

The following interview is with Myrtle Bening taped at Shoshone Convalescent Center in Kellogg, Idaho on July 30, 1975 by Connie Richard.

CR: Can you give me your name again now?

MB: Myrtle Bening. B-e-n-i-n-g.

CR: And what is your address here?

MB: Well this is the nursing home, Shoshone Convalescent Inn.

CR: Okay, and this is New Kellogg. Okay, now, did you ever have a nickname Myrtle?

MB: No, I don't think I have.

CR: Nobody ever called you by a nickname?

MB: No.

CR: Okay, and what was your maiden name?

MB: Johnson.

CR: And what year were you born?

MB: 1888.

CR: Wow...

MB: ...Not a girl...

CR: And where were you born?

MB: Farmington, Washington.

CR: Okay, do you have a phone here?

MB: Yes, I just put it in.....well you can check it on your way out, I haven't had it long enough yet; can't think of the number.

CR: Okay. Where was your first residence in Idaho?

MB: Bonners Ferry.

CR: And where did you live before you came to Idaho?

MB: Farmington, Washington. I was only five when I came to Bonners.

CR: Okay. What year would that have been.

MB: 1893. That's about right.

CR: And what way did you come? I know that did you come by car? Ha!

MB: No...by airplane.....usually driving an old heap, came in their territory

with a wagon and whatever it carried.

CR: Was it a covered wagon or what?

MB: No, no.

CR: Just an uncovered wagon?

MB: Uh-hmm.

CR: And a team of horses, huh?

MB: Uh-hmm.

CR: And who came with you on the trip?

MB: Well, of course, there was my father and mother, and two sisters, and a brother.

CR: Okay, now I want you to think about your mother's family for a minute.

What your mother's maiden name?

MB: Mary Haptonstall, H-a-p-t-o-n-s-t-a-l-l.

CR: And did she ever have any kind of occupations?

MB: No, just housewife.

CR: Okay, she didn't take in sewing or anything?

MB: No, uh-uhh.

CR: She did things at home?

MB: Yes, that's all.

CR: Okay, and what year was she born? Do you know?

MB: Oh, dear; well, I'll tell you, that's what I brought this little pad for.

She was eighty-two when she died, I don't remember what year it was, but she was eighty-two when she died.

CR: Do you know approximately what year she would have gotten married?

MB: Well, she was seventeen when she married.

CR: And where was she born? Do you know?

MB: Missouri.

CR: Okay, now what was your father's name?

MB: William Wilson Johnson.

CR: And what kind of occupation did he have?

MB: Well, I'd say probably farmer. Although, when he came to Bonners Ferry he 'd run a meat market until we had to move out by a flood...waters overflowed and they chartered some engines and some cars. I remember that trip so well; about six...because I got to ride in the caboose.

CR: Oh, tell me about the trip.

MB: Well, we did when we first went there live across the river from Bonners Ferry - no bridge, there was a ferry. And, of course, we had the meat market. We moved in town, both of my other sisters were in school, and I of course was about six or seven then, about six. And, of course, the flood come suddenly and they chartered this train and loaded us on and what we could get handy, you know, and we went to Troy. And there just happened to be an empty hotel. Well, of course, my mother ...and I remember the (name) of it. Delighted to have something to move into right away, and it was furnished, that is, the way they would do it then. And she was a-sweeping out, and a-cleaning and everybody was buffing around and me, of course, snoop, always running around snooping, had to go around and take in the sights, and I came in screaming - there was a bear took after me; a saloon keeper there, his name was Ed Riley, had this pet; the bear wanted to play with me. Well, I wasn't in a playful mood with the bear. So I run into the dining room a-screaming and yelling and my mother took the broom to him, and bee come after the bear. So we were forced out by a big flood.

CR: Out of Bonners Ferry, and you moved to Troy then to the hotel. Now, can you remember what year your father was born?

MB: No, I can't, honey. He lived...he died when he was seventy-eight, and he has been gone sixty-two years about.

CR: Can I use your paper...okay, 1975 minus sixty-two years, ...so he died in 1913.

MB: Uh-huh. Now when we moved to Troy, if this interests you, alright, if it don't, I won't bother...

CR: Yeah, ..no, tell me.

MB: The Great Northern was not really complete yet. There were alot of very sharp curves, there'd be an engine go in the river quite often or a train, and they'd make most of the men work at making ties by hand. They had a old ax...the ax part would be like that...and that's the way most people were making a living, making ties. And then there was alot of prospecting going on.

CR: Down by Troy?

MB: Yeah.

CR: Were they finding gold? What were they panning for?

MB: Well, mostly it'd be around like lead around there. There is still a mill that operates sometimes. It's called the 'Old Snowstorm'. And then of course, anytime we wanted some chickens or fish, wild, like deer we just went and got it.

CR: You wouldn't need a license or anything?

MB: I don't think; I might be wrong, but I think I'm right. There wasn't any game laws then, you know. Not until the forest service was created, then we got game wardens.

CR: When was that?

MB: There you go again...my husband was one of the first rangers.

CR: He was? Oh, I might be interested in hearing about that!

MB: And, they were sending three,..five rangers to Missoula.

CR: I just got back from the Missoula Ranger Station.

MB: From the Ranger Station?

CR: Well, actually I was at the Soula^{PR?} Ranger Station, near Missoula.

MB: Well, anyway he was to have his fare paid, his books bought, his tuition paid; well, we had a little money, we'd saved money preparing for marriage,

and, well, this come like a slap on the face, you know. We looked at our bank account and five months ahead of us, but anyway, we figured out by living on five dollars a week we could make it.

CR: Oh! That wouldn't work now, would it?

MB: Oh, my God, I don't think so. But I was always a good cook, and believe me, I made it go five dollars a week, and he finished his course.

CR: Where was he studying?

MB: At the University.

CR: Of Idaho?

MB: Yeah, ...uh, oh, Montana, in Missoula, and he finished his course; well, we had a few dollars, getting awful tight though.

CR: Did he graduate from High School?

MB: Yes.

CR: And then he took that course...

MB: Yes. First chemistry and geology; it was everything pertaining to timber and rock.

CR: So he had more education than most people at the time I imagine.

MB: Yes. And, there is something else they did alot of at that time was trapping. Alot of them; well, it didn't take much to set up those traps, you know. And my husband, he was born in Green Bay, and came out here well, to make it rich, you know, he was twenty years old right then, and immediately he fell in with an old trapper, an old man. And trapped and made a living; pretty good money. But he was a ranger first; he didn't stay with it simply because I did ~~rather~~ have rather poor health at that time. - I don't look it now - and I was alone all of the time, you know, we had a baby, and he quit and went to logging.

