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WAYVE COMSTOCK
Narrator

CORKY BUSH
Interviewer

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WC: George and I both went to the same school because my dad bought the farm from his dad after his mother died, which was rather unique. We both went to the same school at different times, but both lived on the same farm; he lived there first and we were still kids and we didn't know each other. I went to Potlatch High School for three years, and I wasn't too happy up there because the countryship were kind of looked down on me every day, fifty years ago, and they were. It was real sad for the country kids to go to school up there because it was a mill town, a company town; they all had big wages and the farmers were kind of poor in those days. They were comfortable and they didn't have a lot of money to spend like the wage earners did years ago. And so I was so unhappy in Potlatch; I had to work for my board when I went up to school up there besides. So then, when I was a senior, my first family let me go to Palouse and so I went to school in Palouse and graduated from Palouse High School. That was about the happiest year of my life, when I was a senior in Palouse High School. The kids just took me in and made me welcome and one of their own and I had a lot of good friends from Palouse High School days. That was one of the things that stood out in my memory of my childhood when I was young when I was unhappy for three years in Potlatch but happy in Palouse.

When I was 16 and a half, George and I started going together. We got acquainted at the schoolhouse. They had a literary or a basket social and we got acquainted with basket social, and so then we kind of got to going together. But he

was gone then, merchant marines, and I was out then. So I didn't only see him but twice a year during that time. By the time I graduated and by the time he came back and got out of the service, and it was almost four and a half to five years before we married. So we had a long courtship, but we weren't together too much -- the fact that he was away. But we had lots of letters going back and forth and we had a happy courtship. Of course, we both had dates in between but they weren't serious; didn't amount to much, just to pass the time waiting.

Then, after I graduated from high school, I taught two terms in my home school, two years I taught. The first year I only got \$65 a month and the next year, the wages were raised because of it was the time of inflation after World War I, and so they were raised to \$110 a month. I was a primary teacher. I had the first four grades, and in those four grades I taught my two little brothers and the first and second grade. That was rather unique too. I remember my little brother, he was only six years old and he came to school to me, and he had such a little baby face and so sweet that one day, I just all of a sudden got the impulse and kissed him right in school. Of course I didn't do that with the other children, but that was the way it was.

After I had taught those two years (we intended to get married a year sooner), but my husband had hurt his eye -- he got some lead in his eye and he almost went blind. In fact, we thought he would be blind for a while. It was a real tragic year. We'd doctor him and his eyes would get worse, and he came out to

our place and stayed one time for a while, just kind of waiting to know what to do. Finally, he went to Spokane to a specialist, and there was a real specialist. We found out that he had what they call a deposit in his eyes and it was a poison in the pupils. You could see the little spots with your naked eye, you could see the pus pockets in his eye, just that little part, and that was what put him blind. So they took that out and then right away he could see, almost miraculous he could see. But he was in the hospital for a while after that and we took all his money to the doctor, so we didn't get to get married that June like we had intended to. So that's the reason I taught the second year. I went to Lewiston Normal School to get my certificate. I went two summers to Lewiston Normal School. So, I worked for two summer schools and taught two years without a break, and then we got married that June. So I was a real busy girl; didn't vacation much.

Of course, after we was married, my family come along. Our first one was in Palouse. We lived there for four years and I went to the Christian Church there and I still am a member of that church in Palouse, the First Christian Church. It has been our church for all these years. We raised our family in that church and George is also a member of that church, and we're very happy there. We've been happy there, been our church all our married lives and I think that's partly the happiness of our lives because we have been close with God. Our children are all in the church too, so we're happy for that. We think that was the most important thing that we did, was to raise our children

in the church.

We retired, well, we didn't really retire til about 1953, about the time Bobby got out of the service. We always helped the boys, but we really turned the land over to them. Just as soon as they were ready to get married and take over, why, we turned the farm right over to him. He always helped them, although he didn't tell them what to do or anything. He just, whenever they needed some help, well, he'd come and help, especially in hay and harvest. So, up until the last two or three years he was haying and harvesting every year. Well, maybe it's a little longer that he didn't harvest. Pretty soon their wives kind of took over and started driving the bulk trucks, but you know, nowadays, the whole family, the farms are so awful big that the whole family has to do all the work they can. They can't hire because the wage is so high; the family takes care of the farm work.

We had many people living with us during the depression. That was one of the things that was a little different in my life, I think, than perhaps a lot of people -- we did have a lot of help because it took a lot of help in those days to get the work done. It took five of us on the combine and it took a lot of hay hands because we had hayed with horses and the machinery was different. So I had men to cook for, oh, I'd say about April on, and we hired a man to come and stay with me. Then, during the depression, we had a lot of relatives and well, we had one boy that was helping us with the haying. He helped us with the harvest and his girl was back East. The depression was real bad

on young people in those days, 1931-1932. So he wanted to know if his girl could come out and stay with us. So she came out and stayed with us for just til they got married, I don't remember, two or three months, I guess.

