

The following interview is with Mary Elizabeth Avery taped in Orofino, the interviewer is Cathy Naugle. This was taped on October 3, 1975.

CN: Your maiden name?

MA: Mary Jasper.

CN: And your birthday?

MA: January 4, 1917.

CN: Where were you born?

MA: Well, it's between McCall and Boise in a little town that isn't there any-  
more. Roseberry, Idaho.

CN: Roseberry? How do you spell that?

MA: R-o-s-e-b-e-r-r-y.

CN: Oh, I like that name.

MA: And, I used to use 'Mary E'.

CN: What's your middle name?

MA: Elizabeth.

CN: Do you have any nicknames; either that people call you now or they used  
to call you when you were younger?

MA: Well, oh my, I don't think so...other than they would always tease me that  
I always was initialing a note or something or other, and I would always  
initial it 'MA', and everybody used to say, "Get a load of this!"

CN: Okay, and your address is..?

MA: 817 Johnson.

CN: You gave really good directions; it was real easy to find. And, your phone  
number?

MA: 476-4720.

CN: Okay, ah, you were born in Idaho so you never came from out of the state.

MA: No.

CN: Have you always lived in Idaho?

MA: Always lived in Idaho. We moved to the Lewiston area.

CN: After Roseberry?

MA: Well, yes, really after Blydenburg, we moved to Boise. It was in '33...



MA: No, he wasn't, he was eighty-nine. Because she was born in '71, and she would have be six years younger, so he'd of had to have been born more than '65. Right?

CN: Yeah.

MA: Now, that makes the age that they passed away wrong.

CN: Both of them, or just his?

MA: Well, he was born in '65, and he'd have to be eighty-nine...

CN: I got 1954.

MA: 1954 would have been when he died.

CN: She died a year before?

MA: No, she would have left me...the dates...on earth, you have to make it a little easy on me. Well, anyway, she was born in '71... and she was sixty-two when she died. That could easily be right. Well, let's

CN: see, I'm fifty-eight exactly...I think sixty-two...

CN: Yeah, that would be right, then.

MA: Forty-two years ago.

CN: Now, I heard you spelling your father's name M-a-r-r-e-l.

MA: M-a-r-r-el...John Marrel Jasper.

CN: Oh, Jasper, year. John 's his first name?

MA: Uh-huh.

CN: And, what was his occupation, did he have several jobs - was he a farmer?

MA: An interesting thing, in a way, about it is where he was born. But, I was laughing at it when I was talking with an older sister. At the time he was born, his father ran a ferry across the Snake River, down near Weizer, and it was called Buttermilk Slew, and that was were the family lived, at this ferry. And, they took people to and forth across the river.

CN: Oh, and that's where he was born too!

MA: That's where he was born, yes. At the side of that ferry.

CN: Uh-huh, Buttermilk Slew, ha! ha! And so did he work, did the family

keep the ferry business?

MA: No. Uh-uh, it was just where they lived when he was born. No, as a young man, he farmed in Valley County and then, back as far as I can remember, he was a postmaster at this little town up by Roseberry. I can't remember when the family farm got started. And, I am the thirteenth child...

CN: Is that right? How many brothers and how many sisters then...you're the youngest?

MA: I'm the youngest. And, all the others with the exception of one sister and one brother were even going and married and gone from home.

CN: Oh! Let's see, how many girls were there?

MA: Well, I would have six sisters and five brothers at the time. I'd have seven but...

CN: Well, either way, I think, were there more girls?

MA: Well, I'm one of the sisters, so I guess I had six sisters, and five brothers.

CN: I don't think you're right; seven and six - six and six is twelve and you make thirteen. You must have had six sisters and six brothers.

MA: Yeah, I guess that's right. Okay, I'll settle for that.

CN: You say they were even all gone from the home before you came?

MA: Back, I can remember one brother and one sister at home. And I can vaguely remember it at the time that an older brother, the next older brother was married. Other than that the family were all gone and married before I was born. The impact there are five grandchildren older than I am.

CN: Is that right?

MA: Is that right?! That's the way it was!

CN: Oh, that's, that's strange. Uh, did your mother work outside the home; I guess with those kids she didn't have any time. Well, let's see, they didn't farm by the time you came around.

MA: Not by the time I was born, no. Before that they had a farm, yes. I have

a copy of a book written by an older sister, and I thought she was dead, but she published this here a few years ago.

CN: Oh, is that right? What's her name and what's the name of the book?

MA: It's, "My Roseberry", and the sister's name is Cynthia Pottinger.

CN: Boy, that sounds familiar. When did she - did she write it several years ago?

MA: No, she had written it in the last seven or eight years!

CN: I see these pictures then were of her - parent-in- laws. But here's the Jaspers, you said. Does she have you in it at all?

MA: Oh, no, this is up to the time her oldest daughter was born, and she was about between eight to ten years older than I am, you see.