CR: Now at the time that he went to school to be a ranger, you were married then...

MB: Yeah.

CR: And, were you satisfied...your plans were just to stay at home and have children...

MB: Yeah.

CR: That's what you wanted to do?

MB: That's what I wanted to do.

CR: And he wanted to do that...

MB: Yeah, and I had two children...I had two boys...is all I've had. Now my younger son now, I had quite a time with him. He was very active, quite social, and he only took one year of college and got married. And he is still in this country here. He just sold a saw mill, a logging outfit - with heavy equipment, and the treating plant. Now this treating plant, he made up his own solution to treat the timbers; well, all of these pines. He sells to all of them, or did; he just sold that out. He made up his own chemistry to treat this sunshine chest - it's mahogany, and it made him alot of money; he was very successful. But he was ill-he's sixty-two now-he was quite ill, well, about six weeks ago; we didn't think we'd have him. There was a tumor formed on the colon, and he was in surgery six hours, in surgery, but he come out alright, perfect. He has to manage it for maybe six months; he wants to manage it until his interests are protected, and he only had one year of college.

CR: Okay, you had two sisters you said, can you tell me their names?

MB: Yes. The oldest one is Nora, and her married name, not her single name, the marriage name is Stonechest, formal name.

CR: And what was the other sister's name?

MB: Pearl, and her name was Pierce.

CR: And did you have a brother?

MB: Yes, now wait a minute, the oldest one was William Johnson, Wilson Johnson, Henry, and Burnei].

CR: Hmm, had a big family!

MB: Yeah, nine.

CR: Now did all those brothers come with you on your trip from Washington to Bonners Ferry?

MB: No.

CR: Just one?

MB: As I remember, see I'm very old. This name Stonechest, of course, is peculiar, but he was born in Holland, and the name Stonechest in Holland stooges...a fine name, huh?

CR: I can see why they changed it!

MB: Yes, he went to court and changed it properly; so his name then turned out to be James Cahoburse Stingist, that's what his name was. Well, and after he went and had it fixed up it was Peter James Stonechest.

CR: Okay, and what was your husband's full name?

MB: Frank Fedile; F-e-d-i-l-e; he always hated that name.

CR: Did he, Fedile?

MB: Yeah, that, you know, my youngest son, the one I was just telling you about that had these interests here, she was frightened when we were out to dinner one night and it was getting close to time and someone said, "Well, when are you going to the hospital?". Well, she says, "Any minute.."; well, she went instantly. But anyway, with this name and my son I was sitting by, he says, "If it's a boy, which it's going to be..", he had three other girls, he had three girls, and of course, we were praying for a boy, "...is a boy, his name is going to be Frank Fedile." Well, and that kid likes that name...easy 'cause nobody else has got it!

CR: Now, your husband's first job then, well first he was a trapper you said, and then he was a ranger, and then...?

MB: A logger. I have cooked all through the war. I have cooked many a, many a meal for lumberjacks...I'm a lumberjack...

CR: You are? Are you really?

MB: No, not really; always married to a lumberjack.

CR: I should have had Irma come and interview you—one of the other women who's working with us—is the wife of a logger.

MB: Oh? What's his name?

CR: Umm.. she's from Bovill...but she lived up here alot; well, now maybe she didn't live here, she had a sister in Wallace, but they used to come up.. no, they did live in Avery...okay, well, anyway, do you know the year your husband was born?

MB: No.

CR: What year did he die, do you remember that?

MB: He died in, well, twenty years ago.

CR: Okay, it was in '55 when he died, and he was how old?

MB: He was seventy-one.

CR: Okay, then we can figure out the year of his birth.

MB: You know, I've battled it alone quite a while.

CR: Yes you have...so it was 1884 when he was born.

MB: Now I'm going to tell you before I've forgotten about it; after he quit the forest service he logged with my brother-in-law and they got into a steep, real brushy country, and they bought two yokes of oxen to log with. I've always wanted to see this, and the timber was so thick and brushy that they couldn't put horses in there; and they made a success with the oxen, they were low enough to get through.

CR: Where was he born?

MB: My husband? Green Bay, Wisconsin.

CR: Oh, that's right, you told me that.

MB: And he was a ballplayer.

CR: He was? What do you mean, when he was younger?

MB: Uh-hmm.

(Friend): Baseball was part of our recreation through all this country in those days.

MB: Yes, I'll tell you, and of course, I've been back to Green Bay several times, we used to alot - well, I went back alone once; but Green Bay is an athletic town. It's a nice old town. I know the first trip we made back there, we were in a section of the town and, oh, the houses looked so dilapidated; in the depression, you wouldn't have money to paint. Oh, I thought mine, you know, didn't look very good. But they had built a new section, new homes. We went back, oh, ten years afterwards, and the old houses had been painted up - they were beautiful. Old fashioned houses, you know. And the new district.....

CR: Mmm...wasn't built as well...huh?

MB: No.

CR: Do you remember what year you were married?

MB: Well, let me see. The big fire was in 1910, we were married in 1909.

CR: Okay. Now, would you like to tell me what happened to you in the big fire?

MB: Well, my husband at that time was a ranger and it rained the first part of May, and that was the last moisture we had.

CR: You were living in Troy then?

MB: In Troy. That was the last rain we had until the first part of September. I was in the hospital then. I was ready to can, you know, and I had some cold raspberries and I was washing them off, of course cool water and I caught cold - it settled in my breast, and I had to go into surgery in Bonners Ferry to have it opened and cared for of. That was a long time without moisture for me until September; the country was dried up. And that night I was in the hospital, and got this breast operated on, and it rained and the band, every band in that part of the country was out playing. And they shipped men in.

CR: Had the fire already started when the rain came?

MB: Oh, yes.

CR: The rain was going to save things then. How long had the fire been burning?

MB: Well, from in May until September, not all the time maybe bad. But, our real bad fire came about in...first of August.

(Friend): It was August that it burned Wallace.

MB: Was it?

(Friend): Yes. You know that book that I showed you the inscription in the back, the letter I pasted in, that's about that time. And it was in August that it burned in Iowa. But, of course, Troy and Libby, that area got it before
~~MB: down here, quite came in that direction, down through that April.~~

MB: That's right. I hated so badly to see the old providence torn down. Everybody'd been there. Went through the fire, they shipped the nuns out; and they tore it down - that made me mad. Anyway, of course, they had no equipment then like they have now. Like bulldozers where they can buldoze and make a road or something; everything then was by hand and foot. And the night that they...we were all nervous that night - it was getting awfully close.

CR: This was in August?

MB: Yeah. Every little while I'd here men. There'd be men trooping along, you know, a string of them, dressed up - some of them - they pulled them off the streets, you know.

