

INDEX

EDNA COCHRANE
Narrator

JEANNE WOOD
Interviewer

<u>Page Number</u>	<u>Tape Meter</u>	<u>Summary of Contents</u>
1	010	Interview begins with personal data record. Born near a country store in Mascot, Nebraska. Narrator moved to Kansas. At age 15 moved with family to Princeton, Idaho. Family came to Idaho by train.
2	037	Mother's maiden name, Zeiger. Born 1870 in Missouri. Died about 1963. Occupation, housewife. Mother married 1894.
3	049	Father. Charles Elmer Bunney. Born 1866 in Missouri. Not sure about date of death. Occupation, farmer.
4	065	Husband. Eugene Cochrane. Born 1896 in Princeton, Idaho. Died 1965. Narrator married 1919 in Moscow.
5	079	Four children. Foy, Marlin, Charles and Duane. Children all working in construction or some aspect of forestry or logging.
6	100	Education. Narrator finished eighth grade. Skills. Quilting and crocheting. Clubs. Narrator belongs to a quilting club, Princeton Community.

<u>Page Number</u>	<u>Tape Meter</u>	<u>Summary of Contents</u>
		Club, Rebekah Lodge, Royal Neighbor, VFW, and Grange. Occupations. Housewife most of her life. Was a depot agent for some time. Awards and honors. Narrator has won some state ribbons for crochet and quilting.
8	139	Childhood. Sister did indoor work while narrator did outdoor work. Narrator milked cows and raised chickens, preferred this work to indoor chores.
9	165	Courtship and marriage. Dated for four years before marrying husband. Married soon after he was discharged from service. Courtship activities. Buggy rides, sleigh rides and skiing.
11	190	Brief history of married life. First moved into mother-in-law's house (father-in-law deceased). Narrator lived with husband, mother-in-law, and brothers- and sisters-in law until moving into present house. Narrator frequently cared for mother-in-law and husband's brothers and sisters.
12	213	Family planning. No discussion of birth control; narrator comments that she just took what came.
13	234	Narrator's chores as a housewife. Worked in the home, fields, gardening, raising chickens, cooking, etc. Narrator always enjoyed outdoor work.
15	260	Decision making in the family. Husband made most of the decisions, although narrator notes that the home was her own area.
15	267	Feelings about rural life. Narrator prefers farm life and small towns; has never wanted to live in a city. Narrator comments that a big difference between farm women and city women is that farm women have a lot more work to do, at least narrator did. Brief account of all the children and adults she has either cared for or raised. Narrator cared for her husband's brothers and sisters, raised her sister's two daughters when her sister died.

<u>Page Number</u>	<u>Tape Meter</u>	<u>Summary of Contents</u>
		Raised her husband's sister's two boys when sister-in-law died. Narrator also cared for husband's aunt and for her own mother. Comments that it just seemed like her duty to do this and that there was no one else to care for these people.
17	307	Narrator's life compared to her mother's life. Narrator feels her life has been very similar to her mother's. Both narrator and mother were farmer's wives and took care of their families.
17	318	Story about a terrible windstorm (or cyclone) when narrator was a girl. Family had to stay in the cellar and the roof of their house was blown off.
19	361	End of interview.

JW: Pardon me?

EC: Bunney.

JW: Did you have any nicknames that you'd care to tell us?

EC: I used to. They used to call me "Tiny," but I sure ain't tiny anymore!

JW: Your date of birth?

EC: December 25, 1896.

JW: And the place of birth?

EC: You mean the town or state?

JW: Town or state, either one, both I guess.

EC: Well, I was born near a country store, the name of Mascot, Nebraska; but the post office was Oxford.

JW: That's fine. And where was the first place you lived in Idaho?

EC: In Princeton. I moved from Nebraska to Kansas.

JW: And did you move from Kansas out to Idaho?

EC: I was only in Nebraska three years.

JW: Oh, you just came out really young then?

EC: Yes. When I was 15, I came out from Kansas to Idaho.

