

INTERVIEW SUMMARY-TAPE INDEX

NAME: Constance Baker  
DATE OF INTERVIEW:  
LOCATION:  
INTERVIEWER:  
REEL NO.

TAPE MINUTE	MANUSCRIPT PAGE	SUMMARY OF CONTENTS
0-16:20		Personal Data Sheet. Hobbies and occupations.
16:21-21:00		Rural area living vs. urban area living.
21:01-28:00		Raising children - friends, recreation. Amusements and recreation as a child.
28:01-38:30		Courtship - marriage - problems with marriage. Various recreational activities provided for through WIN program. Going back to school.
38:31-47:20		Sons and ex-husband working in movie. Reasons for marriage. Medical services during childbirth. Number of children - decision. Knowledge on child raising and childbirth. Aspirations for children.
47:21-56:30		Recreation - hunting and fishing. Work outside of home. Support of family.
56:31-63:31		Discussion of life in smaller community. Current interests.
63:32-66:42		Discussion of close contact with family - being raised on a ranch.

CR: And your full name?

CB: Constance Baker.

CR: Do you have any nicknames?

CB: Connie.

CR: What was your maiden name?

CB: Beal.

CR: Date of birth?

CB: April 7, 1937.

CR: Where were you born?

CB: Nampa, Idaho.

CR: Locale of first residence in Idaho?

CB: Ola, Idaho.

CR: And original locale before you came there?

CB: That would have been it.

CR: You were born there?

CB: I was born in Nampa. At that time there wasn't a hospital closer than that.

CR: You have always lived in Idaho?

CB: Yes.

CR: Your mother's family, what was her maiden name?

CB: Flake.

CR: Did she ever have a job or any kind of occupation?

CB: No.

CR: She was a homemaker?

CB: She was a rancher's wife.

CR: When was she born?

CB: February 16, 1917.

CR: And do you know where?

CB: She was born in Ola.

CR: And is she still alive?

CB: She's still alive.

CR: And what year was she married?

CB: I can't remember. Let's see, I was four because she married my first father ... my real father separated when I was six months old, then she remarried when I was four. So that would have been '41.

CR: And your father's family? Do you consider your real father mostly your father, or did the other raise you?

CB: Yes.

CR: Why don't we talk about him, then? Do you know his name?

CB: Homer Beal.

CR: And what kinds of jobs did he have?

CB: He's a rancher. He lives on the ranch that his grandfather settled. It's been in the family since 1884.

CR: And do you know the date of his birth?

CB: It's February 6, and he was 62, so from '75 would have been '13.

CR: And place of birth?

CB: High Valley, Idaho.

CR: And he's still alive?

CB: Yes.

CR: Do you have sisters or brothers?

CB: One brother.

CR: What's his name?

CB: Roger.

CR: Your husband's name?

CB: He just walked down the hall -- the ex.

CR: Okay, what was his name?

CB: Gary Baker.

CR: Date of birth?

CB: October 26, 1934.

CR: Place of birth?

CB: Yosemite Valley, California.

CR: Date and place you were married?

CB: Reno, Nevada, in 1956.

CR: What does he do, jobs that he has had?

CB: He's always worked in the saw mills. He gave up working several years ago.

CR: Your children's names?

CB: Mark Edwin.

CR: And the date and place of birth? Just the year is okay.

CB: Okay, in 1957 in Emmett, Idaho.

CR: Does he have an occupation?

CB: He's a student; he's in high school.

CR: And the next one?

CB: Jennifer.

CR: The year she was born?

CB: In 1959 in Emmett, Idaho.

CR: And she's a student.

CB: And Heather.

CR: Year she was born?

CB: In 1960, in Nevada City, California, and she's a student.

CR: Your education?

CB: I finished high school, went to college for a year. Had a music major and an art minor, and then I got married. [I] was

married for 15 years and then after my divorce, I went back to school and got a degree in drafting.

CR: A bachelor's degree?

CB: No, it's an Associate of Applied Science.

CR: I've never heard of that.

CB: It's from a Vo-tech, vocational training.

CR: Okay, we have skills down here. Can you tell me some things you're skilled in?

CB: Well, I would be a qualified draftsman for civil engineering.

CR: And then jobs that you have held?

CB: I've worked for the City of Lewiston Drafting Economy. Then, after I graduated, I worked for Hoffman's [unintelligible] Consulting Engineers.

CR: What were you doing?