CN: Okay, this will be good, I'd like to look at this later; I've got some other questions I want to ask you. But, I wonder if we have this in the library at Moscow, don't you think, either the University or the public one?

MA: I don't know, but I could get one.

CN: That would really be great.

MA: Is that one autographed or anything?

CN: I don't think so.

MA: Alright, I'll give it to you, I'll get another one from her.

CN: Oh, gee, I really thank you for it. This is just the kind of thing I'm personally interested in right now. I'd just come back to the Northwest after living in the Southwest. Let's see, now, you're married? Now? Your husband's name?

MA: Clyde L. Avery.

CN: That's right, you told me that once, I remember that. And, his birthday?

MA: June the forth, 1913.

CN: And, where was he born?

MA: And he was born in Roseberry also.

CN: Oh! Were you, then you grew up around each other?

MA: No, well, in the same community, in a way, yes. They lived a considerable distance away, and this was the way - travelled quite a bit at that time...

CN: Oh, they were down on a homestead too...

MA: That's right, they were on a farm, another area.

CN: When were you two married?

MA:

CN: And, was that in Roseberry?

MA: Well, yes, we were living there at the time, or near in the area, and we were married in Cascade, however.

CN: He's retired now?

MA: No, he's still working.

CN: Oh, what is his occupation?

MA: He is a co-owner ~~ant~~ at ~~Star~~Motor Freight.

CN: ~~Star~~Motor Freighty, is that...

MA: Auto ~~u~~business.

CN: Okay. So, what is that exactly?

MA: It's an auto freight company.

CN: Has he been doing that for a long time?

MA: When we moved to Lewiston, he went to work for the company, and later he earned partnership.

CN: So, let's see, did you move to Lewiston right after your marriage?

MA: Yes.

CN: So, then all the time you've been married you've been lucky so far. He wasn't a farmer?

MA: No.

CN: Ah! This is the first time that I've interviewed somebody who hasn't ever been a farmer.

MA: No, I don't think he was ever a farmer other than living on a farm as a child.

CN: When he was little?

MA: Exactly.

CN: Well, that's a first. Now, you have children?

MA: Two.

CN: What are their names and birthdays?

MA: Jasper Avery.

CN: After your dad.

MA: Yes. He is named after both grandfathers, Grandpa Avery's name was Ross.

CN: And, he was born in...?

MA: Must have been born in...'35.

CN: Was that in Lewiston?

MA: In Lewiston. *Is he living around here now?*

CN: Is he living around here now?

MA: In Moscow.

CN: In Moscow. And, what does he do there?

MA: He is a Mechanical Engineering Instructor at the University of Idaho.

CN: Is that right?

MA: Yes.

CN: That's pretty; I'm sure somebody in our group might even know of him. I'm from Pullman, but...

MA: You probably wouldn't have the occasion to know the Professors in Mechanical Engineering.

CN: I don't know; but some of them, some of the women might know...Corky has a lot of contacts with just the instructors in general because of her job. She's, more or less, head of this project. She might. Let's see now, what about your other, it's a daughter?

MA: It's a daughter, and she would have been born in I'd say '36 probably, '37 rather, and she is married, and her name is Nancy Lee, and is married to a man by the name of Fish.

CN: And, she was born in Lewiston also?

MA: She was born in Lewiston.

CN: And, is she working or she has children?

MA: Yes, she's working part-time now, but, yes, she has four children.

CN: What does she do in her part-time work?

MA: She is, right now she is working for a newspaper; she has an office where she is working.

CN: Is that in Lewiston?

MA: No, they live near North Bend, Washington. She works in the newspaper office up there; she also went to the University. She was just six credits or so from graduating. At that time she married and didn't finish.

CN: Where did you get schooling? And, how much?

MA: I went to school at Donnelly High School, and that is all the school I've been to.

CN: Did you ever think at the time you graduated, did you think about going on?

MA: Yes, and no. At the time I wasn't particularly interested in it; it's very difficult for people in the rural community to, perhaps, realize the importance of going on to school. Anyway, we didn't think about it much.

CN: Now, all I know is what, let's see, Jane at the library told me, I think it was Jane - that you're the Town Clerk, County Clerk; which?

MA: I am the <sup>City</sup> Clerk-Treasurer, but that is in a way a specialized work. I can see about ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> question in the bookkeeping, undoubtedly would be helpful, but it's so different from other work in so many ways that it almost takes, to do very much of my special training, you'd almost need a special training at this particular type of work, anyway. I believe the University of Boise now has classes in this.

CN: In these kinds of city positions?

MA: Uh, huh, and they do have, and the Association of Idaho Cityworkers has training courses of all kinds.



CN: Oh!

MA: And the University is responding with some of them too.

CN: Well now, how would you list your skills, your occupational skills?

Both in what you're doing now and if there have been other different jobs that you had?

MA: I haven't had any others.

CN: This is it - how long have you been in this position?