JW: And do you know the approximate year that you came out to Idaho?

EC: 1912.

JW: 1912, okay. How did you come out?

EC: By train. My father bought a coach or a boxcar with the household goods and things in it.

JW: And any companions on this trip?

EC: My mother and father, sister and one brother, grandmother and grandfather.

JW: Okay. What was your mother's maiden name?

EC: Zeiger.

JW: Do you know her date of birth?

EC: May 15, 1870.

JW: Do you know where she was born?

EC: Missouri.

JW: And the date of her death?

EC: 1963, I don't know just the date.

JW: Oh, that's okay, the year is fine. Do you know her occupation or jobs that she had?

EC: Just a housewife.

JW: That's fine. Any chance, the year that she married?

EC: 1894.

JW: Your father's name?

EC: Charles Elmer Bunney; we call him both names.

JW: And the date of his birth?

EC: October 20, 1866.

JW: The place of his birth?

EC: Missouri.

JW: When did he die?

EC: I can't remember.

JW: That's all right, it's not necessary that you give us his death. His occupation or jobs?

EC: Farmer.

JW: Any brothers or sisters?

EC: I had one sister and two brothers.

JW: What were their names?

EC: Mary was my sister, and Glen and Preston.

JW: I think I've got another page of stuff here. Your husband's name?

EC: Eugene.

JW: Occupation or jobs he had?

EC: Farmer.

JW: Date of his birth?

EC: February 3, 1896.

JW: Place of his birth?

EC: Princeton.

JW: What year did he die?

EC: 1965.

JW: Do you have the date and the place you were married?

EC: Moscow.

JW: Moscow? What was the date?

EC: May 14, 1919. Were we married in the parsonage over there and it still stands.

JW: Oh really, that's nice. And children's names?

EC: Foy, Marlin, Charles, and Duane.

JW: Their occupations?

EC: Foy is now working on construction work; Marlin is a logger; Charles is down at the mill; and Duane is at Potlatch.

JW: Date or place of birth?

EC: Well, Duane was born in Moscow at the hospital.

JW: And the rest were born at home?

EC: Charles was born in the Potlatch hospital. They were born 1920, 1925, 1930, and 1935.

JW: That's easy to remember. Could you tell me your education?

EC: Eighth grade.

JW: Eighth grade? A little personal information about you or any certain kinds of skills that you have? Well, I see that quilting is an important skill. I'll write that down.

EC: Quilting and crocheting.

JW: Oh, wow!

EC: And collecting.

JW: What do you like to collect?

EC: I just started teaching. This gentleman made my board up there the other day.

JW: Oh!

EC: Water glasses, 50 vases in there.

JW: Clubs, groups or societies that you belong to, church organizations?

EC: I belonged to a quilting club, Princeton Community Club, the Rebekah Lodge, Royal Neighbor, VFW, and the Grange.

JW: My goodness.

EC: Belonged to the Butte over in Moscow. That's all, I guess.

JW: That's a lot. Occupations or jobs that you've held in your life?

EC: Housewife. I filled in for the depot agent in Princeton once.

JW: Any awards, honors or ribbons that you've won?

EC: There's my ribbons on the curtain in there.

JW: Oh my goodness.

EC: Crocheting and some quilts. It won a few state ribbons and it went national, once.

JW: Do you remember your childhood? Do you feel like you were treated differently than your brothers, that they had different chores than you did as a child, that you had to do?

EC: It's my brother, my older brother. He was older than I was, two years and he was sickly lots of times. I was an outdoor girl, my sister was an indoor girl. She done the inside work, I took care of chickens and milked cows.

JW: That was what you preferred?

EC: Yes.

JW: Rather than being indoors? Do you see families nowadays as different or similar to families when you were a girl?

EC: Not particularly, it's all about the same. They have lots more going on and things. More was done in going to school and lots more than I used to do. But, my first day of school was a sod schoolhouse.

JW: Did you dance?

EC: We danced.

JW: That's interesting.

