were living in Spokane and I didn't see her too much.

SS: One thing about Potlatch, who did you mix with when you were there. <sup>?</sup> I have a feeling the foreigners had very little to do with the social life.

MM: They had their own part of town to live in. That's where they lived. No, they never mingled with the other people. Very seldom ever seen 'em except when they come into the post office. In fact most of them just talked their own language. They never even talked English.

SS: For the people that you would spend your time with it would both the management and their youngsters?

MM: Uh huh.

SS: But also you spent time with townspeople that worked in the mill.

MM: Well <sup>through</sup> where you were working was only the way you did.

SS: Not socially?

MM: No, just people there, I remember the names, but I never had anything to do with them as far as that goes. There were so many people there. I don't know what the population was, but it was an awful lot of people. (

MM: I always went to my aunt, out <sup>to</sup> Harvard where my aunt lived. We always went up there and had Christmas dinner. We never had any parties with anybody in Potlatch. Hallowe'en and those, Fourth of July, we probably had picnic and maybe go horseback riding. But somebody always put on a Hallowe'en party. Different parties like, <sup>that</sup> there was always something going that way. It's so long ago, there's so many things that I've forgotten until maybe something will come up that will remind me of it. (chuckles)

SS: About your aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. T.P. Jones, I've heard about both of them, they were well known all through this country.

MM: Well, Uncle Tommy was a swell person and he, everybody liked him. And Aunt Marjorie, she had a mind of her own. She was very much interested in every civic affair. She was always doing something. She was, I <sup>can</sup> remember we work until midnight on Red Cross work. She had an upstairs room and she had it just full of Red Cross work and knitting and sewing and everything else, she took charge of that. But ...

SS: Was this in Bovill?

MM: Uh huh.

SS: When you say she had a mind of her own, I take it she was independent.

MM: Very independent. If she wanted something done she was going to have it done too. (chuckles) Aunt Marjorie, she was liked in some ways and some people didn't like her because if she wanted somebody, <sup>when she was</sup> working with the Red Cross, if she wanted somebody to do something, she wanted it done and she wanted it done right. Is really what I mean more than anything else. And she like to entertain. She was always entertaining. She had lots of company. Of course, the Weyerhaeuser people, when they came they nearly always spent time out there. <sup>Mr.</sup> Weyerhaeuser, she generally had them there for meals and everything.

SS: Can you describe to me what entertaining was like in those days? Would it be formal compared to what you think entertaining is now?

MM: When she had her dinner parties she had all the silverware and all the

beautiful dishes and everything come out. (chuckles) And everything had to be done right. Everything was served beautifully. But they used to go to camp a lot. She didn't have a lot of meals there, but they did have meals there a lot. The Weyerhaeuser people, when they came out. I really don't know what else to tell you, any more than that.

SS: I'm thinking about the Weyerhaeusers. Do you remember them?

MM: Yes, I remember them very well because they come up here to Elk River. The first dollar Lillian Yangel ever got, Mr. Weyerhaeuser gave it to her. When she was a little, tiny baby. He was in the store one day and I had her out there in the baby buggy. He give her a dollar. But he used to come in and visit with us a lot in the store quite a little bit when we used to come to Elk River. He was a very nice man.

SS: Which Mr. Weyerhaeuser was this?

MM: It was the older man that used to come here mostly. I never knew any of the younger boys, any more than just to meet 'em. One of 'em was kidnapped, wasn't it, the one that's in Tacoma was kidnapped. I met them but I never knew them.

SS: Was this the original?

MM: Uh huh. The older Mr. Weyerhaeuser.

SS: What was he like? Would he talk to you?

MM: Oh yes. He was a very competent person. He was nice with everybody. But he used to come <sup>up</sup> here with Uncle Tommy. He used to come <sup>up</sup> and fish. Have fish for breakfast, that was one of their likings. My uncle from Cloquet, he was out here on business and he called me and I was, I asked him, aren't you coming up? He said, "I'll come up on one condition: That's if you'll go out and get me some trout for breakfast." I said, alright, I'll have trout for breakfast and hot biscuits. How's that? So my husband got up that morning and went out and caught, I don't know, he had a dishpan full of fish. This was way, way back, after we first come to Elk River. And I had a <sup>platter</sup> about this long and it was heaped up with fish and they cleaned every one of 'em up. That's the only reason he come to Elk River, get fish. (chuckles)

Mr. Weyerhaeuser, he was a very nice person because he <sup>nearly</sup> always came in to see us when he came up. When he was out here on trips. He wasn't here too often. Mostly he'd stay in Potlatch. But every once in a while he'd come to Elk River. With Uncle Tommy.

SS: They's stop in at the drugstore?

MM: Yeah. Uncle Tommy always said he taught me everything I knew. (chuckles) I lived with them for such a long time. He used to take me out in the woods and everything. He always told me, "Everything Mabelle knows, I <sup>taught</sup> her."

SS: Do you think that was true?

MM: Some for the ways of the west. Anybody lives on a farm back in the east, you know, they know a little bit anyway.

SS: What were those trips like? Did he just want to take you along to have company?

MM: No, he used to take my aunt and I. Every once in a while he would go, stay over night and camp and then come back the next day while he was out doing something he had to do. I used to go horseback riding with him too. We <sup>go</sup> <sup>out</sup> on the horses. But we just go up to camp, and Auntie and I would <sup>roam</sup> around while he was working and...

SS: Annie?

MM: Auntie. My aunt. We used to call her Auntie instead of Aunt Marjorie.

SS: What did he travel around in?

MM: In the wintertime, sleds and horses. We had a democrat, you know what a democrat is?

SS: No.

MM: It's a four wheeled, and it's got two seats in it, one in front and one in back. They always called them a democrat and that's what he had. We used to travel in that in the summertime. In the wintertime we travelled in a sled. When we get out to camp, the first thing we generally <sup>do</sup> have breakfast, spend around the camp all day or go out in the woods and ramble around. They

used to be wonderful days. I always enjoyed that, 'cause I liked to be in the woods anyways.

SS: Sounds like a lot of fun. When you were in the camp, what could you do?

MM: We both, my aunt liked to be in the woods too. She liked to get out, she'd hunt birds and <sup>things</sup> like that, used to go with them. Remember one day we were out and we got a possum up a tree. And that wasn't very far out of Harvard. Must have been the one <sup>up at</sup> Collins. And she went back to Bovill and got her gun and come out and got it. We stood there and watched the possum, kept it up the tree til she got back. I get a lot of this mixed up with the camps in Cloquet 'cause I used to go out with my uncle in Cloquet too and I was there with uncle and Johnny Campbell. <sup>When</sup> We'd go up in Cloquet, they had lakes up there, we used to go out in the canoe and stay out in the lake all day and fish practically. But out here we had to hunt or do something else. We used to like to get flowers and <sup>bring them in and</sup> put 'em in the garden.

SS: Were the trees then big? Spacious compared to the way it is now?

MM: Oh yes. There were beautiful huge trees. Here in Elk River that stump out there in our yard, trees were like that. All along the streets were huge trees like that. It was almost impossible to get those stumps out. They just can't get 'em out, there's so much roots on 'em.

SS: Mr. Jones, was he woods superintendent when he was at Potlatch, or did he move up after he'd been here a while?

MM: He was sent out here as woods superintendent. <sup>He was</sup> Woods superintendent for all the time.

SS: He moved to Harvard and then he moved to Bovill?

MM: They lived in Palouse first and then they moved to Harvard. And then they moved to Bovill, <sup>they</sup> lived in Bovill the rest of the time.

SS: So they didn't live in Potlatch?

MM: Uh un. They never lived in Potlatch.

SS: They moved to Harvard soon after you came?

MM: They had already got their house in Harvard when I came, And I never did live with them in Palouse because I stayed with them in Harvard all the time,

SS: Then they moved to Bovill, was that before or after you came to Elk River,

MM: They lived in Bovill a long time before I came <sup>to Elk River</sup>. It was after I was married, we moved to Yakima. Mr. Morris run a drugstore over there in Yakima. Until we come back to Elk River in 1910-11.

SS: There's nothing at Harvard anymore. Was there activity in Harvard at that time?

MM: I think they moved there <sup>more be</sup> cause that was closer to his work. And Mr. Munson, he was the assistant woods superintendent, they lived there too. They lived in Harvard also. And there was a lot of the boys, the Featherstone boys <sup>and</sup> McAllister and the Henrys. They all lived at Harvard too. I don't know why.

SS: I have a feeling Harvard was more of a headquarters for building the railroad.

MM: Evidently it was, because I don't know why they moved to Harvard, I couldn't tell you that.

SS: I'm trying to think of the man who owned the land there. He homesteaded the townsight of Harvard, a good friend of Mr. Laird's, probably all those people. Do you remember Mr. Laird?

MM: Not very much. We never got to see very much of him. Nobody liked him. I never liked him.

SS: Why?

MM: I don't know, I guess it was <sup>just</sup> his way <sup>more</sup> than anything else. He came out from east. He was a banker back east. He kind of thought he was a little bit better than anybody else. A lot of people didn't like Mr. Laird.

SS: I've heard him being something of an aristocrat.

MM: He was. He was always pleasant <sup>enough</sup>, he just didn't mingle <sup>enough</sup> as far as I was concerned, with other people. I never had any trouble with him or anything. He just, you meet people like that that you don't have anything in common, I guess.

SS: How did you happen to meet your husband?

MM: He was the druggist at the store in Potlatch.

SS: Was that part of the store?

MM: Yeah. There was, I've forgotten the man's name that was in the drugstore when I came there. And anyway, he left and Mr. Morris came out from the east to the drugstore. He wasn't there when I first went in the store. <sup>In afterwards.</sup> My father-in-law run the upstairs part of it. My husband's father.

SS: That was the furniture.

MM: Yes, he run that part of the store. The whole thing. He was there, in fact, he helped build Potlatch too. He come out to Potlatch in the real early days. I think he worked as a carpenter. When he first came out. Then they put him in the store and he looked out after, I think he did a lot of the repairing and things like that that had to be done. <sup>to</sup> He used to always tell me, there was a little cubby hole where they sent the cages down to change the money. He used to come over there and talk to me every once in a while. He always told me, "I've got a son coming out here. I want <sup>you</sup> to like him." (laughs) He used to kid me all the time.

SS: When he came out, did you like him right away?

MM: No, I was running around with his brother when he first came out. And the youngest boy came out with the Morrises when they came from Iowa. And I used to go out with him all the time before. Eventually, just, I used to have to stay after the six o'clock a lot of times to get the money taken care of and <sup>everything and</sup> then a lot of times Mr. Morris would have to stay there too and we used to walk home together. We just got together and that was it.

SS: Were you married in Potlatch?

MM: No, in Spokane. We were married in the first Presbyterian Church, <sup>In Spokane.</sup>

SS: Speaking of church, was there regular church service in Potlatch the people went to?

MM: <sup>Yes, it was a</sup> church right across from the schoolhouse. And we used to go to church every Sunday there. Then they had a Catholic church there too. There were ~~two~~ churches in Potlatch when I first went there.

SS: Was the church you went to...?

MM: Presbyterian. We used to go to church there all the time and we used to always go down, two of the girls that I run around with were Catholics and we used to always go to the midnight mass at the Catholic church on Christmas Eve. Always. I don't think I ever missed a mass <sup>as long as</sup> I was in Potlatch.

SS: Who attended them in general? By a lot of the mill workers?

MM: They church was practically always full. Of course, people went to church more in those days than they do now. Church, there was hardly ever a time when the seats weren't all full, I can remember that very well. That was one of the things that we looked forward to doing. Going to church. On Sunday, we kept Sunday more or less in those days than we do now.

SS: What would people do after church?

MM: Go horseback riding or out on a picnic. Anything in general that we thought of doing, I guess. I can remember lots of times when we used to get horses and ride over to Viola. We used to ride over there and there was a little store over there we'd go in there and buy some pop and <sup>get</sup> some crackers and cheese and have a picnic and then ride around after that.

SS: How do you think T.P. Jones used to handle the men? Did you observe him, what he had to do in his work?

MM: Well no, I can't tell you much about that. But I know all the men liked him. Everybody liked Uncle Tommy. He was always very lenient with them and liked his men. I know that because I was around him enough for that.

SS: Did he mostly work with the camp foremen?

MM: I don't know. I couldn't tell you that. But evidently he did more or less because he'd almost have to.