(Friend): In Rapids and Spokane...and Boulder, and everything else.

MB: Yeah. Anyway they can get it torn down; maybe they'd have a pick, or a shovel, or an ax, and dressed up!

(Friend): They spoke of the fire - reached clear back to Minnesota; the Minnapolis newspapers told about it.

MB: I know! I know it did. Oh, it was bad; the dangers. Well, the day of the 'big' fire, I was at the Ranger Station - alone with my new baby; he wasn't very old. And, I laid down to take a little rest, and when I woke up, I couldn't see! I thought, "My God, where is the fire?"...

CR: It was all smoke you mean?

MB: And I took sheets, and throwed alot of diapers and baby clothes in the sheet and tied it up, and started out for Wallace carrying the baby and this bundle.

CR: Where was your husband then?

MB: He ~~had~~ had to be in town for a little while, because he come after me hauling and old horse, a little-bity horse; oh, I, I couldn't see him with hardly anything on top of him.

(Friend): Have you ever seen a forest fire - it travels so fast it's incredible.

MB: You don't have any time; that's all I took was baby clothes. And I hadn't gone very far before my reporter was found - until here come a couple of young girls that he had, well, it was a relative, go out and help me out or something. But anyway, he had a minute and he came in on this old grey horse. Well, my sister had a new home - a big place, a big home - she opened the doors to all the country people that could get in; of course, it was full! And, I can remember the cooking and, well, we just had to eat what we had! And, of course, this had been enjoying, and not much freight shipment and they were getting charged for food. But, we managed and the wind came up and turned it the other way. But, he chartered and engine and some cars to load the women and kids on to take them somewhere; as far away as they could go away from the fire! But, the wind changed, and it didn't harm us.

(Friend): It can change so fast.

MB: But, I've been through. That was terrible, and I was scared...I was young. And afraid. You don't stop at that now-a-days.

CR: How many children did you have?

MB: Two.

CR: And would you give me their names?

MB: Fred and Jem.

CR: And do you remember the years they were born?

MB: Fred was born in 1910 - in the fire - and Jem was born in '13.

CR: And, where were they born?

MB: Troy. There used to be a Leona, there was nothing much there. My sister, they owned the store and the Post Office, and the hotel.

CR: I think you told me your children's occupations...the one had a saw mill, or?

MB: Yeah, a woodsman.

CR: Okay, was that Fred?

MB: No, that was Jem; well, they both are, as far as that's concerned. Fred is running a gas station; has a gas station about three miles this side of St. Marie's. They've always been woodspeople.

CR: Oh, I wanted you to tell me a little bit about your childbirth experiences; did you have the boys at home?

MB: They were both born home.

CR: Did you have help?

MB: Not with Fred; I was going to the hospital in Bonners Ferry. In fact, there were two of us - we were due about the same time. And, she wanted a boy and I wanted a girl...well, I had the boy and she had the girl! However, her husband, just a little while before her baby was born, had smallpox, and he passed away, so the sisters, the Hapfords, took her in - gave her a home. And my baby, of course, there was nothing...couldn't get a doctor! And, just, women come in and delivered him. I got along alright.

CR: Some friends?

MB: Yeah.

CR: Were you afraid; was it a new experience that you were afraid of?

MB: Yes, I was very upset. What bothered me - I knew we couldn't get a doctor. Jem was the same way; he came and I planned on Bonners Ferry and that, and he come a long time ahead of time. The youngest boy.

CR: And did you have a hard delivery or anything?

MB: That youngest one, Jem, he weighed twelve pounds.

CR: Oh my God!

MB: And that's enough of that!"

CR: And you didn't need to...I would think it would tear you--didn't you need to have stiches?

MB: Didn't seem to. Now, we had a doctor with Jem. I mean, we didn't know him and he was and old man and had retired. And, was looking for a place to settle, and my family - some of them, I guess my husband - found out there was a doctor passing through. So he went and asked him, he said, "Why, yes." So, well, he came and well, calmed me and relieved me. I think he was living in a tent.

CR: Oh, really?

MB: And, he wasn't born for ten days; this venture can go on all night long.

CR: I want to get some information on you, now. Do you have, how much formal education did you have?

MB: Two years of high school.

CR: Did you want to have more than that? Or was it sufficient for you?

MB: Yes..my people, I've had alot of bad luck, and were quite hard up, and I went to work and helped my family.

CR: Of course, two years of high school at that time was probably more than alot of women had.

MB: I think so, I'm quite sure.

CR: Okay, I'm sure through the years you've picked up lots of different skills, you know, whether it would be canning or sewing or whatever, would you tell me some of your skills?

MB: Well, I always liked to cook. I think cooking was really kind of a hobby with me.

CR: I bet you miss it now, don't you?

MB: Can't even make a pot of coffee.

CR: I'll bet that's hard to get.

MB: Well, you know, I had property here and it's hard to get help, hard for us to have renters - renters are not likely these cities. It used to be, well, a little something - a day here or there they'd do it; now they don't do it at all. So, I was in the hospital, about two years ago and I thought no, I should have somebody with me. I was living in my son's trailer camp a couple of years; I had sold my home. And I decided to sell off everything I had, I had three rentals. I sold them off and I hadn't anything left. I don't mean maybe.

CR: Are you glad or sad?

MB: Yeah, I'm glad to get rid of it. No, it's no bother now to me.

CR: What are you going to do with all that money?

MB: Give it to kids, I suppose.

CR: But they don't need it; they're rich.

MB: Well, they'll use it; I'll probably spend it - this thing is expensive!

This runs me about \$550 a month. So, I spend some.

CR: Why don't you take a little trip or something?

MB: I'll tell you, I had planned on it. In fact, I called - I have a niece with a husband, her husband is an engineer - and he just got off a big job, he's a consultant engineer, and they want me to come; Vancouver. I just talked to them this morning, because I had neglected to write to them. And they, "Well, when you going to make it?" "Well," I said, "I'll make it yet!" I plan on it.

CR: How will you go?

MB: Fly.

CR: That'll be nice. Fly out of Spokane.

MB: Yeah, fly out of Spokane, doesn't take long to get there.

CR: Some people are afraid of flying; you're not afraid?

MB: I have a great grandson who just left to go back to Colorado Springs, and he's a flyer. He just got his license to teach others. And, they were

here three weeks. And they went back; he's got another year, then he'll be through. Now I have another one that is a captain in the Air Force in Germany, and he has been released. And, he is on his way home.

CR: Will he come and see you then?

MB: Oh, yes. Yes, he will; pretty quick after he arrives.

CR: Well, tell me some more of the skills, some more of the things you like to do, or that you used to like to do.

MB: Well, as I say, cooking...

CR: ...was your favorite thing...

