INTERVIEW SUMMARY - TAPE INDEX

NAME: Cooney, Edith
DATE OF INTERVIEW:
LOCATION:
INTERVIEWER:
REEL NO.

TAPE MINUTE	MANUSCRIPT PAGE	SUMMARY OF CONTENTS
0-17:30		Personal Data Sheet; working as a waitress. Hobbies, clubs.
17:31-21:54		Childhood and difference between families then and now. Social classes as a child and now.
21:55-27:40		Courtship; marriage and reasons. Discussion of parents. Discussion of Potlatch in early days.
27:41-32:45		Recreation; used to have a show-hall - description of various activities. Roller skating.
32:46-44:10		Medical service through the mill. Story of daughter being born with complications. Story of having RH- blood and various childbirth problems.
46:01-55:10		War times - Japanese in concentration camps. Brother on ship and suicide planes coming in - brother in Germany and terrible conditions.
55:11-70:20		War production on coast. Korean War. Brothers' various war-time experiencies. Political viewpoints. Cost of items. Legal Release.

END

JS: Okay, I'll fill in the data sheet first. Your name, what's your middle name?

EC: Hilda.

JS: Oh, wow!

EC: Really neat, huh?

[redacted] I like it.

EC: You do?

JS: What was your maiden name?

EC: Edith Hilda Marquette.

JS: Did you have any nicknames? Oh, of course, Edie.

EC: Yes.

JS: And your date of birth and place of birth?

EC: It was on November 23, 1919, in Cavour, Wisconsin.

JS: Oh yeah, I just went through Wisconsin on the train. I went to Chicago. What's your address?

EC: This is 970 Spruce Street, Potlatch.

JS: The locale of first residence in Idaho, and I know that. It was 960 Spruce Street. That's really neat. Original locale before immigration?

EC: White Lake, Wisconsin.

JS: Approximate year of arrival in Idaho?

EC: We came here May 25, 1949.

JS: Oh really, wow! [redacted] and I came the first of May when we came. Mode of travel?

EC: We came in a car.

JS: Companions on trip?

EC: Well, there was just [redacted] and I and our four kids.

JS: Oh, that's right. So that would be [redacted] and [redacted] ...

EC: And [redacted] and [redacted]

JS: Oh whew, family background. Your mom's family and maiden name?

EC: My mother's name was [redacted] [redacted]

JS: Oh. Your mom's occupation and jobs?

EC: Oh, she just was a housewife.

JS: That's enough work.

EC: She had nine kids.

JS: Wow! And date of birth?

EC: My mother's?

JS: Yes. I don't know my mother's date of birth.

EC: It's 1800 and something; I'll get my Bible, I think I've got it written down in there. Her name is [redacted] [redacted] born at [redacted] [redacted] on [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

JS: Date of her death or is she still alive?

EC: No, she died August 21, 1955.

JS: That was a long time ago. Year married, do you know that?

EC: My mother?

JS: Yes.

EC: No, I don't know that.

JS: How about your dad's family?

EC: Now, I don't really know what my dad's...I mean, I know what his birthdate is and stuff, but I don't know what his parents, you know, what their birthdates were or anything.

JS: Well, just your dad's birthdate and place.

EC: My dad's birthdate was May 15, 1891. I don't know, it doesn't seem like he wasn't born at...you know, my dad's folks came from Germany.

JS: Oh, really? He's first generation, then.

EC: Now, I don't know if he was born in this country or in Germany, I really don't know. My dad's dead too.

JS: What was his first name?

EC: [redacted] [redacted].

JS: I would think that [redacted] would be more French.

EC: It is French, Jeanne; but, I'll tell you, that really isn't the name, but that's the name that we always went by. The name was [redacted], but when they came to the United States, I guess the girls in his family, like my dad's sisters, you know, they didn't like the sound of that name, so...

JS: So it wouldn't sound German?

EC: I don't know; they just started spelling it [redacted] so that's the way it is on all our birth certificates and everything. But, actually, the spelling of that name should be [redacted], see, then it would be [redacted]

JS: Yeah. What did he do for a job, or occupation?

EC: Well, after he was out here, well, my dad was a farmer at one time and then he worked on the railroad.

JS: Is that in Idaho that he worked on the railroad?

EC: Yes, on the railroad, the Milwaukee Road he worked for.

JS: Is that the one you see a torn off bridge on the way here on 95?

EC: Oh, you mean coming from ...

JS: Moscow?

EC: No, that train goes up through Avery. The Milwaukee Road, it goes to Milwaukee Road. Yeah, it's still there, it's still running because my mom used to come back East all the time when I still lived back there, on that train and you could come to Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

JS: So, your parents came out here first?

EC: Yes.

JS: And then you moved out. Okay, siblings -- sisters and brothers?

EC: Mine?

JS: Yes.

EC: Oh boy! Well, my oldest sister's name was [redacted] and her last name, do you want, or just ...

JS: Yeah. She's married now?

EC: Yeah, she's been married; her husband's dead now. Her name was [redacted]. Then my next oldest one was my brother, [redacted] and of course, that's [redacted]. My sister, [redacted] her name is [redacted]

JS: This is going to be hard to remember nine different names.