One year, George's father stayed with us for about a year and we had other relatives that worked for us part of the time. It'd be for months at a time. My aunt was here and she helped me. We had both harvesters and we had both combines and the thrashing machines, men to cook for, and so she helped me and we thrashed grain. For ten years we thrashed. We thrashed for ten years and that was one period of my life that I wouldn't wish to live over again. It was really hard because he was gone. He did come home part of the time at night, but usually he was gone all the time and I was home with three little children, real small. One was just a tiny baby and I had the chores to do, the cows to milk and the storekeeper to wait on -- he would come and get vegetables and I would have them gathered. And I made butter for the cookhouse, and I also canned fruit in two quart jars for the cookhouse, and we had our own eggs. We had all the stuff that we could possibly get from home to feed the cookhouse because it cut down on the expenses. Nobody was making any money in those ten years except a few that had extra jobs like thrashing and harvest and doing other things. The farmers were just getting by because it was a pretty lean times and we were working so very hard that by the time harvest was over, we were both just about sick. He'd have to go to bed for a day or two because he worked day and night and he didn't get enough sleep and rest, and of course, I

felt the responsibility of being there alone.

I had a real hairy experience one time. We had old sows and a lot of pigs, and we had coyotes that would, well, we lived up here in this house, we had coyotes that would come out of these woods, you know. She had nine or ten of those pigs and I was supposed to get her in before night so the coyotes wouldn't get the little pigs. On my way out, it happened to be that I took a shovel with me for some reason; I took a shovel, I didn't just take a stick, I took a shovel. I had to round up the sow and the pigs, only she didn't want to come. She didn't want to drive and of course I just kept fussing with her trying to get her to drive and she finally turned on me. I think she would have eaten me up had I not knocked her on the nose with the shovel. I stopped her just like that, and I never did forget that because it was about the most frightening thing I ever had happen to me.

I never had too much to do with horses because it wasn't too many years that we started farming. My husband, by the way, had the first tractor in this neighborhood. We got that the year we moved out here and he used to do what you call custom plowing with that tractor because there wasn't very many tractors in the country and we made extra money that way. And we had thrashing. He was working out -- we worked all summer in the farm and then all winter long. A woman in the neighborhood came over one day and she said to me, she said, "You know your husband's out making money while the rest of them are just sitting around waiting for spring to come." Because they didn't have this trade

that he had to get this work. But of course, it did make it kind of hard on me, in a way, for him to be gone quite a bit of the time, and sometimes had chores to do. We raised lots of chickens then. I used to go out to the hatchery and that was quite a chore because you had to take care of these eggs special, and I'd have to really sit with them. We set the hens and I had what they called a booter house and I'd set my own hens. Sometimes, I'd have as high as twenty hens setting at one time. You can see how very busy we were. Very busy, but it was a happy life and we made it pay.

After we bought our first farm and we first moved to the country, everyone said we were foolish to move to a small timber farm, said we'd never make it. But, somehow through all our extra work, we did make it and started buying pieces of land along through the years, and by the time we were through and ready to retire, we had acquired 760 acres of good land. Now, our children are all farming it and we divided it up amongst the four so that each of them are farming. Our little boy is doing cabinet work. He's a real artist at that, he can make beautiful woodwork in the cabinet making. It was sort of a hobby with him to begin with and then he found out he liked it. Before that, he had a dairy and quite a few cows and he was making cabinets and farming. Well, it became too much of a job, so finally they got rid of the dairy, sold all the cows, although they still do have stock cattle. He built a big shop and went into the cabinet making and has a real job. So he's doing that. The other two boys are farming about seven or eight hundred acres apiece. This boy up

doesn't farm that much, but they farm their own land and other land. They're happy with their farm. Their wives are good women, good workers, all good family people. None of our daughters-in-law have worked out -- they stayed home and helped their husbands, which we were all very happy and proud that they decided to do that. I don't know what else you'd like.

CB: I've thought of something. You said that your husband worked out for a long time. Now, I'd like to know the types of things you had to learn how to do while he was out working all the time. What are the different skills you sort of picked up on by necessity?

WC: Of course I did all the things all the farm women did in those days, like making our family butter and separate the wash and all the gardening to do. Of course I enjoyed that, it didn't feel a burden to me to do gardening. Although, I used to tell myself, oh, I would see some of the city women that didn't have anything to do but raise their family, and I used to think, well, I believe it would be an easy life if that's all I had to do was raise my family. Part of the time I helped with the milking, but not too many years. Part of the time his earning money outside of the home was running a milk route and he'd run this milk route, and he'd have to leave at four in the morning. So I'd get up in the morning and go out and help him milk because we were milking several cows and to get him off earlier I would get up and do that. It would be in the dark and it finally got so wearing on

on me that I couldn't do it anymore -- I'd just get dilapidated like a pregnant women from doing it. It was too much for me, so I don't remember how long we did run this milk route, but it was quite some time.