EC: We went to school three months in one district and three months in another because we couldn't afford a teacher in both of them, so we went in fall in one and in spring in another.

JW: What sort of social class did you see yourself in? Was there about the same as all your neighbors around you or in a different class?

EC: It was about the same, just about the same. I don't know, we just went to parties and danced at basket suppers and things like that.

JW: How long did you know the man that you married before you married him?

EC: We came in 1912 and I met him in 1919. He was in the service, that's the only time he left the place was while he was in the service.

JW: What basis did you decide to get married? Why did you decide to get married?

EC: Well, we just went together four years and all of a sudden it got to be a habit. He had to go in the service, you know, and he got that discharge in March and we were married in May.

JW: How did your parents feel about the man you wanted to marry? Did they like him?

EC: Yes.

JW: Did you do anything unusual or anything that you'd like to tell about that we might be interested in when you were courting, different than what we might do nowadays?

EC: Well, we always went for buggy rides, sleigh rides, and we had nice skiing. Down here at Potlatch one time, I know the kids had been coasting up and down the street, and our sled went right on around the horses and we got stuck right down here on one of these streets. Funny thing, we lost the halters to his horses and then his dad got at me for losing them!

JW: Did it ever occur to you not to get married?

EC: No. I decided to wait, my mother was married when she was 24, and I was gonna wait til she did. But I was 22 when I got married.

JW: Do you remember the reasons why you got married?

EC: No. It was just time to get married, I guess.

JW: How did you feel after a year of marriage? Was marriage what you thought it was going to be before, when you were single?

EC: Oh, sure. He was running the place for his mother then. His father had died and we moved out there with her and his three sisters. Then when she died, his mother moved to Moscow, put the girls in school. Then she died and I had the two girls, I guess they was 15 and 16, something like that.

JW: So you took care of your husband's sisters, then?

EC: Yeah, and his brothers. He had some brothers. They always come home on weekends or something like that, always had lots of fun, all of them. His mother would come out from Moscow and spend the summer with us the first year; then she died.

JW: Did you enjoy that or did you think it was a lot of work?

EC: No, I enjoyed it. She liked to come out on the farm and we enjoyed her very much.

JW: Did you feel any different after 10 years of marriage, or five years of marriage?

EC: It's still working. He hangs the bow on the old wall.

JW: How do you feel now about marriage?

EC: Now? No, I wouldn't get married again, no.

JW: Looking back on your marriage?

EC: I don't know how it could be any better. We enjoyed life. We were always happy together.

JW: Did you ever have any discussion about whether you wanted children or not, you and your husband, whether to have children?

EC: Not them days, you just took what come.

JW: Did you have any interesting childbirth experiences that you'd like to share with us?

EC: Oh no, I guess not.

JW: Did you get much support from your husband when you were having the children?

EC: Oh, you bet.

JW: Was he a good father?

EC: Oh, you bet.

JW: When your children were still young, did you have hopes or plans of what you wanted them to be?

EC: I wanted one of them to be a carpenter and none of them can drive a nail!

JW: Were you interested in carpentry yourself?

EC: No. I don't know, I just wanted one.

JW: Good job. This, you kind of answered: what do you do for recreation and leisure time? You have a lot of clubs and societies that you belong to, plus a beautiful quilt.

EC: That's just a [unintelligible].

JW: Oh, it is? You must have really high standards. It looks real good to me. What was the most significant thing you think you did in your life to support your family? Not just monetary, just in other ways that you helped.

EC: I don't know. I just worked in the fields, at home, in the

garden, chickens, and things like that.

JW: You had to work in the fields?

EC: Oh yes, I loved that.

JW: Did you enjoy that more than you enjoyed housework?

EC: Yes, I always liked to be outside.

JW: Do you have any idea how much trouble your family would have had to take if you hadn't been there, like the canning and the sewing, things like that, if they would have had to do? To hire another three people if you weren't there?

EC: I don't know, we never even thought of it. We just had our own work to do and if I had a headache or was sick or if we were very sick, I had to do it anyway, get their breakfast and stuff. I never trained my boys to wash dishes.