EC: Then I'm next. Then, my sister, [redacted] her name is [redacted] [redacted] Then it's the twins.

JS: Oh, you had twin brothers?

EC: [redacted] is one and the other one is [redacted] His name is [redacted] I always thought that was such a great sounding name, isn't it?

JS: Yeah, it is.

EC: And then there's my sister, [redacted] and another brother, Jim.

JS: One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, yeah. Spouse and children. So, [redacted] What's his middle name?

EC: [redacted]

JS: Date of birth?

EC: May 25, 1912.

JS: Occupation?

EC: Well, he was a pipefitter, but he's retired now.

JS: Yeah. He worked in the boiler room at the mill, right?

EC: Yes.

JS: Place of birth. Was he born in Wisconsin?

EC: Yeah, he was born in Lemark, Wisconsin.

JS: And date and place you were married?

EC: We were married in Iron Mountain, Michigan.

JS: Why were you there?

EC: We just went there. It wasn't very far, you know, it's like going over into Washington. The date was August 13, 1934.

JS: Okay. Now, children's names, their date and place of birth and their occupation. So, first there was [redacted].

EC: [redacted] the oldest.

JS: Oh, I thought [redacted] was the oldest. And he was born in Wisconsin?

EC: Yeah. Do you want a beer, Jeanne?

JS: Oh, sure.

EC: Do you want a glass?

JS: No, I don't really need one.

EC: I'll let you drink out my my good glass.

JS: Oh, fancy!

EC: [redacted] bought me that one, my little grandson. Do you want a glass, [redacted]

[redacted] No, that's all right.

JS: [redacted] is still in Cleveland. Did you know that?

EC: Yeah, when is she coming back?

JS: I don't know. I think she might not.

[redacted] The tape was on all that time.

JS: That's okay.

EC: I seen [redacted] one day when I was going to work.

JS: Oh, she must have a driver's license.

EC: I seen her by [redacted] right on the highway and it was raining, and I thought, well, I didn't know if Lillian ran away. I didn't know if [redacted] was gone then or not, you know. He was gone from here, but I mean, I don't know if he had gone to Ohio. And I saw her out there when I was on my way to work and then I thought, "Well, now, if she has run off, she'll come back here." But she never did come back over there. But then, [redacted] still had her so he must of been around there someplace because, since he came home, she was with him.

JS: Yeah, okay. There was [redacted] and he was born when?

EC: He was born March 22, 1935 in Blackwell, Wisconsin.

JS: What does he do now?

EC: He works for the railroad now.

JS: The Milwaukee lines?

EC: No, Towns Prarie, oh, it's just kind of west.

JS: Okay, and then [redacted]

EC: She was born February 18, 1938, and she was born at Laona, Wisconsin.

JS: 1938?

EC: Uh huh.

JS: You did more moving there than you did here.

EC: Yeah. The other kids are all born someplace else.

JS: And [redacted] is your neighbor; I'll put that down as her occupation. Well, she does the babysitting, too; so I'll put Day Care.

EC: And then [redacted]. He was born October 22, 1941. He was born in Laona, Wisconsin, too. He's a computer technician. And then [redacted] She was born May 14, 1944 at Antigo, Wisconsin, and she's a janitor.

JS: And that's it. Now, personal information. Education, you went to school in Wisconsin. And skills?

EC: I don't have any skills.

[redacted] You have lots of skills.

EC: Well, I guess you'd say I was a silk finisher, is what I'm called. They call them silk finishers for ladies' dresses. I had worked a lot of different jobs as waitress and desk clerk.

JS: What else have you done?

EC: Short order cook, too.

JS: I was going to say you probably did that, too.

EC: That's about all the kinds of jobs that I worked on. Oh, I picked potatoes many years ago.

JS: Where were you living then?

EC: In Wisconsin. I made more money doing that than I ever did doing anything else. I worked one time, six weeks, and I made 500 and some dollars for six weeks. I thought that was pretty good and that was many years ago, you know. Like about 1945, so that was good money, then.

JS: It's good money now. What you just said described your occupations. I'm getting bored with this form. Interests, hobbies and talents.

EC: I don't have any, Jeanne.

JS: Clubs, groups, or societies?

EC: Well, I don't belong to any. I used to belong to Moose Lodge and the Royal Neighbors at one time.

JS: Oh, that's the big yellow building, isn't it?

EC: Well, when I went we used to meet over the big store, but since it burned down, I don't know where they have their meetings now.

JS: Yeah, you were telling me about that. You used to work in that hotel? Is that when you were a waitress?

EC: Yes.

JS: Oh, neat. Let's see, awards, honors or ribbons. I don't know who made this form up. Now, I get to ask some questions. You can tell this is my first one. Remembering your childhood, being a girl, do you feel you were treated any differently than your brothers?

EC: No.

JS: Did you feel your brothers had more opportunities than you?

EC: Well, not in those days, Jeanne.

JS: Do you see families now as different or similar from yours?

EC: Well, they're much different, I would say.

JS: Yeah, because they're smaller?

