

INTERVIEW SUMMARY-TAPE INDEX

NAME: Aherin, Lillie
 DATE OF INTERVIEW:
 LOCATION:
 INTERVIEWER:
 REEL NO.

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END

LA: Oh, I suppose I taught all together four months; I don't suppose over a term.

LH: I don't know.

LA: I don't think so.

LH: And uh, what occupation?

LA: None.

LH: Other than that. Now, this is as far as you went to school. Now, if you had gone to school any farther, what would you have done?

LA: Well, if I'd have went on to school, I'd have had more education and I would have got a certificate and went on to teaching.

LH: Oh, I see.

LA: But I stayed with Mother, you see, I was the last girl. Clede was a little older than I am and him and Dad went off to building elevators.

LH: Oh really?

LA: And that left Mother and I alone. Well, we had Roy and Eric, but they were quite a big younger.

LH: How far away did your dad go to build elevators?

LA: Oh, he went to Oelwein, Iowa. I don't know all the places where he built them. He went around to different places. What you do want to know all that for?

LH: Because it will get lost unless somebody gets it down. Did you ever hold any jobs or anything?

LA: No. Oh, just in subjects.

LH: Yeah, that kind of stuff. But, I mean as far as clerking or anything like this?

LA: No.

LH: And then your schoolteaching.

LA: Yes. There was a woman, Mrs. Strong, and her husband had a store there and they'd needed someone to cook in there once in a while, just helping them out. But they had a job clerking.

LH: What store was this?

LA: That was in Lovilia, Iowa. That's where I lived when I lived with Mother That's where I was living when I was going with Dan.

LH: Did you move around when you were in Iowa a lot?

LA: No.

LH: You've always lived in Lovilia?

LA: Well, we owned a farm, Dad owned a farm and we lived on that for quite a few years. Then he sold it. Then we did rent a farm and we didn't keep that very long, it was just, that's when we moved to Lovilia and built a home and then Clede was getting older and he built elevators.

LH: What are your hobbies and interests -- reading?

LA: Reading ...

LH: Well, then and now, too.

LA: Well, Lovilia was a new place. We had it all fresh tractored out to build a farm there. The girls in town and I, we started out making ice cream and selling it, you know, to mothers going to the store, fixing up the farm. It wasn't hard to fix a farm then. You could go up to the nursery and get some cream there.

There was so much moisture back there, everything grew. Well, not everything, if you put outside it would die most always. But I got married.

LH: Oh, but you read a lot now?

LA: Oh, yes, I've read. All my life I've read lots of books, lots of reading.

LH: Any other hobbies? You quilted.

LA: Oh, of course I had to quilt, otherwise or we wouldn't have had nothing to sleep under. Old carpet rags and quilts, a few things like that.

LH: Anything else?

LA: No, nothing particular, I guess, worth mentioning.

LH: Oh well, to me, it's worth mentioning.

LA: Crocheted tea towels. Mother and I, we crocheted everything.

LH: And then, of course, clubs and groups and societies -- the Missionary Society.

LA: We always went to church. The church was right beside our house.

LH: Any other clubs? Did you ever win any honors, awards, or ribbons for anything you ever did?

LA: No. Our greatest thing that we done back then, you know, we used to have box suppers and things like that. Well, we'd get prizes for our beautiful boxes. I got several of those, but that's not no ribbon.

LH: What kind of prizes?

LA: Oh, they'd give you a book. Generally it would be recipes in it or a book about the country and how to improve it. You know, at one time there was lots of flies in Oelwein, house flies. But Dad, being a carpenter, always kept outdoors and we always kept screen doors and windows, so we never had them in the house. But now, sometimes we had flies in the house and we had to use fly paper because I tell you, they were thick.

LH: How did you make these boxes for these box suppers?

LA: Oh boy, we'd take a shoe box. We'd always take the boys' big boxes and we'd fix them all over with fancy paper and decorate them and then we'd cut out flowers and paste them together. I wonder how they looked.

LH: They always bought them?

LA: Anyway, we sold them. I've had a box that sold for as much as \$4 or \$5, a box supper.

LH: That's something that they don't do anymore. How would you say ...

LA: No. We used to have a lot of people there. The Magic Lantern shows, they don't have them anymore, either.

LH: Now what are those?

LA: Well, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," I remember seeing that whole thing. One night there, we went to one of those Magic Lantern shows and just different things like that.

LH: Where did it get its name?

LA: I don't know. What would you think it means?

LH: I don't know.

LA: I have no idea.

LH: Were these held in a theater? ?

LA: They'd be up on a platform and you'd be sitting back here on a seat and they'd put on the light. Then, they'd turn off the

lights in the room and then they'd show it along the ...

LH: Oh, it was on a screen?

LA: Yeah, on a curtain.