CB: Drafting. I quit that last fall and I'm now the director



for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

CR: That seems like a pretty different thing to do is drafting.

CB: Well, I had been involved with people for a while. Then, after I was divorced, I was such a shattered person, really, that I couldn't cope with people and so I went into drafting because it was something you could more or less compete with yourself in doing. So it took me about three years to get built back up to where I had the confidence and was sure enough of myself that I could go back into dealing with people.

CR: Are you happy doing that you think?

CB: Yeah, I really enjoy people. See, I work with the senior citizens and I work ... well, my office isn't at the Community Center, but my supervisor is and I'm down there every day and a lot of the people, Myrtle Warren, who is a retired volunteer, she runs the program. This program was set up with federal funds; it involves them and keeps them healthy and interested because if they are healthy and interested in what they are doing, they still stay well much longer; they don't get ill and end up in a nursing home. So, by keeping them gainfully ... well, not really employed, but volunteering or interested in things, they stay independent much longer. The majority of the women are housewives with an eighth grade education. Somebody [unintelligible]

microfilm at the courthouse, they like to hostess, they like the slides at the local museum. They visit in nursing homes, write letters, help with crafts in school. One man who is 82 and he's teaching basic carpentry to a class of handicapped adults at Lewis & Clark State College and they love him, even the staff goes to him for advice and they just really like him. Then he teaches one day a week, afternoons, he goes over to the grade school and teaches over there.

CR: Do you have any other interests, hobbies, or talents?

CB: Well, I can weld; I took a class in welding. All this furniture you see sitting around, I am in the process of refinishing. And I weave. I've done some oil paintings, do crewel embroidery and I like to hunt and fish.

CR: Have you ever gotten an award or a ribbon or an honor?

CB: For music, yeah. It's called an Arion. I have a whole piano seat full of music, my mother's.

CR: For playing piano?

CB: No, it was for outstanding choir member.

CR: Do you belong to any clubs or groups?

CB: I have an honorary membership in the Idaho PTA, lifetime member. And I'm a delegate to the United Nations as a student.

CR: Did you go to New York City?

CB: Yes. I won the state contest of the delegates of the three Odd Fellows Pilgrimage.

CR: Do you belong to clubs or anything?

CB: The Lewis & Clark Wildlife Club. That's the only one I really belong to. I go to a lot, but I only belong to that.

CR: Do you consider yourself a rural woman more than an urban woman? What do you see are the advantages or disadvantages of mostly living in a rural area?

CB: I think the problem is getting adjusted into maybe city living. I love to garden and be outdoors. I don't get out as much as I'd like to. I don't think there's any advantages to the background that I've had. It's been an advantage to me to be more self sufficient, like I don't make all that much money, so I know how to make soap; I know how to make do, I know how to sew. So, all these things are an advantage. Knowing how to garden, how to bake bread, and all the things you do learn. Besides, I know how to run machinery and I've worked in the hay

fields, stacked bales and I can milk a cow, saddle a horse -- all those things. I know how to butcher.

CR: And you like all those things?

CB: Yeah, so really I'm ... I could be very self sufficient and have been.

CR: How come you are here then?

CB: Lewiston is basically pretty rural. When I went into drafting, you do have to be in an area where there is a need for draftsmen. You have to stay where there is construction and a little larger area. I had to consider that when I went into drafting -- that I'd have to stay in a more populated area. A couple years ago, we had lived in Elk City which is way back and we packed water and cooked on the wood stove and really liked it and the kids enjoyed living up there. It's something that if you can do it, you can always go back to it.

CR: I guess your job requires you to stay here?

CB: Right.

CR: How would you compare the life of a rural woman with that of an urban woman?

CB: I think rural women are more versatile. Maybe the picture of a rural woman is someone with a flowered cotton dress and a picture of an urban woman with her hair down and this type thing. But some of the most attractive women you meet are farmers' and ranchers' wives. They may dress as they have to on a ranch, but when they go to town they are probably better dressed than women that live in towns because they live somewhere so that if they happen to have their hair in curlers or old clothes on, they will go to the store anyway. My mother never went to town in her life where she wasn't really dressed up and she's still that way. I don't think there's ever a disadvantage of being on a farm. A rural woman is much more versatile and more talented. Maybe they've had to utilize their talents to their advantage. They may have not had the formal education, but that's not particularly true because a lot of the women who live in town don't really go on as far as education.

