

INTERVIEW SUMMARY-TAPE INDEX

NAME: Charm Barnard
DATE OF INTERVIEW:
LOCATION:
INTERVIEWER:
REEL NO.

TAPE
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MANUSCRIPT
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SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

0-12:00

Personal Data Sheet; hobbies. Living in rural vs. urban area.

12:01-22:59

Family life. School - expectations from parents. Courtship. Marriage and reasons. Recreation; activities - women's groups.

23:00-29:00

Discussion of life in rural area. Current interests. Discussions with husband.

CN: And your name?

CB: Charm Barnard.

CN: Are you married?

CB: Yes.

CN: What was your maiden name?

CB: Stotsenberg.

CN: Date of birth?

CB: September 8, 1945.

CN: Place?

CB: Seattle.

CN: Do you have any nicknames?

CB: No.

CN: Where did you first live in Idaho?

CB: Nez Perce.

CN: And where were you before you came to Idaho?

CB: We lived in Aberdeen.

CN: What year did you arrive in Idaho?

CB: Well, I was in the fourth grade, so I don't know. You'll have to figure that out.

CN: You were about nine or ten?

CB: Yeah; eight, because I had my eighth birthday.

CN: Mode of travel?

CB: Car.

CN: You get some wagon trains.

CB: Mom came out in a covered wagon when they came out.

CN: Companions on trip?

CB: My family.

CN: Your mother's original name?

CB: Dorothy Knight.

CN: Date of birth?

CB: February 8, I guess. It was either the 8th or the 2nd, I don't know. She just turned 60, so she just had a birthday.

CN: Place of birth?

CB: Butte, Montana, I think.

CN: Is she still living?

CB: Yes.

CN: The year she was married?

CB: Well, she was 33 when she had me. I don't know what year she was married.

CN: Occupation or jobs?

CB: Just a housewife. She's running a boarding house, I guess you would call it.

CN: Father's name?

CB: John, and they're not married anymore; they're divorced.

CN: His birthdate?

CB: September 17, 1910.

CN: Place of birth?

CB: Indianapolis, Indiana.

CN: Occupation?

CB: He's been a minister a good portion of his life; but he's an executive director of the United Good Neighbors now, in Oregon.

CN: Brothers or sisters?

CB: I have a sister. I had two brothers and they both died. I have a sister named Jill.

CN: Your husband's name?

CB: Michael.

CN: Occupation?

CB: Writer.

CN: Date of birth?

CB: December 29, 1945.

CN: And place of birth?

CB: Amarillo, Texas.

CN: And date and place that you were married?

CB: McMinville, Oregon, July 8, 1967, I think. We've been married seven years.

CN: Have any kids?

CB: No, three cats.

CN: Your own education?

CB: I went to Portland State for a while. I graduated from high school. I went to Santa Monica City College and I went to Lewis & Clark last year just for a couple of classes. I've had various art classes and night classes and stuff like that.

CN: Skills?

CB: Oh, a good many. What kinds of skills do you want? I can fix toilets.

CN: Well, tell me and I'll put that down for sure.

CB: I can do quite a few things. I [unintelligible] great.

CN: Excel?

CB: Well, I don't know if I excel; I'm a good seamstress. I do good needlework, embroidery work, I do. I'm a good prize toilet fixer; I'm pretty good at that. I'm a very good organizer; [unintelligible] one of my talents.

CN: Occupations or jobs that you've held?

CB: Switchboard operator is the main thing. I used to be a receptionist. I used to work for a newspaper, did everything in the newspaper business. And I'm on VISTA. I've had lots of jobs. I used to work for a property management which is one of the reasons I learned how to do, you know, everything in the world that needs to be fixed.

CN: Other interests, hobbies and talents?

CB: Well, art is one of my main interests, and all the handcrafts and pottery. You know, all the handcrafts and art and weaving, and everything like that I am very interested in. Gardening is another thing I do; I have my own garden and plants and that kind of stuff. I like to read and I like photography, that's is my other, I always forget that. Isn't that funny? I'm so used to putting down sewing, cooking and reading. Photography; and I'm into art, I draw.

CN: Clubs, groups or societies that you belong to?

CB: I guess the Women's Center would be a group. I'm totally involved in women's activities in this town and organizing. I don't belong to any other organizations.

CN: Awards, honors or ribbons?

CB: I got three years in a row at the Lewiston Fair. I got first and second prize in a flower arranging contest. I don't know, as far as awards go, nothing really great and outstanding. I've won stuff, you know, but nothing to remember.

CN: Okay, now I'll ask a little more quickly thought provoking questions. What do you think are some of the advantages and disadvantages in living in a rural area?