MA: Oh, I say I haven't had any others; I hadn't worked at all. I had been married, and of course, the children were small. I haven't worked other than just maybe a few days at a time, or a few months at a time, and so forth, until we moved to Orofino. And, when we moved to Orofino, I started bookkeeping for the Star Motor Freight there in the office, and I had had that a year or two; and, they were wanting to take the position of Clerk.

CN: Now, this bookkeeping-you were working, you were commuting to Lewiston, or is there a Star Motor Freight here too?

MA: Oh, no, there is an office here, yeah. I was working in the office and they wanted someone to take the position; well, I did! It was an elected position at the time. I took the appointment, and was elected for another year. But, I have been City Clerk, well, it would have been thirty years in February.

CN: Thirty years...and now it's not an elected position?

MA: No, it's been appointive now.

CN: Then it's a salary position too.

MA: Oh, yeah. And, I am Clerk acting Treasurer, also, for about the last ten years I would imagine.

CN: Well, in that job how would you list your skills? You do bookkeeping, and what other skills does it entail? Do you have much public contact?

MA: It ...I attend the Council Meetings, record the minutes, record the ordinances, and of course we keep track of the city improvements and everything, get

out the utility bill; just the whole general work the Clerk and Treasurer does in a city.

CN: That's, it's not, I'm not, I'm really unfamiliar with it, so I'm not sure what all that is and I'm sure you're so familiar with it that you can't break it down...it just comes so naturally.

MA: It has gotten over the years to be a specialized work, but it would be possible to come into it in the way that I did in the '30's because there was very little to it at that time. Now, at the present time, it...the town has grown, the records have to be kept, the way they have to be done is different, and it's just been kind of a growth thing through the years.

CN: Have you, do you feel you've helped, have you organized it differently as it had gone, I mean, the new systems?

MA: I think so, very much so.

CN: That's what I thought; I thought if you've been there that long you would have had to.

MA: Oh, yes, completely.

CN: Let's see, what kind of outside interests did you have or hobbies?

MA: Oh, well, my family!

CN: Do you have any, did you make this afgan over here?

MA: Oh, yeah.

CN: Knit and crochet?

MA: Crocheting, but, I don't do much of that now.

CN: I notice you've got collections of various things, do you like that?

MA: My son says 'wall to wall junk'.

CN: This is a brass collection right here, isn't it?

MA: Uh-huh, and hummels.

CN: How do you spell 'hummel'?

MA: H-u-m-m-e-l.

CN: And, are there local clubs or organizations, or societies or groups that

you are a member of?

MA: No.

CN: Are you very interested in that kind of thing?

MA: No, I don't have the time. I enjoy my work very thoroughly. I think if they didn't pay me, I'd pay them...I really enjoy it. And, but as far as other contacts, when I get home for an evening, I'm home! Of course, I have meetings, at least four meetings a week. By the time I have two with the Planning Commission, and there will be at least two Council Meetings, if not three. And then, the time I have Planning Commission, once, if not twice, why that's all the outside activity I need.

CN: I guess, tying up four nights a week.

MA: In a month, that's twenty, and then oh, Clyde belongs to the Lions and a few things, and at times we do things that way.

CN: Then, you can participate in some of his projects?

MA: Oh, yeah, always have with that.

CN: Have you ever gotten any recognition—any awards or ribbons, or honors for anything?

MA: Oh, well, I don't know...

CN: At a fair or anything?

MA: No.

CN: Well, I think we've got some of this more basic information now...now I'd like to kind of just get into the more, to me, the more interesting part, which is just your opinion on some general questions. First of all, as I explained to you at the beginning, we're interested in getting women's opinions - women in rural Idaho. Because, first of all, the University's in Idaho, and there just hasn't been that much done on rural women, so let me ask you first, do you think that's an appropriate way to put it? Do you feel more rural than urban?

MA: Yes, I think so.

CN: And, what would you say, now you've lived in Lewiston and that's a larger community than here, what would you say about some of the disadvantages and advantages of living in a rural community versus an urban community, and then which would you prefer - have you, are you here because you want to be?

MA: Very definitely here because we prefer it. I like to live in a town where you know people, and the people know you. And it's...oh, it's just a completely different atmosphere in a larger place.

CN: Do you think there are advantages to living in an urban area though?

MA: Yes, I know there are, however, not me personally, I do not like being around large crowds of people and..for that reason.

CN: That would be a reason not to be in a large one.

MA: That's right!

CN: How would you compare the life of a rural woman to the life of an urban woman?

MA: I've never been a farmer's wife.

CN: Yeah, but not necessarily farming, but you like we say, this is rural as compared to a large city. Do you think a woman has as much opportunity in either place?

MA: I have never lived, other than this very summer, to what I would have lived had I had lived at a larger place; it wouldn't make any difference. That is as far as your personal life is concerned, because I've never raised a garden, and, you know, that type of thing anyway. And, a person even in a small community has the same modern conveniences in their home that they would in a large community; there isn't a great deal of difference.