CR: Okay, let's talk a little bit about your childhood. How does your family life now compare to your family life when you were a child?

CB: I came from a family of lots of aunts and uncles and my grandparents were alive, so I grew up around so many people, which is maybe why I'm very comfortable in the job I have. I know lots of great aunts and great uncles. When the family did anything we had lots of picnics. Holidays were always really

celebrated, we made a big thing out of birthdays, all this type of thing. So I've tried to carry that on with my children. You have to be careful that you don't over-direct their lives. Like I'm the only parent and I don't cling to them to make my life. I have to be careful that I give them the independence that they need. I've lived here about four years, so I have quite a circle of friends of all ages. And still, between the friends, since I have no family up here we have lots of big picnics and we celebrate each other's birthdays. So my friends have become sort of a family unit, so we still have this group.

CR: Your mother and father are still alive, right?

CB: Yes.

CR: Do they have a ranch?

CB: They still live on the ranch. My dad's grandfather settled it in 1884.

CR: Where is that?

CB: In Ola, Idaho.

CR: Do you ever take your kids and go down there?

CB: Yes, we just got back.

CR: Do you spend a lot of time down there?

CB: Not really too much, maybe three or four times a year we go down there. We have a cabin down there on some forest. This year, we hope to be able to use it a little more than we have before.

CR: Do the kids like to go down there?

CB: Oh yeah, they do. I usually manage to go down for a couple weeks during the summer and stay. They did a lot when they were younger. They're all a certain age where they all sort of have their own friends, but we still go down quite a bit.

CR: Can you describe some of the things that you and your brothers and sisters did when you were children?

CB: Well, summertime it was swimming. There's two creeks that run through my folks' place, so we built rafts and we had playhouses in most of the trees -- treehouses. We had a playhouse in the barn. I had a horse, I grew up on horseback, I rode from the time that I was four, so I've spent a lot of time riding.

CR: Such an ideal parenthood.

CB: Yes, way back in the mountains, oh, I guess the timberline is about a mile and a half back. The country is maybe quite a bit like Lewiston where there is rock formation and that type of thing. Your altitude is much higher, you're up to 4,000 feet. Then, in the wintertime we had the creek to play on because it would get to 40 degrees below and three foot of snow, and so sledding and skiing was the type of thing that we did.

CR: Can you remember any particular Christmas or anything that stands out in your mind? A birthday or holiday?

CB: Well, I remember the Christmas I got my new saddle and new skis. I think I was about 11 when Dad got me a new saddle and that was a good Christmas. And the Christmas they gave me the skis, I wanted ice skates so I pouted for two weeks and I didn't even use them. And then I was glad they had gotten me skis because it seemed like the ice was always great during the week and by the weekend it had melted and nobody could skate on it. But, I think that some of the family picnics that we used to have ... I had two uncles that had a saw mill, just a small family saw mill and a big mill pond and they had fantastic barbecues and picnics up there. We could swim and we had an old boat that you had to row the whole time you were in it and bail water out of it because it would slowly sink before you could get across. We all swam like fish. My one uncle had four children, so there was always cousins because most of them did live around and I had



four boy cousins about my age that I grew up with and maybe that's why I was such a tomboy.

CR: Were you?

CB: Yeah. I could always climb to the hill quicker than anyone.

CR: You had one brother?

CB: Yes.

CR: Were you and your brother expected to go on to school? What kind of messages did you get from your parents?

CB: Oh, very definitely they wanted good grades, they were expected, which was never any problem because I always loved school and then when I was in high school, I was very involved in choir and did a lot of solo work. I was in theater group, girl's pep club; I've always been a person to get involved in too many things, I think. I get myself spread out too thin.

CR: Now, if there's anything you don't want to talk about, just tell me, you know, if it's painful for you. We have some courtship and marriage questions and the one is: What are some of the things you remember about your courtship in your early married life?

CB: Well, actually I went with the same boy almost all the way through high school. He was a couple years younger than me in school. About the time I got out of high school, I had won that trip back East for a few weeks with the United Nations and saw that there was a big wide world out there, so I didn't want to get married. So we broke up and I went to California the summer that I graduated and lived with a family there -- some friends of parents -- and stayed there for the summer. I started college down there and moved in with a family where I could work for board and room and it was within about a year when I met the kids' dad. It was one of those bells ringing type thing and we got married two weeks and five days after we met.

CR: That was really a fast courtship.