LH: On a curtain, rather than, this wasn't actual actors?

LA: No. I guess there was some actors, of course, in "Uncle Tom's Cabin," but there's some Negroes in that. I've kind of forgotten what it was. Every once in a while them shows would come along. But that was entertainment.

LH: Sure. What else did you used to do for entertainment?

LA: Dance. I always loved to dance at parties.

LH: What kind of parties?

LA: Birthday.

LH: I've heard you tell about picnics from the summertime.

LA: Sunday School picnics. The Fourth of July Picnic we'd take our dinner, spread it all, take the best tablecloth Mother had and spread it on the ground and put the dinner all along that, all the neighbors, you know.

LH: Oh.

LA: They have horse races and foot races. I guess they don't have them anymore, but they used to have them.

LH: Were these held in parks?

LA: Oh yeah, they had parks.

LH: Is that where they held the picnics and stuff?

LA: That's where that And you know, they always had these beautiful great big Maple trees back there, around the outside of the park, great big trees.

LH: Did they ever have county fairs?

LA: Oh yes, they had fairs. Oh, they had [unintelligible].

LH: Now, what is that?

LA: Have you been to a [unintelligible]?

LH: I don't know. Not that I know of.

LA: Well, I'll tell you. You just get on the highest mountain [unintelligible]. I can hardly remember.

LH: What were they like?

LA: Well, they were hills is what they were. But honest to goodness, I can't tell you what they done there. I've just forgotten.

LH: Were these in connection with the county fairs?

LA: Oh, at the fair they had displays of what people raised, just like they do up at the University, only not so big, of course. They had squash, apples and preserves that different women had made, bread that somebody had baked.

LH: Did you ever enter anything in these?

LA: Well I was too young, you know.

LH: So when you got old enough, you did it then. How would you say your childhood differs from the childhood of your children?

LA: How would I say my childhood was different than nowadays?

LH: Yes.

LA: Why, Lillie, really there is no comparison. There was just schoolhouses, you know, every two miles when I was a girl. Every two miles, there was a schoolhouse and that's where a lot of the

things took place. They had lots of ... what did they call them meetings now? Had lots of Evangel ...

LH: Evangelist meetings?

LA: That's what they use now as the word, but I don't think they used it then. Well, we had lots of meetings and they'd always be in some of the schoolhouses around. They'd move it wherever the meeting was. Boy, just a lot of people would come in buggies, wagons, for miles. And, of course, we always had Sunday School. We didn't have Sunday School in every school -- they had churches around, too. And they had lots of little towns back there in Iowa; they wasn't very far apart and they had all of those, Leighton and Lovilia and all them little towns was built along the road there. They all had railroads. Was it the Northern Pacific? Or, that was the Southern Pacific, I think it was. They put that railroad through there and, of course, there's just towns all along the road. Every seven miles, there'd be a town. There wasn't as many towns here, but they're bigger. Well, I suppose they're bigger now if they wasn't destroyed or something.

LH: Do you remember, well I'm sure you do, anything about your courtship?

LA: Well, I know we rode around in the buggy. I remember that. Dad had a real nice driving team.

LH: What else did you do?

LA: Oh, on Sundays, we'd just ride around and go to town and buy some fruit. There was always lots of fruit on Sunday when we was out riding, just the two of us. We'd buy, we got some oranges, some bananas or [unintelligible], or whatever. Why, that was a real treat, you know. We didn't have them all the time like we do here.

LH: Did you always wear a hat?

LA: Always wore a hat.

LH: A high bonnet and this sort of thing?

LA: Always had a hat.

LH: And your dresses, were they to the ground?

LA: The ankle.

LH: And were a lot of them white?

LA: Well, I had two or three white dresses. A lot of them didn't like to get white dresses because they was so hard to wash. They made them so full, you know. Then you had to have a skirt to go with them. It took lots of laundry and lots of work to iron.

LH: Did you ever wear a hoop skirt?

LA: No, I never did.

LH: Button shoes?

LA: Yeah, I wore button shoes, that was the thing.

LH: When you were a girl?

LA: Slippers. I had white slippers as a kid.

LH: Gloves?

LA: Yeah, we wore silk gloves.

LH: Silk gloves. Did you carry umbrellas, too?

LA: Oh, I have the prettiest umbrella you ever saw. White silk, had four or five white silk ruffles all around the top. It was pretty, must have been black.

LH: This fancy carriage -- did it have a top on it?

LA: Oh yes. A pop buggy, they called it. It was just a buggy that Dan hitched up to two horses and would put fly nets on them that would come half way down, you know. Do you know what that is?

LH: No.

LA: Fly nets on the horses. They was made with fringe, you know, and a tassel. They were real pretty. They would keep the flies off of the horses. Mostly for style, I think. They looked awfully pretty.