CN: That's interesting. A lot of, well, we've talked about it, and we were kind of of the opinion that

MA: ...between our family, the way our family lived?

CN: Yeah.

MA: And what my family lived when I was a little girl?

CN: Uh-huh, and how the children were treated, and who did what job; do you see anything where these left?

MA: Well, in the community where I lived as a little girl, now this must be funny to you, but in the community where I lived as a little girl, there was no electricity until after we had moved and moved away from there!

CN: Oh!

MA: That would have been in '34; it was just a rural community, and we certainly lived differently than we did after we moved to Lewiston.

CN: Well, let's see now; oh! Okay...the size of your family is certainly different.

MA: The size of my family is different, yes!

CN: I'm really interested in that! Well, that's another thing we seem to find, and I've asked a couple of women; more often than not women that came from large families have much smaller families, and I asked someone this morning, "Do you..", and I'll ask you, "Do you think it is...it just has to do with the fact that there is more birth-control information now, or do you remember making a conscious decision?" - 'I don't want that many kids around!' - you know.

MA: No, I think that we wanted more than our parents had, and maybe it was a matter of economy at the time, as much as anything else, of course this may have been part of it.

CN: Yeah, you were married, was that right around the depression?

MA: Yeah, just right after the depression.

CN: So, it was, uh, you sat down and did some thinking?

MA: That's right! It's just too much responsibility - to try to raise more at the time!

CN: Do you ever remember hearing your mother or father discuss, or had they

since you were older, why they had so many children? Or was that just a standard size family?

MA: It was more or less a standard size family for the rural community. Now I know several families in the community that had about the same number of children! That was a good community to be from!

CN: Do you,..gee, your brothers and sisters were almost all gone out of the house, so I guess you - it was like being an only child!

MA: That's right, I played with the grandchildren, you know, more than I did with my own brothers and sisters, because I think the brother just older than I was six years from me, and a sister seven or eight years older than me.

CN: Did any of your brothers or sisters go to school, the brothers especially; was there any distinction made about who should go on to school? Or who shouldn't?

MA: I think they were quite shy of college graduates at that time. I don't believe any brothers went on to school. One of my sisters went on to school, and was a teacher for a time. Others hadn't and had just married, just like me. After school, beyond high school, it was just a reinforcement at that time.

CN: That makes sense, at that time especially. About marriage, now, can you remember the reasons you got married?

MA: Well, it seemed to be the thing to do, I guess. Well, I guess it was that we just wanted to, that's all. Sounds like a good reason.

CN: Yeah. Who did you expect, do you remember back then, were you expecting it to be alot different than it turned out?

MA: No! We were expecting it to be a rather good marriage, and it was!

CN: That's good to hear, that really is.

MA: And we didn't expect to live where we were all our lives, and we didn't!

CN: And, so I guess, your expectations have been met in both instances. Do you think your daughter, for instance, do you think she did any more or

less thinking about getting married that you did? Do you think she had different expectations? Did you talk to her about it?

MA: Well, she's a darling daughter to be married...she had always as a young girl, I had always thought she would go to school, in fact, I thought she'd go on to Medical School or something, but she...met the right person and she got married!

CN: Has she talked about going back and doing that?

MA: No, she's talked about getting back into school and getting her degree, but so far they haven't happened to live right at a, anywhere where she could get it conveniently, and the children were small and she has a time with them; she has four youngsters.

CN: That's what you were saying, uh-huh.

MA: And they're getting pretty well along in years now...I feel that sometimes she still hopes to get back into school again, but she hasn't had any... when the children were old enough for her to work, she had way too much trouble - finding work to do. However, she had hoped at sometime she would get back into school and finish her degree - with what she was training for...as a lab technician. She might sometime get back into school and finish up her, well, so that she could work along that line which would certainly be much better than she doing this year.

CN: When you had both your children in Lewiston, did you have them in a hospital?

MA: Yes.

CN: Did you...were you satisfied with the medical services you got at that time? Did you ask questions and did your questions get answered about when you were having them or did the doctor just not tell you what was going on?

MA: I don't feel anything against the medical people, they were quite cooperative. I said I had both of them in Lewiston - I didn't, Nancy was born in the home of a friend. The older one was born in a hospital there in Lewiston, but at the time Nancy was born, a friend - a neighbor - was tak-

ing care of people in her home and she was having us. Of course, there was a doctor in the town.

CN: Was the woman a mid-wife?

MA: She had done that kind of work, yes.

CN: I think I have run into that one too, before, that was mentioned that a woman could have so many people in her home that she could be taking care of, but not more than...

MA: She just had one at the time, you know, but, she had had three or four other different people around <sup>the</sup> community. They had their babies there, and so forth. And, she was a friend of mine; so, fine! It was a savings at the time from the hospital bill, and it was the second baby and all and I didn't have face at all any difficulties, and she was born healthy.