CB: Right. And I think I'd still be married if he hadn't decided that he didn't need to work to support a family, because we had lots of the same interests. We both like to fish and hunt and like the outdoors.

CR: What do you think brought him to this?

CB: He was really into some emotional problems -- very paranoid in thinking that people were spying on him. We had a home and a cabin and a new car. He started running around with, really, I guess you'd say a hippie type people, got into the drug scene and decided that he wanted to go live back in the hills and didn't

have to work. So, we sold everything and moved to Elk City. He wasn't satisfied there; the kids and I loved it, but he wasn't satisfied there, either. He progressively got worse and so, finally after he had left twelve times in two years, I decided that I could support a family and at least I'd know where I was. During all that time in trying to change myself to being what he wanted I had lost my identity and that's why I had such a time when I did go back to school. I knew that I couldn't do anything with people-oriented because I wasn't well enough emotionally to feel this way.

CR: How long had you been married?

CB: Fifteen years.

CR: That's a long time. When you were married, in your earlier married life, did you have kind of a traditional marriage?

CB: Oh, I think very definitely.

CR: Did you feel that you could influence his decisions, like what was the power structure in your family?

CB: No, you couldn't influence him.

CR: He was pretty dominant?

CB: Yeah, to the point that if you disagreed with him, he just broke up the furniture. And my parents had been against the marriage, so I never wanted them to know what was going on, so I hid all the things that were happening.

CR: And you never talked to anybody about it at all?

CB: No, not for a long, long time. Not until maybe about the last three years we were married, I decided that I wasn't going to cover up for him anymore. So when I stopped hiding all the things that he had done, a lot of people knew what was happening, but if I didn't complain, then what can people do?

CR: Did you look for help then? Or, how did you finally resolve in getting strength enough in doing what you wanted to do?

CB: Well, he finally left and went back to California. I went ahead and filed in Lewiston. I could've gone back to southern Idaho, but I decided that I wanted to make it on my own and my family is quite well known down there and I didn't in a way want to embarrass or involve my parents. So I stayed in Lewiston. Well, I was actually living in Stites at the time. So, the kids and I moved down here and I didn't know anyone at the time and that was four years ago this June. I went back to school that fall.

CR: You know, it just struck me so much how in our project, a

lot of women get the idea that we want to talk to women who pioneered, you know, coming out to homestead. But, that takes just as much as a pioneering spirit. I'm divorced too, and I faced the same thing that you did and I think it takes just as much courage to pick up your children and go and do something all by yourself when you are not even sure who you are and your self confidence is pretty down. We don't know for sure if we can go back to school and get good grades. It's just as so much like a pioneer to be able to do that.

CB: Really. I went on welfare because I wanted to go back to school.

CR: That's what I'm doing.

CB: And to go back to school. I went back on the WIN program, the working women's program. You had to be on welfare to be able to get into the WIN program. And really, I had to talk to someone about trying to work and she said, "You're in no emotional state to handle a job." I was much more shattered than I thought I was. So, the kids and I spent the summer, we'd take until 11 o'clock to get up and I burnt the food so much that the kids took over cooking. I was just rattled. We'd go swimming all afternoon and the whole summer I spent with the kids. Gradually, made a few friends and we'd take them swimming, so we spent the summer just swimming. That's all I could handle. That fall,

just before we started school, we had a group orientation and group counseling type training and then we had 21 women in that group, and it was sponsored by the Department of Employment, and we had the WIN program. Then, I really began to see how really bad I had been.

CR: You were in therapy yourself?

CB: And talking and discussing problems with all these other people made really tight group and so we sort of helped each other. But, out of the group of 21 women, I think there were only about four or five that went on and finished the schooling that was provided for them. And in recognizing this, the Health and Welfare Department has now started a group, a woman's group for women on WIN, and on mainstream, or maybe just on welfare. They have informative type meetings twice a month. They have insurance people come in and talk about life insurance and they've had makeup and hair and how to take care of your hair and style it. They've had some health [break in the recording here]. The contacts I made through that group, I still see a lot of the gals around and the people from the Department of Employment. Then, I went on the Infirmary Manpower Planning Board for Area II as a WIN representative on that board. This is the board that advises and counsels on how federal funds coming into an area should be spent. I'm still serving on that board, just as an individual now. I'll be going into the third year. I've had some good contacts through that center.