LH: Do you remember the first time that you met Grandpa?

LA: At a dance. And his brother was there, too.

LH: And this was in Iowa?

LA: I was in Iowa.

LH: Do you happen to remember how come he was in Iowa?

LA: Well, we had relatives that lived up near Ponda [?] and they had been down to our place. They wanted his wife, Patti, her name was; she wanted to ask Mother is I could go home with her a little while -- she said she was kind of lonesome up there. She had girls, but they were little. Mother said, "Yeah, go and stay a week or so." So, when they went home I went home with them and her husband played for dances because he was a violinist, and he used to go and play for the dances. So, this dance was in Veriana [?], that's the name of the town. I went with them to the dance and that's where I met Dan and Gene Aherin both. When we

went to our seats, he said, "How about me bringing this up to you Sunday?" He knew where I was. He knew the people, and I said that would be all right. So the next time I danced with Gene. Gene, he wanted to know if he could stop up and see me and I said, "No because Dan was calling." Oh, but Gene was mad about that! He wanted to be the one, you know, but I liked Dan the best. I thought Dan was the way best looking one of the two.

LH: How long was this before you married him?

LA: Oh, I think we went together about a year and a half and then he come out West. He was out here about a year. Then he came back to Lovilia.

LH: Then you were married and you came right to Spokane?

LA: Yeah.

LH: How long were you in Spokane before you went to [unintelligible]?

LA: Oh, about a week, I'd say, about a week and a half. The Penny Poor Hotel I stayed.

LH: The what?

LA: The Penny Poor Hotel. Have you ever heard of that?

LH: No.

LA: We stayed there, I think about two weeks altogether.

LH: Do you remember any of the reasons that you got married?

LA: Because I wanted to. I married quite a fellow when I married Dan because they were quite prominent ranchers back there. They sold lots of stock and stuff like that. Dan would take in one load into Chicago, carted horses, they sold horses.

LH: Oh, they raised horses?

LA: Yeah, they didn't raise them but they sold them. And they sold lots and lots of cattle. And they sold ...

LH: Now, did they raise the cattle?

LA: Yes, they raised the cattle. So, I was marrying quite a prominent boy when I married Dan.

LH: What else did they raise or did they raise anything else?

LA: Oh yeah, they were farmers, you might say. You know his mother, Grandma Aherin, was an English lady. She lived in England till she was about 20 years old. She talked quite English, besides. She was real short.

LH: She was? I thought that ... isn't Aherin an Irish name?

LA: Irish. That was Grandpa, he was Irish and she was English.

LH: And what nationality are you?

LA: Part Irish and part, my mother's folks were of the, what do they call it? Dutch, Dutch people. Dad's people was more like they were just Americans, I guess. They never heard them to speak, but Mother spoke Dutch. What's Dutch and German, what difference is that?

LH: I don't know just exactly for sure; they're pretty much the same, I think. Well then, what were your expectations before your marriage?

LA: Oh, I guess I thought we would be independently rich because Dan already had a section of land and that just sounded like he was already rich at his youth. The land wasn't worth very much, you know, but when they come back there and told what they was doing and he thought he was going to have a big ranch, and we did because, boy, we had some hard time of getting it now, I tell you.

LH: It didn't all pan out as easy as you thought?

LA: Well, you see, there was an old well on the place. But when we dug that well, we dug a well in about six or eight months after we were there.

LH: This was out of Krutch?

LA: Yeah, about ten miles south of Krutch. We got the finest water. It was so cold. And you know, it took them a long time to dig that 16 feet of earth, and the rest was solid rock. It was 160 feet deep. Can you imagine? Do you know how they dig a well like that?

LH: No.

LA: Well, they have a crane set up over the hole, you know. There was two or three men out there. They had great, what do they call them things? Oh, I forgot what they call them. They are great big long things. They're about this long and about that big around and the machinery works it and they put it down.

LH: A derrick?

LA: Oh, they have a derrick. But there's a certain name for them things and I don't know what it is and I just forgot it right now. Haven't thought of it for years. So it took them about two months to dig that well. I thought they never wasn't

gonna get it. The man that, I had to furnish lunch for them, you know, at midnight, they run at night and all day digging that well with them things. Once in a while, they'd get stuck. They had little [unintelligible] of men that were professionals at digging those wells. If he could stay all the time, he could keep it perfect, not that those poles were perfectly straight, but he could keep it straight enough so all of that stuff didn't get stuck. Once in a while it'd get stuck, then he'd have to pitch it up, it wasn't loose but it was stuck in the rocks, you know, and he had to get it out of there. Well, that was his job and it was in the morning, I guess about ten o'clock, and I was fixing things for dinner. The children were playing around there and he come in there and he says, "Well, Mrs. Aherin, I've got some good news for you." I said, "What's that?" And he said, "We struck water," and he says, "we cannot lower, it seems like a stream and it can't be lower." He says, "We've been out there for over four hours trying to lower that thing, so I guess we'll just have to cast up a wall now." Dan, he says, "Oh, I have to go and get a windmill!" And when Dan come in old [unintelligible] was overjoyed, you know, he was tickled pink to go and get the windmill.