EC: Yeah, they're a lot smaller. Well, there was just generally no television, no radio; you entertained yourself.

JS: What did you do? Did you entertain each other?

EC: Yeah. We played games and we'd fight, yes. We worked a lot harder than the kids do now, too. We had to get out and work in the garden and pick wild berries. In Wisconsin, there was oodles of wild berries. We used to go out and pick pails and pails of raspberries, blueberries, and blackberries. That was one thing that was nice in Wisconsin because, oh my goodness, you could pick, well, when I was a kid, I used to walk about two miles out in the woods and pick two big waterpails full of raspberries and then bring them back to town and sell them for a dollar a pail. Can you imagine paying a dollar for a ten-quart pail of berries?

[redacted] I'd charge you about $10!

JS: Yeah, they wouldn't buy yours.

EC: Look how much they charge for huckleberries for a gallon.

JS: How much is it?

EC: Well now, last year, I believe they were selling them for like $7 or $8 a gallon, that's one gallon.

JS: Did you like it when you entertained yourself more than watching TV?

EC: Well, I guess we did at that time because there wasn't, you never thought about anything else. You would get to go play instead of having to do something.

[redacted] In the olden days, they had to make their own toys and stuff, my grandma told me.

JS: What sort of social class did you see yourself in?

EC: Poor.

JS: Did you think you were discriminated against because of that?

EC: Yes.

JS: Was everyone poor?

EC: Most of them were; but the few that did have something, they treated you like you were dirt.

JS: One reason I like Potlatch so much is that everybody treats you the same here.

EC: A long time ago, people used to be so much different than they are now. Anybody that had a little something, anybody that, like were were, came from a big family, well, you weren't absolutely hopeless, but, I mean you had food and clothing, but I mean you just didn't have money. And I do think it was different that way. I do think that now people are a lot more different.

JS: As far as feelings go?

EC: Yes.

JS: You like it more now?

EC: I think people are better now. I mean, I think they treat people better. Don't you?

JS: Well, I don't have much to compare to.

EC: No, you really wouldn't have.

JS: The shows on TV, I don't know how accurate those are.

EC: But people are treated more equal now, I think, than they used to be.

JS: There's little difference between people, anyway, I don't think.

EC: Not really, but there are a lot of people that do think ...

JS: How long did you know [redacted] before you got married?

EC: Oh, I don't know, probably about a year or so.

JS: On what basis did you decide to get married?

EC: Oh, just because I wanted to get married, I guess.

JS: That's enough reason. Did you have a fun courtship?

EC: I guess everybody does.

JS: It was really strange about some of the presentations we were giving today. The women said that they married out of necessity and that wasn't very much common. Well, your daughters are already grown up. What did you expect for them when they

grew up? Did you have any desires for what you thought they would be like when they were older?

EC: Well, I guess mostly I just wanted them to keep their strength. I think that everybody has their own ideas and I don't think you can run anybody else's life for them. Even if you'd like to, I don't think you could, I mean, like wishing your kids would do different.

JS: That's a good view. It might have something to do with some part of the reason why they're still around.

EC: But, I think you kind of have to let them make up their own mind.

JS: We were just back, we were visiting my parents, my parents are pretty much okay. They've pretty much left off on me, but [redacted] parents, he's 25, and they're still trying to tell him what to do. And I don't know why they waste the visit time complaining at him. Like he's going to law school and they should be proud of it and they're just getting down on him and telling him silly things like shave his beard, and he doesn't think it makes any difference.

EC: Where do his parents live?

JS: In Chelsea, Michigan. They go to Florida in the winter.

EC: Where is Chelsea, Michigan?

JS: This is the mitten shape, and here's the triangle, and Chelsea is right about here.

EC: The closest I was to Michigan was in Iron Mountain. That's just across the line, you know, from Wisconsin to Michigan.

JS: So that would be in the upper peninsula, right?

EC: Yeah, the upper part on the map. It's been so long since I've been back there.

JS: When were you back last?

EC: Not since we came out here.

JS: Oh, really. My parents are there. I wish they'd come out here so that it would be easier for me to visit because I didn't want to go back because it's not as pretty there anymore. What was Potlatch like when you came here?

EC: Potlatch had all wooden sidewalks and Potlatch owned all these houses and we had the great big store.

JS: Were they in better condition than they are now?

EC: Yeah. They were kept up a lot better because they had a crew that went around and painted and papered and cleaned the houses as people moved out, so that when the people moved in, and even if you were living in one and paying rent and then the house got pretty dirty, you know, like your walls and stuff, you could go down and ask them.

JS: They'd wash the walls?

EC: They'd come and clean them.

JS: You worked in the hotel as a waitress?

EC: Yes.

JS: Were you working for the factory then in the, at this time, or was that privately owned?

EC: That was privately owned and I worked down in the store taking inventory in Potlatch.

JS: Did they lease the factory or did people just build it themselves?

EC: No, Potlatch actually owned that hotel.

JS: So that the people that owned it would just be leasing the building?

EC: Yes.

JS: Were the trees different, were there tall trees around here then? Were there any trees around here?