SS: After you moved to Yakima...

MM: We were only there three or four months was all.

SS: How come you decided to leave Potlatch?

MM: Mr. Morris wanted to get away. He just wanted to get out of Potlatch. He had left anyway, before that. He worked in Asotin, Mr. Pultz in Asotin wanted a druggist and I guess he was getting more money, I don't remember

what the ins and outs was, but I think they offer<sup>ed</sup> him more money than what the Potlatch would pay. He worked for Mr. Pultz down there a while and after we were married he worked for a man over in Yakima. We were there from December until June. Was all, in Yakima.

SS: How did the idea of going to Elk River come up?

MM: Well, Mr. Bloom evidently dreamt Mr. Morris, he was here at the time, he built the building down here, <sup>for a</sup> drugstore and hardware store.

SS: This is your father-in-law?

MM: He was already here in Elk River. And I don't know whether he said something to Mr. Bloom or not. Mr. Bloom wanted us to come and start the drugstore here. There were already two <sup>other</sup> drugstores here then. There was three drugstores here for a while. So we decided to come over here and we started in from nothing. I had one or two hundred dollars and Mr. Morris had one or two hundred dollars and we started out with that. Start a drugstore. So you can imagine.

SS: Did that mean you couldn't buy much stock?

MM: We just eventually started in with a little and worked up. Of course, there were twelve hundred people here at that time so we made it. Eventually the other two drugstores left. Miss Crawford from Bovill built this other building. The one we're in now. We eventually bought it. That's how we're in this drugstore. When we were in the other one when we first came to Elk River.

SS: It seems that an awful lot of Potlatch people came over here when the town started up right?

MM: Uh huh. Well I suppose because they had worked in Potlatch and they knew the mill and everything. Most of a lot of the head men, <sup>some men</sup> came from the east. Came out from the east. <sup>to</sup> Work out here. I remember there was a Mr. McCall that come in the store one day while I was in there. I knew him back in Cloquet. He used to come in and visit with me all ~~the~~ time. I don't know whether I was lonesome or he was lonesome. Anyway, he had been in the east and I knew him from back there. So I know there was a bunch of men came

from back east, from the mills there.

SS: He probably wanted to talk about the east.

MM: Sure. Somebody to know. But you can imagine my being in Cloquet in all these camps with my uncle back there and then coming to Potlatch and being with him. Then all this change, sometimes I get things muddled.

SS: You've seen a great deal more than probably most people who stay.

MM:Ww Well, I've seen a lot, I know that. I wished, so many times I've wished, why don't I write those things down? That happened.

SS: We can get some of it by talking like this.

MM: I've been talking to Virginia Hill, she's getting a lot of things together for the Orofino paper. And she get to talking and things come back that I've forgotten all about. Never remember even that had happened.

SS: Do you know what the thinking was about putting the mill in Elk River?

They sure came in overnight and started it up.

MM: No, I don't remember anything about that part of it at all. You know the mill was already built when I came. Just had started to run, But I wasn't, I might not have been interested probably. <sup>is one thing</sup> I wasn't even every thinking of <sup>Because</sup> coming to Elk River to live. Although I'd been in Elk River, I come up with my uncle one time. The Trumballs were still here.

SS: They were?

MM: I was here once before the Trumballs had left.

SS: What do you remember about that?

MM: Well, the only thing I remember is all these log cabins and it was around here where the townsight is now. There's a whole buch of log cabins here across the street. And where our store is now, there was a log cabin there and that was the original homestead. And Elk River isn't built north and south. 'Cause the cabin that Trumballs had was built wrong. And all of Elk River is built the same way.

SS: East and west?

MM: Uh huh. Isn't really right.

SS: It's based on Truballs' cabin?

MM: Uh uh. That's what *they* say. I can remember that real well. Put it in same as the cabin was.

SS: The store that you're now in.

MM: Yes. I can remember the cabin very well. It used to sit across cornerwise. The cabin used to sit this ways, the way the *drugstore* is now. Instead of it being built this way. And there was a cabin, there was a nice little cabin right across the street from it. There was a family of Torgersons, *had* just moved in there. When I first came to Elk River. And all these other little cabins *was* where people used to come up from the east, he used to run a, he had all these eastern people *come out* here where they could fish and everything and that's where they would stay. And evidently the homestead, I think they *must* have fed them over there. Or had a place there where they could feed them because there wasn't a place where you could eat. I remember that very well.

SS: When you came out with your uncle, you stayed in one of these cabins?

MM: No, we didn't stay, we just come up for the day. This was after my uncle moved to Bovill. We drove up here.

SS: Trumball was still here.

MM: They were still here.

SS: Didn't he have a family?

MM: Yes, I think they did. I think they had two girls. I really don't know anything about them at all. I haven't any idea.

SS: You think it was largely eastern people that would come out here and stay?

MM: As far as I know it was eastern people, because they used to come, good fishing and everything, come out here and I guess a lot of them spent the summer here. Is what they say. But I wouldn't *quote* that because I don't know.

SS: It was all *timber*?

MM: It was all timber there. *Fact*, I could show you a picture of Elk River where all the streets, but it's over to Virginia's . I sent them to Orofino for

the paper, It's where the streets are all stumps. <sup>Out</sup> Along ~~there~~ in front of the store where we are now was all kinds of stumps in the streets there when I first came. They took 'em out afterwards.

SS: When you first came, did you and your husband have a place to live or did you have to look for one?

MM: Mr. Morris was building that building that you have the picture of. And they built <sup>the two</sup> store buildings, it was, he built one for a hardware store and one for a drugstore, all in the same building. Then the drugstore, there was two, there was an apartment back of it, there was <sup>just</sup> two rooms, kitchen and a bedroom. And Mr. and Mrs. Morris, my father in law was living in that. But there was an upstairs to the building and there wasn't anything but the rafters going across there. <sup>So they put</sup> Some planks over across those rafters and put 'em a mattress up there and that's where we stayed when we first come to Elk River til our rooms were finished. We used to climb a ladder to get up there. So you think we didn't do some pioneering.

SS: What did you think when you came here? Did you feel optimistic about the success? Sounds like you started with very little.

MM: We did start with very little. Of course in those days you used to buy eve rything in a gallon jar. Powder and everything come in a can. And you had to dish it out in little bottles and anybody come in and wanted camphor or anything like that, you'd dish it up in a little ounce bottle for them. And we used to buy that and get it into the bottles and all the prescription work they had to do, take all these powders and mix them up in a mortar and whatever...

(End of side B)

SS: ...little paper and folded up?

MM: But a lot of powders that were issued those days were prescriptions. You had to mix 'em up in a pedestal(pestle), you know what that is? And then put, weigh 'em and put 'em into a little, fold 'em up in papers so that <sup>that</sup> would be the dosage that they'd take.

DD: No capsules?

MM: Yeah, only you had to fill 'em. We got boxes of empty capsules down there now that we had in those days. There's bottles down there, dozens of them that's got stuff that we <sup>used to have</sup> to dish up in little bottles. We have little bottles up from this size and then from this size and then on up to six, eight ten and twelve ounce bottles. It all had to be put up that way. <sup>believe me.</sup> *It was work,*

SS: Would you do this on a customer by customer basis? Each one after another.

MM: We didn't have any, in those days we had a doctor here. All the prescriptions <sup>every one of them</sup> come in, that was the way they were put up. They were all mixed. There wasn't anything mixed like it is nowadays. Now everything comes in a bottle. In those days we had to put everything in a bottle, we had to label everything. We had a case there this square with every kind of a label you could think of. There's a lot of them down there yet. Never been used. So you see, things have changed a lot since <sup>those days,</sup>

SS: Did people use medicine like they do nowadays?

MM: Used to use, put up medicine. Paragoric, Lydia Pinkham and all those would come in a bottle.

SS: That stuff wasn't prescription, right?

MM: No. They could buy that right off the shelf, any time they wanted it.

SS: Was there a wide variety of tonics like that?

MM: Lot of 'em down there yet. That top shelf, it's surprising how many times people come in, want to buy, in fact every summer <sup>when</sup> the tourists going through here, they want to buy that stuff. It's still on the shelf. We <sup>won't</sup>

sell it because it's something to talk about once in a while. Kind of nice to have.

SS: Do you think that stuff helped. Like Lydia Pinkham, did you have much confidence in that in those days?

MM: They did in those days, yes, we used to sell a lot of it. There's some of that stuff that those foreigners used to come in. They buy patent medicine.

Sometimes I used to think that they wanted it more for the alcohol that was in it than they did for the medicine. They used to buy it and said it would help 'em. They used to come into the store to Mr. Morris and tell him all their troubles, what the trouble was and everything. And he'd say, "Well you'd better go see a doctor." "To hell with the doctor. YOU know more than the doctor does." (Laughs) <sup>we used to</sup> get a big kick out of, that's one reason why we thought they were probably buying it more for the alcohol, they were for how sick they were.

SS: Did you find that you had to do a lot of diagnosing for people?

MM: Well, we didn't, Mr. Morris didn't because he wasn't supposed to. The druggist is not supposed to, They didn't want to pay the money for the doctor, I guess. <sup>But</sup> we had a doctor here all the time. There wasn't any reason why they should come to the drugstore but they did that. They <sup>always</sup> liked Mr. Morros anyway, the men did.

SS: They probably think that if you can tell what the symptom is, that just one thing would be good for it. Probably didn't want a doctor to examine them and tell them it was something else.

MM: The lumberjacks always used to come in, they wouldn't go to a doctor at all, if they could help it. Course, he had to draw the line too because there was a law those days just the same as there is now. Oh we used to have lots of fun with those foreigners.

SS: Like what?

MM: They'd come in, they'd want something, you couldn't tell what they wanted and they'd hunt all over the store to find out what it was. Then you'd finally find it. They used to want a lot of bear grease. That was one thing they used to want to buy a lot. Used to use it in their hair. Can you imagine that? (laughs)

SS: You think that was for head lice?

MM: Just to hold their hair down when they were out in the woods I guess. More than anything else. They'- come in, we used to have a lot of <sup>itch</sup> I guess is what you would call it. They could carry their old bedding on their back. Their

blanket, and that's what they slept in. We used to carry all kinds of medicine for that. I used to be afraid to handle the money they'd give me afterwards. It was just terrible thing the way the camps were run in those days. Imagine the men carrying the blankets <sup>like</sup> that and having to sleep that way the whole time they were working in the woods.

SS: Did many come in seeking relief for that?

MM: All kinds of men. <sup>Aitch</sup> and they used to have head lice.

SS: I've heard the bedbugs were just terrible.

MM: They were.

SS: What did you have to give them for something like that? Would they be salves or...

MM: It was all salves. We had tin boxes that we used to put 'em in. In fact there's a lot of them down in the store yet, a drawerful that haven't been used and you don't use 'em anymore. I thought I was going to be able to tell you the name of what they used to get for that aitch but I can't remember anymore. Lillian might remember. Did you see them?

SS: Not yet.

MM: They're coming up today. (pause) Mrs. Hagebaum. Her staying in the camps over the winter. And they were snowed in and so the Weyerhaesers or somebody, some of the higher ups were coming anyway and let them know and told them to come, they would be there to eat. So they went to see the flour and the mice had gotten into it. There was no way of getting anything else in there to get the new flour or anything, so they sifted the flour and made the pies and the cakes. And I remember Mrs. Thomas laughing and said that nobody ever knew the difference. (laughs) But they used to tell all <sup>kinds</sup> of things that used to happen up there at camp. So, I know Ivan, he'd be able to tell you a lot of things because he was foreman with the camps here. And by the way, that picture that you have... (pause)

SS: I was asking if more or less, was it a boom town when you first came?

MM: Well the mill had already, it was just started. They had just, they were just

starting the mill at that time. When we came. It was already built. You know, I don't remember too much about it 'cause we were busy in the store. That is, as far as the business part of it was concerned.

SS: Did you work yourself in the store?

MM: I worked all my life in the store. I used to help Mr. Morris. I'd get up at four o'clock in the morning and go out and get my garden done and come in and do my housework, <sup>and go to work</sup> at ten o'clock. The mail come in in those days at two o'clock in the afternoon. Then I work until time to get dinner at night. We generally stay in the store until eleven o'clock at night, which we do the same now. John hardly ever comes home before eleven.

SS: You got up at four and got home at eleven?

MM: That's right.

SS: How could you do that on five hours of sleep?