LH: You talked about the children playing around when he came in?

LA: Yes.

LH: How did you pack your water before you had the well?

LA: We packed it with rock in the barrel and had a cistern dug and poured it in there. It was covered over perfectly tight. It was so tight that they put a little pump in so you could pump it out. Then, I had to carry it from the cistern into the house.

LH: How many years did you do that before you got the well?

LA: It was about a year, I don't know, it seems to me it was about six or eight months to dig in that well. Maybe it wasn't as long as I thought. I think they were, they worked it that long. When they got that windmill on there and got it set up and Dan then had a tank built so there was water for the horses. They filled that up and they filled everything and cold! That water was just as blue as it could have been and it was as cold as ice. Just like ice water.

LH: And did you ever have to do anything about water again?

LA: Never. I think that well is still going, I don't know for sure. It was when we rented it, anyway. We sold it so I guess it is, but I don't know for sure. Have to ask Kenny.

LH: You were telling me the other day about this little house that you built.

LA: Yeah, that was just a homestead house, we called it. It was just 18' by 28' or something like that on the floor. Dan put a floor up there when he built it so that made a place up there so you could have a bed, and there was a window in it and that's about all.

LH: Now I've seen pictures of the house in the Big Bend, a big white house. Now did you build that?

LA: It was ours?

LH: I thought so.

LA: I think I've got a picture of house from the Big Bend here someplace.

LH: But was that the same house, your original house?

LA: Well, it could have been part of it. After a while, I think we was there a year or two and Dan's father, you know Dan's father and mother were divorced, I told you. Well, they were, and he lived in Ritzville and when he found out Dan was over there on the farm, then he wanted to come over there, too. So there was 160 acres that he could buy on and he wanted to buy on that. So, Dan took him and let him buy and that's where we built that house was on that 160 acres of his. He didn't have any money, he'd spent it all and so we had him. I guess we lived in that

two years. Oh, you see, I told you that Dan had this 640 acres. Well, we built a house over there, too. There was some of Dan's cousins that came out from Iowa. When they come and saw what kind of a house we was living in, you know, it was just a house with a roof, one story high and boards, they just had a door and some windows. When they saw it, they came inside, they said it looks different. Well, I had to fix it up like a house, you know.

LH: Well, this was not the original homestead house?

LA: Yeah, that was the homestead house.

LH: Is this the one that was painted blue?

LA: Yeah, in the first place. Well, anyway, the Blacks, our neighbors, Mrs. Black was one of the first women I got ... Ira Black's wife, you know our family would come down. Well, we was there, we was neighbors for years and years.

LH: In the Big Bend country?

LA: Yes, in the Big Bend, and they come out, they didn't have nothing. They bought land and farmed and they built a house and built a barn. Just like anybody when they progress, you know. So they had a homestead house; it was quite a good house and Dan bought it. They built this big house, then Dan bought that home-

stead house. See, they had three children and it was a pretty big house. It had a front room, two bedrooms, and a kitchen, no dining room, ate in the kitchen, and there was a porch. Dan took and put them two houses together and they made quite a house. Then we painted them white and I'll bet that's what you saw.

LH: I'm sure that's what I saw.

LA: And I think I've got the pictures of that around here somewhere.

LH: There was a great big team of horses sitting in front of it.

LA: Well anyway, then we began to live, you know. We had it all sealed up and papered and we had wall paper put on. Then, it looked like a home. We painted and the woodwork and all.

LH: A big screened in porch?

LA: Yes.

LH: That was the one I saw.

LA: And so that was the way we worked that house.

LH: You were talking about Mrs. Black's children?

LA: Yes, she had three.

LH: What medical services were available when your children were born?

LA: Well, I'll tell you, there was Wilson Street and that was quite a while ago. He's still down there, I'll think of it pretty soon, maybe. There was a doctor there and there was a doctor at [unintelligible] too. Finally they had one at Marlin.

LH: Did you have your children at home?

LA: Yes. All the children were born at home. I suppose Spokane was the closest hospital as far as I know.

LH: From down there.

LA: All the children lived. Had the doctor, of course.

LH: What factors affected the number of children you had?

LA: I just had them and then finally I quit menstruating.

LH: And that was that, huh?

LA: That was that.

LH: If you were to marry again, would you have the same number of children?

LA: Well, I suppose so. I always had good children. I had a hard time having them, being born, you know. But after they was born, then everything was fine. In a week, I'd get up and do the work just like always.