EC: No. This street was just about like it is right now, as far as the trees.

JS: How about the view? Was there virgin timber that was logged off? Some people say it was fields and some people say it was timber.

EC: Not when we came; it was just like it is right now. The town itself, outside of we had all wooden sidewalks, and PFI owned the whole town.

JS: Did the houses have picket fences, or was it always just bare?

EC: No, none of them had fences.

JS: Were they all matched?

EC: This was all beautiful lawn and all these lawns were even. I don't know how they got torn up so bad like this. You know, like the humps was done in a hole like that.

JS: What did you do for recreation when you first came here?

EC: Mostly we went to, they had a show hall down here then, you know.

JS: They did? Was it out of town, or as you come into town?

EC: Well, it was right in town, you know, like when you're walking downtown, if you went down on Pine Street. You know where that kind of apartment house is?

JS: You mean where the Washerette is?

EC: No, on this side of the library. You know where the confectionary is? Well, you know on this other side, there's that kind of long building, it's a couple of apartments. You know what I mean.

JS: It used to be a hospital, wasn't it?

EC: No, not quite across from the confectionary, but on this side, there's that big apartment house. It isn't real big but it's got two or three apartments, you know.

[redacted] Is it white or red?

EC: I don't know what color it is. There used to be a trailer

house sitting there and I think somebody moved that out.

JS: That was the show hall?

EC: The show hall used to be right beside that, don't you remember? No, you wouldn't remember.

JS: Did it burn down or what?

EC: They just tore that old ...

JS: What did they have? Was there dances there and stuff?

EC: No, they just had shows, regular shows.

JS: Movies?

EC: Yeah, all movies.

[redacted] It used to be where that red house is, see.

EC: Well, I don't know, it might be red. The house is still there.

JS: We could go look tomorrow.

EC: There's a way down Pine Street when you get past the old hospital, you know, on this side of the street, there's two little houses. Then there's kind of a long empty space there, you know, where there isn't any houses, and then there's this long one that has about two apartments. You know now? Well, it used to be right beside that. Just before you get to the first house, you know, where you cross the road and then here starts the houses again and over on that side is the confectionary. Well, it was right here before that first house. It was quite a big show hall. And then there used to be the Riverside, you know where Riverside is, where the bridge is?

JS: Oh yeah, what was there?

EC: That used to be a big dance hall and the roller skating. All my kids went roller skating in there. That used to be a roller skating rink.

JS: How come that closed? It just went out of business?

EC: Well, it was condemned, see, because that used to flood all the time. Were you here? No I don't suppose you were, but [redacted] probably was. Do you remember when it flooded out there when that big old Riverside building was there and it was about this far when the top was sticking out, all the rest was water? One time we had pictures, but I don't think we have those anymore.

[redacted] How long ago was it?

EC: Oh, maybe four years ago, or something like that. We had a real bad flood. You should have been here that time with all the water up. It was clear up to that bridge and that building.

JS: How long had the dam been there? Well, the dam just broke last year.

EC: Well, I guess that's been there for quite a while. But, that Riverside was round, you know. The building was round and it was a roller skating rink. There used to be a lot of big name bands come there like cowboy stars, Ernest Tubbs. Those used to come out there and be at the dances and then everybody would rush out there to see them. It was $2 a ticket when them big bands were there. [redacted] and [redacted] and all those kids, and I believe that was even when [redacted] was big. Yes, [redacted] and I used to take [redacted] out there to roller skate sometimes. We'd sit and wait for them. Now, the kids don't have nothing here, anymore.

JS: Yeah, now there's that big band alliance place.

EC: There used to be that show hall and they had shows every Saturday and Sunday night, it would be a different show. The kids would go to that and then they had the roller skating in the wintertime on Sundays.

JS: Did they have any ice skating around?

EC: No, they never did have ice skates.

JS: That would be more of the thing in the Midwest.

EC: Yeah, like back east in Wisconsin. Now, that was where there was a lot of ice skating and skiing there. You didn't have to go to a ski lodge to go skiing, you know.

JS: Yeah, and pay $10 for a tow ticket.

EC: Yeah, you could just go skiing.

JS: But, at the hospital and that would pay for, would they pay for your stuff, or just stuff that happened at the mill?

EC: Well now, since we've been here, they've had medical service, insurance and I don't know. That hospital and doctor's office was still here when we came. We used to go to the doctor and he'd be down there in that hospital office, but they had made the rest of the building into an apartment.

JS: Because I was wondering. You had your kids at home, but inside the hospital, but the tradition was different, really. Not everybody went to the hospital to have their children?

EC: No. I had [redacted] and [redacted] at home, and then I went to the hospital for [redacted] and [redacted] back East. It was like when my mother was having her children. Then, all the women had their babies at home. Nobody ever went to the hospital to have babies then.

JS: You were telling me once when [redacted] was real small, she lost all her skin or something. You had to bathe her really carefully?

EC: When she was born, she had, oh, they said from such a hard birth, she weighed five pounds and 13 ounces and then she lost down to four pounds and 13 ounces. And she had such a high temperature from a hard birth, they said, from coming up against the pelvis and she couldn't be born. And then she got kind of like a brain concussion and she had a temperature of 108° and her skin just rolled off like fish. For a long time we had to give her a bath in olive oil, just no water.