MM: I just didn't need any more sleep. I always did. I always get up early now.

SS: Did you consider it very hard work at the time?

MM: No, I think it was good for me. Maybe that's one reason why I've lived as long as I have. I don't think work hurts anybody.

SS: But the day that you put in seems so long.

MM: I know. I often think of the long days that I put in, but we had to do it. Unless we wouldn't be here today, I guess.

SS: Do you consider it was a struggle to make a success of the store?

MM: No, I don't. Because Mr. Morris worked the same way as I did. He'd get up in the morning and fill a lot of these bottles. He used to take maybe a gallon jugs of different things that we had to put up and he'd go down maybe put up a dozen of each of them so we'd have 'em all done before the busy time of the day. That's the way that we got to get our work done. And eventually we had a druggist here. We had another druggist, we hired a druggist. But it's hard work. You had to work hard to make ends meet. But there was lots of work to be done.

SS: Would there be certain times of day that you'd have a lot of people coming in?

MM: Around mail times in the afternoon when the mail came in. Train came in and that's when everybody came. Everybody was downtown about that time of day. There was always a lot of people coming and going. There was always lots of people on the train.

SS: Train came in every afternoon?

MM: Yeah, it'd come in every afternoon at two o'clock. And of course, that's when the mail came.

SS: Where were the gathering places for people in town?

MM: When I first came there was a hall over the store across the street from us. It burnt down, it's gone now. And they used to have dances<sup>up</sup> there and that was their place. And then eventually Mr. Jockheck built that building and then they had that hall above there, and that hall they used for years. Until here two years back they condemned it because they said they wouldn't let them dance up there, otherwise they could use it. And of course, by that time, we had this other gym. There was a big gym up here on the corner out from our drugstore. That was ~~top~~<sup>up</sup> down and they built the one<sup>up</sup> at the school. <sup>So now</sup> they had~~the~~ the schoolhouse. But they used to have dances in the gym, everything. We had a man here at that time that was just for the city, ~~for~~ recreation. We had basketball and they go for exercises.

SS: What kind?

MM: Taking exercises, different exercises. <sup>that</sup> This man gave. He was here all the time. He was hired just for the city. We had a women's basketball team, a kids basketball team. We had everything that you could think of. There wasn't anything that we lacked.

SS: Even though Elk River was out of the way, it didn't lack for social activities?

MM: ~~We~~ We had a very wonderful town here. Mr. Bloom, if anybody came in here, they hired anybody and it wasn't desirable, they were drinking or anything, he fired 'em right now. We never had any of that to contend with at any time in Elk River. Until later years <sup>after</sup> the mill was out.

SS: Was that Mr. Bloom's policy?

MM: Yes.

SS: What was he like?

MM: Well he was a very quiet man, but he was a very nice person. He was real nice, Mr. Bloom. And he tried to keep the town, everybody had to keep their side walks up and everybody, everything was done the way it should be done. They wouldn't allow them to have any gravel sidewalks or anything, <sup>like that</sup> Like they done in the last few years. So that he was gone. And as I say, they got a family in here that was undesirable, they didn't stay, he was fired and let go. So we always had a very nice bunch of people here. Always. In fact, a lot of us for a long time wished he'd had stayed. That they'd never had taken the mill out of here because it would have been a good town. All the time that he had been here.

SS: The town wasn't a company town like Potlatch, was it? Wasn't it privately owned?

MM: Yes, anybody could own, it was all built by the Potlatch, every bit of it. The Potlatch built all the buildings here. All the housing, I mean, where the people lived.

SS: But the houses were privately owned?

MM: Yes. If anybody wanted to, they could buy them. What do they do in Potlatch now? They've sold a lot of those houses.

SS: The company's out of there just about completely. It's all privately owned now.

MM: It was all Potlatch when we were there. All the rent was paid to the Potlatch.

SS: Do you think there was much feeling, that your husband thought he could get ahead more on his own?

MM: Oh yes, I think so. I really don't know why he left Potlatch. I don't remember what happened. But I know Mr. Pultz wanted him to come. Course, in them days druggists were scarce. They weren't like they are now. And evidently he offered him more money than the Potlatch was paying.

SS: I would think that owning your own store you might stand a better chance of getting ahead than if you were on the company payroll and ...

- MM: That was true too. But when he went to Asotin he Mr. Pultz's brother, I think, in Spokane. I think that's how he got the job. I'm quoting this and I'm not sure about it. Because I didn't know him too well at the time. When he left Potlatch. But he worked down there for quite a while after he left Potlatch, at the store at Potlatch.
- SS: Talking about the lumberjacks and the bad living conditions, I understand that the IWW strike of 1917 had to do with that. But some people think that the IWWs were no good. Did you hear much about that at the time?
- MM: I remember when they went on strike. I had a little, Mr. Egan down here, he's working here now, and he stopped me on the street just out of a clear sky and he said <sup>did</sup> they <sup>ever</sup> have a strike in Elk River and I said no. And he says, "Well somebody told me they had a strike in 1917 and 18." Well without my thinking at the time, being asked without thinking about it.. (pause) Anything about in '17. After I come home and thinking about it, well that's during the war and I know we were running three shifts here because they brought a lot of people in from Orofino and that part of the country and brought them up here to work in the mill so they'd have three shifts going.
- SS: Was the war promoting a lot of patriotism in town at that time?
- MM: Well, what do you mean?
- SS: A lot of strong sentiment for the war. That it was good that we were fighting in Europe.
- MM: Well I don't know anything about that part of it, but I know that people here, they bought bombs and they had people come in here selling bombs and I got one of the V things there in a drawer that I've saved that was put out in them days. And I know they used to have <sup>all kinds</sup> of people come in here selling bombs and people just bought a lot of bombs here so they were more or less... Course, if you're at war you've got to be patriotic anyways, far as that goes, however you feel about it.
- SS: My understanding has been that for some of these men working in the sawmill

that were foreigners that had just come from the old country, that many of them had pretty strong feelings. They both didn't like war and they were afraid of being sent back to fight or having to go back and fight for their countries. There were some mixed feelings.

MM: I never heard of anything, 'cause I was on those boards, I registered all kinds. In fact, I've got a paper upstairs signed by President Roosevelt for service during the war for helping register the different people when they had to sign up when they were going to war after there were certain numbers of certain ages that had to sign up at certain times and I was on the <sup>over</sup> boards all the time. And I don't ever remember anybody being against it. At any time I never heard anybody say <sup>anything</sup> <sub>λ</sub>. You know, Axel Anderson, he served overseas. Lot of our foremen from here was taken. Put in the woods over there in France. They worked over in France.

SS: He told me about that.

MM: Several went over, I know, because we used to hear from them after they were over there, they used to write us once in a while. But I don't remember anybody ever...

SS: I was just wondering. I'm thinking about the town itself and what was in it. There was three drugstores. How many markets were there?

MM: Well, there was a general store down where the pool hall is. Down and on the corner down there. And there was a general store, it was on the other side, it's where that old post office building is standing now, down there. There was a general store there and it handled everything. The Tobiasons were in it. And then there was a family from Potlatch. Do you remember, was it Doctor Nygaard? That was in Potlatch, a dentist? He's in Lewiston now, I think. Their daughter married Bobby Hagebaum. They had, there was a log building <sup>on</sup> that vacant lot, two lots down from the drugstore. There isn't anything on it now. And they run that. They had a store in there too. They had <sup>some kind of</sup> <sub>λ</sub> a general store. They had almost anything I think in there too. So there was really three stores that was general stores. At the time. But eventually, the Tobiasons,

they sold out and went to the coast. And they put a, Mrs. Wylie that come from Potlatch put a resturant in that building. There ewas a resturant in there for a long time.

SS: What else was there that you remember in the town then?

MM: We didn't have any liquor stores. There was never any liquor stores allowed in Elk River when Mr. Bloom was here. There was a big hotel back of our drugstore, there was a big hotel on this corner here. Opposite us here. This <sup>big</sup> hotel here, there must have been 2-300 men in it.

SS: They boarded there?

MM: Boarded there and lived there. They had rooms there.

SS: They were single men.

MM: Mostly single. Some of them were men, we had <sup>a lot of</sup> men up here that lived around in later years around Harvard, Helmer and in there. Used to be a lot of the men that were from down there that worked up here in the mill. But they had to stay in the hotel 'cause there wasn't any roads you could get out. I can remember Mr. and Mrs. Copeland. He was the station agent. And they bought a new car, ones of those that had <sup>the</sup> curtains that went around it that you could take off and put back on again. So they invited me to go to Spokane with ~~them~~. And we got all ready and it was cold. Boy was it cold! He put up these curtains and it was still cold. And we got out as far as Neva Hill and we tried and tried and tried to go up part way and then come back down and make another run for it. Maybe we'd make two-three feet each time. We never got to Spokane, we had to come back. There wasn't any chance.

SS: Was it mud or snow?

MM: The road was ~~just~~ slick and there wasn't any gravel or anything on it and you just couldn't do anything. I was stuck several times like that. One time I went out with them and they had these curtain things on <sup>there</sup> and I tell you, I never was so cold in my life when I got to Spokane as I was in that car. It was terrible. I remember, we went down by Harvard someplace. There was

a bridge and there was some kind of a bump and he thought it would be fun to go across that fast, so he went across fast and I still have a sore neck from hitting the ceiling when he hit that bump.(laughs)

SS: You were pretty cut off by transportation?

MM: If we had to go out any place, we had to go by train and it take anywhere from sometimes, sometimes you get to St. Maries in seven hours but generally it took from 10 to 12 or 13 hours to get there, because they run a passenger train, but it had to stop so many times and count up all this logging train and stuff and maybe building or fixing roads too. It was an awful trip. Boy, it was tiresome too. Get on the train at St. Maries then take it 8,9 hours to get to Elk River.

SS: What about to Potlatch from here?

MM: I don't remember the trips to Potlatch very much. In fact I never made <sup>very</sup> <sup>MANY</sup> after I was up here because we worked all the time, We didn't travel very much in the early days because we were busy in the store.

SS: If you went you'd be more likely to go to St. Maries than Potlatch?

MM: We went to Spokane to get what we had to have for the, I'll tell you another thing that happened when we were here, there's Elk City and Elk River. And we bought our stuff to start this drugstore. There was a man that came in from, it wasn't McKesson's then, it was a different name in Spokane. I've forgotten. But anyway, Mr. Penfield came in and took the order for the store and it didn't come and it didn't come. There was about six weeks we kept writing 'em and telling 'em. We didn't get stuff and id hadn't come and it hadn't come.They said,"Well it's been shipped."In the meantime it had gone to Elk City and of course, they had to take everything in ~~f~~rom Elk City by horses. They didn't have any transportation. And went down there and of course, they didn't know who it belonged to. And we found out that Mr. Penfield, he used to stay with us when he come up here all night. And he had to pay for all this transportation for making the mistake of sent it to Elk City.So I always did remember that. We couldn't find out what had

happened to it. They just couldn't find <sup>where it went.</sup> mistake and put Elk City on it instead of Elk River.

He had made a

SS: This confusion, I imagine it must happen often with two towns of similar names.

MM: Not so much any more. We used to have a lot of trouble with our mail. But not any more. We very seldom ever get anything that goes to Elk City. But we used to get a lot of things that go down there. <sup>Especially our</sup> Magazines. They go down to Elk City several times and be sent back. So there was always things happened. But we wanted to get started and we had everything ready and put stuff on the shelf and it went on for week after week and they couldn't find out where it had gone to. That's where it had gone to.

SS: You must have been really concerned.

MM: We were concerned. Course, we weren't out anything 'cause we hadn't paid for it 'cause it was all their fault. But it cost Mr. Penfield some money though.

SS: Once you got to St. Maries from there it was still a fairly long trip to get to Spokane, wasn't it?

MM: Uh huh.

SS: Was there a train from St. Maries?

MM: There was a train. The Milwaukee. We always went in on the Milwaukee. And it didn't take so long from St. Maries to Spokane though because that was a regular passenger train. But this train run in from St. Maries here, we had a regular passenger train. I think they carried one car and a mail car.

(End of side C)

MM: ...people going out and people, there's a lot of people used to come in too. Hunting jobs.

SS: Would people go as far as St Maries to conduct their business and then come back or would they go clear to Spokane?

MM: I really don't know. I never went too much 'cause Mr. Morris <sup>always</sup> went to do the buying and I stayed in the store. I always had to stay at home. <sup>when he went</sup> Because we couldn't afford to hire anybody.