Anything he could find, why, he'd pick up to do. I took several, for two or three years, I took a lot of prizes at the flower show they used to have in Princeton. One year I earned \$12 at the flower show, and then I sold a piece of embroidery work for \$12. That was some of the money that I'd earned and of course, I always got the egg and the butter money because I made butter and sold butter. The chickens' eggs and butter money was always a farmer's wife's money to do with -- that was her money. I always had my own money and my mother always had her own money because she had the butter money and the egg money too. Of course we bought the groceries usually out of that. We'd go to Palouse on Saturday afternoon; that was a custom in the days when we were farming. See, we had been farming for about 30 years or so, cus this was way back when, and the farmers would go to and that was kind of a diversion that we had that we'd go to Palouse. But my husband was so busy that he didn't always go; but, I'd usually manage to go with my folks or the kids would go with them, and if we didn't go in the afternoons, sometimes they'd go in the evenings. Everybody was down there, so that's where we did our visiting was down in Palouse. This was our town where we traded and I used to dress a lot of chickens and sell fryers. That's another way I made a lot of money. They'd want fryers and I'd sell them dressed. I'd have people

call me on the telephone and order chickens and of course then we'd take them, either if they wanted a fryer or they wanted a hen.

The kids had rabbits. I didn't have too much to do with the rabbits, but the children had rabbits and one day, I was out of fryers, out of fried chickens and she'd been getting them, she liked them so well, I had dressed them the night before. I told her I didn't have any more chickens but that I'd send her a dressed rabbit, and she says, "All right, I'll take that rabbit." So we took the rabbit and after she'd had the rabbit, she said, "Don't bring me any more rabbits, it looks too much like a dressed cat!" So that was the end of that; we didn't sell too many rabbits but we did eat them.

We had sheep and we had a flock of sheep at one time and I loved the sheep. We had little lambs and we'd have to bring them in the house. Usually the lambs were born about this time of the year, in January, and we'd have to bring them in the house to thaw them out and we just really worked on these lambs to keep them going. But we did like the sheep. They're kind of innocent, interesting little animals and they were tame and everything.

CB: Did you shear them?

WC: Yes. We usually had somebody come and shear them and sold the wool. Wool was quite high at that time and George always paid his taxes with his sheep money. He called it his wool money

that paid his taxes. That's when we just had the one small farm. But the Lord was good to us and blessed us and we did all right. Except at one time about the end of, well, it was about 1947. My health went bad -- I got arthritis and I had so much pain that I almost went into a nervous breakdown. So the doctor said I needed to get away from it all and he said for George to take me to Arizona for a rest. So we went to Spokane, that was in 1947 and there weren't very many people using trailers then. We went to Spokane and we bought a trailer, a good size trailer house, and we went to Glendale, Arizona that winter. It did help me, it was really a treat and we did enjoy it. We enjoyed it so much that we went to Arizona for 13 different winters, and we had six different trailers during that period, 1947-1971, we did that all during those years. Once in a while we stayed home.

When our little boy got married, 1960, he wanted to, we had quite a bit of stock at the time, and he wanted to take over and use the buildings there. So, we thought we'd better just come on down and build a new house and let him have the farm -- the original farm where those kids, the two younger boys were born up here. So we didn't know whether we was going to make a house; we were farmers, we didn't want to leave the farm, really. We didn't hardly know where to build a house. So the boy was gonna get married that year and he was willing to help us find a house. We found about two or three other places on this same forty, and finally, he came down and said, "Why don't you make it in this corner?" This was just a corner in the

field, you know. So that's where we chose to build a house. In 1950 we started this house, so we didn't go to Arizona for two or three years because we were busy working. We did most of the work ourselves. In fact, I did all the varnishing; he did all the painting and I did all the varnishing. There's woodwork all over the place -- in the bedroom, the downstairs, and all over the place. Of course, I was only 50 years old and I guess I could do it then; I wouldn't be able to now and I wouldn't even want to do it. But I would work and varnish all the doors and we had a lot of varnishing to do. We worked then for about two years and that was about in 1953; I think it was 1953 that we went south again, or maybe it was 1954.