JS: So that was in Wisconsin, then. I must have just been thinking it was here.

EC: No. When we came out here, [redacted] was 14 and [redacted] must have been 11, and [redacted] was only five; she didn't go to school yet when we came here.

JS: So, she really grew up her whole childhood here.

EC: Yeah, she doesn't remember Wisconsin, [redacted] doesn't, she just remembers out here. Jim was in the second grade when we came out here.

JS: We were moving when I was in kindergarten. [redacted] said that he helped deliver one of your kids -- you had one that didn't live, a boy that didn't live?

EC: Yeah, that was, I had [redacted] after [redacted], he was an RH baby. You see, I'm RH negative and [redacted] is RH positive.

JS: Is that the one you had trouble with, though?

EC: Yes.

JS: That was pretty lucky.

EC: Of course, they didn't know that then. I found that out two years later.

JS: Oh, you didn't even know then that the baby ...

EC: No, they never could find out what was wrong.

JS: Oh, that's too bad. It would have been so much easier to know.

EC: If they were to know, they could have just changed his blood because he was a perfectly, otherwise, you know.

JS: How sad. I don't understand if they changed the blood, how your body could produce, just take out the antibodies? Now they have a shot they can give you that keeps your body from making antibodies.

EC: I don't know exactly what has come out new because I don't follow it too much now. But when they first started doing something about this, they, well like [redacted] is RH negative and when she was pregnant they checked her blood every month and they say you get, they can tell when your blood starts changing, you see.

JS: Yeah, because you start making the antibodies pass through the blood.

EC: And then they would do a Cesarean if you were far enough. Usually, it's about the eighth month, see, and then they can do a Cesarean and they take the baby then. It's all right if they can take it then.

JS: Gee, they didn't even know. It must have been a puzzle for a long time. There probably was an RH factor in blood banks.

EC: That's what they hadn't, see, that just came out during World War Two, because so many of the soldiers that would get

injured, you know. Well, then they would give them blood transfusions and then someone took shock and died, see.

JS: If it was the wrong stuff.

EC: Yeah, they might be giving them "A" type, but if that one happened to be negative and they were giving it to a positive, they would go into shock and die from it. And then, after that, I had one stillbirth, too.

JS: Was that the same kind, an RH factor?

EC: After [redacted] died, I didn't know still, then, what that was, so then I had one more, it was a baby girl. But, at eight months, I went into labor and well, what happened was, the afterbirth came off before I went into labor and that baby kicked and fought all day and I just thought I was going out of my mind, you know, and I couldn't figure out what. It just kept going like that and my whole stomach ached. I didn't know anything about, I never had anything like that happen to me, so I just went about my work, you know. Then, I went to bed that night, and, God, the next morning, I woke up and I was so sick to my stomach, you know, and dizzy and I tried to get out of bed and when I tried to raise up, it was just like a big weight was on me, you know. Finally, I managed to get my feet out of bed and sit on the edge and after I could get my head steady for a while and I could quit whirling, I got up on my feet but I just knew

something was wrong, but I didn't know what. I decided, well, I'd get ready and go to the doctor -- we had to go about 20 miles.

JS: You had to go to Moscow?

EC: Well no, it was back East, and I had to go from White Lake to Antigo. That was about 20 miles, so I got ready and went over there and ...

JS: The afterbirth had already come out?

EC: No, the afterbirth came off of the uterus and then all the blood went into the uterus and drowned that baby. That's why it was just fighting all day, it was really drowning, see.

JS: How strange.

EC: Isn't that horrible, when you think about it?

JS: It's so weird because it's like, well, I've never had a baby, but, you know, it's part of your body but you don't know what's happening.

EC: So, when I went into the hospital, the doctor asked me when I felt that baby move last and I said, "Well, all day yesterday, it never quit." Then they had to put me out and then go ahead and take it.

JS: After the first one, you didn't have anymore children, provided it must have been the RH factor had gotten into your blood.

EC: Right. See, I had those first four, then the more you have, the more your body builds up against that.

JS: Yeah, I was always told that after the first one, it's a problem.

EC: That's what they say, but it didn't prove out with me.

JS: You were the exception.

EC: From then on, [redacted] died when he was seven months old. They never could find out what was wrong with him.

JS: Oh, that was a really long time. You didn't know that it was the RH factor that made him die. But he was still that old?

EC: Yes. He was seven months old and he would laugh and coo and things and every once in a while, he'd run a temperature, see, and he wouldn't have a cold or anything, he'd just run a high fever. Then I'd take him to the doctor and they'd put him in the hospital and they never could find out what was wrong with him.

JS: They just didn't know.

EC: Then, finally one got the flu and then all the kids got the flue and he got that and it killed him. But, he probably would have always been something because he would run those temperatures.

JS: I wonder how they would fix that after the child was older?