CN: Where did you find out about having children, did you just, when you had them - that's when you found out, or did you ever talk to your mother about it or talk to friends?

MA: Well, no, I don't know if I would have talked to my mother about it; I don't think I would have; probably, even in that day and age we had a certain amount of sexual instructions and so forth in school, and it wasn't too different than today.

CN: Is that right? I'm surprized! I didn't know that!

MA: Yes...at least just discussions and so forth.

CN: So you already, you weren't real surprized when you had your children; it wasn't any different...was it different than you expected?

MA: Well, honey don't underestimate it dear. No, I was not too surprized, no. You don't live in a rural community and family without having considerable knowledge.

CN: Have you ever been around when any babies were being born?

MA: No, but a number of people who were having babies, and so forth, but, no I haven't ever acted as a mid-wife.



CN: Well, let's see...there were big families, back when you were a child...

MA: Quite a number of people, yes.

CN: ...and, then you had considerably less and your daughter has somewhere in-between; do you think the role of children has changed, the place children play in a family? The position they occupy, do you think it's much different - do you think that people look at having children differently?

MA: Well,...

CN: Do they play different importances?

MA: I think in smaller families, your children are perhaps...you do more for them,...I don't know, we just thoroughly enjoyed ours from the time they were born to the time they left home! The grandchildren also! I think they've always been important, in our own family, that is applied to my family. I don't know enough about my own family in particular to know whether children were particularly important in their family or not; well, in our own, we thoroughly enjoyed them!

CN: And like you say, you're mother died when you were fairly young, so I won't guess you had a lot of time to talk. How about your father, did he ever reminisce and talk about all you kids and what he had expected or hoped and how he thought things had turned out?

MA: Oh, not in particular. I don't think so. I think he's fond of his children, yes! But, as far as any great amount of advice, or anything that way, why, it wasn't forthcoming - let's put it down like that.

CN: How about your son and daughter; what hopes do you have for their lives? Do you feel good about how things have turned out so far?

MA: Yeah, I think they've done quite well; they're quite happy, I think. They certainly have a higher standard of living than rural people did in, sixty years ago, that's for sure!

CN: You fortunately...you've got, it sounds like you haven't had a, I don't know, but I have to say this, but it sounds like you had a fortunate life

there doesn't sound like there have been a lot of tragedies and heart-break... I guess I'm so geared to that! Geared to people going where they had to overcome this and that, that I find myself kind of floundering. That's really something to say!

MA: No, when we were married we had very little, and we just decided that if we kept plugging along, we could accomplish a little bit and have a few things - for that one thing or another, and we just kept at it. But, of course, we haven't any great tragedies or troubles, or anything that way, we haven't had in particular.

CN: How about - we were talking about the Depression, that's right around when you got married - how about the Depression and World War II; were those - really affect your life - do you remember those as bad times?

MA: Well, at the time of World War II, no, at the time we were married, just right during the Depression, the country was coming out of the depression, and we didn't have anything, but we neither did anybody else, but we knew, so it wasn't particularly upsetting. You just got by! I think when Clyde first came to Lewiston, he went to work! I was trying to improve our little home there with just his wages. If he was late, well, I don't remember about that, he'll tell you that, but he got, it seems to me, somewhere about, oh, thirty dollars, something that way a week! As I recall. But we got by on it; very nicely! And the first thing we knew, we began to accumulate a little furniture, and wages went up and we started accumulating other things, and we had the children and eventually we had a home down there, and sold it, and had homes up here, and so forth. It's just a kind of a growing process if you keep it going as time goes on. And then, at the time of World War II, we were living in Lewiston, and we had the two children, and because of working in a transportation industry, at that time, why he was not in the service, so it was considered an essential industry and he didn't have to join because of the children, so he wasn't in the

service. So other than...we really didn't have a great deal of hardships in connection with the war at that time, although some things were tight to get, but this kind of a thing was a small inconvenience, in comparison to what a number of people went through.

CN: When, you got married in '33...and you moved to Lewiston in the same year? So, when you decided to get married, you both knew then that you weren't going to stay down in Roseberry and have him farm?

MA: Yes, at the time we were married, he was working for the highway department on a construction project - and he decided to go over to try them - for a few weeks with my sister's husband said he had went to work for them in Lewiston; this is when he got started in Lewiston.

CN: Oh, so your sister's husband was working there.

MA: Uh-huh, he went and went to work for them, the Star Dreying, as it was called then..

CN: Dreying, yeah, I remember that term.

MA: And then later, after he passed away, Clyde had goneht into the country.

CN: Has there ever been a time during either when you were at home, with your mother or father, or when you got married when you were the main support of the family - when something happened and you had to take care of things?

MA: Oh, you...I was a , oh, I don't believe I have half a brain, but I believe I was a sophomore in high school when my mother passed away, and I kept house for my Dad, my sister and I, and I kept house for him until I was married and left home.

CN: So, were you still in school?

MA: Well, yes!