Things went along rather quiet for us during that time up until 1959, and our church, we were building a new church. The old one had served its purpose and a new church was to be built. My husband was co-chairman of the building committee and chairman of the fund raising committee. That kept him real busy for two years and he worked just like a job everyday. He'd go down and work with the carpenter; he had one hired carpenter and all the rest were volunteer. It just happened, it was rather strange, but it just happened that the co-chairman on the carpentry part of it was building a house the same time we did in 1950, and we've always been good friends. In fact, his wife and I had graduated from high school together and we were very close friends. They were a good church family too -- they went where we did. So they worked together on these two years, except we took out one

winter and was gone about three months to Arizona during those two years. Everyday they didn't go off just because they wanted to -- it was a just a job, but it was all donation. So, we've got a lot of life in that church. Then, to our sorrow, her husband passed away in 1968. He knew that he had a terminal illness and so they built a little house in Moscow and it was just barely finished by the time he passed away. She, I think is probably one of my closest friends, one of the dearest friends I have ever had. She was my, she [unintelligible] for us on our golden anniversary and we had our golden anniversary, we had our golden wedding anniversary, it will be four years ago this June.

We were kind of hoping that we'd get to celebrate it, but we hadn't heard too much about it, we didn't know just how interested the kids were. But they were just kind of keeping it to themselves because they do have a lot of pride and such and they wouldn't let us in on any of the planning or anything, so they just did it all themselves. I guess it was about the happiest day of our lives; it was something that nobody could describe is your golden anniversary. We had a beautiful reception in the basement part of our church and then, after the celebration and church was all over, our youngest son and his wife had us out to their home and the kids had kind of a potluck. We didn't know they were gonna have that and a big supper, a great big supper out at their house in the evening after it was all over. That was just family, except there was one minister and his wife that came and they were the ones, when George went

into the church, they were the ones, and then they married and my father and mother went into church, and so did our son and his wife, and he took them into church and he baptised the ones that hadn't been. We've always kept in contact with them and we've always thought so much of them; they were just a young family when they came to our church. They came all the way from Seattle to come to our anniversary and so it was them and our family -- they were the only ones that weren't actually close family. We did appreciate it. We did have lots of people come from Montana and southern Idaho and Spokane and all around. We were just so thrilled to see that people would come so far because of our party.

We used to always celebrate our anniversary when we were younger. We'd take a trip and the kids would, they got so, we'd start talking about how our anniversary was coming up pretty soon. They got so they'd say, "Well, where are we going on our anniversary?" It was something for them too, you know. They would look forward to this trip because we'd always take them in the car, take them on a trip or someplace special. So, we usually did celebrate. I think last year was about the tamest one we ever had.

My mother lived right next door to us for about 25 years, I guess. They lived down here 25 years; they lived right next door to us. We lived up here and, of course, we lived right here where my sister does, and they lived right close to us. By that time, my dad wasn't driving much anymore so we always took care of their needs. On Sundays and on afternoons, we'd

try, whenever we went on a ride, we'd always include them, so they weren't really as alone as they would be had they not been so close and so handy. My dad wasn't very well for a good many years and I really never knew when my mother was going to call me and say that dad's awful bad, come on down, and I'd have to go on down. She had a real hard 50 years. He had asthma and he'd get spells that would scare her and she needed someone close by. After he was gone, she stayed there alone for several years, just real brave about it and said she didn't mind. She wasn't afraid of anything and just did real well for about, let's see, she was 79 when he died and about 65 [narrator must mean 85] when she went to the home. So there was about five or six or seven years she was pretty good alone. But, last year or so, she wasn't very good and she wasn't being able to cook for herself, so we'd have her come up here and eat her dinners with us. We thought it was good for her to come up because she would get stiff and it was good exercise to get her out. She was plenty able to come, so she did that for quite a long time. But, she finally got, her mind got a little bit bewildered and she couldn't find her way up here anymore. So, we started taking her meals down to her. I'd get the meal ready, then he'd take it down and wait for her and he wouldn't stay very long, so she got so she wouldn't eat it. We found out that she was feeding it out as cat food. I couldn't figure it out. So then one of us in the house would have to stay with her because if somebody would stay with her she would eat. So, you know, she just

needed somebody to be there and stay there. We did that for about 15 months or more, anyway, about a year. And then I was really pretty worried; I'd go down and take her lunch down in the evening and I'd take her some ice cream and just some little thing. I'd go down in the morning and fix her breakfast. So, you see, I was down there three times and I stayed until she went to bed so I got her tucked in for bed. She would seem to be all right alone during the night. I was trying to keep up my end of it, go to church and keep my end of it up here and take care of her, although I was getting pretty bad and pretty worn out and everyone was telling me that it was showing, I was looking awful tired. They just wanted me to put her in the home, but I didn't want to because she didn't want to go. She said, "I've got five children, I don't see why I have to go." This broke my heart when I think about it and I had taken care of her all during the winter when everytime I'd go down, it was one of those bad winters we had, I'd just have to bundle her up and put my boots on and just fell down and everything, and half of the time we'd get down in the snow. It was a really a really bad winter, and I thought, well, after I'd struggled through all that winter, I wanted to keep her during the summer because it wasn't hard to go down in the summer, you know. But the rest of them insisted that we put her in the home. And so we thought it was best, which it was, it was best. It was just hard for me to do it; it was hard for all of us to do it. I mean it's a heart-breaking thing when you have to put your own mother in a

nursing home. And, of course, they're doing it more now too. But she got along just real well and she lived there for three and a half years. She passed away at 91. But she was a good mother and a good woman and we just find ourselves now remembering the happy things rather than the sorrows of having to do that. But we went to see her real, real often and she had lots of company and we didn't just put her away and leave her. It was one of our sorrows to have it happen that way because my dad always had someone to take care of him and we used to think about it and, here, she would have had to too because he was so poor so long.