EC: I don't know. I saw an RH baby, they lived here in Potlatch. Now, this was only her second baby and that was really bad. They kept it there and they changed its blood. They kept it in the hospital and they changed its blood and I didn't see it until they had brought it home. When I used to deliver the papers with the kids, I went up there one day and she wanted me to come in and see her baby, you know, it was a purple color. It had the purplest complexion, just a purple color.

JS: I wonder why?

EC: Well, because of that. You had to watch it all the time so it wouldn't choke. But after they changed that blood, they probably have better methods now, this was a long time ago, like that girl must be, well she's married.

JS: So, it's probably all the bruises maybe from all the blood.

EC: I don't know what made it that funny color. I didn't say

anything to her, but when I came home, I said, "Oh, my God." It scared me to death. I said I wouldn't want to take care of that baby because it kept choking all the time on its food and stuff. But then, after a while, it was all right. I suppose it must take a while for all that blood to get, all ...

JS: I wonder how they would ever help a child that had lived a while, your whole body, like when you're bigger it just takes more.

EC: But I know that's what they used to do was change all its blood. I think they take a pint and give it a pint, and take a pint and give it a pint until it's a complete change. What I was going to say when I had that stillbirth, I lost so much blood that they was going to give me a blood transfusion. So, it's a good thing they didn't have whole blood; they gave me plasma and even from the plasma, I went right into shock the minute they gave me that and that whole bit. You just freeze to death when you go into shock.

[Break in the recording here. Conversation starts again with Edith speaking.]

EC: But he was just sitting there because he could have gone, but he didn't think I was going to make it.

JS: Do you lose track of time when you're in shock?

EC: No. I knew everything that was going on and everything. Had that been whole blood, then it would have killed me; but, you see, plasma, that's left, you know it isn't like whole blood.

JS: Well, I'm sure glad they didn't give you whole blood.

EC: They know better now. That's when they discovered it because all these guys were dying that they gave these transfusions.

JS: They'd have to check the blood.

EC: Finally, they discovered that that's what was killing them was the type, was the same but one was Rh negative and one was Rh positive.

JS: What are those Rh's mean, initials of someone who had found it?

EC: Rhesus monkey.

JS: Rhesus monkey, oh really, is that what it is?

EC: That's what the Rh factor is.

JS: Was it incriminating on those that found out?

EC: I don't know why they...but that's what it stand for, that is what the Rh factor is. People have this factor and some don't and then it's negative.

JS: Oh, if you don't have this factor then it's negative?

EC: If you don't have this Rh factor, see.

JS: So, it's not something your blood completely lacks?

EC: If you don't have it, there isn't anything wrong; you're just different, just a different factor in the blood that the other blood does not have and they won't mix.

JS: It was interesting doing these presentations. One of my friends was interviewing their mom and talking about war work, something before my time. Did you do any war work? Did you do any volunteering?

EC: No, that's when I was having, all my kids were small and I didn't ...

JS: Were they all born before the war?

EC: Well, [redacted] was born in '41 and that was October of '41, and the war started December 7 of '41, World War Two. So, then I had [redacted] during World War, when the war was still going and then [redacted]

JS: Did [redacted] get drafted?

EC: No.

JS: Boy, that's lucky.

EC: He would have been drafted, but he was always deferred because of his occupation.

JS: In the mill?

EC: Uh huh.

JS: Did any women go to work in the mill?

EC: There was a few women down there, but not too many.

JS: The men didn't leave?

EC: There were quite a few men that were gone from there, but there were younger men. [redacted] was the right age all right; however, they held him deferred at the time.

JS: He had an important job in the mill. Oh, probably because it would be necessary for the war effort somehow.

EC: Yes, it was because of that, you know, that he was deferred

all the time so he never did have to go.

JS: It would be so horrible to go and have to shoot people.

[There is a conversation between Edith and the granddaughter, [redacted]. Conversation between Edith and Jeanne picks up here.]

JS: One thing I found out was that it was around here that they worked on [unintelligible].

EC: You know, before we came there used to be houses, I guess, all down there where that field is by the mill and they were all Japanese.

JS: Was it a concentration camp, sort of, here?

EC: I don't know if they took them all out of here and put them in the concentration camp. But there was all kinds of Japanese here before we came.

JS: Oh, and they just all came from the area?

EC: There wasn't any here when we came. People said that it used to be all houses down in there and the Japanese all lived there. There was a lot of Japanese people around here.

JS: I wonder why they would come to this area?

EC: I don't know, Jeanne, but I think they took them from this area and put them in concentration camps.

JS: Well, that's too bad.

EC: Well now, some people, like my brother, [redacted] he was one of the twins, [redacted] (we always called him [redacted] because he had red hair), now, him and my brother, [redacted] were both in the war, World War II.

JS: Did they survive it?

EC: Yeah, neither one of them ever got a scratch. But my brother, [redacted] was in the navy and [redacted] was in the army. They wouldn't put them both in the same thing, you know, because they were twins.

JS: Why not?

IC: I don't know. They couldn't both go in the same at that time.

JS: Maybe because they were brothers?

EC: Because they were brothers and because they were twins, they both couldn't be in the same thing.

JS: They probably figured if one got killed, they wouldn't both be home.