CN: I see, and then were you doing canning and farming work then?

MA: Yes.

CN: So, there was a little time in there that you had to do that!

MA: Oh, yes, this is right; I had to wash clothes on a washboard.

CN: Oh, boy!

MA: And, there was a little washboard in the house down there where we brought it, and Nancy came upstairs one day and said, "Mother, what in the world is this?" I said, "I know what that is!"

CN: I'm glad I asked you that!

MA: I also made soap, don't ask me how now, but I had.

CN: How long has it been now that you've been married?

MA: Over forty years.

CN: Have you ever thought of what you would do if something happened to your husband?

MA: Well, I'd have to think of some way of living, I guess. I could live in my home, I could probably continue working - work until I'm not able, and we've got insurances and things, we have, I would undoubtedly get by. It's just that those are the things that you have to face!

CN: So, there are, you don't sound like there are things that you feel that you've had to give up, that you're disappointed that you didn't get to do - to go off and be this or that, or go off and live here or there?

MA: No. I think, I think maybe if I had a husband, spent my life confined, if I had a husband who would have said, "You're my wife, you stay home and be a good wife!", maybe this would have been true, but Clyde has never particularly cared for my working, he doesn't mind, and he has rather enjoyed having me have other interests, and therefore, that makes a very congenial relationship all the way around! That makes a lot of difference.

CN: Well, let's see, what do you two - most of your recreation, you say, you spend most of your time together, you don't have separate interests after work?

MA: Oh, yes; he has his clubs and things that we both do, but most of our recreation we do on our own.

CN: What kind of things do you talk about most; what does he ask you about

most?

MA: Oh, you mean, ...ask me again?

CN: Oh, what would be likely that he would walk in and want to know about?

I guess something that he just wouldn't come in ask you, maybe he wouldn't come in and ask you - maybe he wouldn't come in and ask you about politics. Maybe he would!

MA: Well, I'm not a great politician, I don't pay a great deal of attention to politics. He would be much more apt to be well informed in something that way than I, because he takes more time to read than I do; by the time I come home for the evening, I'm wore out and exhausted, and I'm afraid my reading is suffering quite badly, as far as the papers are concerned, and this type of thing. So, he wouldn't be apt to ask me anything along that line. We discuss people we know, we discuss my position...

CN: Your children?

MA: Oh, yes, my family, very definitely; and, we have quite a close association with the kids, and it's very nice.

CN: Do you, how about things that concern the finances; do you both share equally in deciding your p fate?

MA: Oh, well, he manages to let me do the bookkeeping.

CN: AH, I wonder why?

MA: And, he never asks me what the bank balance is, he just merely says that he wants to write a check and the money better be there, and it usually is. The...no, we don't-usually if we go into any new venture of any sort, it's usually something that I have to do some tall talking to get him to consent to. I have often laughed, and so I chuckle to myself about that; did you notice the string of apartments here?

CN: Uh-huh.

MA: That was just a hole in the ground! And I had it envisioned that we would build on across that little valley there. And, I ...

of course, I thought, "Get together a plan, and get an idea of what they're going to be!" So, I had this little fellow here that does drawings for houses and so forth, come to the house. He was going to have a sketch of what we could build, and how we could go across there, and how we could use the ground over there. And he had been here to the house. And, Clyde came home one night, and he had - for a number of years in the winter time, well he had a kind of a blue navy cap that he wore, a plain little cap, and he stepped up here to the hearth and started to take his cap off, and through it down on the hearth like he usually does, when he comes home from noon; brought his cap down like that, well, I'll be damned, there was his cap laying there on the hearth! The fellow that had been here, helping me get lined out on the apartment had left his cap, and it was just exactly like Clyde's; by the time he took his off, it was already on there! I often chuckle about that.

CN: So, that's his first news!ew!

MA: That was his first news, that we were building the apts. is when he came home and found the other hat on the hearth!

CN: Now, when was that? that you did this?

MA: Oh, that was many years ago.

CN: Do you, what would you say, have you taken the initiative more in the later years that you've been married? How about when you were first married?

MA: Uh-huh, I have to talk him into things.

CN: When you were first married, did you do that too, or did you just let him make all the decisions?

MA: Oh, I think maybe we made them together.

CN: You say your husband reads more than you do; what types of magazines and newspapers are you subscribed to and enjoy?

MA: Oh, we've got National Geographic, Reader's Digest.

CN: Do you read both?

MA: I read the Reader's Digest part of the time, I don't get around to them all of the time. We have taken the, oh, the stories that come out...

CN: Oh, the condensed.

MA: The condensed books I never  
throw them away, I always hold on to them, because I might want to go back and read them sometime or other, if I ever had time. And, probably part the enjoyment of them is just having them, I don't know. But, we have those, and the paper, the Sunday paper and so forth.

CN: Is there any kind of thing that you like to read that he doesn't at all?  
Is this what you like?