CR: I guess my question is: When you are that shattered over the breaking up of your marriage, it seems like you must have come a long ways. Most of the women that I encounter with that kind of background usually remarry or live with someone. How have you managed to become so self-sufficient that you can live alone?

CB: I think I'm very on the defensive, very afraid to get back into that situation. I'm a very independent person and [that] is one of the reasons that created a lot of marriage problems -- because my husband needed a tight person who could lean on him, who relied on him.

CR: But not financially?

CB: He's never been one to want any type of material gain. If he had a log cabin that had a table and a bed and stove in it, I think that would've been ... he still talks about living that way. He keeps saying that's what he wants to do.

CR: What is he doing now?

CB: Nothing.

CR: Where does he live?

CB: Right now he's staying with a woman friend of mine, an older woman friend who needs some carpenter work and some help and so he's been staying with her and her two boys doing a lot of carpentry work. My son's friend, Brian, and my son and my ex-husband all have parts of movie extras in this film that they are making, so they're waiting. They got a call yesterday that they are going to start filming and they're supposed to give them 24-hours notice. But they went up and tried out and they've all been issued their costumes and they're all on pins and needles waiting.

CR: What kinds of costumes?

CB: Well, it's in the 1880's or something like that, so it's rough and tough. My husband and son are in the badman's gang and Brian with his long black hair, and he's a full blooded Sioux is in the Indian band.

CR: So it's cowboy's and Indian type thing.

CB: Yeah.

CR: So you knew your husband for two and a half weeks before you got married. Can you remember some of the reasons you got married? I think you were just in love?



CB: Right. Also, I think at that time there wasn't the living together thing, it wasn't accepted. I would not have even considered and it's a funny thing you asked. I still don't think I could do it. Because even though I could accept it, I think I could do it now. I think I have changed. I know a lot of people who do; I have friends that do. But, I think, I'm raising three children and I still want some set of values, some basis for them and so I am setting that.

CR: About child rearing and child raising, I think I have an idea on what kind of medical services you had. Did you go to the hospital to have your babies?

CB: Yes, I did. I had planned to have Heather at home, but it didn't work out that way. My back went out of place, pinched a nerve in my spine. So I was in there about nine days before she was born and finally, I signed myself out of the hospital and went to a chiropractor to get my hip back and then I had to learn to walk all over again because it pinched the nerves. But I've had pretty much natural childbirths.

CR: Is that why you wanted to have her at home?

CB: Yes.

CR: Just to make a more of a family experience?

CB: I had the arrangements all made with the doctor.

CR: He was going to come to your house?

CB: Yes. A friend of mine in Boise, her daughter just had her baby at home. I have another friend who lives in Seattle and she had her second baby at home.

CR: Did your husband want you to do that, too?

CB: It was okay.

CR: Was he going to take part in it?

CB: Yes, I think so.

CR: What factors affected the decision on the number of children you wanted?

CB: I was all set to have about four; but, after the last one the doctor said no more children. My husband had a vasectomy to make sure we didn't have any more.

CR: Where did you get your knowledge about childbirth and child rearing?

CB: Probably on the ranch.

CR: Did your mother talk about it and you never say any children born or anything?

CB: No, it's just that I helped deliver animals and that type of thing.

CR: Can you remember thinking as a child that that was probably how people were born too?

CB: I don't know if it ever ... I think it was something that I knew without ever really thinking about it too much. But, with my kids, there was a much more communication. We talked about a lot of things that were never discussed. We probably fight a lot more because we are a lot more open and we yell back and forth at each other. It is sometimes upsetting to someone who isn't used to that.

CR: It's fun for me to come through that because I've got a four year old and people can't understand why I let him yell at me. Where he yells at me because he looks at me like a friend and people think he won't respect me. This doesn't matter to me; I know that I'll have respect from him if I'm what I should be too. And it's not much more fun for me to be a friend and let him talk to me. It's really fun to watch him ...

CB: They'll come to me and talk about things. That's more important.

CR: I agree. How would you like to see your kids in the future? Do you have any hopes for them?

CB: Well, as far as education, I don't put the big push-on for education that my parents did. That's totally irrelevant to me. I went back to college and said, "Okay, how the grades I get is going to affect our livelihood, so you're on your own. I'm not going to browbeat you and make you study. You know you are going to have to do it on your own." My son reads on a college level; his comprehension is good. He doesn't get real good grades in math and some of his other subjects, but he can read so he can learn it when he gets ready to. And I think this is the same with anyone -- when you are ready you learn and no one is going to cram it down your throat before that.