SS: You told me a story I can't quite remember about some drunken foreigners

coming into the drugstore. What was that story?

MM: They wanted to buy a wine set for Mr. Bloom. Well Mr. Bloom was very much against liquor and I tried to talk them out of it. I told them Mr. Bloom wouldn't appreciate that. But the foreigners, that's what they always wanted to buy. It don't make any difference when they came in or who they were buying it for, they always wanted to buy a wine set. Be sure of that. So they came in this night and eventually, they weren't going to have anything else so I sold them the wine set. And they went outside and they stood around in the front for a long time, jabbering away together and looking in the store. I was beginning to get afraid because I didn't know what they were <sup>trying</sup> to do. And this one guy eventually come back in and he said, "God damn it, good night." (laughs) They evidently told ~~him~~ that they should have told me goodnight. And that's what he came back and said. He tipped his hat and that's what he said. And away he went. When you talk to Lillian, she can take off a lot of these foreigners, what they say. And she can talk <sup>just</sup> like they did. She can remember a lot of things that I don't remember too. But they used to do all kinds of things. One time Mr. Morris was gone and I was there by myself and one of them came in, he went behind the prescription case. And I didn't know what he was doing. Course in ~~the~~ days I, they were all strangers to me because this was when we first started the store. And he went back of the prescription case and he stayed there for a minute and he come back out and <sup>U</sup>walked out and never said a word. I couldn't figure out what he wanted or what he was doing. I went back and there was a bottle of wine. He'd brought in a bottle of wine and left it. Never said a word. Just left. They used to do all kinds of things like that. And you know, really, those foreigners, I don't think they'd hurt anybody. After I got to know them, they were really just as nice as anybody could possibly be. But they just had their way of doing things <sup>that</sup> I wasn't used to. Used to get me a lot.

SS: I would think that their spending most of the time with their people, they wouldn't learn many American ways.

MM: I don't think they wanted to. I don't think they cared. I know we had a

family here, they had an outdoor oven where they used to make the<sup>ir</sup> bread and they made like they did, that's the way they had their life. <sup>Continued</sup> their life. Just like they did in Italy. A lot of them wouldn't have anything to do with the way we wanted to do it. But they were good hearted people. Like John Diamatis. He was, did you meet her?

SS: Sure did.

MM: They're quite a couple.

SS: In the early days, people like them, who were still very much foreigners like Greeks and Italians, did they pretty much keep to themselves here?

MM: They did for a while, but the later years there was a lot of them, Mrs. Diamatis, she joined the Rebekha lodge and worked in that and she worked in the Ladies Aid. They got so that they mingled with everybody. But when they first came, why they stayed together, more or less.

SS: Were there many families from abroad?

MM: We had a lot of them here too for a while. We had a lot of Japanese here too. We had several Japs. And Virginia and I were talking about Japs the other day. Two of the boys that lived here for a while, <sup>they were</sup> just little youngsters, in fact, they used to play with John. And when i was over in Japan the last time they came down to see me and they had gone back to Japan, but they were both in American uniforms. Citizens of the United States. One of the boys was working in the army post office. I don't know what the other one was there, but they were in United States uniform. But they lived here for several years and we had a Jap janitor and his wife was the cook up here at the hospital. We had a Jap dentist and we had Jap photographer. And then we had several other Japs that worked in the mill that were real good workers down there and they had good jobs. They held real good jobs.

SS: I didn't know anything about this at all. Japanese dentist.

MM: Yeah, we had a Jap dentist here when I first came to Elk River. There was

up beyond this block above us there was a theater and a laundry and there was a Jap place there that he sold nothing but, remember those little tubs they used to have? He had all kinds of fish and stuff like that that he evidently sold it to the Japs here because we had a lot of Japs here at that time. And then there was a photographer and a dentist. But the dentist and the photographer didn't stay very long.

SS: You say a number of them held good jobs in the mill, what kinds of positions?

MM: They were mostly in the planer. Grading lumber. But they were wonderful workers. Couldn't have asked for any better workers than any of them. <sup>And</sup> that photographer was here, he was just wonderful *photographer?*

SS: I imagine the dentist and photographer did a lot of work for anybody. Local people patronized ~~that~~ dentist.

MM: Oh yes. I have pictures of Lillian that he took that really are wonderful pictures. They're very thorough in their work. What they do, they do it well.

SS: But they all left.

MM: They all went back to Japan. Nearly all of them <sup>have</sup> gone <sup>back</sup>. The ones that were up there in the hospital, they went over to Seattle and they bought some kind of a home over there, I don't know if it was an apartment house or what. Something on that order they had over there. But I haven't heard anything. They're probably both gone now because they were rather elderly when they were here.

SS: Did the other foreign groups have any people who were professional?

MM: No. Japanese were the only ones that I remember ever having anything like that here. In fact, after the Jap dentist left, we had a doctor, I don't recall his name, he left here and went to Spokane and he died here just about a year ago. Notice in the paper for the fellow. After he left why then there was a Dr. Buchner came and <sup>then</sup> Dr. Rice that's in Coeur d' Alene, now he's retired, he was here for a while.

SS: Was he here before the mill went out?

MM: They were all here before the mill went out. After the mill went out there was nobody here. Dr. Woody at Bovill used to come up here once or twice a day after.

SS: That often?

MM: Once or twice a week, I should say. He had an office <sup>out</sup> after we moved over to the other store, Grandpa Morris had furniture when we had the old drugstore. And he had an office out in that one and that's where Dr. Woody used to come up twice a week.

SS: Dentist?

MM: That was a dentist.

SS: People were satisfied with the Japanese dentist?

MM: I had work done by him. He was a very good... I remember when he took a picture of Lillian, he got one real good picture, this is the photographer I'm talking about, she moved her hand. And he took and fixed it and put a top in it. And she's standing there holding it with a top. Going in it. And he just put that in himself because he liked the picture and <sup>didn't</sup> like the way her hand was, so he fixed it.

SS: So it didn't show.

MM: Uh huh. And that's the way he did. He was really good. He took a lot of pictures of Lillian.

SS: Artistic.

MM: Yeah. Very artistic.

SS: What about the winters, snows here. It seems so much more than other places.

MM: Well, when I lived down there in that building at the, that you took with you, the snow was so high, we lived after the apartments were finished we built on to the back of the building. And we had two more rooms built. And there was a window there that one of the little boys that went to school used to always come and rap on the window and look down in to our apartment. And wave at Lillian when she was a little girl. But the snow was so high at that time. So you can imagine what it was like. You took one of the snow pictures,

didn't you? Or did you? It was probably Virginia that took it.

SS: I've seen the snow pictures in Elk River. I've seen the pictures in John's book.

MM: Over here <sup>h</sup>were this county building is here across the street, there was a building there and they had a <sup>l</sup>pass built out where the snow could come off it. And it made a tunnel. It was just a tunnel where you could walk through on the sidewalk underneath the snow. And I remember one time there was a man come up from Boise and I think he spent 2-3 hours <sup>out there</sup> taking pictures of that. Where it was all covered with snow and this tunnel coming through.

SS: The tunnel was made naturally?

MM: It was, there was a roof built out, you see, and just posts up. And of course, the snow come off the roof and covered everything, it was just going through, a tunnel. And this other building where the Dahls were across the street from us, I've got pictures of the kids skiing off that building.

SS: People would use that?

MM: Yeah, you walk through it all winter. You go through <sup>it</sup>. It wasn't any tunnel any more than being the snow coming off the roof and making a tunnel <sup>out</sup> of it. It looked just exactly like a tunnel going in the snow and he thought that was wonderful. (chuckles)

SS: What did the town do when the snow started coming, did they still get around?

MM: They had a V shaped plow, it was built with logs or planks. They used to haul it with horses and they used to keep the streets pretty well clear <sup>ed</sup>. It's still sitting down there by the railroad track. I don't know if it's still there or not, but it used to be there. I haven't noticed it lately. But that's what they used to use to keep the streets plowed. There's so many things <sup>g</sup> that you think about that I haven't thought <sup>about</sup> for years.

SS: How much snow would there be in the rougher winters on the street <sup>t</sup>?

MM: Well I can remember we had a clothesline, there was a post about this big around. Where the line was fastened to. And I can remember three feet of snow that <sup>b</sup>ig around on top of that. And we never had any wind. Never. Always just

MORRIS

come and stayed wherever it was. So you can imagine what it was like. And when we first built this house, we had shingles on it. And every winter, it would freeze and all the water would come in and all our paint and everything would be waterstained. From the water backing up on that. That's the reason everybody's got tin roofs here. Because we'd have a pole and it'd freeze and <sup>then</sup> the water would back up and get under the shingles and come into the house. So. But we never had any wind. And the last few years we've had so much wind, I can't understand it.

SS: I take it that everybody walked.

MM: You had to. I can remember going to parties at night and you'd be, come home and snow up to your hips, it would snow that much.

SS: Did it snow that much while you were at the party?

MM: I remember one Christmas we were invited up to the doctor's at the hospital and we were up there all day, <sup>WE COME HOME</sup> that night we had to walk from there down at that time, and we had to walk through snow up to our hips. To get down here to the house. And never blowed, just stayed that way, pile up.

SS: They had a regular hospital here?

MM: Real nice hospital. About the same as that one at Bovill. (pause)

LILLIAN MORRIS YANGEL: And this old fella came in one day and he wanted to know if we had any (noisy) just bumming around the country and wanted to heat up his food. So I sold him some and he wanted to know if we had any extra sterno I said yes sir, there were several there. He bought a half of 'em and it wasn't very long until the policeman went down and gathered him up off First Street here. They did something with it. I don't know how they mixed it. I think they mixed it with milk. And drank that. Of course, that denatured alcohol and they were really laid out. This little building over here used to be the jail. And of course when the old lumberjacks would get drunk they'd put 'em in overnight. They didn't hurt anybody, perfectly harmless. And go out and the first one out of the house in the morning, you'd hear somebody, "Get me a drink! I want a drink!" Please give me a drink!" Almost in tears.

SS: I guess what you're saying about the sterno, it wasn't as easy for them to get it during Prohibition.

LY: Well I can't remember the particulars about it, but evidently my dad had <sup>Never</sup> told me not to sell it to them. But we used to sell an awful lot of tonic. Of course, the tonics that we had in those days was about 50% alcohol. And that was why it was put out. So a fella could get it and drink it for wine or booze.

SS: This was during prohibition?

LY: Yeah. This is all during prohibition. They'd come in and buy about a half a dozen bottles. We had another funny thing <sup>that</sup> happen<sup>ed</sup> here: We had a fella named Ike Adams, he was the marshall around town for a while. He had a homestead up on Beal Butte. In fact, I think the place is still up there, I don't know. I don't think there's any buildings. I think the clearing's still out there. <sup>probably</sup> And they had the bank, it was down in this building right across from the drugstore. The bank was in the back part of the building. They had a robber in there one day and somebody yelled at Ike and he was over doing some work with a hammer, doing some carpentry work someplace real close. He came out and <sup>he</sup> hit the fella that was trying to rob the bank over the head with <sup>the</sup> hammer. (laughs)

CHESTER YANGEL: Caught the robber though.

LY: Yeah, he caught the robber.

CY: Wonder he didn't kill him.

SS: Did it make a big name for him, doing that?

LY: Oh yes, for a while I guess all the rest of his life. He wasn't a very young man in those days.

MM: He was a hero for quite a while.

LY: He used to be good to all the kids around town. <sup>When he lived up</sup> On his place up there he had a <sup>single</sup> and a horse, horse. He'd come down, he'd take two or three of us up there. I don't remember that we ever did anything. (noisy) But then he'd bring us back and he was always telling us stories. Probably none

of them true. I don't know, I can't remember that part. When we were married he he come in to the store afterwards and he said, "Lillian, I want to give you and your husband a wedding present. You bring a sack and come down and I'll give you some vegetables <sup>out of my</sup> garden. Chet and I decided to go down there and he gave us a head of cabbage and some kohlrabi and some carrots and potatoes. So finally I said, that's plenty Ike. You don't need to give us any more That's great. I think you've given us too much." Well, I don't know, that's alright." Well I think I should give you some money for this. "Alright, you can give me a dollar." We have a dollar wedding present we bought.

SS: Do you remember hearing about when Big Red got killed?

LY: Big Red?