LH: It never bothered you that much. Where was your family when your children were born? Were they right there?

LA: Well, you mean, were they at home?

LH: Yeah.

LA: Yes. I remember when, out here in the ranch, you know when, that would have been Dawn, when Dawn was born. Why, Kenny and, what was the name of that fellow that worked for us? I forgot his name. They were upstairs, but I never yelled or made any big noise like that. Dr. B____, that was the doctor.

LH: And Grandpa was there?

LA: Why, sure.

LH: Well, I thought maybe at the time the baby was born.

LA: It was at night and the baby came the next morning. But when, I'll bet you know that boy, it's hard to think of his name, but I can't think of it right now. He dressed, came downstairs and went on out to take care of the horses. And Kenny came down and said, "You got a new brother." And he couldn't believe it -- there was Don. And do you know who took care of me?

LH: No.

LA: Emilia Kearns' mother, she was there.

LH: Did you have a midwife?

LA: No, never had. The doctor generally came and I always had a hired girl when I knew I was getting ready to have the baby. Emilia Kearns' mother, Dan went down and asked her to assist him and she said, "I didn't know she was gonna have a baby. I saw her just not long ago." But she come on up and she stayed all night, all day and the next day. Then the next day, I had this, I can't think of that girl's name, she came and she was just staying with somebody down here in town, I think, and they were just about through with her. Then she come out and stayed with me. Oh, she stayed two or three weeks while Don was born.

But I never had no trouble after the baby was born, you know. I never was torn; I never had to be sewn or anything.

LH: That's good. You were talking about then you retired and moved to Spokane?

LA: When we left the Big Bend, yes.

LH: And you moved to Spokane. Do you remember what year that was?

LA: Well, now, that was the year that Kenneth was born, and I had Kenneth right there in Spokane.

LH: Were you in Spokane only a few months before you came to Genesee?

LA: We lived up there for quite a little while. Let's see, we went up there, had quite a nice house there in Spokane, 1110 9th Street, and it's still there. We go by once in a while and see it. It's quite a nice place; that was at 1110 9th Street in Spokane. You could see it if you ever went up there and out there. So we lived there and Kenny was born there, right there.

LH: And you said he was about two years old when you come to Genesee?

LA: Well, he wasn't most of two years old. Did I say that?

LH: I thought you did, I just couldn't remember.

LA: Did you know how Lollie and Mrs. Davies used to quarrel over him? Lolly Davies, that's Mr. Davies' daughter. She was going to school in Pullman learning to be a nurse, you know. She had two or three years; I think she had another year or so before she was just going to take care of Kenny. And Mrs. Davies, she's an old boss, couldn't do nothing with her and I was scared to death we was going to get in trouble with them. I told Lolly, I said, "Lolly, they ain't gonna be here very long." She'd get a hold of him, I never fed him, I had lots of milk.

LH: You breast fed your babies?

LA: Yes, I breast fed every one of them and I had plenty of milk. But she'd cook an egg and she'd do everything she could and feed him, you know, and Lolly was so mad at her. Her and Lolly never got along at all -- they was just like cats and dogs. So, there I had them to fight with and I was afraid of Mrs. Davies. She was kind of a show woman, you know, and had been until she married Davy, and her kids were in Salt Lake City. They were show people too.

LH: What do you mean by show people?

LA: Well, they had jobs. They were in the theater business showing, they had jobs.

LH: Were they actors?

LA Yeah. I think she said she had three; I never saw a one of them. I saw the pictures, but I never saw them. But, he was getting ready to leave, you know, [unintelligible] and they was going to go someplace, California. So she just followed him around. "Hurry up, hurry up!" "It takes time, dear." I can just hear them. They had pictures, oh, beautiful pictures and he had to make frames to put them in.

LH: Pictures of what?

LA: Oh, pictures of houses and things.

LH: Pictures you hang on the wall?

LA: Yeah. They just had great big ones in beautiful frames [unintelligible]. That old big leather chair, don't you remember that I used to have? Alice or somebody has gotten it. Oh, I believe Clarence and Ruby has got it now.

LH: What, a rocking chair?

LA: Uh huh. That old big leather rocking chair. Believe me, it was leather.

LH: Yes, I can remember it now.

LA: Do you? Does Clarence and Ruby have that?

LH: Well, if they do, they don't have it in their house.

LA: They don't have it now?

LH: Huh uh.

LA: Well, they've got some chair of mine down in their house.

LH: That could be. They don't have any rocking chair anyplace.

LA: Well, Alice, wasn't her husband's name George?

LH: Yes.

LA: Well, Alice and George, when they moved to Spokane, they were so poor, you know, and they hardly had no furniture and Clarence and Ruby gave her that chair and another thing or two that kind of helps fill up a little bit until they could get some more money to buy some more stuff. I've been to Alice's when she lived up there in that [unintelligible]. It was real nice. Have you ever been in it?