MB: ...of all things, and I've held down some big jobs.

CR: Have you? Tell me about those.

MB: When I was sixty-two, I'm eighty-seven, when I was sixty-two I had a, well, it was a probably average of forty men, loggers.

CR: And you cooked for them?

MB: Of course, I had some help, but I loveded every minute of it.

CR: Did you have any other kinds of jobs?

MB: Well, during the period of years if I was not doing anything, I went out nursing quite a bit. I wasn't a nurse...

CR: But you knew about it...

MB: I knew quite a bit.

CR: Did you ever help people deliver babies or anything?

MB: No, I never did. I have been in surgery a couple of people.

CR: You have? In a home?

MB: No, in the hospital; older people, nervous and wouldn't go in to be operated on, and I have seen two operations.

CR: Did you like that or not?

MB: Yeah, I kinda've seen the inside of everything...different that the outside.

CR: Any other kinds of things that you did?

MB: No, not in particular.

CR: Do you like reading or sewing knitting, or crocheting?

MB: Oh, I love to read and I love to knit, but my eyes don't take it anymore.

CR: Yeah, well you did before though.

MB: No, now I can't see good enough.

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

MB: I don't think so, I wouldn't say anything is a talent.

CR: Lots of things are talents; your cooking was a talent.

MB: Well, yes I mean that, you know.

CR: You never played an instrument or anything like that?

MB: Piano.

CR: Did you? See! Probably are lots of things; I have to pull them out of you, come on, you have to volunteer this information!

MB: Well, I had a piano...I sold it; I haven't anything.

CR: Have you ever entered anything in 4-H Fairs or County Fairs or anything?

MB: No, I never did. I liked to cook and can, and glop the food up, that's why I'm so big, I guess.

CR: You're not very big. Okay, did you ever belong to any clubs or groups or anything?

MB: About a month ago I received my little diamond, and I got a life-membership to the 'Stars'.

CR: What's the 'Stars'?

MB: Well, it's supposed to be the biggest, best women's club. Yeah, fifty years. They gave me a big celebration, and I got the little pin, it's small, like that - a star with the diamonds. I'm awfully proud of that.

CR: Yeah, that's nice. Well, what did that group do, what kind of an organization was it?

MB: Well, I don't know, do you belong to any lodge or...

CR: No, that's why I don't know what it is.

MB: Well, it's an organization and our work, of course, I'm talking about the 'Stars' now, our work all comes from the Bible. Our work is unwritten.

CR: Is it something like the 'Masons'?

MB: It's the women's organization of the 'Masons'.

CR: Oh, I see.

MB: And, I have a life-membership; now on this membership I paid ~~in~~ into what you call the "Home"-Fund! It is five dollars a year; I've paid in now for fifty years. So, if I would become broke, or have to have help, I could move into a home. I think our biggest home is in Southern California. But, I've got another home if I ever get kicked out of here!

CR: Have you been doing anything to get kicked out of here?

MB: No. Oh, I get balled-out quite a bit.

CR: What for?

MB: Smoking in the wrong spot! Someplace.., they're awful nice to me, I have

~~CR:~~ no kick. Only it does take alot of money, alot of it.

CR: Do you consider yourself kind of a country girl or rural type.

MB: Yes.

CR: And do you like thinking of yourself that way?

MB: Yes, I like it that way.

CR: How come?

MB: I don't know, of course as a young person, I didn't live in the city. I've been through to visit, but never to live there. And, I just acquired a... that I prefer the country.

CR: What do you like about the country?

MB: Well, room...you can get out and walk around without a thousand people staring at you; I just like it. And, of course, I used to, not any more - I'm too crippled - I enjoyed going out on picnics, or camping a week-end or a week or so; I can recall many nice times I had with my mom and dad. Going out picking huckleberries, or something like that. No, I like the

country. Really, when you stop to think about it, you go into a city, you see all the high, high buildings and they all look alike; to me they do.

CR: When you were married, can you tell me a little bit about your relationship with your husband, I mean, did he ever ask your advice on things?

MB: I'll tell you, he was a very hard worker. I took care of the business.

CR: You had a business with him?

MB: So it wasn't news to me when he away before at all.

CR: Had you been keeping the books and managing it and everything?

MB: Yeah, and then I had quite a little bit of property when he died.

CR: I've been finding out alot that alot of the women had helped manage and kept books for their husband's business; I guess it's just one way that rural women can help out.

MB: Yeah.

CR: Well, when there were big decisions to make like when he was a ranger and you were alone alot, then he was thoughtful of you I guess. Was that his main reason for quitting?

MB: Yeah because he...at that time there were no roads, there was no telephone; maybe a telephone, oh, thirty miles or something. And, of course, me living in that lodge alot just alone.

CR: So he was being thoughtful of you.

MB: Oh, well, he was awfully good to me. I can't understand, you know, he was such an honest, decent person...and yet he be like he was taken too soon, but we think back. Now there's one thing I don't want to forget before I cut loose from you - is about our flood.

CR: Tell me about that.

MB: Well, that flood was in '16 and '17, I mean, I don't know just what year, because it was at Christmastime. And, we were living up the river, oh, maybe ten miles up the river - we had a logging job - and the oldest boy,

however, was older, he was seven and the youngest one was three years younger. And, quite alot of snow, and we were right on the bank of the river; in fact, we had a tent - oh it'd probably be twice as big as this room with a good floor in it and boards up quite a ways, and then the tent. And the boy had to walk about, oh, two miles to school. And, I don't know that morning when he left, it was raining, and yet there was snow. I was rather watchful and thoughtful that day, and he had to cross the river on a whiplog and that wasn't easy, but then...water. And I had often, when I would know it was time for him to come home, I would delay just a little bit to see if he would attempt to walk it; he never did. But anyway, I walked across the logs and helped him over to the camp, and it rained; it seemed to me like it was water pouring all night. And, every once in a while I'd get up and look to see if the river was high as I thought it was - well it wouldn't be. But the next morning it started to come, and I had nine men, crew people, and always kept plenty of groceries, of course, and meat. In fact, that day I had a quarter of beef delivered. And, after being pulled out of here, we went to another camp. I walked four miles on the mountain. And I thought, "Thank God I got that quarter of beef." I was still thinking of feeding the men because the roads had washed out; the railroad washed out! That's when the railroad washed out through Ederville, you know, upside-down. Well, anyway, I wasn't too restful that morning, but I fed the men at eleven o'clock. And, my land, all of a sudden the water began to come in and I began to put on clothes on the children - to keep them as warm and as dry as I could. I didn't think much of myself, but I got the kids dressed warm. By the time I got them ready, I had a long window like this above my worktable, and they had to break the window out, of course, they were in a hurry, and pull the kids and I out of the window. And, there was a low place, kind of a swampy affair, they had to fall a tree across that for the kids and I to walk to