MA: Oh, yeah. I'm always reading Prevention Magazine.

CN: Prevention? What is that?

MA: Yeah, oh, it's a little health magazine...advises you what sort of vitamins to buy, and what sort of vitamins to take; well, just that for this, that and the other thing.

CN: Oh.

MA: I read that, and he doesn't like it. And at various times we've had other magazines we take in many  
of them.

CN: How about women's magazines, are you interested in those?

MA: No, no. Wouldn't give them the time of day.

CN: Really?

MA: No, not really. Oh, once in a while I look at a crochet book or something.

CN: Then, you must not like 'Soap Operas' either, I mean, even if you were home in the day!

MA: If I was home in the daytime, I wouldn't turn them on!

CN: How about TV, what kind of programs do you enjoy?

MA: The,...we watch TV when we turn on the news, and then sometimes we leave it on; quite often we leave it on for some more shows, after we turn on

- news, but that's all we watch.
- CN: Is that right?
- MA: We haven't any time.
- CN: You don't have all these shows that you can't miss?
- MA: Sometimes we just leave the channel on and maybe we'll be reading or we'll be doing so and so, but we don't take our TV seriously. So I don't even know what's on, unless I've gone to somebody else's house and have seen some in the daytime. Oh, I've been home a few times I have been home a few times and I've had it on during the daytime; I didn't like it.
- CN: Not that interested, huh?
- MA: I just don't care who's doing what, or whatever the case may be.
- CN: How about cards; do you play? Do the two of you play cards?...or any games like that?
- MA: Oh, not usually, no. If the kids are home, why we might have a game of pinochle or a game of...just games, it doesn't matter, and we play a game of pinochle with the kids when they are home and all, as well as with the grandkids now when they're here, but as far as he and I - we don't usually. We're usually busy with something; we play the stereo alot or FM music.
- CN: Oh, okay, then, you like music.
- MA: Uh-huh.
- CN: What kind do you like?
- MA: Oh,...
- CN: Classical type, or kind of Montivani?
- MA: No, not usually classical; we play just if we can get a station that has just popular music, unless they don't. And, we like some western pretty good and all..
- CN: Do you go dancing?
- MA: Oh, no; I've given that up for many years. But we used to square-dance.



CN: Square-dancing; did you ever call dances "Kitchen sweats"? We heard that term.

MA: You call what?

CN: Did they ever have local dances that they would have at somebody's house, push all the chairs aside - we heard the term "Kitchen sweat", that some of them called the dances? Do you remember that?

MA: They used to have those up in the Valley when I was, you know, when we were young.

CN: Really...in Roseberry?

MA: Uh-huh; they used to have three and a half houses of them; and going you'd hear someone playing the music and you're dancing - just have a big time. In fact that was about all we could,...the only kind of dances I think they had very much. We were so happy! At houses, and practically every winter; and I guess, you know, before I can remember and all, more so than it was at the time back then. I remember that. In rural communities like

, they ought to have everybody there too! They don't do that sort of thing today; about the only kind of dances now are if you haven't been married yet. At the time, if you were pregnant or had small children, you were accepted then.

CN: How about churches? Are you both the same religion? Do you go to church?

MA: I'm afraid we're both about the same religion; this is a terrible thing you had to ask me - I'm afraid we just don't get there. We should, but we don't. We sent the kids - and they turned out pretty good!

CN: It doesn't make any difference one way or another, it's just a matter of interest. Did you used to go when you were younger - first married? Were you really interested in it?

MA: Oh, yeah. Oh, I would have gone as a child; with my mother, you went to church, whether you wanted to or not. And I think maybe this is why it was real easy for me, in fact, I didn't want to go to go to church, period! And, this - Clyde's family, were very good people, but they were not closely

affiliated with the church. And, we have just never bothered with it a great deal.

CN: Let's see, what do you think you would tell a woman who was moving to a - let's say, what do you think you would tell someone, a woman, to best prepare them to the, you know, rural community? Either a small town or on a farm.

MA: Well,...I don't think that people in a rural community differ or make too much difference than the people living in a city! Maybe they do on farms, I've never lived on a farm! I guess they do, but I have never lived on a farm, therefore I'm not an authority on that.

CN: How..I've got one I've been thinking of this as you talked, especially because you've been married for over forty years - you lived so much of your life with another person.

MA: And it's hard to remember when you weren't married!

CN: Yeah, yeah! How do you - how would you describe yourself - as just a single - that is apart from your husband, how would you describe yourself?

MA: As an accountant, I guess.

CN: No, no; like as a person, I mean. Would you say, strong, weak, ambitious, timid, what do you feel that you are?

MA: I'm not really timid...well, I don't know. I think probably I am a fairly strong individual person to a large extent. Through the years, Clyde has left the running of the household, and taking care of our own personal things, that way, to me to a large extent, that is, he has never paid the bills, he has never done the managing of the home, or anything that way. He had left it all to me. And, therefore, I think that I am much more independent than most women who don't take this responsibility in their own home; I think it's good!