CB: What are you doing these days?

WC: These are the golden years and we're happy to see how good they really are. You don't have the cares and stress and sorrows and you grow closer, more time together, and you can do more of what you want to do as far as your strength will allow. We do get tired, but we're just doing for ourselves. We work in the garden for a while and when we get tired, for two or three hours, we come in and rest and just do it that way. My sister's handy and we're real close. She enjoys the same things that I enjoy. She goes to the same church and she lights the same fires that I, just like I do. And when they first moved here, they remodeled mother's house and they just made a beautiful home out of it; they worked for years fixing it, about two or three years. She had been working in Pullman and he was poorly,

he was very good, but he wasn't able to work anymore. So he retired early and he did most of the carpentry and the work and did part of the cooking while she worked. And so, until her retirement in '65, that's what they were doing. Since then, they started at the other house and everything was all done. They started on their landscaping and they have a beautiful yard and he used to come up here with a wheelbarrow and just take home wheelbarrows of plants from here to plant at their place, just wheelbarrows. He'd just do that for two or three springs, so they've got an awful lot of pretty things now. She's three years younger than I am. Of course, my other sister is close by and we can't just walk to each other's place, but we can talk on the telephone and we visit a lot on the telephone. We're on the Potlatch line, so [unintelligible].

What am I doing now? Like I say, I read, and stand the work, and watch TV, especially, I do. Of course, he spends quite a few hours on his ham radio, that's something that he likes to do. We try to go and visit the sick. When I go to my fellowship meeting once a month down at the church, I visit two old friends that are in wheelchairs and they know that's the day and we just keep track and we just look for them so we just don't dare disappoint them, you know. So that's part of our chores. We have other people that we try to call and we don't do it sometimes, unless we think we ought to, but we do try to. Just a general thing, I guess, we have three meals a day and try to keep healthy. We try not to use too much refined foods, they're not good. They don't even taste good to me. There's

nothing in it but dead calories. I was a little bit too heavy at one time and I had to reduce, and I lost 25 pounds in about four months; my blood pressure got up on me.

We have eleven grandchildren and five great grandchildren and expecting another one. It's hard to keep up with grandchildren -- they come every year. We have three that are adopted and we really cherish the adopted ones as well as we do the others; they're a joy to their parents and their grandparents. So, we think adoption is really nice, really wonderful, and people need children. Our boy up here had two older children and then, after they got about ten years old, why, they thought that pretty soon we're gonna be out of kids. So they put in for adoption and they got another little boy and girl. So, they have a big boy and big girl and a little girl and little boy.

I had babysat quite a bit during the babies' crib time because they've all been close by. They've never imposed on me, but it was kind of handy for them, you know, and I do it when I can, unless, I also told them that if they needed me I was willing to do it, except if maybe I had something I wanted to do. And they always said, "Now, mother, if you got anything to do at that time," and I thought that was real unselfish of them too because I know there's been lots of grandparents that have been imposed on. I was thinking of my mother, she used to babysit my children -- you didn't call a babysitter then. But we never did it because we wanted to go someplace, we usually did it for something that was rather necessary before we did because it is

a real responsibility to take care of them. Lots of responsibility to take care of grandchildren that you don't have in taking care of your own. It doesn't seem to weigh on you so much, this everyday thing, you know.

CB: With your own, you're sort of expected to get up and do something. With grandchildren, you have to worry about them.

WC: Yeah. You worry about something happening to them because so many times it does. You always think about that and my mother was that way, she always felt that it was a real responsibility because so many times you'd read in the paper when kids were killed or hurt at their grandparents' place. But I enjoy it, that's one of the joys of growing old is your children and your grandchildren and then, when our grandchildren married and we'd have showers and weddings and things. So we have had many blessings.

We had our trials with children when they were growing up. It was illnesses more than average, actually, because we had all the children diseases and we had them so hard. We had chicken pox all at one time when they were just all in school. But that was about all; they were all in school, they weren't under school age. But they had it so hard and we knew it was chicken pox because it was going around; but they were so sick, all sick in bed at once. We thought maybe we'd better have the doctor

because they were so sick and so when the doctor came out from Potlatch, I told him, I says, "You know I feel kind of mean having a doctor come out to see three kids with chicken pox, but they just seem so sick to me." He says, "Well, I don't normally; they are as sick as lots of smallpox patients are." So he didn't blame us for it because they were so sick. Our other boy we think he had polio. It was during that epidemic. You probably don't remember, but there was an epidemic about 30 or 35 years ago.