mountain. Then we had this four or five mile walk to another camp - they were up in the mountain higher. And we started off the walk, and the little fellow, of course he's a man now - thirty-two - he said the only thing he remembers about us leaving was me falling. And I fell with my head down-hill! Well, my husband pulled and even the seven-year-old tried; I had an awful time trying to get out of an old bag car; they had logged it, you know, then piled it in the brush, and, of course, was soft and I can't see it. But anyway, I got over to the other camp, and the woman that was cooking there was big - I always was - and I could wear her clothes. But the kids, I had to take their clothes off and dry them before they had many to put on, although I had them well-dressed. Well we had to stay there three days before the water went down. I had a sky-light above my work-table - a window in the roof, you know - and there were three men went over to see what was going on. Of course, that window was open that we broke to get me out; the water was just on top of the table. So, anyway, well then we waited for it to go down and we hopped back! We all stayed over there; we had no place to go. And, of course, I was still a-fretting about food. Well, I had just bought a case of butter, the butter was filled, and I thought, "Oh, I've got that meat!" So I went out and got my quarter of beef and cut it, and I thought it felt funny - kind of gritty or something...we couldn't eat it...it was full of gravel! Well, then we didn't have any meat. But, I had flour - we had cloth sacks then - and, of course, the water was around it, but it formed a crust. I could reach down and get the flour, and we had bread; we didn't have much to eat. Oh, that broke us. I'll tell you, I know what it is to be awfully poor. We lost everything! Our shoot washed out, the roads washed out, we had nothing.

(Friend): Took so much work to build it.

MB: Oh, we were so poor.

CR: How long was it before you had money or supplies?

MB: Well, of course, I had friends that sent clothes and things; you know, they knew about the size...I wasn't fussy - just something to wrap around me! Oh, it took us quite a little while, then I took sick; I was miserable and trying to work and I couldn't. We had a little place in Edaville - little home, two bedrooms, and the kitchen, dining room and living room. The water was on top of the mattresses, and mud; and what few clothes I'd left there were destroyed. I know my rug was just mud like that; they took it up, though - some of the friends - and took it down to the river and let the water run through it. Finally, it got dry enough and clean enough that I had it cleaned, but it never looked the same. Oh, we were poor.

CR: Now, was that during the depression too - was that depression time?

MB: Well, no.

CR: What happened to you during the depression?

MB: Well, we were very fortunate. My husband was timberchief of the Haccoff Mining Company; he never missed a payday. His wages were cut, but he never missed a payday.

CR: They still were able to pay him.

MB: And, of course, we helped alot of people. I know he always said, "Now listen, we're awfully lucky. People, ~~wespecially with kids,~~ have got to have food." Well, then for \$10 I could buy quite alot of groceries. I sent out a good many \$10 worth of groceries. Because people had been hungry! But, he never missed a payday.

CR: Where were you living then during the depression?

MB: Oh, lived in Wallace, had some property here and I kept it rented, and, of course, I had to pay rent there. But, we were lucky.

CR: And then, what about the First and Second World Wars; your husband wasn't involved with the wars?

MB: No, not at all. All we had done was work. In the last war, of course, we were out of Orofino up in the mountains, and I cooked all the time - we

couldn't get help. And, I learned...I made up alot of new recipes that if I were in my home now, I would still use them.

CR: What were they?

MB: Well, one of them, I called it a Bean Loaf. I would boil the beans and get them quite tender, and then put them through a food-grinder and would mix, oh, take the cheap cuts of meat like pig's feet or something like that, and cook them and grind them and put them in there. And, oh,spices or whatever I wanted to add to it, and bake it and tried to aim to have broth sometimes to make gravy to put over it. It was awfully good!

CR: Sounds good. People need to know those recipes now, because food is so expensive.

MB: Yes; I don't know if people would try to do it. I'm so sorry for kids today - well, we were lucky.

CR: Well, I guess everybody learns how to manage; you had real poor times, too, and everybody has to learn how to live through them.

MB: I often think now what would happen if a real depression would come, you know. The young people...how many people,just married - they don't know how to cook, they don't know how to make bread; they'd have a time wouldn't they?

CR: I guess so; I was kind of lucky too! Because I, well, I was in the Peace Corps for a couple years in South American in a little rural village, you know, and I had to bake my own bread and learn how to cook things like you did, you know; had to buy things from the villiage market that weren't packaged and...

MB: ...no...

CR: ...so I learned some of these things, but alot of young women don't know how to do that. And, I know how to sew; alot of girls don't know how to sew.

MB: Well, you're lucky, you're lucky. That's all that a girl cared to.

CR: Well, things are so different now.

MB: They have things at home that occupy their time, and they don't bother.

CR: Do you think sometimes, sometimes when I talk to older women like you I get the feeling that you had such a, you felt like you had a lot of meaning to your life, you know, when you were younger and as you grew older and everything?

MB: I often think about it; I remember my first...oh, that was a thrill, my first phonograph. My mother was in the hotel, I told you she run, and there was a fellow that come along with a phonograph and some records and a big horn. And, of course, she told him he could have a portion of the dining room to have people come in. Well, I got a hold of a nickel and put it in, and the song wasn't appropriate for me - I only got a few notes, and away went my nickel! My mother.., wouldn't let me listen to it. Yes, I remember my first phonograph....remember my first moving picture.

CR: Oh, tell me about that.

MB: Well, it was nothing. It was a boat, and people walking on the deck.

CR: Did they have a movie-house or something where you saw it?

MB: Yeah.

CR: Where - in Troy?

MB: Libby. Yeah, just walking around; free picture.

CR: It was a silent picture?

MB: Yeah, but that was wonderful.

CR: Must have been exciting to see something like that.

MB: Oh, out of this world.

CR: Well, did you have radio at that time?

MB: No.

CR: The motion picture came before radio, huh?

MB: Yeah. No, we didn't have no TV; nothing.

CR: I know you didn't have TV.

MB: No, I remember the first one I've seen was in Green Bay.

CR: A TV?

MB: Yeah, it was New Year's and there was a tavern close by where we were staying with some of these people and, oh, the T.V. was there. And, they were serving a dinner and their main course was champagne-baked, ham baked in champagne. Well, we went to eat some to see this television. Why, if a noise or a car within a block would come - there it was. Like this, but we thought it was wonderful.

CR: Tell me a story about your husband so that I can get a feeling for what kind of person he was.