CN: Do you, let us see, then are you saying, and don't let me put words into your mouth, but do you think it's not so much just that a person is weak

or strong to begin with, but with what responsibility they take to see?

MA: We have friends who - they don't know anything about their husbands business, they don't know anything about their household bills or anything else in particular because their husbands take care of it all! And, Clyde has never taken the time, he doesn't want to - he has always wanted me to do it, and I always have, and I have...it's the other way around, I think. In fact, I have teased him recently; I have told him that we were going to go through a series of several months where he took care of the book-keeping, and I would take care of none of it. "Oh, I don't think so... don't put me through that...", but we really should because in this particular instance, it would be just the other way around! Because he would be the one who would have to stop to think about what to do about this and what do I do about that?

CN: So, if something happened to either one of you, it might...

MA: He would have more of an adjustment.

CN: You think so?

MA: ...than I would, because I have done these things all the way through.

CN: You've been inside and outside the home.

MA: This is right!

CN: And he's been outside, but not in.

MA: ...and hasn't paid any attention, in other words, all he asks ~~you~~ is that things run smoothly, and he isn't bothered with it, and in other ways, and it's kind of funny sometimes. You know how most women, if their washing machine breaks down or something, why, they immediately call their husband. And, I'm afraid that if I'd done that the answer would be, "Well why bother me with it?" So, if something breaks down, I either repair it or I replace it.

CN: So, it sounds like you would be pretty well equipped to deal with life on your own.

MA: This is very definitely so, because I have had to be independent to a certain extent, but I have always wondered why women expected their husbands to - not only do their work, but to take care of the children and take care of the home at the same time.

CN: How about your daughter, do you think she is like you in this way or ...

MA: Oh, very much so.

CN: Is she?

MA: However, she is married to a different type of a person, but they get along very well. I think Donald perhaps takes much more interest in the children and all than Clyde did, because when our children were small, and all, but she's very much like I am actually, I think.

CN: That's interesting, that really...it puts a different perspective on things. Now, me; if I had heard of someone that had been married forty years - had just left high school, I mean, had finished being in high school and became married.

MA: There is something that people forget, and that is that people grow and people develop, and people will learn, to a certain extent, all of their lives whether they have they had the formal education or not!

CN: Oh, sure, I hope you didn't think that I was saying, "and you've only been to high school!"; But, what I mean is that there was no period in between when you were out on your own.

MA: No, uh-uhh, no, were just out of high school - Clyde had been out of high school a couple, ythree years, and then we were married right after I'd finished high school.

CN: And, to hear that and know nothing else, one would think, "Well, here's your little woman sitting in the house that wouldn't know how to do anything for herself!", and that's just not at all true in your case!

MA: Well, it may not have been true because I very likely would have been older than most girls at the same age, because I was not quite 18 when we were

married. And, I would have been considerably older than most girls because I had managed a house; kept house, fixed meals, and gone to school at the same time, for two or three years before that. So, in a way, I was considerably older than most girls when they were 18.

CN: Let me ask you just one more thing - that's what I'd like to hear; do you have anything that you, just after talking, that you'd like to say? Is there feelings, are you getting something from this interview, or anything that...any question that comes up or...?

MA: Well, no.

CN: Do you have any advice to say to women that are unsure about what they should do, that don't know - you know, can't decide what to do?

MA: I...for my own personal life, it feels so funny to me that women get the idea that their own life just completely ends when they marry, because it's possible to live together continually, and ~~be~~ relatively weak! To do things that you wish, to do what you want to to a large extent, and it's not just all bad, not necessarily!

CN: Then, it doesn't sound like you were ever frightened. Now, so many women's magazines, you know, there are so many articles about how to keep your husband happy, and how not to have your romance go out of your marriage, and how to keep him from leaving; it doesn't sound like those ~~were~~ real fears for you or that you even worried about those kind of things.

MA: No. I don't quite understand all that. Well, yes, I suppose if you were married to a different type of person, who did not take their family life seriously, did not have a proper desire for the place to put a family, or what a family should play in their life, I suppose that you would have all sorts of problems of that sort. I see it.

CN: Do you think that-that the reason that you haven't-you two haven't encountered this-do you think it has something to do with the fact that you both grew up along the same place?

MA: It may have something to do with the fact that his family were a good family and they enjoyed their family, they enjoyed their children, they were fundamentally good people: excellent family. And, so, I guess this matters some; you don't think of having difficulties in this way in particular.

CN: There has been no divorces in your family, then?

MA: There has been, yes.

CN: Your children?

MA: Yes.

CN: But not in your husband's parents or anything?

MA: No, not in my husband's parents, not in the...but there has been divorce.

CN: I guess out of thirteen, that's not bad. Well, you've answered all the questions that I can think of now; are you sure you don't have any?

MA: No, I don't have any.

CN: Well, this has really been a good interview!