CR: What do you like to do for recreation and relaxation for yourself?

CB: Every once in a while I have to get out and go hike, get out in the hills. Other than that, I like to go to the plays at the Civic Theatre. I like to go dancing. We have group dinners and picnics in the summer, a lot of the women that I know. I never really had any close girlfriends when I was growing up. Our ranch was several miles from the next one and I had my horse

and I liked to be by myself. So, it's been since my divorce that I have really developed friendships with other women. There have been a couple through high school and through my married years. Every few women are interested in things that I'm interested in -- hunting and fishing, or going bottle hunting and hiking and backpacking, or something like this. So, a lot of my friendships are with men. I grew up wherever my father was. I was usually with him, so I grew up having a man for a companion. Of course, when I was married I worked quite a bit with my husband. So it's been since I've been divorced that I've really developed a lot of women friends. I totally appreciate and enjoy the contact. It seems like a lot of men are just looking for someone to go out, a party girl; they don't really want to go with someone other than a nighttime thing, you know. It seems like when it come to the companions to go out and picnic or go hunting or go fishing with, I go with women friends and take our children. This last fall, this friend of mine and her two sons, we went out and set up a camp and went hunting.

CR: Did you get anything?

CB: No. I missed two big bucks. I haven't got anything for a couple of years. That last one I got his horns, that was at Elk City. I got a big buck up there. That was about two or three years ago. I do know quite a few guys that I can go to if I really want to talk to; they're good friends too. I think probably I've spent more time with women.

CR: On thinking back, what are some of the things you've done to support your family? I guess we've already gone through that.

CB: Well, other than working, the kids and I had a janitor's job at the office where I worked until I quit there. I've done singing for the two funeral parlors here. So I got paid quite well for that. I've done extra drafting work.

CR: I've never heard of anybody singing for funeral parlors.

CB: They pay \$15.00 a funeral. I have a friend who is an organist and she makes very good money. They have maybe two or three funerals a day and [she] decided to go into the babysitting service. She's the one that got me started.

CR: How old are you, 35?

CB: Almost 38.

CR: Well, you've had major responsibility for the support of your family? Does your husband help pay anything?

CB: No.

CR: When you had your divorce settlement, was there anything written in that?

CB: Oh yeah, he was supposed to pay \$150 a month; but, if you don't work you can't pay anything. I'm independent enough. I'd rather he didn't. I don't want that contact with him.

CR: Does he come to visit pretty often?

CB: Maybe once every six months. It just happens that he's in the area now.

CR: Would you rather just not see him at all?

CB: Yes.

CR: It bothers you?

CB: It doesn't really bother me because I don't care one way or the other and it's upsetting to him, because now he want us back as a family, even though he still doesn't want to support us. He realizes that he gave up his family and all that kind of thing. I don't care one way or the other.

CR: It must be a change for him. It sounds like when you broke up it really bothered him and now finding that you are independent.

CB: Well, that's what he told this friend of mine. He says, "I don't know her anymore. I don't know how to talk to her." Because he just pushed me around all the time.

CR: How long now have you been divorced?

CB: Almost four years. One thing I think when I first went back into that therapy class, the girls who had been maybe on a second break-up as far as a marriage, they, at about six months, it really becomes kind of an unbearable thing for anyone to alleviate the loneliness. You feel like you can't go on. And from talking to them, I realized that about six months to a year is really a danger period. I was so involved in school; I had quit school before to get married, so that became an obsession with me to finish the drafting thing. So, I just totally buried myself in that school that I didn't let myself think about getting remarried. Now, I'm to the point to where I'm quite happy with my life. There are days when I think I wish there was somebody to take over my decisions, my problems and anything. There's other days when no way would I want to give up my job and feeling of self worth. I think I'm afraid to get back into that type of situation because I don't think I could get back into that. So it would have to be a man who could accept me and not feel threatened by my independence.

CR: What advice would you give a young woman to prepare her for farm life or life in a small town?

CB: Well, I considered going back down where my parents live and maybe living there. But, my lifestyle is so open; I've become so



much more broad-minded that I don't think that I could fit back into that. Maybe someday, you could fit back into that. As far as telling someone, you're talking about going from a larger town into a rural area?

CR: Yes.