MB: Well, my husband, of course, came from a big family. And his father was the wholesale liquor dealer, in Green Bay. And, I've seen pictures of their home and they seemed to have everything. He was a very..., I'm inclined to be a little bit outspoken, you know, in Jerry's story - and, enjoy a story, and I always have fun. Well, he was very quiet; I don't know how he ever lived with me. And, honest. I'll tell you, when we lost him people came from miles, miles, miles; he had a lot of friends. And, as I say, he was a quiet person. He left home and got out in the woods, and kind of pulled-back from his church.

CR: Do you know why - did he ever say why?

MB: Yes, there were things he just couldn't figure out.

CR: Like what?

MB: Well, what really the meaning of these things are; what it means to him - and he wasn't a very good Catholic. Of course, I was a Protestant, which was never mentioned, never. And, I've always felt that maybe he left home a little early because the mother and the father, not the father so much, but the children seemed to stick to it better; I think he felt like he was a little outsider. And then, of course, he became a 'Mason'.

And, I became a 'Star'. Well, he was very well thought of; very nice disposition, good to his family. We were talking the other night about punishing children. I don't ever think I've seen him strike one of them - to spank them. I did.

CR: I was going to ask you, "Did you?"

MB: Yeah, I would, but not him. He always said...I'd say, "Oh, there's an awful bad kid..." a mean kid or something...he'd always say, "There is not such a thing as a bad child." Now I still think there is. Yeah, he was a very wonderful person; we had a very happy life.

CR: Well, you know, there are a lot of loggers now, they, well loggers kind of have the reputation that they drink a lot and they, you know, go to houses of prostitution and things like that; now, your husband didn't...was it like that when he was a logger and he just didn't do that?

MB: No, I'll tell you, of course, I met him when I...he was ten years older than I, and he worked in the woods mostly for a while for my brother-in-law that was a logger, and I can remember him getting up a bunch of kids like me - my age, four or five - and take us to a show, or take us someplace. But, no, he was always a good person. I know I was quite resentful about losing him; I couldn't understand why a person like him had to be taken so young - I though seventy-two was young, but that time had come.

CR: Have you resolved that in your mind now - do you feel better about it?

MB: Well, yes.

CR: I guess you have to accept it.

MB: You have to, whether you want to or not. I feel so sorry here, for all of the people.

CR: Why?

MB: Well, I mean, this is expensive - they haven't money; most of them, of course, get a Social Security check, and they get back a few dollars out of it, you know, \$20 or something for personals. But, I know a lot of them

worry terribly, "Well, how will I pay it next month; what will happen next month?".

CR: Don't they get their check every month?

MB: Oh, yes, Social Security.

CR: But, that's not enough?

MB: That's not enough! Well, my land; I, last month, mine was \$534.00, and then it has run up to \$600.

CR: If you need more medication or something?

MB: Yeah, that medicine's terrible. Of course, I'm alright.

CR: Well, can't you, can't they get Medicaid from the government or something?

MB: Well, now, I don't think this place carries it; some of them don't - they don't help the good Samaritan, we don't get it. And my little jar, I've taken this medication - it's for bladder trouble; I don't take it all the time, but sometimes - about that high, about that much - ends, about \$12.30.

CR: Well, Myrtle, let me ask you a few more questions. I suppose that you, do you read magazines or watch, listen to the news or anything?

MB: Listen, honey, I can't anymore on account of my eyes. Like yesterday, oh, I had these relatives from Canada, and she called me about a month ago and we had a long talk and the next day I wrote her a long letter. Well, then yesterday, a day before yesterday, came a letter from her says, "What on earth is happening?", says, "We haven't heard from you and we're worried and why don't you write?" Well, evidently, they didn't get that long letter that I wrote right after she called and they were worried. And, as I say, I don't; that writing yesterday...now last night my eyes felt swollen, and they were red...just from writing a letter, a long letter - I can't read! And, I don't watch alot of television - unless I don't look at it.

CR: Well, what do you think...it seems like women today are doing more, going more toward professional work, and they're having, alot of times they have

their children taken care of in day-care centers and so on. That's alot different than the way you lived your life, and how do you feel about that?

MB: I think it's wrong entirely.

CR: And, what are your reasons for that?

MB: Well, I think that there's a love - there's always - you have to have love, and there's no love like a mother's love; I think. A father might like them just as well, and all this kind of stuff, but a mother's love goes deep. I can never remember, it seems to me - unless she, my mother was out ~~won't~~ a baby for somebody, of coming home from school and not finding my mother! Now, some people are not too particular who they choose for a babysitter, and I feel that really rejection. ~~lous.~~ I think a mother should take care of her children. Of course, there is a money part; but, by the time you pay a babysitter, you don't have alot left!

CR: What if a women is divorced or something and she doesn't have any way to have money?

MB: Well, the welfare takes care of them.

CR: How do you feel about women being on welfare?

MB: Well, I've rented to quite alot of them. I know I rented to one woman, wasn't a very big house, but she had three little ones, and, it was sixty (Dollars) a month; I was always cheap on rent. And, she got to doing things that the neighbors didn't approve of - too many parties, too much drinking, and she always kicked , every time she paid that rent, she kicked...although it was welfare. I thought, "Well, I'll raise your rent! And she'll leave!" So I raised the rent \$15, and the next day they, Peter - a man from the welfare - called me and he said, "Did you raise Francis' rent?", and I said, "Yes." Ha! That didn't work. No, I think there's too much of that give, give, give. Sometimes it's necessary, but alot of times it's not. I don't believe much in that welfare business.

CR: Do you think life has changed alot for a woman now since you were younger?

MB: Well, they live a different life. I often think of these girls, of course, I'm right there by the station, "Oh, I'm so tired, I am so tired, oh, I'm so tired!" But, after they get off work at 11 o'clock, alot of them, I know, they go out! And, they have families at home. I think there's been quite a change in living, in regards to the mother. I think a mother should go out once in a while or have a good time, and have the kids cared for, but not a steady diet - I don't believe in it. I never wanted to be away from my kids, I enjoyed the kids! What do you think?

(Friend): I think that most mothers have benefitted from being with the kids, more and more. However, not all mothers were good mothers. You know that; there are some kids that don't have much of mothers, even those at home.

MB: I'm sorry for them. Well, I was always quite a hand for children. I know when my sister married and had a little girl, and a fourteen month little boy, well, I raised those kids!

CR: Do you think that families used to help each other more than they do now?

MB: Yes.

CR: I wonder why they don't do that so much now?

MB: Well, I don't know, it seems to me like alot of selfishness. I really always did. I've done one thing in my life that I'm real proud of - I've taken care of five old people in my family. First my mother and father, of course, and then my sister, her husband, my husband.

CR: Well, how do you feel then, would you like someone to take care of you now?
rather than be in here
Rather than be in here now?