CB: That's a little before me.

WC: Yeah, but I thought maybe you might of heard tell of it. Kids were just dying, getting crippled and dying. It was a terrible thing and everybody was just, all parents and young children, were just scared to death. And I know George's brother's girl had it real bad. She had to have surgery and everything when she got older, had it awful bad. And Jerry was so sick we took him to the doctor and he said that he was afraid that it was, he had most of the symptoms except the paralysis part of it, and to put him in bed and isolate him and sterilize the dishes and keep the other kids away from him, and he was afraid it was. He was so sick that for just days after he got out of bed, I'd watch him to see if he had a limp or something because I was so frightened that it was bad.

Our oldest boy broke his leg, and most families don't have children with broken legs, you know, not too many of them;

of course, on occasion it does happen. Then, when he was just a baby, about 16 months old, he had a terrible infection of some kind. We don't know what it was, but he got awful sick. He was my first baby and he was sicker than I realized he was. He had a Negro woman, kind of a second mother when Jerry was here, but they were sick at the same time, but she used to come down. We had the doctor come every day, but he was just a common doctor and he didn't know much about babies, and this woman seemed to know how sick he was than the doctor did. So, she said he'd been laying in kind of a stupor for three or four days. She said, "You'd better take him to Spokane to the child specialist." So we did right then; we took him right away and he didn't give us too much hope. He was just in a stupor and terribly sick with infection. He was sick for quite a while and he had to learn how to walk all over again because he was so weak from it.

Our youngest boy had ruptured appendix and that was real serious in those days too. He was in the hospital for 12 days and real sick. So we had quite a bit of trouble with sickness during our childrens' time.

Then the scarlet fever thing. Jerry, the little boy, got scarlet fever and he was awful sick. So we had the doctor for him and the doctor was here for quite a while, and then his mouth got terribly sore, so he thought he's like to have a dentist come out. It seems like sometimes they got broke out in their mouth and they just suffer so with their mouth, all broken out with scarlet fever and kind of like trench mouth, and we

knew. Usually, people in those days didn't have to have a doctor too much because people didn't run to a doctor for every little thing like they do nowadays. These two doctors, after hours, they'd come out every evening -- the doctor that doctored him for the scarlet fever and the doctor that doctored him for his mouth. They'd come out every evening and we didn't even tell them to come out, but they were so concerned about this boy that was so sick, and we had to keep him in bed for six weeks before he could go back to school. They came out and they never charged us anything; so there isn't any doctors doing that nowadays.

They were friends of ours and, well, we wanted to do something. We offered to pay them, but they said no, they weren't charging -- they were doing it on their own time. We used to raise a lot of ducks and geese and we'd sell them, you know, and I just really enjoyed the fowl. We'd set the duck eggs and the geese eggs and raise our own baby ducklings and goslings. It was kind of during the depression. It was during the depression that the doctors came out; so, I dressed each one of them a duck and I took the dressed duck up to them and they appreciated that because it was hard times for them too, you know. So that's how I paid them, except the beginning of it; but after he started coming, they charged him that. I think we mentioned something to them about it, but we didn't mean for them to come out every day, and they told us that it wouldn't cost us anything. We were kind of rural and isolated out here

because the only highway wasn't so big, and it was before the change in the highway and there wasn't the traffic. We didn't have any of these houses around here. We were kind of out here by ourselves, then.

I might tell about Jerry's sickness that he had five years ago. He was in the hospital and he had an operation. We almost lost him. I stayed up in Spokane with his brother while he was in the hospital up there. He said it was nice to get well because he's been pretty good ever since. He was really in serious condition, he had to have blood transfusions and he was in intensive care and all that sort of thing. That was five years ago, this summer.

But I've never had to have any serious surgery, aside from little things, you know, tonsils and stuff like that. Of course, it wasn't so little because I had [unintelligible] with them. I used to have hired girls in the summertime, and that was kind of a bone of contention with me because I'd rather do my own work. But, my back wouldn't let me do it and we had somebody to cook for us; but, I did have help a few summers.

CB: Did you have your children in the hospital, or did you have them at home?

WC: Well, we had the appendicitis ...

CB: No, I mean you.

WC: Oh, you mean at the birth? Yes, I had them all at home, yes, not in the hospital, they didn't do it those days. They just kept you down for about ten days. My mother was with me a couple of times, and then I had a friend that came and stayed, did the work...no, it wasn't either, she was with me in Princeton and the second one we had a friend. And the next one we had another friend, an old lady, 60 years old, she was an old neighbor and a real good friend of mine. She lived to be 96. She was a good friend; she always sent us Christmas cards. She took care of, well, I mostly kind of took care of the babies, the babies myself. I guess I didn't bathe them while I was in bed, but other than that, I did because I nursed them and there wasn't much care, taking care of the babies' nursing. After the second one, there was the other two babies, you know.

