

Mary Alice Brock
9/20/75
Idaho Rural Women's History Project
Interviewed by Cathy Naugle

Side I

- 0-13 talk about her favorite TV shows, especially Lawrence Welk.
- 13- drove school bus in Ontario, Oregon
- 14-23 More TV
- 23- Came to Lenore because it was husband's home, she had been with Forest Service
- 33- Problems with step-daughter, car problems, selling greeting cards
53-73 mother's illness, coronary-mother wanted to die but was kept alive on machines
75- talk about her home, the well
- 80- when married making \$4100 a year, when she quit work she made \$5200 a year
- 82-90 her garden, how she helps husband in fields, getting wood etc.
- 93- World War II affected life more than depression
- 99- milked cows every day
- 101- did housecleaning-dishes
- 104-111 sold milk for 8¢/gallon, eggs 7¢ dozen, 89¢ would buy you a good dress
10¢ an hour for wages (10 hours a day)
- 112-177 describing area around Bridgeport. mule deer near their place, hunting stories about her father and brothers and husband.
- 177- sold ranch in December, hauled beets for neighbors, bought new clothes for whole family with her earning
- 186 sewing for children - paid \$69 for Singer sewing machine, sewed from 1949 on
- 192 husband was in trucking business, lived in apartment in Ontario
- 200 moving into new community, she was an outsider she felt
- 210 husband kept changing jobs and they kept moving, she didn't like moving when her kids were in school, because she had to do that when she was a child.
- 212 bought a trailer house and travelled to Montana, moved to Troy, MT husband worked for a contractor
- 225 she drove truck and hauled fill dirt and gravel
- 228 while she was driving truck during the day, she found out later that her husband was having an affair

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229 had appendectomy
230 marriage not working
245 moving into new trailer court in Montana
251 moved to Sandpoint for winter - people not very friendly
261 boys did well in school
268 moved back to Oregon, (Ontario)husband back in trucking
troubles with moving truck
288 husband in jail for drunken driving
294 financial problems
300 she and husband were trucking contracting team
310 comments about disparity between her wages \$1.00 an hour on her feet
and her husband's trucking wages - so she started driving a truck
320 trucking comments
328 boys helped with housekeeping, marketing, bill paying
cooking
348 trucked till 1969
352 comments about hiring qualified engineer to help with construction projects
362 she did bookkeeping, signed the contracts, she also boarded the extra
truck drivers at their home - husband says, "you aren't doing anything
and rooms are hard to find, we'll just board the guys here and you can
feed them." (mother came and helped her)
368 problems with trucks (equipment failures)
373 she repaired the drive line herself because the driver refused to since
to it was muddy - she fired the driver. Stories about how she got a new
401 driver.
402 this construction project was a financial diaster for them - they lost
their equipment to pay for the taxes, insurance and other costs.
end all they had left was car and trailer house.

Side II

414 worked two weeks for nothing because the engineering of the dike
was wrong.
433 "I was first woman in the whole area driving a truck - I had to be
better, I had to be good"
444 stockpiled gravel and sand- she was willing to do anything

- 448 Putting in a 13 foot fill at New Meadows for a new service station.
story about the truck problems
- 488 Job at Oregon - rip-rapping a recreational dam. Husband did loading
to she did hauling.
538
- 541 became a school bus driver - for five years, a regular route and
activitiy driving in Ontario, Oregon (she was the first woman to do this
there)
- 575 drove bus - went to grade school and was secretary at 10:00
there were five women drivers when she worked
- 576 stories about problem kids and parents
- 612 drove bus for summer migrant school
- 631 in 1962, she filed for divorce, worked at a restaurant as a cook
boys were in high school
- 636 worked near Homedale at a motel - youngest boy was not going to school
went to live with his dad. They roamed country for a year.
- 647 Husband was involved in hit and run near Yellowstone. Because truck was
still registered in her name, she lost her drivers license and was put
in jail. Police also took her car.
- 657 continued to work as secretary at grade school and rode bike to work.
lawyer straightened things out finally.
- 667 was Cub Scout Den mother - up to 12 boys, meetings in their trailer
to her boys were in it three years, she continued for two more years
700

Tape # 45

Mary Brock - February 27, came to women's center to redo interview - technical difficulties made it necessary to do it again.

- 123 Known as Butch when she was growing up
- 134 Lived and grew up in Idaho-went to Florida to get married in World War II. Met husband while she was in Business college at Nampa.
- 140 trip to Florida on train by herself
to
202-203 living arrangements in Florida; apartment - utilities on gas meter had to put quarters in to keep it going. Rent was \$30/month, shared bath with two other apartments
- 215 Stayed in Tampa in another apartment. Husband was shipped to Cuba. Five wives moved together for 3 weeks - didn't work, so she and another wife shared an apartment til husbands came back.
- 236 Moved to Kansas with 1929 Oakland. (1943) Pregnant with Virgil Her husband then shipped overseas from Salina, KS. Then she returned home to Nampa. Left car in Nebraska and it was sold.
- 272 Baby born in Boise.
- 273 feelings about being home after having been gone. Nice to be home with family.
- 276 lived with family til she found small house of her own after the baby was born
- 279 husband was aerial gunner in Eurpoe, Africa during World War II
- 284 went to work for ration board - sister babysat
- 286 baby died New Years Eve - pneunomia, weak heart
- 289 husband came home fall 1945. had hard time adjusting back to civilian life. Moved around a lot - first in California, visiting his sister. Went to Nebraska and visited father-in-law. Husband decided to go into passenger transport business.
- 305 husband in jail for drunken driving several times
- 307 pregnant and moved to Ogalala- bought a cement block plant she tamped the cement to work out bubbles
- 314 lived in trailerhouse - on the block plant, were going to expand because business was good - husband's father told them they couldn't make any money doing that so they picked up and moved to her home in Idaho.
- 323 lived in trailerhouse at her mothers- husband worked as carpenter with her dad and brothers
- 324 moved to Oregon - then to Lorraine, Oregon, had a five room house, no furniture but baby crib. She raised chickens in the living room in car-top carrier. Had a garden. Moles got the garden.

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Feb 27 Tape #45

- 345 they moved to California to work with his brother. Managed a card room. She did housekeeping for the whole family - was 8 months pregnant.
- 351 they got their own apartment after family fight.
- 354 baby was RH baby and brother-in-law paid hospital bills.
- 356 built house, bought a block machine and built house of cement blocks.
- 360 she worked as janitor at local school (McMinville?)
- 362 stories about the fog dissipating equipment at the base; equipment was tested here before using in Berlin
- 371 Had vegetable garden - raised chickens - sold them door-to-door live weight, even killed them for the customers
- 384 Moved to Idaho via Redding, CA. Going down a mountain range, the brakes failed. He jumped with oldest boy. Nephew jumped. She had baby in arms and was ready to jump when brakes froze and truck skidded to a stop against the bank. Her leg was pinned between step and truck door. (it was dark)

SIDE II

- 411 more about accident