CB: Like living in Lewiston and being close to the river, you don't have so far to go to be outside to be in the woods. It's smaller and I like small towns, but I like, you know, I lived in Los Angeles for a long time, so I like Los Angeles, too. I think the people are more closer together; you can reach more people than in the big city. Word of mouth, things go and spread faster, you know. So, if you want to get something going, all you have to do is talk to a few people and I would say that I like living in a small town. Everybody seems to want to get out of this area and I do too -- I don't want to stay here for the rest of my life. Other than that, and it's by a river, of course, it's really a mess as far as I'm concerned. But, I think if you're bringing up children, it's a very good area because they're closer to nature. They're closer, I mean, they can go down like when I was a kid. We grew up here and explored by the river. There's just a lot of things you can learn than living in the city.

CN: Do you feel there are any disadvantages?

CB: Well, in the school systems, I think so. They are disadvantaged in a way. The big cities don't necessarily have any better schools. I guess mainly in the ideas and the prejudice and the narrow mindedness that runs in small towns and stuff like that. Disadvantages, well, like in this town, there really isn't anything to offer now that our river is gone which is the main source of recreation for children. They don't seem to

have the opportunities and the recreation. I mean, we had a boys' club and now they have a girls' club; but, activities like that they don't have and the money is not available. I would say those are the kind of disadvantages. And there are a lot of prejudices and stuff like that because Lewiston here is so out of touch with the rest of the world. It is and it isn't; but for the children, it is and for young people.

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

CB: I think they are both pretty much the same in the long run. As far as being in the home and being caught into the same type of patterns of the rural woman. Well, I mean if they live on a farm and they have farm work and all that kind of stuff; but, there's always a difference in being outside and working and stuff. But I don't, I wouldn't say that there's a whole lot of difference as far as the women's feelings and stuff like that go. I mean, as I said, being caught in the same thing and children...

CN: How does your family life now compare to your family life when you were a child?

CB: My family life, what do you mean? I don't have a family except for my husband and my cats. What do you mean?

CN: Just that even, I guess. Do you see great differences?

CB: Well, I don't know. I had a tremendous amount of freedom when I was a child and I still have a lot of freedom. No, there's not a lot of difference because I've always had the freedom such as, which is what I continue to hold out for.

CN: Financially?

CB: Well, let's see, right now financially, I don't think we're in any better shape than we were when we were kids, except that I'm making the money and I do what I want to do with it, and I don't have my parents telling us how to do it. When we lived in Los Angeles, I worked and my husband Michael worked and financially, we were much better off than we are up here. I don't know.

CN: Could you describe some of the things you and your sister did when you were children?

CB: We fought a lot. We fought tremendously when we were children. She's four years older than I am. We didn't have a lot in common. We used to play paper dolls, though. Paper dolls, we did a lot and dolls because she's super imaginative and she's a dreamer in fantasy and she'd make beautiful doll clothes and she'd make paper doll clothes, you know. That's about all. We didn't go many places together. She was an indoor and I was an outdoor person. We mainly fought. It was until she went away to school and left home that we got along after that. I think there was a competition between us. Affection from our

parents, I guess. She was always the underdog and I was more outgoing and she was the martyr and took all the slack my parents gave her.

CN: Were you or your sister expected to go on to school?

CB: No, we weren't, I don't think so. I thought about that a lot. Now Jill, she has always talked about going on to school, she was. But I don't think it was ever expected of us. Our parents never gave us any hassel about grades. It was always neat if we got an "A" and that kind of stuff; but we were never really pressed to excel in studies. Jill was always a very good student when I look back on her grades and stuff like that. We weren't expected to go to school; it would be nice. The Bible College, NCC, they have in Eugene. Jill's always assumed that she would go there; I think that was the assumption and maybe for myself, too. But, I never was hot on going to college. No, we weren't expected to go on.

CN: What are some of the things you remember about your courtship?

CB: Well, about my courtship with Michael, huh? We had a lot of money when I met him, which was because I'd been on my own for a long time and he started [unintelligible] me and stuff. We worked together at the newspaper is how I got to know Michael.

He was a really quiet kind of man and I wasn't, so [unintelligible] we ended up getting together. But, we went places in Los Angeles. I never had a car when I lived there and he had [unintelligible] and we'd go places and do stuff. He wasn't like the rest of the men that I'd been going out with. He was very quiet and Michael and I used to get into some really good conversations, which usually you don't get into any good conversations with all these guys hustling you and always trying to get you into bed. That's one thing about Michael that I fell in love with him. He's a writer and he's always been interested in writing and reading and we used to spend a lot of time just sitting and reading. He'd come over and we'd just read, drink some wine.

CN: How long did you know him?

CB: Not very long. I knew him for nine months before I married him. I dated him for nine months. I knew him at work, I imagine, for a year because we both arrived in California and started working for the newspaper just about the same time. He came up from Texas and I came from Oregon. So I knew him about a year and just dated him for about nine months.

CN: What were some of the reasons you married?

CB: For those reasons that I gave you in the courtship, that he was intellectual more than anything else, and I believed in his writing. I believed that he could someday be a good writer.