MB: Well, I tried the idea of having steady help, but it didn't work out too good because, well, younger people, alot of younger people - I don't say all of them - were a nuisance.

(Friend): Uh, part of it is she's always been so independent, I think, and able to cope in every way and it's difficult. It would be hard for me to stay with the family.

MB: My youngest boy has a big beautiful home; then he has just built a house - it's five miles from Edaville, up in the woods, timber. Well, he's built this house, it has a big livingroom, three bedrooms, and in back of the house, then, is a sauna bath, a bar-b-que room, a guest house, a wash room; it's a big thing.

CR: But, when you were younger, you say, you took care of older people - did you have them in your home?

MB: Uh-huh.

CR: But you wouldn't want to live with any of them and have someone take care you.

MB: No, I don't want to live with any of them.

(Friend): I understand that.

MB: Yeah, they're good to me; my land.

(Friend): I'm sure that Lois and Jim would just love to have you with them if you wanted to stay there. I'll vouch for that.

MB: I know the little boy, he's thirteen, now he's the one that's leaving tonight for Portland to take more swimming, and Jim 's had him up the Antarctic Circle fishing. They are very close, he and that boy. Now, he's come and talked with me the other day, he would tell me all about it. He said, "Well, I might take him to Denver - to be with the coach about ten days. I might," he says, "take a little run down." He said he might get lonesome; now that isn't it at all, they lie to me all the time.

(Friend): Jim's getting lonesome!

MB: Yeah. He's going to get lonesome with the kid! They lie to me all the time! I did almost have a nervous breakdown when he was sick; little hints here, there and...now, I didn't cry - I'm not a crying woman, but I just went into shock like. And, one of the relatives called Lois and said, "Lois, I think you'd better come up and tell all about it." Early, early she came up. She said, "I've stopped in to talk with Jim a minute." I says, "Al-

right." And, she says, "I want to come look you in the eye and tell you the truth," she says, "I've lied so much." Well I said, "You're all liers!" But, she's a wonderful woman.

CR: Myrtle, can you think of any other things that stick out in your mind when you were younger, or being older, a Christmas that you really liked, or a birthday, or a holiday?

MB: Well, I can remember, I kind of remembered my first Christmas. We were on the farm, in Farmington, and we went to a big house - nothing on the floor, just a bare floor and we were all getting sleepy. And, my mother said, "If you would just be still a little while, Santa Claus would come down the chimney." Well, I took that in; I went to sleep and fell and poked my head.

CR: Oh, you bumped your head?

MB: I never did see Santa Claus come down the chimney. Oh, I'll tell you, I always had a good time.

(Friend): Keeps you young.

MB: I always had a good time. Always.

CR: Did you like the dresses you used to have to wear when you were younger - did you wear long dresses and high-top shoes?

MB: Well, yes, because we didn't know any better. We were illiterate! But, of course, as I say, my husband was ten years older than I and he always said, "Well, I fell in love with you when I first seen you.", and he would tell about the dress I had on. It was light-blue and white checks, and it had two ruffles, ha! ha! ha!, around the bottom, and ruffles here...

(Friend): And you mean way down at the bottom!

MB: Yep. Well, we were very happy, you know, he was a good man. I don't know how he ever lived with me, really, because he was quiet and I 'm not!

CR: Is there anything else you wanted to tell me?

MB: There was an old lady, I mean, she was married when I was just a young girl,

and she liked me awfully well, and she hated to cook. And, I lived close and she would call me and..."After you cook dinner - make a cake or make some pies or something, I'll make you a new dress!" And I always dressed well because this woman liked me - she had no girls. She ended up in..out of Reno, close to Reno; she had a boy by her first husband, and then she remarried, again after he died, but this boy of hers he was in high school and he wanted to kill a wild horse. At that time they were making alot of, oh, different things out of horse-hair, and he wanted to go out and kill a wild horse to have the mane and the tail and so forth. Well, his step-father had bought him a .22, and he was awfully proud to get to carry this gun, you know. So, in a couple of days they were in sheep country, as level as this floor, and there was a sheepherder came along and said, "How's my boy?" "Why," he said, "I haven't seen your boy." Well, he left for the camp two days ago or something; they said he never came. Well, they went out by the hundreds searching for him, you know...

CR: Where was this Myrtle?

MB: Close to Reno...and, anyway, they hunted and hunted, and she lost her mind. And, they find her at night - get out of bed and go out to digging the sand, trying to find him. But, anyway, he was gone seven years when there was a big bunch of sheep came over this little mound that had been built, you know, by animals - I mean sheep - in order to cross them over, and there was his body; close to home...close to home! So, of course, she just flipped. And, I went to Reno several times to visit her, we were awfully close - of course, she was alot older than I was. And, when she had her stroke, it was on her deathbed, and they sent for me and I went. But, the boy, the gun had exploded. So, I don't know, I think there is alot of difference in everything.

CR. When you were married, give me an idea of what a normal day would be like for you; what time you would get up and what you would do and so on.

MB: Well, of course, I got up fairly early because he was in school - that's

when he took this course in Missoula, and I was alone alot. I didn't know anybody. And, I was under the impression that I looked horrible.

CR: Why?

MB: Well...I thought I looked horrible, I didn't want strangers getting glaring at me. But we managed to get through what we had to take. On five dollars a week.

CR: So, you'd get up early and make breakfast?

MB: Oh yes, I'd always cook.

CR: Oh, yeah, what'd you have for breakfast?

MB: Well, I never, never was a breakfast eater. He wanted a good breakfast. Of course, he didn't always get it! When we was living on five dollars a week.

(Friend): What was his idea of a good breakfast?

MB: Well, he liked pancakes, and, of course, we would always have either bacon or ham or sausage. Here I...I forgot what a piece of bacon looks like.

CR: You don't get bacon here?

MB: I think we've had it twice. Oh, about a week ago I got hot and hopped on the administrator and he says, "All you have to do is just to re-order, and you'll get more." Well I said, "I've done it with bacon and I never got any." And I had it then. That was my first day here.

I think I have it in one of those other records about my family. Of course, there were three children born in Oregon. They crossed the plains, of course, with everybody else, you know, in the old covered wagon and the oxen, and they landed in Eugene, Oregon. My father went to the Gold Rush in '49, and one of my mother's brothers went. My father, I know nothing about him, very little. He was born in England, and he had a nursemaid. And, she had him, I think he was about four months old, and she was coming here, and she brought him, and he never knew his parents - only that the father was a lawyer. And this woman finally married here in this country,

and had children, but when he was about...

CR: Why would his parents let him go away like that?

MB: I don't know.

CR: You don't think he might have been illegitimate or something?

MB: That's just what I often thought.