LH: Oh yes.

LA: Well, that was nice, you know. But the last time I visited up there, you know her children got big enough and they got a piano and she got carpets on her floor. I don't remember whether she had that chair in there anymore or not. I don't remember. I saw Alice just for a few minutes. When did they come down here?

LH: Last June.

LA: In June. And she came here just for a few minutes; she looked real nice. I thought she looked real nice and she was here for just a little while and we visited. Then, I think, then she went home with Lisa or somebody. I never saw her again.

LH: Thinking back, Grandma, through the years, what have you done to support your family?

LA: What have I done?

LH: Yes.

LA: Don't you know?

LH: Yes, I do. But I want to get this down; other people don't know.

LA: Well, what would you say I've done? I don't know. I've just done like any other woman.

LH: Did you cook the meals and take care of your family and this sort of thing?

LA: I did, and we've always raised a big garden and I've always worked in that. Had lots of chickens and I always took care of them.

LH: And you milked?

LA: No, I never milked.

LH: You never did?

LA: Oh, I had milked, but I had no practice of it. I'm not like Rose Parks. Do you know Rose Parks milks four cows every morning? She's as pretty as a picture. She was here the other day; she's just like a big doll. She's got them pretty eyes just like Joel. I guess that's what makes Joel kind of pretty is them eyes that he's got and Mrs. Parks has eyes just like him.

LH: But you used to milk because I can remember seeing you milk.

LA: Oh, I've milked, yes, a lot of times. But I never made a practice. You know when Dan had that heart attack and we lived

down there in the flats, I milked. I babysitted Donny and I done the milking. We had six cows. Especially when we was out on the farm, I never milked. Well, lots of the time, you know, we had lots of the men. Frances Fisher and Gene Woodruff, these boys, they had to milk. They had a lot of power. We sold, I think, about a five gallon cream every day.

LH: Do you remember about how many cows you did have?

LA: How many cows we milked?

LH: Yeah.

LA: Seven or eight, I think. I think we sold a five gallon and we had to keep it; we didn't have no refrigerator, we had to keep it down in that well, what we got at night. In the morning, they milked, they put it in there and the man, Dan, had to take it out to that road there, you know.

LH: Every morning?

LA: Every morning. I don't even know what we got for it or nothing.

LH: Did you actually sell it rather than, oh, like you used to sell eggs to the grocery store for groceries. Well, you never traded cream like that?

LA: I never sold cream to the grocery store.

LH: Did you ever make butter and sell it?

LA: Well, if I ever made butter, everybody was after it. Boy oh boy, after we was there about seven or eight months, or maybe a year, I don't know how long, we got that little red cow and she was just full of milk. It was rich and everybody was after butter. If I'd of had five cows, I would have sold every bit of butter, but we only had one.

LH: What did you do for cooking and milk and stuff before you got this cow?

LA: Condensed, canned milk. Just had to have it, that's all they had.

LH: One time, Grandpa made sausage and sold it.

LA: Oh, Dan made that with his butter. Oh, that was in later years. He used to be very careful about not putting in hardly any fat.

LH: Now, this is when you lived in Genesee?

LA: While we lived in Genesee here, yes.

LH: Did you help make the sausage?

LA: Dan and another man ground it.

LH: Where did they do it?

LA: A big tub full, one or two, like two tub fulls of burgers. He'd take it down to Lewiston and it would be so ripe now.

LH: Where did they make the sausage?

LA: On the porch in the fall, and then in the winter, they done it in the basement. We didn't do it all the time, either. Just when they had a hog that was picked for him. Dan wouldn't take big fat hogs and grind them up like they do now. You know, you go to buy sausage now and it's half pork.

LH: I can remember you making great big crocks of milk into cottage cheese.

LA: Yes, I've made lots of cottage cheese.

LH: And how did you do this?

LA: I always had them big dishpans, we had big dishpans like this, only they were a lot bigger and put it in there and put it

on the stove and had to let it sour at first -- that's the way I had to do it. Then, I put it on the stove and it got real awful hot, but not boiling. If it boiled, that ruins it. Then, I'd have to stir it and then it would separate -- the whey was up at the top. Then I'd have to strain it through the strainer and then put cream and salt in it.

LH: And you used to make vinegar, too, didn't you?

LA: No, never made vinegar. Made lye, not a lot, but I made lye soap and made bar after bar after bar of soap. I could make soap like a white knight and as pretty as could be.

LH: You did lots of baking.

LA: Well, every once in a while, I'd burn something, and I wonder if I saw all the stuff that I burnt, how much it would be.

LH: Well, I'll bet it wouldn't be too much because you haven't burned all that much.