SS: It's a story that Byers Sanderson knows. Kind of a hot debate about how he was killed and by whom. He got into it with a bunch of guys called "bohunks" I guess, and out here it was and then they hid the guy that killed him was hid out.

LY: That was supposed to be...

CY: Sam Pivach was supposed to have killed him. And they hid old Sam out someplace.

LY: Did they hide him under a bunk or they seen the marshall coming and they hide him <sup>in</sup> another place. I've forgotten who the victim was.

SS: A guy named big Red. Where did you hear?

CY: I <sup>heard this</sup> out in Bovill a long time ago. You hear these stories, talking to these guys.

SS: That's what Byers said.

CY: And that's in that book, by the way, too, It names him. (people talking at once)

SS: Mike Bubuly says that's totally wrong.

CY: I don't think Sam did. Sam was a real nice fellow. I'll tell you how nice a guy he was, his wife was suing him for divorce and Murray Estes, lawyer in

he came up one Sunday  
 Moscow, Lillian and I were just getting ready to eat. And we said you might sit down and eat dinner with us. We said, fine and dandy. We said we saw him come up here. He said, "Sam's wife is suing him for divorce. I'd like to have you tell me something about Sam's character." Well I said, there isn't a nicer fellow in the country than Sam. Just as honest as can be. He says, "You know Chet, that's what everybody tells me." And that goes to show you that Sam was pretty well thought of around this country. And I've loaned him tools when I worked with the company there and things like that and always brought 'em back. Just as honest as the day is long.

SS: You don't believe that he would have done that?

CY: I don't think that Sam was the that would do anything like that. Sam couldn't do it. He isn't built that way.

LY: He was very mild mannered.

CY: Real nice gentleman.

SS: Did he employ a fair number of his countrymen?

CY: Well that's mostly the men that worked for Sam were Yugoslavs. I think he might have been Serbian.

SS: That's what Mike Bubuly was.

CY: He was Serbian and he had Mike working for him most the time. I know several other fellows, I know them by name, that worked for him. That's the boys he employed. He more or less kept 'em <sup>during</sup> the winter when there was no work, course they had to eat so he kept 'em. Gave them a little money for tobacco and a little money for beer or something like that.

SS: Was he mostly doing salvage kind of work?

CY: No, what he did, he <sup>got</sup> out logs for that paper mill, that Empire Paper Company out of Spokane there. And they print newprint for the Spokesman-Review and I suppose for the Chronicle also. That's what he did. He logged for that outfit there. And that was primarily what he did. He may have been logging for somebody else too, but I didn't know about <sup>that</sup> . . . When I knew him he got out pulp logs for this paper mill up in Spokane.

SS: I've heard quite a bit about Pat Malone.

CY: Pat Malone? Oh, he was a character, that fellow. He was a typical old time Irish policeman. He used to have some wild tales to tell about his days in Duluth. <sup>Minnesota</sup> He was a nice gentleman. He was a deputy sheriff here. He more or less catch them there in Bovill. I don't think they ever <sup>(noisy)</sup>

SS: He was still on duty, though?

CY: Oh yes. He died there in BOvill.

SS: The stories that he would tell, were they stories of how brave he'd been in Minnesota. <sup>7 CY:</sup> He wasn't half as brave, well he might have been <sup>back</sup> in Duluth. But out here I don't hink he was as brave as he let on. Course, he liked to tell you these stories and have you think he was that type of a man.

SS: Do you remember any of the kinds of stuff he'd tell you? (pause)

MM: They was out here and it was bad, 'cause it spread so, they were worried about the town. But the wind changed and it didn't bother the town at all. Then we had another one that was out in this part of the country and it come right down to the schoolhouse when the wind turned and took it off. They thought sure the schoolhouse was going. There's been several here. We had another one several years ago that was out around Neva Hill. We went out there at 12 o'clock and you could read a newspaper. <sup>from</sup> The light from the fire. At midnight. And I had a little apple tree out here, it was just a little spi spindley thing about this big around. And in the morning I went out and turned the hose on it, I had flowers out around it. And there was birds came, and there were so many birds lit on that to give it water, that they put the little tree right down on the ground. From, they'd evidently come out of the woods, out of the fire.

SS: It knocked the tree over?

MM: Yeah, right down on the groundm there were som many birds on it. It was about this big around. <sup>It</sup> was about, 9-10 feet high. The thing was right down on the ground. I've got a picture of it someplace. You can imagine. And we drove out to Neva to watch it that night. It was just like daylight.

(pause)CY:They got him kind of steamed up with liquor one time, he wasn't too much of a drinking man, but they did get some liquor into him. They took his star off and pinned it to the seat of his pants. Have you heard that one?

MM: I think.

CY: You think.That was one story I heard about him.

SS: Why is he remembered as such a character?

CY: Well I don't know. Just his make up I guess, or something.

(End of side D)

CY: There's a school down there now and kind of a park there for <sup>the</sup> kids. ~~Down~~ below on the west side of Moscow down by the tracks there. They used to have fairgrounds down there. <sup>As a kid</sup> I remember they had a big stockade built there. <sup>I can</sup> And these, they called them Wobblies in those days, IWW. And they had a bunch of them in there and they had barbed wire up around.Now that was during the First World War. And they had, at the university they had kind of an Army training deal going on there. And they had these trainees guarding this stockade day and night down there, I recall.

SS: What were the trainees doing?

CY: That's right. Because I happen to know one or two of them. But I was just a kid there, I can remember that.

SS: They were college boys that were guarding this?

CY: No, <sup>they were</sup> from out of state. I rememeber the one fellow I knew was from Sheridan, Wyoming. Then I knew another one from up north there of Spokane <sup>there</sup> in Washington. But...

SS: From what I've heard from the old time loggers is that they cleaned up the camps.

CY: They did one good thing, the IWW, I will say for them,they're the ones that brought the eight hour day.Before that, worked ten hours a day, you know. Course, working seven days a week, that went on for years afterwards, but

they did bring on the eight hour day, the Wobblies did. That's one thing I will say for them. And they did force the company<sup>es</sup> to clean up the camp and make little bit better conditions. That's about, course, they were trouble makers, course they<sup>probably</sup> blamed a lot of things on them that well wasn't their fault too. Might have been somebody else. Somebody that didn't like the company or something like that. Who knows? But nevertheless, the Wobbly got the blame. That's about all I can tell you about them. I know I went through a couple, three strikes. One was started by Wobblies.

SS: Was that '36?

CY: In the '30's, yeah. And that's the one I'm thinking about. And<sup>they</sup> brought outside people in. Agitators is what they were. And<sup>they</sup> got these people around Bovill, old time lumberjacks kind of excited and just like a bunch of sheep, you know, follow some leader like that. It was kind of a mess and caused a lot of hard feelings. But it was one of those things, I guess. You go through. But I don't know. They never caused too much trouble. I know they used to blame the Wobbly on, well, lot of threshing machines used to blow up and burn up. They always used to blame that on the IWW. I remember hearing that as a kid. I don't know how true it was. Probably never could prove it.

SS: Do you remember T.P. Jones pretty well? Was he still working for the company when you...

CY: No. I worked in Potlatch, Idaho<sup>as a kid</sup> one summer. And, by the way, I think that's a picture of Laird there. Yeah, that's Mr. Laird. You asked me how long I'd known him, but I was just a kid and worked at the yard there at the mill and they had a big fire<sup>started</sup> up here and they were hollering for help, so another fellow and I came up here and helped fight fire. And when we left here, course a big rain come and put the fire out. <sup>I know</sup> we come back to Bovill and getting on the train and TP. asked me if I wanted to go to work in the woods. I wasn't 18 years old. Well, maybe I was 16, 17. At that time, during the

war, I guess you could hire anybody under 18. And I know they could at the mill. So that was the first time I ever met the man. Course, in later years when I knew him well here and I came to work in Bovill, I knew him pretty *well*. He was quite an old gentleman. He had a lot of stories to tell. Course, he started way back in Wisconsin and Michigan. I guess Minnesota.

MM: He started when he was nine years old carrying water to the men. From that time on, he worked for the company. In those days they could go to work any time they wanted to. That's the way he started.

SS: He worked his way up step by step.

MM: Uh huh.

CY: The early days, there was no age limit then. Anybody could work for them if you were physically able to, I guess.

SS: Did you think or notice much differences between the town and mill at Potlatch and Elk River? I wonder how they were different.

CY: Of course, *well* I started working on this side of the mountains, why, the mill here was shut down. In Elk River. But I don't know about any difference in them, do you Mabelle?

MM: No.

CY: They used to have ball teams and they would get a little bit radical, one town playing the other, you know how that goes. Like Moscow and Pullman or WSU and the University of Idaho. Quite a little rivalry, you know.

SS: What was Elk River's rival, Bovill?

CY: Potlatch.

MM: They used to fight like anything.

CY: But as far as the mill's concerned itself, I don't know anything about that.

SS: Do you think it made any difference with this town being an open town and not company owned, as compared to Potlatch?

CY: This wasn't all company owned, but they owned a good many houses here, didn't they?

MM: They rented them, *but they could buy them.*

- CY: They rented them. And could they buy them if they wanted?
- MM: YEs.
- CY; Course, Potlatch was strictly company town.
- SS: I'm wondering if it was any different. Because here you could start your own business and buy, if that made any difference.
- CY: I don't think so.
- MM: I don't think so either. But I think it was throught the schools more than anything else. Athletics. They used to fight like everything. They'd turn up so they'd root for Elk River so they'd beat Potlatch. That was one of the main things they wanted to do, They wanted to beat Potlatch. 'Cause one instructor they had said, have them put in the paper that they were coming up to the sticks. To play ball. And of course, that riled Elk River terribly. They sure gave them a bad time. <sup>when they came up here</sup> Gave 'em an awful time. (pause)
- CY: I don't know what his first name was. But people used to go down there fishing and they used to have to walk in. No road. And many people from Moscow and around the area...
- MM: They hunted game there too. *That's where Bill went every fall.*
- CY: This is before Purdy was ever down there. But this is before that Mabelle. But they used to, it was a hunters and fishers paradise down there. Mostly fishing. And I guess he took them in and led them down, fed them. Course, I suppose he had to pay so much. I don't know.
- SS: Was it very hard to get to?
- CY: Well, <sup>you</sup> walked into Elk River. *Had a trail*
- SS: Or packed in?
- CY; Either one. You had a horse or something. To pack in.
- SS: Quite a few people from here would go?
- CY: Yeah.
- MM: Used to go every fall. Go out there hunting. Three or four of them would go together, Take a packing train and go up there *and hunt.*
- SS: Was <sup>Boehl</sup> usually there?

CY: I don't know. During my time here, I never...

MM: That's Naomi's father.

SS: No, this is Boehl.

CY: No relation. This is Boehl's cabin down on the river.

MM: No relation to Naomi Boll.

SS: Spelled different.

MM: I was thinking it was the same one.

SS: You're talking about Naomi Boll's father. His cabin. (pause)

CY: He stayed right there and he'd been here for years. I don't know how he come to land over there. That was the last place he ever worked. He was getting up in years at that time, I know.

MM: He was here for a long time, wasn't he? (pause)

CY: Rain real hard, this thing would start leaking, I'd have to hurry and get in here and move this clothing and everything one place to another. The old fellow in Deary, Idaho was a scaler. Named Olson. This is me behind the desk. That's an old picture. That's taken 1927.

SS: Where is this?

CY: Pierce Idaho, about a mile and a half out of Pierce.

SS: What kind of stuff did you stock there?

CY: Everything. Shirts, wool shirts, wool pants, socks, wool socks and rubbers and shoes and tobacco, candy, everything.

SS: What did you call the place?

CY: Just a logging camp.

SS: I mean this commissary.

CY: That was just the office. The office had everything, besides working there you could buy your things you needed. Toothpaste too and soap, towels.

SS: What did, what were your responsibilities there?

CY: You'd make the payroll out and pay the men right there. Kept the time every day. End of the month, you'd make a payroll up.

SS: What was your crew made up, foreigners?

CY: Not all of them, no. There was several, sure. Not all of them. Quite a few Finlanders, Swedes, different nationalities.

SS: I've never heard about Finlanders as lumberjacks in this country.

CY: When I went to work out of Pierce, there was just all kinds of 'em. Lots of 'em. See, in those days, <sup>practically</sup> everybody worked in the woods was single. There wasn't very many married men. You had a few, but not many. Lot of Finlanders. They all seemed to saw in the woods. You hardly ever saw one that would drive a team or anything, skidding team. And there was a lot of Swedish people there.