EC: So, my brother, [redacted] he was on a destroyer in the Pacific and he fought with the Japanese. You know, half of the navy stopped in one spot. This was right after Pearl Harbor, you know, which most people didn't know because they didn't want us to know that we were that far down, that we would come so close to losing that war. Anyway, they had all these suicide planes, I don't know if you ever heard about them.

JS: Yes.

EC: My brother, [redacted] says you'd be on this ship and he said they'd just come at you by the hundreds and he said it was so crazy because those guys in those suicide planes were just laughing like crazy. They knew they were dying because they crashed right into those ships and set them on fire. Anyway, he said that the blood was so thick on the ships, they would go from their ship out to them other ships to try to get the guys off and save what they could, that they had blubber-like gel on the decks. They had to take, they had these big bolts of Turkish towels and they had to roll it out ahead of them and crawl on their hands and knees -- it was so slick from all that blood. They couldn't stand up and then, they'd get them into these life boats and they'd die, half of them, before they could ever get them to the big ship. And all the time, these crazy suicide

planes were coming at them. He said he just knew he just couldn't possibly live through that because he said they were falling all around him just like flies.

JS: The planes were?

EC: Yeah, and people dying from hitting them, shooting them and stuff. Anyway, he said when they came home then, when the war was over, he used to sit and laugh and laugh and cry and cry and he knew he was doing it, but he couldn't stop. He said all the kids were scared to death when they'd all watch, you know, the kids on his ship. But, he finally got all right when he got home. He didn't do that after he got home, but later he told us that he thought he was really going nuts. Can you imagine crawling on your hands and knees in all that blood?

JS: No.

EC: And all those wild people diving at you, laughing and screaming.

JS: Yes, it'd be like an insane nightmare.

EC: Then, my other brother, [redacted], he went to Germany. He has the horriblest pictures that he took over there. That's where they piled all those Jews up and poured gasoline on them and burned them. He's got pictures of these dead people that he

took himself. Those people, there's little kids and everything, and their arms and legs were about this big around and their stomachs were great big.

JS: Oh, because they starved to death.

EC: And they bloat like that and their eyes were wide open, oh, God, it just makes you sick. He never showed me those pictures till after about three or four years after he'd been out of the service and the war was over. He couldn't, but then he showed us how terrible that really was. I seen that on TV one time. I don't know if you ever saw that, "Let My People Go." It showed all, they had big troughs and they had thrown all those people in there. They dug great big holes with bulldozers and then they'd throw those people down that trough and scoop them in that big thing and cover them up.

JS: Oh, how horrible.

EC: That was all those Jews, see, and Polish people that they made work, you know, in those war factories and stuff. They wouldn't feed them, they'd just starve them to death and then they'd have another whole new bunch and they'd throw those in a big pile and burn them up.

JS: It's hard to believe it.

EC: Yeah. You can't hardly believe it if you weren't really there.

JS: I like to think that since women give birth to children that they wouldn't want to do that kind of killing. Blame the worst on the men, but who knows if that's true or not.

EC: I don't understand that, it's so horrid. My brother, [redacted] said that he really thought he was going crazy because he'd just sit there and laugh and laugh and then he'd cry and cry and he said he knew he was doing it, but he couldn't stop. His nerves were so bad, see, from seeing all that; he got to the point where he couldn't. It's a good thing that was over or he probably would have went insane from that. I think your body and mind can just take so much horror and then you just can't ...

JS: You never had anything real horrible like that happen to you?

EC: No, no.

JS: Me either. I'm lucky.

EC: Him telling me those things, he said you just can't imagine what it's like, having all those planes coming down. He said it was so crazy because they were just laughing. I don't see how they could train those Japanese to be so ...

JS: It's probably in the way that they have a whole different culture, in a way, looking at things like what they thought for their country. I don't know, I can't think of anything.

EC: Well, that is the way they did it, Jeanne, was they were taught to be happy to die for their country, but it was so.... I can't imagine anybody thinking that way, you know, it's so hard for me to think that you could get in there, a plane, and know you were going to threaten death and dive right into those ships.

JS: Yeah, and kill each other. Well, you're talking about your family being in it. You weren't too affected out here, were you, being in Idaho? Did you do much war production?

EC: No, the war was over when we came out in '49. It was over in '45.

JS: So you were in Wisconsin.

EC: I think maybe out on the coast, where the warfares were, you'd see more of that, you know.

JS: If you wanted to see more.

EC: Right, But it was years before the twins ever talked about their war experiences, before they could, and then after a long time.

JS: Your parents moved out here and you stayed in Wisconsin?

EC: They came out here in '42.

JS: So, the twins stayed in Wisconsin, then, with you?

EC: No, they came out here and they went to school in St. Maries, and as soon as they graduated, they were 18, and they had to go right in the war as soon as they got out of high school.

JS: Oh, what a drag; what an experience to have.

EC: They didn't have any choice. See, they were drafted right into the service as soon as they turned 18.

JS: It's hard for me to think of. Well, there's been wars in my life, but nothing that involved the whole country.

EC: No, these other wars haven't been, well, [redacted] was a little bit in the war, but he was on a destroyer in the Navy in 1952, and that was when the Korean War was ...