CB: After you are in a rural area; I went from a very large town in California when we moved back from California into Horseshoe Bend, and I just about went crazy because of the loneliness. I think more communities are very tight. They have a very tight social order, a group. And for someone to come in, like one woman said in Horseshoe Bend, "I've been married to Jack for 35 years, and to his family I'm still the outsider." This is very typical of there. I can remember when new people would come in where I grew up and you have to be ready to stand a lot of loneliness and just go do your thing and eventually, maybe you'll be accepted. Because I think smaller communities are very tight and oriented.

CR: I've never been in the West at all and I just came here to Potlatch to a very small town and not too much acceptance. I lived in a kind of a different situation and I don't think the town knew what to make of it. Four adults and my son living together and it was probably confusing to them. I've found a couple of people who've been wonderful to me and just really

accepted me. At first, I could tell there was lots of suspicion, even with the babysitters, for a while unless their young daughters came over.

CB: Well, where I grew up, now there's a lot of young couples living together. They've sort of gone back to a pioneer type of life and this is very hard for the older families to accept.

CR: You mean unmarried people living together?

CB: Well, not only that, but their lifestyle. My parents have a lot of comforts and their home and they go to a lot of social type things, you know, with the long gowns and the suits. Even though they're farm people, they go to really formal functions. And so these kids are just living on a ranch and making out without using electricity and living in the old pioneer type style. It's hard for them to accept that. They see it as a threat or something. They're different. They can't accept that they are different. My mother kept saying, "Well, this certainly isn't the way you were raised." You know, watching the kids play out on the playground, they thought it was terrible that they didn't have lots of room to run and there is just a small playground out here. Actually, I have more privacy over here than I think I did downtown. I don't have any real close friends that live in this apartment unit; I don't have women running in and out and that type thing. It's all the kids' friends. My friends are out and

around. When I get home at night I really want the privacy.

CR: Do you subscribe to any magazines or newspapers?

CB: No, I don't. It's mainly a thing of finances. I always buy the Woman's Day and Family Circle magazines. They have a lot of really good things for the price of the magazine. I love Cosmopolitan. I always get that handed down to me. I have a friend that takes it and she always gives it to me.

CR: What TV programs do you like to watch?

CB: I like the specials. I like "Mary Tyler Moore." I really don't have very much time to watch TV.

CR: What do you do when you get home at night?

CB: I usually rush around get some kind of meal on the table and have maybe two or three evening meetings a week that I go to. Lately, I've been working around fourteen hours a day several days a week and on those days I don't even eat, I just fall into bed.

CR: Thinking back to your marriage, can you think of the most common conversations you would have with your husband? Or, what are the things he would ask you about?

CB: That's difficult to remember. I really can't remember. Maybe we didn't have that much to talk about other than the daily type routine or things that happened with him at work.

CR: Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about your experiences as a rural woman that maybe we haven't said so far?

CB: I'll probably think of something after you are gone. I think probably one of the most influential things of my life is the contact with the close knit family, because both my father and my mother's parents were in the same area when they were still alive. My grandmother only died three years ago. She was a very influential woman. She was the type of woman that she was in a nursing home about the last five years of her life and she was the type of woman that even when her grand newphews would come to town and go up and see her. I find out that she had a very difinite influence on my life. She was one who took me out and showed me in the spring where the plants were and how to do the daisy chain and where the dandelions were and weave those together. She taught me to do drawn handwork. A lot of the things that I learned were from her and being around her. She lived in the big house on the ranch and my parents lived in the small one, maybe 100 feet away; so she was there. I was probably nine or ten years old when we moved off there. So, I think that being around all those members of the family, you pick up a lot of family history, you know, a feeling of continuity with the land, and I still feel that closeness with the land and I'll

always be a farm girl. I still pay attention to what the weather is like and when it rains. People in town don't like it, but I'm glad to see it rain because it's good for the land. I went to Asotin [?] this last summer and they had some ceramic sinks and the people use them for flower planters or what not, and I said to the woman sitting next to me, "I ought to bid on those; they'd make really nice salt lick boxes for my dad's ranch." She said, "You'd have to have been raised on a ranch because I was thinking the same thing!"

CR: What is that?

CB: Well, you have to put salt out for your cows and so you can just use a little wooden type box so that it would be heavy so it couldn't tip over and spill the salt out and so I did, I bought four of them for a dollar and took them down to my dad.

CR: I'll bet he was happy, too. Well, I think that's everything Connie.