SS: What were their ways like?

CY: Well, they liked to drink, I can tell you that. And when they drank, they used to do <sup>get in</sup> pretty bad arguments and fights. They were pretty vicious. They always seemed to me like they had a chip on their shoulder for some reason. I don't know why. Maybe it just their way,

SS: I've heard it said about them that they used their knives.

CY: They did to a certain extent, yeah. Not as much, probably as you heard. They did cut each other up. (pause)

SS: When the depression hit.

CY: Well when the depression hit I was laid off work up there just like everybody else. And course, when they got started up again, 1934 why they needed somebody over here on this side so I came over here and <sup>went to</sup> work.

SS: Had you stayed at Headquarters until 1934?

CY: No, I'm trying to think when I left there. <sup>Probably</sup> left there in 1932, I believe. Probably that's when I left. The depression was still on then.

SS: What did you do during that time? It got pretty rough.

CY: Well there just wasn't anything to do. In the summers I did work. I worked out at Coaur d' Alene forest, one summer. I guess that would be the summer of '33. Which, yes I know it was. And that's the only work I did. No other work to do. And that job came through the company. The company got that job

for me. No, things were pretty tight then. Nobody worked.

SS: How do you think the company did by the people during that time?

CY: Course, the company was having financial trouble then too. I recall money was so tight, I was working at Headquarters at the time. Money was getting so tight, <sup>that</sup> they would trade **box shook** that they made in Lewiston for canned goods, canned fruit and canned peas. Now when it gets down to that you can figure that it's pretty rough.

SS: Box what?

CY: Box shook. Wood to make boxes, wood boxes. See, all the canned goods used to come in gallon cans and wooden boxes. Now of course, everything like that's in cardboard. But in those days it was all wood. In fact, the company wouldn't buy anything that was in cardboard in those days, it had to be made out of wood. But that's how tight it was.

SS: How do you think the people in Bovill fared? Do you think anybody went hungry?

CY: Well, I was never around Bovill at that time. I don't know anything about it.

SS: I guess that was around '34.

CY: '34's when they started working here again. That's when I started working here. Oh, I suppose that the county probably helped out. Course in that time too they had the WPA jobs. In those years. Lot of people worked on that. I don't think they got rich on it or anything. They made enough to live on. Got enough to live on, rather and so I don't think they were hurt too bad.

<sup>Really</sup>  
They were bad years, weren't they Mabelle?

MM: Some of 'em eat a lot of beans, (chuckles) **I know that.**

CY: It was rough.

SS: When did they decide to take the mill out of here?

MM: Do you remember Chet? I don't.

CY: I recall it was '31, '32.

MM: No, it was <sup>out</sup> before that. The planer run until '32. The mill went out in '28

or '29.

CY: <sup>I think</sup> That's probably right.

MM: The mill was out quite a long time before the planer went out.

CY: I'm sure that's right.

MM: And I think it was '33, wasn't it, when the Washington Water Power come in and took over, our lights used to go out at 10 o'clock. We were having a party or anything, we had to have lamps, because they <sup>COMPANY</sup> turned everything out at ten o'clock. After the mill went down. After the mill quit. But they did let us have them from the planer, I guess. <sup>Had</sup> Enough power or something to run them til 10 o'clock. Then they turned them off.

SS: What did it do to the town, taking the mill out?

CY: It sure didn't help ~~it~~.

MM: It wrecked ~~it~~. They took paractically all the houses out and sold practically all of them. People, there's Elk River houses all over the county. Around Deary and Troy. It was houses here. Grandpa Morris had 18 houses here that he owned. And he didn't make anything of any <sup>of them</sup>. He sold a lot of them for a hundred and fifty dollars. Just broke him up in business.

SS: ~~When~~ they were moved?

MM: They were moved out.

SS: How were they moving them out of town?

MM; On wheels.

CY: On the road.

MM: John's got movies of some of 'em going out of town. They go out of here fifty miles an hour. <sup>Some of 'em.</sup> Put 'em on wheels and away they go.

SS: Was there much warning that the mill might go out?

CY: What caused the mill really to go out here was when they built that big mill in Lewiston. They just didn't want to have too many mills, I guess.

SS: But they put this mill in and it was much more modern.

CY: It was real modern mill. This is probably <sup>one of</sup> the most modern mill that was ever built. All electric. And I heard Mr. Weyerhaeuser make a statement when I

was ~~at~~ Headquarters that this mill should never had been closed. But it was closed. Course, he probably didn't have anything to do about it. Or was overruled or something.

MM: How come? He was at the head of it. How come he didn't...

CY: There were more people the head of it than just Weyerhaeuser.

SS: Did he say this to you personally?

CY: I heard him, well, I don't know, conversation I heard it in. I don't know ~~that~~ he ever told me, no.

SS: The old man?

CY: I can't tell you which one it was. No, it wasn't the old Fredrick. It was a brother, I can't think of his first name

SS: So there really wasn't much warning.

MM: No. It was all very sudden.

CY: I think they regretted ever taking it out. Years ago. Course, that's past history now.

SS: I'm interested to look back at it. I wonder why they decided it was a mistake looking back.

CY: I don't know. Unless they were looking ahead on something. I don't think they thought about a paper mill <sup>in</sup> those days. I don't think they even knew what plywood was. <sup>in those days either</sup> I'm sure then didn't.

MM: They were making most of the plywood over on the coast, weren't they? Longview.

CY: I don't know that they were making any at that time.

MM: I think they were, because I remember going over there and visiting people that used to live here at Elk River and they had plywood there then. I think they made that plywood at Longview.

SS: When they shut it down, did people leave overnight?

MM: Well a lot of them went to Lewiston, they went down there and worked. A lot of them didn't get rehired.

CY: Some of them went to Potlatch to work.

MM: I don't know really where they all did go. <sup>But</sup> A lot of them went to Lewiston. A lot of Elk River people <sup>live in</sup> Lewiston now. I don't even remeber when they told us it was going out, I know it was all a shock at the time when they took it out.

CY: Well, these mill towns, it wouldn't be the first mill that went out like that. A lot of these mill towns didn't last long. I always figured a mill town was one of the worst places in the world to <sup>ever</sup> put a business in because they were short lived, most of them. Course the one in Lewiston here, that's a little different proposition. Potlatch, Idaho, course that's hung on a long time. There've been a lot of mill towns go down.

SS: Seems like this town has never really come back.

CY: Well no, it never will. Course the only payroll out of here now is the people working in the woods. That's the only living these people have around here. <sup>Is wood work</sup> They had a good mill here.

SS: It was modern than Potlatch?

CY: Absolutely. At that time. Course, the one the at Potlatch is now automated, they don't employ many men there. (pause)

MM: Everybody left, as far as that goes. We used to close the store in the afternoon and take off. We never even kept it open. Cause there wasn't anybody around. But Mr. Morris went into the gold business. Uncle Tommy and the Torgersons and Mr. Morris went into Swamp Creek out of here and started mining gold. And that's the way they put in their time for, how long Chet? Two years?

CY: I know they were there in '35 'cause I was working Swamp Creek. That's where they mined out there.

MM: I think they were out there for two years before anything picked up in Elk River. <sup>at all</sup> Of course, they always have logged in here

SS: You mean the town went down very low and then it started to come back again?

MM: Well we always had logging here, but I guess they quit logging there for a while.

SS: Because of the depression.

CY: Well they never did come, back, this town didn't. Course, it never will, like I said before. Nothing to come back for.

SS: Did you and Mr. Morris think about leaving at that time?

MM: Yes, we looked at a lot of places, but we never found anything we thought we'd like. We had our home here and our business and everything, so there wasn't much we could do about it. <sup>Because</sup> You couldn't sell it. When they sell for anything here. All the houses was just given away.

SS: Did many of the people who were your friends leave at that time?

MM: A lot of them went to Lewiston, a lot of them went to Spokane. They're all over the country. We can go anyplace in the country and find somebody from Elk River. Believe it or not, that's right.

SS: Did many of your friends stay?

MM: Not very many of them. Soon as they took the planer out, all the office crew was transferred to Lewiston. They all worked in the office down there.

CY: And Potlatch.

MM: A lot of them went to Potlatch too. But we went down, we were visiting down in California and we had a flat tire, we parked the car, and there was a man came out from one of the stores and he said, "Where in Idaho are you from?" We told him Elk River, he said, "Oh I used to work up there." And I don't know how many different places that we've been that we run across people like that. We went into Mexico and it was on the third of July and when we went down, we went right through the line, nobody bothered us, and when we come out, they took us out of the line. And we thought, what's going on, <sup>why would they take us out,</sup> there were thousands of cars going through there on the third of July. And this man pulled us out and he stuck his head in the car and he said, "Where are you from in Idaho?" And he said, "Do you live near Sandpoint?" And we said we lived at Elk River. He said, "I've been up there lot of times. When does the hunting season open up there?" SO we told him when the hunting

season comes up. He took his head out and he said, "Drive on, drive on." Just like he was giving us a real calling down. (chuckles) So you see, you run across people from Idaho all over the country. We run across somebody up in Kingsgate in Canada. The same way, they come out and asked us where <sup>in Idaho</sup> we were from. They had worked in the mill here. We had a man in here last year that he was a millwright here in the mill when the mill was running and now he did have charge of the water works at Niagra Falls, after he left Elk River. That's where he went to.

SS: Did Mr. Bloom leave here before the mill went down?

MM: He died.

CY: Did he die here in Elk River?

MM: They were living here.

CY: When he died?

MM: <sup>Then</sup> She moved to Spokane.

SS: You were saying that he had a desire to keep the town a good place.

MM: I told you that if any family come in that was undesirable <sup>just</sup> they fired them, had them go. He wouldn't keep them.

SS: Sounded like the maintenance of the town was high.

MM: It was kept up very well. But you can imagine with all these people that were here, practically all the youngsters that were raised during that time are all some of them doctors, they're all lawyers, they're all educated people. All those boys that went to school here and graduated from this school. It's just surprising.

(End of side E)

MM: The Forest Service, they got a lot of money from that so this school was well taken care of. Up until the last few years, they had all kinds of money.

CY: They got timber tax, Money from timber.

MM: They never had any trouble with the school, whatsoever. Even now I don't think they do, because they've done a lot of work, <sup>they built that</sup> beautiful new gym and they've

got a nice library and everything's all fixed up. So they haven't been hard up for money.

SS: Did the school become the center for community activities in the early days?

MM: More or less, yes. They used to have a lot of things go on up at <sup>the</sup> school. Oh once a month they had an afternoon where they had all this historical stuff. They had something on that. I got a bunch of those school things I was gonna show you. (pause) <sup>Go up in the</sup> Afternoon go fishing or doing anything we wanted to do.

SS: Stayed open in the morning?

MM: Yeah, we stayed open in the morning. But there wasn't any reason to stay open any longer because nobody had any money that was here. Might as well close it. That's when he went out to Swamp Creek to, they were mining out there for two years before the town, there was a little bit of money coming back in <sup>again</sup> from the woods department. Outside of that I don't remember just what we did. We <sup>used to</sup> just travelled around if we wanted to go.

SS: For a while did folks have hopes that the town would start up again?

MM: No.

SS: I guess when they took out the mill it was pretty final?

MM: It was really final then. Everybdoy knew it was, too. Course, they'd help some, when the planer run. I think the planer run til '33. And then it went down. Of course, <sup>then</sup> that was the worst time. And <sup>then</sup> of course the depression was on at the same time. So it made it bad. We really never minded it very much. As I say, we'd stay open in the morning and then we'd went out in the woods, or whatever we wanted to do. Mr. Morris liked to fish and he liked to hunt. We kept ourselves busy. ~~Then~~ of course, I don't remember just what we did do for a long time after that except <sup>just</sup> take it easy, do nothing. There wasn't anything to do.

SS: In the days when the town was really going, what was the doctor like, who was the doctor here during most of those years?

MM: The first doctor that was here was Dr. Horsvol. And he left and then Dr. Sealy came. Now, we had a bunch of doctors here. After Dr. Sealy was

Dr. McCormick and after Dr. McCormick there was Dr. Hopkins and then there was Dr. Huston. Then Dr. Laroway then we had a Dr. Homes here, but he only stayed for a few months . in the winter, <sup>1</sup>they sent him up here because he was an X-ray doctor over in Portland. He was having trouble with the X-ray. They sent him over here just on a vacation and he was here for three months during the summer. And after that we didn't have anybody. That's when they took the hospital out.