I remember when Jerry was just a little boy, three years old, and his little brother came along. I asked him, I showed it to him in the basket, and I said, "What do you think of that? What does that look like?" He says it looked like a piece of meat! It was really kind of a story about Jerry's birth. It was the wintertime, it was the 7th of December. Of course, we lived this many here and we moved out from town out to this house up here, you know, in September. And, of course, we were trying to [unintelligible] and do everything and get the house in living condition because there was bats living there and raiders and it was in terrible condition. The house wasn't fit for anybody to live in; we had to do a lot of work to clean it

up and everything. So I guess I kind of overdid it and my little boy came a couple weeks early from what we figured and I think maybe he might have come a little bit earlier than that because he was so tiny -- he only weighed five pounds. So, I had my baby clothes, but I didn't have them in order because I hadn't expected him for a couple weeks more. But I just happened to have taken a bath that night and so when we needed the doctor, why, it was pretty near getting towards morning. So George called mother and had her come down about daylight, and then he went to call the doctor and the doctor couldn't get his car started, or something happened and we couldn't, he didn't, and we had to go after him. I think that was it -- he couldn't get his car started and it was kind of icy and bad anyway, and cold, and so the little guy got here before the doctor did. So, my mother and I were kind of alone and kind of didn't know what to do hardly, but he soon came. That was kind of an experience for my mother; she'd never been a midwife before.

CB: Well, she had had children before.

WC: Yes, she had children before, six of them; but everything was all right. Besides, I had to have a few stitches, it came a little bit fast. But I was kind of scared because I was afraid something would happen to the baby because mother didn't want to cut the cord or anything till the doctor came and he kind of scolded at first for not calling him a little bit sooner.

But I was so long with my first one that I didn't expect it to be that fast, and the doctor kind of scolded me. I don't think he should have, but he did. He was kind of a little bit hot footed sort of a doctor anyway. He really took care of all our family. I always wish that I had written him a letter in his later years, telling him how I appreciated all he had done for my family. My mother was awful sick with gallstones and we didn't hardly think she was gonna make it, and he pulled her through. My brother was awfully sick, he cut...his leg almost got cut off with a mower saw, cut so bad he almost bled to death, and he got him through. Then, my little boy with the ruptured appendix, and he saved him and you know they say ruptured appendix with a child is awfully serious and he was delirious when he got out of bed, and everything. He never could be in sports because he had this incision he had suffered with for several years. He'd come in the house crying with a stomach ache and he says, "Mother, why'd I have to be operated on and get all these pains?" But he would have died if he hadn't of been. But, he thought the operation caused it; he was just a little kid. He was only 11, 10 or 11, he could have been twelve, but I don't think he was quite that old.

After my third child was in school, my three children were in school, I felt like it would be nice to have a club because I belonged to a club or two in Princeton, and it would be nice for neighbors to get together. They had a home demonstration agency by then, four years ago, before this club started. The

home demonstration agency used to come down to the Grange Hall and to some of the neighborhood homes and would teach us how to make hats and flowers and different things, you know, that we were interested in learning, to do things. They didn't come regularly, so I thought it would be nice to have a club that we could have every so often and give out lessons too. Every month, we'd get some lessons on nutrition. I was always one of these curious people that always wanted to learn something new and do something new. So we thought that maybe it'd be a good idea to have them come down to the Grange Hall, you know, this Grange Hall down here. It is kind of centrally located and we thought it would be nice to have it there. So, I called up all my neighbors up in the east corner and down around the river and all around. I called them all up and told them that a home demonstration woman was coming and they were gonna start a nutrition club. And so I went down and I went down to the Grange Hall last week and there was one woman who showed up! That was at the Grange Hall, and it was Ginny Morris. She was a real good friend of mine, so we kind of laughed about it. So then, I didn't give up; I thought I'll try it at my own home, I'll invite them to my house. So I called one up and says I have some literature that I had gotten from the University -- what the lesson would be like -- so I could show them what it would be like and tell them about it. So, I called them up again, the same ones and told them we're gonna have it at my house this time, we're gonna see if we can't start a nutrition program, if you're interested.

So, I called everybody and we had a roomful. And so that was where the club was born, was at my home that day, and it will be 40 years ago this April.