JW: You did the field work and then you'd come back and do housework too?

EC: Yeah. Of course, he always took the kids out with him, when they were little bitsy things. He'd take them out and put them to sleep on the machines he was working on, then he'd bring them in and put them to bed.

JW: Do you think that if you had your life to live over again, to start again, would you do anything different, or would you do it the same?

EC: I suppose I would do it the same.

JW: Who generally made the decisions in your family?

EC: He did. He always went ahead; he was outside, I was inside. The house was mine, the barn was his.

JW: Did he ever consult you when he had an important decision to make, talk it over a little bit?

EC: We always talked it over; but, whatever he said, I thought was all right. That's the way he did it. We always got along, that's one thing.

JW: How do you feel about living in a small rural area when you lived out there? Did you ever have a desire to live in a city? You wouldn't have liked to live in something like Spokane or Seattle?

EC: No, we lived there on the farm. He got the bad leg and we couldn't stay; then we moved to Lewiston. He got the bad leg when he bought this place and he died within the month. And he said that when he left there he wouldn't go back to

the farm to get out and work because he had heart trouble.

JW: Do you feel that your life is any different than women in the city?

EC: I think so. I don't think they would have done all that work. Of course, I had those extra youngsters I had to raise, other youngsters besides my own.

JW: The others besides your husband's brothers and sisters and your own children?

EC: I had his two sisters and my one boy. Then, my sister died and left two girls and I raised them. Then it was between my two boys, so I had them four. Then his sister died and left two more boys and I had them.

JW: That's a lot of children you raised.

EC: He had an aunt, too, that I took care of before she died. I don't have much youngsters these days.

JW: Do you like taking care of children?

EC: Well, it just seemed to be my duty. There was nobody else to do it. Then my mother, she lived with me when she got real bad, she died of cancer.

JW: Do you feel that your life was any different than your mother's life?

EC: I don't suppose so. She was like me, she was a farmer's wife and she took care of her family.

JW: How about your childrens' wives, do you feel they lead a different life than them?

EC: I have a wonderful daughter-in-law. This is one of my granddaughters, they live on my ranch there.

JW: Oh yeah, I thought she probably was. In Princeton?

EC: Yes.

JW: Well, I think [unintelligible].

EC: The neighbors had two teenage girls. We always took them to Whitmore. They used to drive our buggy and our [unintelligible]. We always had to drive four miles to get our telephone. The girls had to go out, my dad was working, so whenever there was a storm, we'd pull up wherever there was a house and they'd give us shelter. They'd run into the house and they was already in the cellar, so they'd come out and help out the horses away. Them girls, one of them weighed about 300 and the other 250. They was down in that

old cellar and it rained. It rained in the old cellar and there was holes that the mice were in and it drowned the mice there, and one of the big girls was afraid of mice. They used to have those pickle barrels, you know those barrels, real big at the bottom, and she got up on one of them and was terrified and just screaming. When the storm was over, we looked out to see it was morning. We made a run for the house and the house had blown the roof off and the kitchen was just flooded with water, you know, from the windstorms. We had one of them in the farm house too. I was out in the yard and my mother said get those chickens, and they were just thrown -- it was a cyclone. We grabbed what we could and finally she said, "Well, get in the cellar." So we all run in the cellar, but my mother and my oldest brother, they sit down under some gooseberry bushes, and it blew the windmill and a 20 pound weight down where they had just sat up and moved. They thought they could make it to the house and when they had looked again, that weight had fell right where they'd been sitting; but they had moved, see. It blew our roof off and threw sticks through the window and glass blew into the house.

JW: It must have been pretty exciting, a cyclone.

EC: Yeah. You always move to the cellar when there is a windstorm.

JW: Haven't had real bad weather like that in Idaho, different

types of weather.

EC: Get winds, but not a cyclone.

JW: Weather gets cold back there?

EC: Yes, it would get colder, but then it didn't freeze. It was dry cold, it wasn't wet cold.

End of interview