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TAPE FIVE, SIDE 1 and 2 - Constance Baker - TWENTIETH INTERVIEW * PAGE 1

TAPE METER

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

record sheet

- 942 ~~Namey Con~~ Interview begins with Personal data ~~Sheet~~. Name, Constance Baker, nee Beal. Born 1937 in Nampa, Idaho; grew up in Ola, Idaho.
- (erase 157-158 terrible static)
- 966 Mother's maiden name, Flake. Mother is a rancher's wife. Born 1917 in Ola, Idaho. Mother was divorced from narrator's father when Connie was 6 months old. Mother remarried when narrator was 4 years old.
- 985 Father. Narrator gives information on her step father. Name, Homer Beal. Occupation, rancher; lives on the ranch his grandfather settled. Born 1913 in High Valley, Idaho.
- 1000 Siblings. One brother, Roger.
- 1003 Husband. ~~Ma~~ Gary Baker. Narrator is now divorced. Husband born in 1934 in Yosemite Valley, California. Narrator married husband ~~1956~~ in 1956 in Reno, Nevada. His occupation: no longer works, but had usually been employed in saw mills.
- 1025 Three children. Mark Edwin, born 1957 in Emmet, Idaho; now a student in highschool. Jennifer, born in 1959 in Emmet. Heather, born 1960 in Nevada City, California.
- 1043 Education. Narrator completed high school and attended college for one year; majored in music and art. She quit school to get married; 15 years later she got divorced. After the divorce, she went back to school and received ~~a degree in drafting; Associate of Applied Science~~ an Associate of Applied Science degree in drafting.
- 1053 Skills. ~~M~~ Draftsperson. Occupations: has worked for Lewiston Drafting Economy. Also worked for a consulting engineer firm as a drafter. Recently she quit drafting and is now director for a retired senior citizens volunteer program.
- 1078-end of side one (1080) Side 2: 003 Narrator comments that her divorce was a shattering experience. She went into drafting ~~x~~ in order to build her confidence so that she could once again cope with people. Enjoys her work with senior citizens very much.
- 015 Other skills. Narrator can weld, refinish furniture, weave, and do crewel embroidery. Also has done ~~x~~ oil painting. Enjoys hunting and fishing. Awards and honors: received Arion award for outstanding choir member. As a student in high school, she won the state contest to be a delegate to United Nations. Clubs: Lewis & Clark Wildlife Club. Also attends many other club meetings.
- 031 Although she now lives in Lewiston, ~~background~~ narrator's background is rural. Some problem getting adjusted to city life, although she notes that Lewiston is mostly a rural town. Narrator has all the skills for rural living and continues to use many of those skills: soap making, gardening, baking bread

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- running machinery. Knows how to work in hay fields, milk cows, butcher, etc
Comments that she ~~and family~~ lived with husband and children in Elk City for a while where they packed in water and cooked on a wood stove.
- 048 Life of rural and urban woman compared. Rural women more versatile and talented than city women because rural women need to utilize their talents more.
- 058 Childhood. Narrator grew up with a large extended family of aunts, uncles, and grandparents. Did a lot of family gatherings: picnics, birthdays, celebrations. Narrator continues this with her own children and with her ~~xxx~~ circle of friends. Activities as a child: grew up on a ranch in the mountains so in the summer, she swam in the creeks on their land, had tree houses, a playhouse in the barn, and she rode horses a lot. In the winter, she played on the frozen creeks and ~~didn't~~ sledged and ~~skied~~ skied. Recalls one Christmas when she got a new saddle, and one Christmas when she got new skis. Narrator enjoyed the family picnics they had: barbecues, boating, swimming. Had lots of cousins to play with, although they were all boys. Comments that she was a tomboy. Narrator also very much involved in school and school activities. Parents expected she and her brother to get good grades, which was o.k. with her at that time.
- 101 Courtship and marriage. Narrator dated the same boy through most of high school. But when she graduated and went back to on the UN trip she won, she realized she didn't want to marry her high school sweetheart. So, she went to California, ~~to live~~ lived with a family, and went to college. There she met her husband. Courtship of only 2½ weeks. Married for 15 years, then divorced. Husband had a lot of emotional problems. Narrator comments that she lost her own identity during the marriage because she spent so much energy on trying to change herself into what her husband wanted her to be. Divorced when, among other things, she realized she could support the family by herself. Comments that it was a traditional marriage and after the divorce she was not very strong emotionally.
- 144 After divorce, narrator went to school on a program for working women, WIN. Describes how emotionally shattered she was at the time. ~~and~~ The group of women attending the WIN program provided a support network and that was a tremendous help.
- 167 Narrator now lives alone with her children. Does not want to get into the same marital situation again. Reasons for marrying: she was in love.
- 195 ~~Childrearing~~ Children born in hospitals, but had fairly natural births there. She had planned on having last child, Heather, at home and had made all the arrangements. But ended up at the hospital due to a back problem. Family planning: she wanted 4 children, but stopped after the third because of her back. Husband had a vasectomy after the third child. Narrator notes that she communicates with her children a lot more than her parents did with her. She is also not pressuring her kids in school like she was pressured as a child.
- ~~221 222~~
229 Recreation nowadays. Hiking in the hills, attending plays at civic theater, dancing, group dinners and picnics. Narrator didn't have many girlfriends

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while growing up and throughout much of her life, so she has been used to male companions. Since her divorce four years ago, she has made women ~~friends~~ friends and now spends more time with women and really enjoys that.

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Things to support the family: jobs. Receives no child support from husband and she is satisfied with that. Now that she has been living on her own for four years, she has become happy with her life and has a feeling of self worth. If she ever remarries, it will have to be with a man who can accept her as an independent person.

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Narrator feels that her lifestyle is so open now and she has become more broadminded that it would be difficult to go back to parents' ranch and live with them. Notes that small communities are very tight and if someone moves in from a large town, she may feel like an outsider for a very long time; loneliness becomes a bit problem. Difficult for a new person to be accepted in a small town, especially if lifestyle is different from everyone else's.

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Magazines and newspapers. Reads a lot but doesn't subscribe for financial reasons. Does buy issues of Woman's Day and Family Circle. Gets hand-down copies of Cosmopolitan, a magazine she really loves. TV: watches some specials, and "Mary Tyler Moore." But doesn't have the time to watch TV because she works and has frequent meetings at night.

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One of the greatest influences in narrator's life has been being raised on a ranch with an extended family. Narrator feels a continuity with the land because of this experience and she has a sense of family history which she likes. Notes that her grandmother was very important for her as a child and she had learned a lot from her grandmother.

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End of interview.

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