SS: Did it go out before the mill went out?

MM: No, after the planer went out, the hospital went out too. We always had a doctor here. And a nurse, a nurse that stayed all the time.

SS: Did you find much difference among the doctors or were they pretty much the same?

MM: Well, they were all pretty much the same. <sup>they were</sup> All friends, every one of them, <sup>1</sup>yet, that's living. There's several of 'em gone. Dr. Horseman's gone, Dr. Diamond's gone, Dr. McCormick's gone.

SS: Did you find yourself working pretty closely with them?

MM: YEs. My husband did. Course, I didn't have much to do with them 'cause I never had anything to do with the prescription part of it. We were always friends after they left. Dr. Hopkins died here about two years ago. He had a son that's a doctor and he's in the orthopedic hospital in Portland.

SS: I saw pictures of the Elk River band (pause)

MM: I can't tell you anything <sup>1</sup> about that because I never had anything in particular to do with that outside of waiting on them in the store. And to tell the truth, when they used to come in, I was scared to death. (chuckles) Didn't know much about foreign people in those days because I was back from Ontario where they were all Scotch and Irish people. So I really never had much to do with them as far as knowing anything about them. But I know I used to be scared to death when they came in the store. A lot of them, after a while I learned that they were real nice people and wouldn't harm anybody.

SS: What do you think was the attitude of local people at that time. <sup>1</sup> I had the

idea that there wasn't too much mixing. Did they think that those people were lower class?

MM: Well a lot of them was. You know, in those days, nearly a lot of those people come from Italy were criminals and they sent 'em over here to get 'em out of their country. That's what happened. That's what we heard when they first come, so what were you going to do. But we found out that they were just as nice as anybody else. But I never had anything to do with any of 'em except just waiting on them in the store. I got so I was real friendly with a lot of them, because I enjoyed them and enjoyed finding out about their country and things like that. But there was a lot of them that they said was undesirable that they were criminals over there and they *just* sent them over here to get rid of them. So what are you going to think? You don't want to have anything to do with them. There was an Italian over here that lived over here and he sold cheese and olive oil. Stuff that came from Italy. Regular cheese made in Italy. Eventually he left here and put a store in Spokane. He had a store in Spokane for a long time. And two of his boys did you ever here of Johnny Minnelio? They said, he died here two or three years ago and he was worth over a million dollars. He had <sup>that</sup> a truck line out of Spokane. They done real well, very well. <sup>Both the boys</sup> There was two of them. One of them had charge of the office in Seattle and the other one had the one in Spokane. So we were friendly with them after, they grew up with our kids, went to school with our kids. That was the way with a lot of them that we got acquainted with. <sup>We</sup> Enjoyed them and we didn't really have anything in particular to do with them but we were friendly and all that.

SS: I'm wondering about the band. Was it something that the whole town would come out to hear or play around?

MM: Oh sure, everybody was interested. <sup>When</sup> They went to Boise and pretty nearly got second. We went sky high (chuckles) Cause it was really something. Both Lillian and John played in it. Practically all the kids in town played in it. We also had a band in town. That the grownups used to play all the time. In

fact, I've got a picture somewhere of the band playing on the Fourth of July. My brother-in-law used to ~~play~~ in it. They had everything here. We had tennis courts and they had ballgames and they played basketball, went all over the country playing basket ball. So the kids had everything they wanted to do, as far as that part of it went. They were busy all the time. There wasn't anything for them to get into mischief.

SS: Did this change when the mill went down?

MM: Oh yes, because all these people left. You know, now we get an awful lot of, I just call them riff raff, I shouldn't say that, but they<sup>re</sup> just drifters, they come in and they don't care about their home. Sit on apple boxes or anything they can get, they don't care about anything. And that's the kind of population a lot of it is here now. And that's the way it had been for some time.

SS: So it has declined.

MM: Oh sure it's declined.

SS: Than from when the mill was here.

MM: I hate to say it about a lot of people, but we have an awfull lot of people that come in that are just drifters. They don't care about anything. So, but we 've weathered it out, we've stayed here<sup>thinking</sup> all the time. We've got a lot of property here. We've got all these lots that Mr. Morris owned a lot of the<sub>m</sub> that come back to us and then we've got a lot of our own. I own these lots up here above our house and John owns ~~that~~ lot over there, by where the church is. So we just can't afford to leave, that's all. And we make enough to live on, what we take in the store.

SS: It might be difficult because it's been your home for so long. You have roots here.

MM:! That's true too, I know if I went any other place else, which a lot of times Lillian and John want me to go in to Moscow or some place in an apartment, but I'd rather be out here because I'm used to getting out in the woods and getting around and doing what I want to do., And if I get into and

apartment I know I'll just die. (chuckles) And I'm very much interested in, I like to make quilts and I like to make rugs and I like to do thing like that, so I don't have any trouble putting in my time. Not a bit.

SS: What about the community church in the early days? It's been the only church in town, or was there another one.

MM: The Catholic church at Bovill was moved down there at Elk River. It used to be on top of the hill way up there and you know, they always build a church up on a hill. And it was so bad in the wintertime that they had to move it and they moved it down here where the service station is now. And then of course, practically everybody moved away, they bought it and took it to Bovill. That's the Elk River church that's down there at Bovill.

SS: What about the Community church?

MM: Well, here not very long <sup>ago</sup>, somebody wanted to buy all those windows out of that church. And I told them, I said, you're crazy. I don't know whether they could do it or not because the Potlatch donated that church to Elk River. I don't think they could take them out of the windows or take any of them out. Do you?

SS: I didn't know. I imagine the church belongs to the people.

MM: It does. It was built by the Potlatch for the Elk River people. I don't see why they could do anything like that with it. But you know, it has real stained glass windows in that church. They were up here wanting to buy them.

SS: Has the church been very, used a great deal by the community?

MM: Oh yes, we had all kinds of things. We had a Ladies Aid here, I imagine 25-30 members in it. And they use to work for the church and we used to have dinners and all kinds of things. We used to have enough tables and silverware and dishes up in that church to serve about 50. It's all gone. During the depression why it just all of it was taken. I don't know where it went. And later years, I don't know anything about it. I haven't gone to church for a long, long time. We had a bunch in here that I didn't like

- very well so I just quit going. I haven't gone since. I 'm ashamed to say.
- SS: In the Community church in the years before the depression, was it open to anybody?
- MM: Oh yes. They had a big congregation. It was practically full <sup>every</sup> Sunday.
- SS: Did many of the people that were employees come?
- MM: Yes. A lot of them came. And very much interested in the church. So and now they're doing pretty well I think. This minister that we have here now, we like him very much. And I think he's doing pretty well with the children, which I think is the one thing that they should work with is the children because they're the ones that are coming up. But the church, for a long time, two or three years I think that we didn't have a minister at all and it was just open to anybody. Nobody paid any attention to it.
- SS: I wanted to ask you more about your aunt, Marjorie Jones. Because you said she was an independent woman. She's rather fondly remember by some of the old time people that worked in the mill. I'm curious to know what her character was like. I've heard about the Red Cross.
- MM: She worked in the church a lot too. She was a good church worker. And she was very kind to everybody. She always had somebody that she was helping.
- SS: Was she very educated?
- MM: No, not particularly. She <sup>probably</sup> went through grade school. She lived with us a while before she came west. We used to, we kids used to get awfully mad at her because she made us mind and do everything she wanted us to do. We didn't think she should, we didn't think that was her place. She helped <sup>us</sup> a lot, just the same.
- SS: Was she your mother's?
- MM: Sister. Younger sister.
- SS: This was before she was married?
- MM: Yes. She lived with us for about a year, I guess. <sup>She used to keep us straight.</sup> And we used to get mad at her every once in a while. (chuckles) Just kid stuff, you know.
- SS: Was she very warm and affectionate?

MM: Yeah. Very much so. She'd do anything for you.

SS: Do you know how she and T. P. met?

MM: Well Uncle Tommy was working for J.C. Campbell, you see. <sup>When</sup> He was working in Cloquet. And Aunt Marjorie come out to visit with Uncle John Campbell and she met Uncle Tommy, and I don't know anything about that. They <sup>were</sup> married and lived in Cloquet for a while. And they burned out. They lost their cabin and everything <sup>that</sup> she had in it. When she was back there. That was before my time, before I came to Cloquet, so I couldn't tell you very much, how they met or anything any more than that. But she met him after she came west with Uncle and she met him back there. But how it happened, I don't know.

SS: Do you know why she was so interested in the Red Cross?

MM: I really don't know how she got so much interested in it. I couldn't tell you. But she used, I remember Mrs. McArcher, I boarded with her in Potlatch and she used to come up there and work with <sup>Auntie</sup> on the Red Cross work. All the way from Potlatch, she'd come up there and work with her. How they got together like that, I don't know.

SS: Do you know what the Red Cross work consisted of?

MM: Oh, they made those helmets and they made socks and they made nightgowns or pajamas. Everything that you think of that they needed <sup>in</sup> there during the war. I remember I used to go down, that's where I learned to put pockets in pajamas was down there when they were making those pajamas for the soldiers. I remember her knitting, I suppose they used them for the hospital, but robes, they were knit and they were robes, I suppose, to go over the soldiers when they were sitting in chairs, <sup>or</sup> maybe in a wheel chair. She used to make those by the dozens. Out of gray yarn, I can remember that very well.

SS: She'd knit them herself?

MM: Oh yes, she knit all the time. <sup>Stockings and</sup> Everything. And she had, I remember Mrs. McArcher used to come up there and help her and there was all kinds of people that used to come in and help. She had a room upstairs, she didn't do anything else. She just had Red Cross work up there. Course that was all

after I was married so I don't really know much more about it than that because I was living here at Elk River at that time. But she was a lot of help to my uncle too. She helped him a lot I think too. IN the work he was doing. She was very efficient. Sometimes I thought too much so.

SS: If you start insisting other people...

MM: I can see why she did because I did a lot of Red Cross work here. And I used to cut out everything. And I'd send it, give it to different people to sew and they'd "Oh I have something else to do." and they'd do something else. They'd never get it done. If they did do it, you know they were very particular. Everything was looked at, whether it should go through or not. And there was so many, they'd bring it back, they didn't have it sewed right. One thing or another. It was <sup>a regular</sup> mess as far as I was concerned, because you get people that some of them would do just beautiful work and then somebody else would do it to get it out of their hands and let it go. You'd have to rip it out and do it over again. So I can see why Aunt Marjorie had trouble that way too. I was the same way.

SS: Did you ever find you were worried about being around these rough lumberjacks?

MM: Well there was some of them that were kind of ornery, but not very many of them. We never had any trouble with any of them as long as we traded with them. There was none of them that we ever had any trouble with. Ghey come in drunk, which I didn't like a lot of times. We had one old guy, he'd get drunk and then he'd come in Mr. Morris' and Mr. Morris would bring him up home and give him coffee and sober him up, get him sobered up and he'd go back <sup>to work</sup> and pretty soon he'd be back again drunk again. He'd bring him up in the morning and give him a cup of coffee, try to get him sobered up to go back to work.

SS: He'd come to Mr. Morris to get sobered up?

MM: Every time he'd get drunk, he'd lay around drunk for several days and evidently he'd run out of money and <sup>then</sup> he'd have to get sobered up to go back to work.

So Mr. Morris used to bring him home, give him coffee. He thought the world of him too. He <sup>just</sup> thought he was the best person in the world. That's the way they were too. He always wanted to come in and buy me a Christmas present. Every year they come in. One year they wanted to buy me some nylons. Mr. Morris told him he wasn't going to buy his wife any nylons. They said, "Why?" "I don't want you buying her nylons." So they'd buy something else. That's the way they were. Kind. Several of them here that used to buy me a Christmas present every year.

SS: Any special reason that they did?