CR: I wonder; you know, he might be the son of a famous person like a Churchill

MB: or a Cornwallace or something.

MB: Yes. And anyway, she did tell him the right thing, so she said. Well, the family seemed to resent him a little bit. But, anyway, she was on her deathbed and she called him and she told him that she had brought him from England, and that these people were not his real parents. Well, of course then, he said they wasn't kind to him after that, so he run away and ended up with my mother's people in Missouri. And, then when they came here, of course they, he come with them and they settled around Eugene - they had three children there. He stayed though; he stayed in California in Balsam Acreage in what would now be the center of San Francisco. Of course, he was over there years ago. But, anyway, then they came out to Farmington, and there were six of us born there. But, my father was the first County Commissioner in Whitman County, and they had a, there was just a little...I don't think it was much of a building, although it was big enough to have dances in, so they told me, my sister used to go there to dances. They finally moved ~~down into~~ Colfax and built this suburb, a courthouse. But, he was the first County Commissioner in Whitman County.

CR: Uh-huh. That reminds me of something I wanted to ask you about your life; what did you do for enjoyment - did you ever go to dances or things like that?

MB: I never missed a dance.

CR: You like dancing, huh?

MB: Never missed one.

CR: Also...did you do any other things besides dancing?

MB: Well, I used to be able to sing quite well. In fact, I have sang in the church choir. Now I don't even go to church!

(Friend): Uh, it might be kind of nice if you described some the dances you went to; what kind of dances were they--were they in the schools or a get together for the family?

MB: Well, that was the kind we used to have...I'll tell you something, there was never, when I was a young teenager growing up, there was never a drunk person at a dance. Now, you can't have a good time unless you get drunk before you get there! Ha! Ha! Nope, we never had drinking.

CR: How did you meet your husband?

MB: Well, he came out from Green Bay - a young man - and worked for my brother-in-law.

CR: Were you staying with your brother-in-law?

MB: Alot of the time, yes...because I liked those kids...I wanted to be with the kids! Yeah!

CR: And you fell in love?

MB: Fell in love; he was a wonderful person

CR: And, what was your courtship like; was it a long courtship?

MB: Yeah, as I say, he had a wonderful disposition; I never did have a 'sweet' disposition. I don't know how he ever lived with me.

CR: What was courting like? What did you do for courting?

MB: Well, go to dances, go to a show.

CR: Did you have to have a chaperone or anything?

MB: No, I never did.

CR: You two would go together?

MB: Yeah. Mostly there was a gang of us. I was telling the folks the other night, we were talking about, oh, the other kids around, and I said, "Well, I remember the first time a boy kissed me, and they laughed, you know, 'hee,

hee, hee', and I said, "It was the preacher's son." Ha! Ha! My first kiss from a boy was from the preacher's son!

CR: Were you shocked?

MB: We were about fifteen, and it scared me to death! I thought, "Oh, my God! Kissed by a boy! Why, that's terrible!"

CR: And, you were how old when you got married then?

MB: 22.

CR: So, you ~~were~~ a little older than a lot of girls were too.

MB: Yeah, I was an old maid.

CR: Were you...were you getting worried that you wouldn't get married?

MB: No, no, no. I knew when I got ready, I had one all picked out.

CR: Okay, well, I think that we've covered most of the...

MB: I was going to tell you, I slipped up a little bit, uh, when we moved from, well, not me - I wasn't born - but, when my family moved to Eugene, mother hadn't been living there long before she had a baby, a baby boy - Burneil, the last one. - And, there was another baby born; they were born at the same time. And there was, though, there was not many minutes between them, their birth - twin - that he was the first white child born in Whitman County; they are sure he was, but there were two of them.

(Friend): Couldn't determine which!

MB: Yeah, and that there were few minutes.

CR: You mean, most of the population was Indian or what?

MB: No.

(Friend): It was raw land...whites hadn't settled yet, see.

CR: Oh, I see.

(Friend): Old folks came, but the babies were either born on the way, or they set on their way later.

MB: You know, my mother has told...I was awfully close to my mother, about liquor. She said they all started out from Missouri with lots of liquor.

They kind of used it for a medication, I guess. And, her grandfather died on the plains, and she said, "When the liquor run out - he died!"

(Friend): He had a week ..ha!

MB: Well, have I been any good to you?

CR: Oh, fantastic!

MB: Well, I'll tell you, if you can get that recording, I made, and test it;

I was unprepared this time, or I would have looked up dates more accurately.

CR: We have a pretty good idea.

MB: But, if you want to. I know you could get, use that record that I made for the students in Coeur d'Alene, because it went to high schools and all.

(Friend): You gave her the particulars on that, did you, she's the one....

CR: I'm writing this up here-now, where would that tape be, do you know?

MB: In the library.

CR: In the library where?

MB: In Coeur d'Alene.

CR: The public library?

MB: I don't know.

(Friend): Maybe those people last night from Coeur d'Alene might locate it.

MB: I don't know. Now, that was the one...did you know Lizzy Kowski?

(Friend): Yes.

MB: Well, it was her son, graduating, that I made it for.

CR: And, you said there was another one at Moscow too?

MB: One in Moscow; now that's the one at the University, I'm sure. Well, that was sponsored by the Retired Teachers; Scrappert.

(Friend): Oh, Bud Scrappert.

CR: That might be...there is another oral history project. Okay, what did you want to tell me now?

MB: The railroad that comes from Harrison, you know, goes on up the moss, that goes through some Indian reservation. And, when they started to build the

road, of course they figured on buying the right of way, and, like you do, you know, and...they said, "no"; they "didn't want any money", all they wanted was when they had to go someplace, they could go on the trail free...ha! ha! Yeah! The indians! Kinda funny.

CR: Did you ever have any trouble with the Indians in your earlier days or anything?

MB: No, no.

CR: They've always been friendly?

MB: I told you, didn't I earlier, didn't I tell you about Chief Joseph going on the rampage?

CR: Uh-uh.

MB: Well, now it would be about the time I was born, about 87 years ago; he went on the war-path and the people around that community, around Farmington, and they were afraid to have their families there. So they, everybody, loaded up their families and divided the ride in a wagon, and went to Colfax. I can't remember whether mother said they put us in a church or a schoolhouse, but there were lots of kids, and they both got rid of the measles. And, my father came, he got worried about if they had enough food and everything, and drove over to see what was going on.

CR: Now, did you say you were little then? Or you weren't born?

MB: I...just a tiny baby. And, mother said, "No, I want to go home." She said, "I would rather fight Chief Joseph than live amongst these sick kids!" So she went home, and she's never seen Chief Joseph.

CR: Now, is there anything else...

MB: Oh, dear...

CR: ...that you want to talk about?

MB: Not off hand...really.