LA: I don't know. Every once in a while, I'd burn something. But Thor, he just thought, the years that Thor worked out there, Thor thought he'd never saw anybody make so much bread in all his life! I think Ruby did, bake that much bread.

LH: Probably.

LA: I think so. But, he'd happen to see her doing it and he opened the bread. When Thor first come out here, honestly, he was so hungry! Thor just ate everything. After he got filled up, why, then he'd ...

LH: How did you keep meat? Did you always have access to a locker?

LA: We butchered beef in the fall after it got so it would freeze outside. We'd just leave it hang out there and it got so at last that when Dan butchered, why, we would cut it up in pieces and put in half gallon jars and [unintelligible].

LH: Do you remember when you started that, about?

LA: Well, it was before the refrigerator's come. I know [unintelligible] was there one day and he said, "My God, what's you gonna do with all that meat?" I said that by next fall, a lot of people said, Clarence, he said, "How come your mother always has fresh meat?" And he says, "She cans." Boys that worked there, we had lots of boys that worked there; I couldn't begin to tell you. A lot of times they come here now. Every once in a while the boys come here. I kon't know they by name.

LH: To visit?

LA: Well, they just come to see how I am and ask me if I remember, but I don't. I can't remember them, not even their names. I just can't. Oh mercy, we had hundreds of them you know, different times, different seasons. It depended on what we was doing. They'd be haying. We used to get lots of hay up in that barn.

LH: I can remember.

LA: We always had to board for the men. They never brought no lunches. That wasn't the custom, you know.

LH: Did you always have a thrashing machine of some sort?

LA: A combine. Back here, she'd come with her chickens. She could get them in no time. She never touched the chickens. She's went off now to her home. I guess she has a beautiful home, from what they say.

LH: You were talking once about when you lived down in Krutch, Washington, when you were first married, that you cooked for a neighbor.

LA: Egbert.

LH: Yes, and you got one dollar, and Grandpa worked for him and he got three dollars.

LA: That was real good wages.

LH: How did you feel about the fact that Grandpa got so much more than you got?

LA: Well, I guess I thought that was all right because he had to drive the [unintelligible]. Did you ever see a [unintelligible]?

LH: I don't know if I did or not.

LA: Well, that's what he had to drive, was a [unintelligible] and he had to take care of the horses.

LH: Do you feel he worked harder than you?

LA: Well, I had the afternoon off, so I'd have to go to work at home.

LH: But, then you had to work in the evenings after supper?

LA: That's right.

LH: So it was about the same number of hours.

LA: All we had out there at Egbert's to eat on was a big long table. There wasn't much housekeeping out there. They just had that little homesteader house then, that early, you know. They had a big long table, I guess it wasn't as wide as that; it was about four foot wide, a four foot board and it was long.

LH: Just a regular harvest table?

LA: Yeah, just for men to eat on, that's all it was for. They had oil cloths on the table and all you had to do was wash it off.

LH: What advice would you give a young woman that would best prepare her for farm life or life in a small town?

LA: Well, first I'd have to know that she liked it. I would never try to persuade somebody to go onto a farm if they didn't want to because there's work there and it's different unless they're rich to start with.

LH: But the work is still there.

LA: Well yeah, the work is still there just the same; but then, they can have more conveniences. But we'll say that they just were going to move to a farmhouse and she can have a refrigerator

and maybe an electric stove, and I'd tell her she'd have to have her mind made up if she wanted to do that thing. If she did, she'd never be sorry, I don't think, for all the work. Especially nowadays, I think it'd take a young girl. I'd much rather be out on a farm someplace where I had a refrigerator and stove and a house to live in. You know Laurie Lee lives down here in Mrs. Wilson's house now, you know. Well, she and her husband live in the lower part of that house. She goes to Moscow and he goes to Spokane. That's all the places they could get jobs.

LH: You mean Lewiston?

LA: Yes, oh, I said Spokane. Yeah, he has to go to Lewiston; she goes to Moscow. Just think of that. She has to get up, I get up about half past five or a quarter to six and the first thing I do is look out to see if Laura Lee is up. There's always a light there. Then, soon off go the lights and Laura Lee is on the road.

LH: You don't think you'd like that?

LA: No. If they could both go to the same place. That's such an expense with two cars.

LH: Yeah. How do you figure the life of a farm wife differs from that of a city wife?

LA: I don't think there's any comparison. If you're able to live, able in the city. Look at Alice, what a nice time she had. She's got a nice home, all fixed. Just has Joel to cook for. Did I tell you she worked in the bank?

LH: I didn't know that.