MM: I just waited on 'em in the store. They just liked me and that's the way they showed their appreciation. That's the way they did <sup>w/ th</sup> Mr. Bloom. They did the same with Mr. Bloom. She was always nice to them and they liked her. They'd buy her gifts. She used to laugh about it. a lot too, the things that they'd buy her. But she just accepted <sup>t</sup> and let it go at that. We had one man here, Happy Knight, he was the one that helped me plant all these trees around. He used to come up and work for me and he had an odd day or something. And I don't think he ever missed a Christmas <sup>not</sup> buying me something. I kept telling him, don't do it. Because I didn't want a present. He'd buy it anyway. So they were very kind. After I got to know them I didn't mind them at all. but when I first came here, I hadn't been around them except at the post office at Potlatch. Any foreigners, because we didn't have any foreignerz back in Ontario. We, I just was scared of them, that was all. I didn't know how to take them.

SS: Would you say the majority of the workes <sup>s</sup> at the mill and camps were foreigners?

MM: Oh no. We had a lot of American people working. In fact there were more Americans, I think than there was foreigners. The foreigners mostly worked in the woods. There were some of them worked in the mill, but nearly all Americans and skilled people <sup>that</sup> worked in the mill. Because they had to be.

SS: About Mrs. Jones and Mr. Jones, did they feel that they had to make a special effort when the Weyerhaesers were here? How did they feel, equal to them?

MM: I think they felt on an equal footing because there were always, the Weyerhaeuser stayed with them <sup>there</sup> a lot. And Uncle Tommy was with them for such a long, long time. See, he started to work for the Weyerhaeuser people when he was 9 years old, <sup>he WAS</sup> carrying water to the men. That's what he started in doing. So we had known them for all those years, so why wouldn't they? And Mr. Weyerhaeuser that I knew, he was a very, very common man. He was nice with everybody. He dressed just like any old lumberjack. And just lumberjack clothes on, what any lumberjack would have <sup>on</sup>. So I think that there wasn't <sup>any</sup> difference in how they felt about him. I never was around them very much, but I know they stayed there with Auntie. She had them there. They stayed there overnight and they ate there a lot, when they were out here. So evidently they felt on the same footing.

SS: And the people that your aunt and uncle knew were common people.

MM: Sure. Well, I think that we were all very common people, as far as that goes.

I was raised on a farm. Auntie was raised on a farm. Uncle Tommy I think was raised on a farm too. So as far as that goes. I never did know very much about his earlier days. Because after he died, they had quite a time finding some of the family. He didn't keep in contact with a lot of his brothers and sisters. He had one brother that lived in Bovill, Robert. And that's the only one of the family that I ever knew. But I know he had sisters that they couldn't find when he died. For quite a while they couldn't get trace of them, 'cause he'd never kept in contact with them.

SS: For the family here what would be the way of having get togethers? Much visiting.

MM: I can remember here a lot of times on Sundays that we'd have anywhere from 18 to 20 people here. We'd go to church in the morning and after church was over, they'd say, they'd go home and cook their dinner and then they'd say, "What ever you have left for dinner, bring it over to a certain house." Many a time they'd come here, there'd be 18 or 20 of us. Just have a potluck supper, whatever was left <sup>from dinner from</sup> Everybody's house, they'd bring it. And one of

MM: We spent lot of the weekends too. That was a Sunday night's doings. Everybody'd put what they'd left from dinner and bring it over and put it on <sup>the</sup> table and we'd eat supper here. And this teacher would play the piano and we'd sing hymns and spend the evening singing. We had wonderful times. We had wonderful meals too. It'd be surprising how many things that you could swear up and down for dinner that they'd prepared purposely. (Chuckles) I've had as many as eight tables of bridge in this room. Of just Masons and their wives. We had a big Masonic lodge here. We had a big Eastern Star Lodge. <sup>We had an</sup> Oddfellows lodge and we had a Rebehka's lodge we had a Royal Neighbors lodge. And from Christmas on, I've seen winters that we never had a day that we didn't have a bridge party in the afternoon or in the evening. We had a club, eight of us belonged to, <sup>eight</sup> families. And the host would serve the meat and the potatoes and the other group would bring the rolls <sup>or the</sup> salad and somebody would bring the desert. A d that's what we'd do all winter, we'd just rotate. We had a party once a week. So you can see what we did for having something to entertain us.

SS: Do you mean that there was something every day?

MM: Every day there was something. There'd be weeks and weeks that there wouldn't be a day that <sup>you had to spare,</sup> there'd be something doing all the time.

SS: That's when the mill was still here?

MM: When the mill was still running.

SS: Sounds very active.

SS: Well <sup>we</sup> did. We had a wonderful time. We had all these lodges and the Masons used to put on programs and the Eastern Star used to put on programs. They just kept us busy all the time. Something doing all the time. And you know, all these people that lived in Elk River, all, every one of them come back. They all like to come back, even as the town is now. That's the time they lived here was the best part of their life. I was up in Spokane here two or three weeks ago and I met a lot of the old Elk River people. They said that really was the best time <sup>that</sup> they ever had in their lives.

SS: What made it so special?

- MM: Well a nice bunch of people here and everybody was congenial and had good times. As I say, we had all these parties. We'd have probably a bridge party in the afternoon. Or bridge party in the evening. And so many times the men were invited too. Everybody just enjoyed themselves, was all. But everybody that ever lived here, I never heard anybody say, and they all come back to visit. They just enjoyed it here and that's the time of their lives...
- SS: In those days, was there much need for people to rely on their neighbors?
- MM: Well there wasn't any need for it. Everybody was working they all had everything, they all had money to spend, <sup>made</sup> good money, at least all the workers did, they all had good money. Never had any that had to skimp on anything.
- SS: Lot of prosperity?
- MM: Sure. Elk River was one of the biggest payrolls in Northern Idaho, I think they said. In the days when the mill was running. They said it was the largest payroll. And I can believe it too because a lot of people got big money.
- SS: Did you have time to cook meals at home?
- MM: Sure, I always cooked meals. Used to get up and get my husband's breakfast every morning too which nobody does any more. (laughs) The young people nowadays let their husbands get up and get their own breakfast mostly. Everybody told me I was a good cook, too. And I can't cook anymore. Harriet does all the cooking now. John's wife. And that bread (pause)
- SS: Were you faced with the problem of people needing credit?
- MM: We've got thousands of dollars on the books down there. We could retire on what we have on the books down there, <sup>that we'll never get</sup> John's just as bad. He lets them charge yet, and I get so mad at him. He's crazy to not let them have credit, but he's a good hearted soul. He let 'em have it.
- SS: Was credit start after the mill was down?
- MM: After. Yes. We never had any trouble when the mill was running. Everybody could pay their bills.
- SS: How did you feel about that? Did you feel you had to give credit when people needed it?

- MM: Well they'd come in and say they had a sick child or something and they'd have to have a prescription and they'd charge it and <sup>they'd</sup> run up probably a bill and they'd pay for it and you'd think they'd be good credit. Pretty soon they'd come in to give you a hard story and say they couldn't pay it or something and it would go along for maybe two months, and then they'd  $u\frac{1}{2}$  and leave. I always said they were just deadbeats to start with. <sup>they'd</sup> Pay the first month or two and try to get their credit good and they'd have a chance to, my husband was the same way. He was too lenient. <sup>too, as far as that went</sup> We've got an awful bunch of money on the books down there.
- SS: Do you feel that you would have been harder if it had been up to you?
- MM: I wouldn't have given it to them. I think everybody ought to pay ~~their~~ bill every month. I don't think there's any reason for them not paying. <sup>it</sup> I was taught when I was a kid not to charge anything. <sup>If</sup> you can't afford to pay for it, don't buy it. And I think they were raised that way to because Mr. Morris worked that. But they were just lenient with <sup>them</sup>. John's got a bunch of that stuff on the books too. A lot of people too that I know we'll never get it.
- SS: In those days, did the drugstores sell anything besides drugs and patent medicines? Medical supplies. Did it have dry goods.
- MM: No, we never did. We never had anything until, I told you that Mr. Morris' brother had the hardware store here. And when the depression come they moved away and just left the store. We bought it and we used to go over and if anybody wanted hardware, we'd go over and sell it and then just close the store up. We had keys to it. So eventually we got tired of that and we decided that we'd just take the hardware store <sup>in</sup> to the drugstore. We would have starved to death if we'd just had sold drugs because there wasn't enough money here, there was no doctor here. <sup>any more</sup> John does quite a good prescription business yet because because nearly everybody brings prescriptions. He fills them here now.
- SS: This was his father that had the hardware?

- MM: The father and the son was in the hardware store. And the son left, course grandpa retired. he died in '26.
- SS: Did most of the business close down when the mill quit?
- MM: Practically everything went down. They just locked up the hardware store. <sup>and left it</sup>  
There was nothing they could do. There wasn't anything here to buy it.
- SS: What was left after the plane went down?
- MM: Oh the meat market stayed and he had groceries. And the drugstore, <sup>then</sup> there's a poolhall down there where Tom Sconverse is. Where Gene Dalkey is now. That about all that stayed after the planer went down. But you know, we were better off than a lot of people that left because there was a lot of people left went into business other places. And they just all went broke every one of them. 'Cause it was depression time and people wasn't buying anything. I know the Adulies, they went up and started a store in Spokane. They were only in there a couple of years and they went just broke. They couldn't make it.
- SS: Did many of these stores leave between the time the mill and the planer shut down?
- MM: Oh no, I think most of them stayed until the planer went down. <sup>.cause there was</sup> Quite a few men still working.
- SS: The planer, was that a big part of the mill operation?
- MM: Yell, it wasn't the biggest part, but it was a lot of it. You see, when the mill went down the lumberyard down here, all this airport was full of lumber. They had all that lumber there and they were getting rid of that. That's why the planer stayed open. But my brother-in-law, when he left, they were just destitute for a long time. He worked for a man in Colfax for a while and then he went down to Pacific Grove and they were really having trouble down there, but I had a brother-in-law down there, he's a contractor. And he gave them work so he got doing a little bit so they had enough to eat. And there were so many people like that that left and they just had a hard time. So we

stuck it out and we're still here. (chuckles)

SS: I wanted to ask you about what you sold. Were there common ailments?

MM: Maybe they'd have a little indigestion or something like that. Constipation-  
Mentholatum was the big seller. <sup>for</sup> Salve. They had sore feet or sores of any  
kind. And we used to make , it was something that would fizz up.

SS: Phospahte?

MM: Yeah, phosphate. And they used to get an awful lot of that, the lumberjacks  
did. <sup>They'd</sup> Come in, they'd have a stomach ache and they'd want Mr. Morris to fix  
them a phosphate. I remember he used to put it together. Had to put something  
in it and then they'd have to put something else in it it'd fizz up. But  
that was a big seller. Boy they used to come in and get a ~~lot~~ of that.  
Epsom ~~salts~~ was another big seller. There were such common things that they  
used in those days. There wasn't much, all this medicine that they have now,  
you never heard of it.

SS: I wonder if it's any better. I always <sup>u</sup> thought some of those patent medicines  
didn't do anything.

MM: Those bitters that they sold in those days, they were bitters too. To give  
you an appetite and that. I don't think that <sup>there was</sup> any of them were any good, as  
far as that goes. But I know a lot of the lumberjacks used to buy a lot of  
that stuff for the alchol that was in it. <sup>I remember that</sup> They used to have different extracts,  
lot of times you used them in the prescriptions, they'd put 'em up, you'd  
have to use maybe vanilla or something like that to give them a little bit  
of flavor. And they used to combine , they'd buy three or four bottles of  
that at a time, they'd just drink it. We got so that we wouldn't sell them  
anymore than one. Let 'em have one. <sup>but that was all</sup> You couldn't keep it on the shelf. if  
you sold it like that. But there were so many things that were so different  
in those days. All our ice cream, we had a fountain in there at the other  
store too. And all the ice cream used to come <sup>packed</sup> in ice and salt. We used to  
go down here to the pond every winter and cut <sup>the</sup> ice, put it in sawdust, make

it have an ice house and pack the ice cream in all the time,

SS: What did you use to cut the ice with? <sup>MM:</sup> We had saws of some kind, I never did see them cut it, But Mr. Morris used to go down and work every year. He'd get blocks of ice this square. We had a nice house back of our store there, the old store. And the meat market man used to put his ice in that same place. We had <sup>them</sup> both of them in there and they used use the ice too for the meat market. And of course, in those days, the iceboxes, anybody that had one had to have ice. There wasn't any electricity. They wouldn't let us have <sup>any</sup> electricity. <sup>here you</sup> Couldn't have a stove or anything because they electricity that they were generating at the mill wasn't strong enough to run a lot of appliances. So we had our hard times too, besides the good ones. But <sup>everything</sup> worked out beautifully.

(End of tape)