He is a very nice man. He has a tremendous amount of really good qualities that other men haven't developed yes, I guess. I mean I think everybody has them; they just don't know how to do them. He's a very gentle sort, very mannerly. He's lived in Texas all his life and his mother was very proper and polite and all that kind of stuff. I think that a lot of young men lose, you know, which did impress me and it still does. He has his ambition; I mean, he doesn't want to work work 8-5 in a truckyard, you know. He likes to travel, he's a dreamer and other things and he's crazy, he has crazy ideas. We get off together, I mean, we get along pretty well more than anything else. We never have big fights and stuff like that.

CN: What do you personally do for recreation and relaxation?

CB: Not much. Recreation, I go out occassionally and dance, that's about the only recreation I get, you know, that's about all. I don't have any sports or anything that I can really go and do. I try to go to Yoga classes, but I never make them, which is what I'd really like to do; but, that's about all. I drink when I dance, that I do do; but that loosens you up a little bit, but not much.

CN: Do you and Michael do this together, dance?

CB: We go to the movies, now we do go to the movies; I forgot about that. We dance together sometimes. I go out alone a lot.

I go out with friends.

CN: What are some of the things that you've done to help support your family?

CB: I work. I did the switchboard when I came here. I worked at the hospital when I came to Lewiston. Then I became a Vista, so that's a means of support, and anywhere else I can pick up some extra money.

CN: Has there ever been a time when you had the major responsibility for financial support?

CB: I have it now. I've had it in the last two years.

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

CB: Sure, work is what I'd do.

CN: I guess I kind of already know this, but what kind of community activities have you been involved in?

CB: Getting the Women's Center organized and working on organizing women's groups and stuff like that. Right now, I'm working on organizing, other than women's groups, a crisis center and a bookstore. We've come a fair amount on that, we're about

ready to open that in another month or so. But that's pretty much my activities.

CN: What suggestions would you give a woman that would best prepare her for life in a small town like Lewiston as opposed to a city?

CB: I don't know. A small town, huh? I would maybe talk to her about, if she was just going to come and live here; a single woman?

CN: Any kind of woman.

CB: Like, a Lewiston woman, if she was to come into this town, jobs are very hard to find. It's hard to find a job unless you have some kind of skill. If you come in and you are 18 or 19 in this town, I think it would be very hard. All the jobs are pretty well sewed up and women get jobs and they have a tendency to keep them, especially if they have to work. They should have some kind of training and something to do. I really don't know what I'd tell her for a small town. She would probably have to have some questions, then I could answer her. But it is hard to break into. Reputations in small towns get going pretty easy. I don't know what else I could tell her. I'd tell her it would be hard. Of course, it's hard for a woman in any town, I think. There's not many outlets in a small town. And that has a tendency to build a little frustration on what to do. They

don't have anything to do, so they end up getting married and that kind of stuff. I don't know what I could tell her.

CN: What magazines and newspapers do you subscribe to?

CB: I take the newspaper, but I don't subscribe to any magazines. I read magazines. Ms. magazine is one that I read, but I don't subscribe to them anymore. A long time ago, I used to subscribe to House and Gardens and Apartment Life, I think, or California Life, or something. And that whole thing that they sell you all in one package. I don't subscribe to any now because I can't afford to subscribe to any magazines. People donate a lot of magazines and then I read them.

CN: Do you watch TV?

CB: Not very often.

CN: Do you have any favorite programs?

CB: No. Programs, favorite programs, I like, "I Spy." No, I don't have any favorite programs, I don't watch TV that much.

CN: What are some of the factors that are involved in your decision to live in Lewiston?

CB: Well, we were in Mexico before we came here. My sister and mother were here. So we came up here to live. They had a house, my mother's house, and we came up here to live. Plus the fact that, I guess we had always kind of planned to come back here. Once we got down to Mexico and they all moved over here, I guess we decided to come over here. Then, Michael got hepatitis while we were in Mexico, so I was very glad that we had a place to live and I didn't have to go through looking for a house and all that. My family was here and I liked Lewiston.

CN: What are some of the most common things your husband asks you about?

CB: "What have you been doing?" He doesn't ask me a lot of questions, you know. He talks about what he's been doing and when I'm reading a book, we discuss the book and he reads all the time. That's about all. We discuss things like that and about photography. We talk when I'm home, but I'm not home a lot, so we don't have much time to talk about anything except, "What have you been doing?" and "Where are you going to go?" and just, "What's been happening?" He doesn't pry a lot, which I'm glad about.

CN: Is there anything else you'd like to say about your experiences or experiences as a woman in a small town?

CB: It's been very interesting being here in Lewiston, being that I was in a big town. Most of it has been a good experience of moving back up here. As I say, once you start doing something in this town, like working in the women's movement and everything, people begin to know you and in a way, that's nice. It's not that you got to watch around and see what you do. That's the only thing about a small town, you're supposed to be careful about what you do.

CN: That's about all of my questions.