LA: But, that isn't any criteria. She went down there and went to working in the bank and Mahlon would come in there with his cigar and he just sit there till he smoked it all out and Alice ain't used to it and she got so sick. Oh, she got deathly sick. There was no windows she could open, you know, or anything. The next day, she was vomiting and couldn't go to work; so the next day she stayed home and vomited. The next morning, the phone rang, we was eating breakfast and she said, "Oh, Danny, I'm so sick I want you to come down and get Joel's breakfast." So poor Dan said he was just eating his breakfast. "Well," she says, "there's no hurry." I asked her if she was going back to work anymore and she said yes. And I said maybe Mahlon wouldn't come in with that big cigar.

LH: What magazines do you take?

LA: Good Housekeeping, and I've taken Better Homes and Gardens. But I take the Digest, and I take, I let Better Homes and Gardens go. I can't work out there in the garden anymore, so I said that it was just a nuisance to pay. They went up twice in price.

Even Good Housekeeping, I have to pay five or six dollars for that, but I'm going to keep it, I like the stories in that.

LH: And newspapers?

LA: The Genesee News and The Lewiston Tribune. Isn't that Lewiston Tribune something? \$48 for a year, \$48.

LH: I know. What TV shows do you like?

LA: "Lawrence Welk." I like "All in the Family" for once or twice; but they quarrel all the time, then I don't like it. I can pretty near tell what they're going to do when they come on. But I always liked "Lawrence Welk." Oh, there's some others, you know, every once in a while there's a man that comes in to talk and he can talk real good and I can hear him, and so I like that. But all that blabbermouth women and all that, I don't like that. I just don't care for it. I don't know what women are trying to do. What is women trying to do? Are they trying to take men's place or what? They want equal rights. I don't think they should ask that. I don't think women should try to do men's work in the army and stuff like that; or, maybe you do, but I don't think so.

LH: I don't think they particularly want to take jobs away from men.

LA: Oh, I know they don't want to take away from them, but they want equal rights. There are some things a woman can do that a man can't do, that's for sure.

LH: Such as?

LA: I think when it comes to being a nurse, I think a woman makes a better nurse than a man, by far.

LH: There are men nurses, though.

LA: Oh yes, there have to be, of course, and ...

LH: What do you mean?

LA: And when it comes to lifting and things like that, unless you're awful strong, you'll not last so long, I don't think. Because men are built for that. They haven't got the woman's makeup on the inside, to stand that lifting and doing things like that. If they want to go into the army, I think that's so silly because they have to menstruate every month. I don't see how they could hardly get along and do that. And some of the women couldn't because they get such pain. I never had no trouble.

LH: How would you compare your life now to 20, 30, 40, 50 years ago?

LA: Well, knowing what I do now, I think it would be pretty hard to go back to live the life. You know, those kerosene lamps, for instance. I had eight lamps out there, you know that old shelf back there that used to have those eight lamps? They was to clean and fill every two or three days.

LH: There were a lot of other inconveniences.

LA: Now, that's one thing and the electricity. I haven't no washer and dryer, but I would have if I had a place to put it, but I don't know where I'd ever put it, so maybe I'll get it sometime. Bob, one time, Bob Morris, he promised when he was doing, but he got to working for that other, oh, over in Pullman, and he got to going so good that he wouldn't stop that and do a little job. I wanted to add on a little place on the porch out there and have it sealed up good and tight and put electricity on it. Then I could put a washer and dryer out there. And then it would be better to have a little protection over that door. When people come, they could take off their overshoes and not have to worry. Like I tell them now, snow, then you don't have to worry about snow. But mud, that's different. I don't want them tracking mud in the house. But snow, that melts, get the mop and I can always wipe it up; but mud, that's different. And especially now, I'm older.

LH: I've heard you talk about dipping candles when you were a child.

LA: They've always had lamps ever since I was born. Oh, we had some candles at home in our bedroom.

LH: Did you make them?

LA: No, Mother never made any.

LH: I can remember you telling about helping your grandmother dip candles.

LA: Well, you see, you don't listen. I never saw one of my grandmothers, not one of them, not even one of them.

LH: Thinking back, what were some of the things that you most commonly discussed with your husband?

LA: Well: "I wonder what wheat will be tomorrow?"

LH: The price of wheat, huh?

LA: And then, when we were farming: "How much longer do you think it'll take to get to that quarter section over there?" "Oh, we'll be done by noon." Then, "Where you going?" "Oh, I'm just going over. [unintelligible] ."

LH: Is there anything else you'd like to tell about your experiences?

LA: No, I don't think so.

LH: Do you think that you were a partner with Grandpa in the farming business?

LA: Not with a lot of his business deals. But if he was ever going to do anything, he and I decided. We talked about it, anything large enough to, that would need quite a bit, yes, we'd talk about it. I think that's what makes people enjoy each other. I remember one time ... Is that thing still going?

LA: Yes. *Is that thing still going?*

LA: I think I'd better not say anymore.

LH: We can shut it off if that's all there is.