When our club was 30 years old, we had a real celebration, a real anniversary party down at the Grange Hall. We invited all the old members around that we knew that some had moved to Moscow, and some had dropped out along the wayside. And we had invited all the special...and we had a program, and we had lovely refreshments, and we took all our nicest lush flowers from my garden, I had arranged the flowers for the deal. It was just a real nice celebration and we had a lot of people and we had little name tags and guest books. We all worked at it, all the women worked at it and we had a real nice time. And now we were talking about having another one for our fortieth anniversary. I don't know what we'll do. We might just go out for a dinner, or we might invite guests again, or, I don't know what we'll do. But I brought it up last time, if we was gonna celebrate because it was gonna be 40 years, and they said, "Oh, we should!" And so this time we'll do something. My mother and I were about the last charter members, she was a charter member. But there were four, I think, there were four charter members. We had our picture, we had quite a few pictures taken and I think we had four charter members that were here for that anniversary party ten years ago. I'm the only one left now; I'm the only charter member because after 40 years, you know, many of them passed away and moved away and our membership is altogether different,

and we don't have now, I think it's 20, 15 or 20, anyway, it's just a nice roomful. For many years, we had so many in our club, oh, it just grew by leaps and bounds. We had so many we had to have two hostesses. It was just too much for one woman and so we had two hostesses until just a few years ago, we didn't have so many. And so we are just having one hostess now, about a dozen of us or so, and we really think we kind of enjoy it better because you can do better visiting and we don't have a lot of things besides the main thing that we do. For several years we took a booth at the fair and we had a fair booth for a good many years. But then, we got so we got tired of that, so now we have an auction sale in November, and this November we raised, I believe it was \$70, over \$70, \$72 just on a private auction sale. You can make new things or you can take anything old that you think somebody wants, just anything that anybody else will buy. We invited guests to this auction for extra people, and we had a potluck dinner that day. We really had a good time and we made a lot more money than we ever made at the fair, you know, by taking a prize. That's what we do with our money -- we send it to Care, and the children's home, sometimes we give scholarships to 4-H. I think we sent some down to the youth ranch this year. Christmas time, we sent \$40 away. So, that's the main thing about it is our just getting together with our neighbors, and it's mostly just neighbors all around in this close area around here, and we have lots of fun, everybody goes everytime. They don't miss unless if something real important comes up.

CB: That sounds like fun.

WC: It is fun. It's a real fun club because we don't try to do too much, except visit. We have year books and we have our nutrition woman when she can. That's Jo Ann Anderson, you know. She's the Home Economist; they used to call them a home demonstration agent, but now they call it this. We don't have them as much as we used to. We used to have them come oftener, but their work kind of got bigger and they couldn't give each club so much individual attention. But we learned a lot of things, I just can't even recall. We learned a lot of recipes and had quite a program. Some of them would make dishes and bring them to the club and we'd sample them. We don't go to so much work as we used to, really, but it's a lot of fun.

CB: What does the nutritionist say when all this pre-packaged food started coming out?

WC: Well, we get the nicest letters from Jo Ann every month and I think they're gonna change it over. I'm afraid we won't have her and I'm afraid we won't get these letters, and we're gonna miss them because we feel that touch with the University and with her. We just love Jo Ann, she's so sweet. But there was something that came out in the Idahonian a week or two ago, it sounded like she was gonna be put into the clothing and she won't be the same, I'm afraid. We're gonna miss Jo Ann because

because she's gonna be over the clothing in four different counties. It's something they're trying out and I don't think we're gonna get as much attention as we did before. She would always bring us something at least once a year; she usually comes once a year. I don't know what they think about us, they, I don't really know if she said too much about us.

CB: I guess when they first started coming out, the time when people started gardening, why, they started buying more.

WC: Yes, I went to that gardening. They had a gardening special one day, gardening day for the clubs put on at the University last year, last March. It was sure well attended and it was really a good program, all day program, awful good. I don't know if they have another one this year or not. Of course, every year there's a spring convention, a district convention. And then, every few years there's a state convention and sometimes it's in Moscow and then the clubs in this area have to sponsor it and make the favors, prizes, and do all right. And, of course, our club helped with that. We're busy, we're busy as we want to be. I think it's gonna be in Moscow again this year, I'm not sure. Most of the time, it's down in the southern part of the state; I've never gone down in the southern part of the state. But my daughter, especially my youngest daughter-in-law, she has gone to most of the district conventions. Over to Coeur d' Alene or down to Lewiston or different places -- the younger ones usually

go. Somebody from our club, it's well represented, somebody goes. We have some real nice young women that take a real active part. They usually like two from each club to go over there to their council meetings. I haven't been too active in those extra meetings lately.

Another thing that George, my husband, and I have been enjoying (you wanted to know what we enjoyed in our later years) is our Senior Citizens Club. We belong to the Senior Citizens Club in Palouse and that meets once a month and we have a potluck dinner and it's usually a nice program. Sometimes it'll be just a talk from somebody or it'll be just slides from somebody or it'll be a movie that they had gotten from the library someplace, you know.