JS: [Unintelligible.]

EC: No. He said that these destroyers took shifts, four hour shifts and they would go close to the shore in Korea and blow

up like oil stock piles and things like that. One time, they just went off shift and the next destroyer that went in and took their shift was sunk.

JS: All your family was lucky then. They all survived through the war.

EC: But then he came back to the states not to .... Yeah, it was like my brother, [redacted] said. They'd have to go to shore on those islands, you know, and they took those over and they'd take those ships and go ashore and he said the Japanese were on shore, of course, and they were shooting them as they were coming ashore. He said he just felt all around him that he never ever would be hit.

JS: Makes me wonder how some people made it and some people didn't. There's no way of telling.

EC: When they went ashore, I don't know which island that was on, which one it was on. He said that when they got ashore and got done shooting the Japanese, that they piled them up like [unintelligible] along the shore, stacks.

JS: So the fighters would come in and take them.

EC: I don't know why they piled them all up like that, if they dug a big trench or put them all in or what they did. But he

was just telling me that you can't believe it, the amount of people that was killed. You know you read in the paper and stuff, but he said if you would have had to be there. Then one time, they went ashore and they killed a whole gob of Japanese, you know, they wouldn't surrender, the Japanese, never would surrender; they'd let you kill them. I don't think they ever would have surrendered if it hadn't of been for those H-bombs they dropped. That was the only thing that made them give up. They wouldn't never give up just fighting. If they wouldn't of had something like that, I don't think they would have ever given up until the last one was gone. Well, anyway, they went ashore this time and they had caves and they'd dig theirselves in and they'd have to go to all these caves, you know, and get them out of there; otherwise, they'd shoot them when they went to sleep or something. So, they'd have to go in and clean out all these caves to make sure there was no more in there and they wouldn't come out. They would tell them and tell them to surrender and come out and they wouldn't do it. So then, they'd throw a grenade in there and they'd throw a grenade in there one time and out come this little kid staggering out after and all the rest were dead in there. But this one little kid come staggering out. Then they had to take that kid with them, a little boy. Then one time, this woman ...

JS: Bet you're good at stories, aren't you?

EC: ... Was coming toward them down to the shore and they

hollered at her to halt, you know, and she wouldn't, she kept right on coming. She was carrying a baby in her arm and then she had one hand behind her. So, when she got pretty close to them and she wouldn't halt, they shot her. She had a hand grenade, see, she was going to throw it in amongst them, she was going to walk up to them and she was going to throw it among them. And then they had this baby.

JS: Oh, because the baby didn't get hurt?

EC: No.

JS: Who took care of the baby?

EC: They had to take it along with them.

JS: That wasn't very nice for those kids.

EC: Yeah, it was a terrible thing. None of them would ever give up. They had to kill them because when they tell them to come out of those caves and stuff, they just wouldn't come out. They'd stay in there till they'd throw a grenade in. You couldn't walk in because it was a hole and they couldn't see what was in there. They didn't know whether they had machine guns, some of them did, and they would shoot at them.

JS: Incomprehensible. I don't think I could ever understand it.

EC: No, I don't either. I don't think what Hitler did was just simply out of this world, all those people getting killed, I mean, for nothing. They just captured those Poles and Jews and make them work in there.

JS: They should let them out.

EC: No, they just kept them working and they'd get so skinny because they wouldn't feed them and then they just burned them up. They'd starve to death and some of them, they took into these camps and they told them ...

EC: This is creepy, isn't it?

EC: I hope I'm not scaring you to death.

[redacted] No.

EC: Don't be scared because that's all over years ago; but, that's just really true things that happened.

JS: That was in '45?

EC: Yeah, it was from '41 and I believe it was over in August of '45.

JS: Yeah, because then very soon after the war, my sister was born. Then, when Mom and Dad went to their house in '51, I was their second round. The baby boom. You'd already been married for a few years, for four kids. I hope I don't have to live through anything like that.

EC: I hope not, because if there ever was another one it would be worse than anything you ever saw because of the stuff they have nowadays.

JS: It's strange the stuff they have now. I've grown up knowing, like, I don't plan ahead for more than five years because I have this idea in my mind that everything will just blow up. Do you think like that?

EC: Well, I think that eventually that's got to be what's going to happen.

JS: Maybe there will be no more wars; that would be nice.

EC: Yeah, if there never was another war, but, they just can't get along. Look how they're fighting all the time now. I wouldn't be surprised if it wouldn't be over the oil and their prices are something, because to them it's costing them a lot. If those Arab countries don't give the United States their oil, they're going to think of military.

JS: That makes me so mad. Like Kissinger, I didn't know he was sailing again; but supposedly, there's all these talks are peace, but he's the first one to mouth that there will be war, over, that's so dumb. He's almost asking for it, to put the idea in their heads.

EC: Because they have all those terrible stuff, well, the bombs that they put on Japan are nothing compared to what they have now, and look what that described.

JS: It's so crummy, all the money that's spent on killing things, and then I'm sure that not even half of it is spent on things like ADC or food stamps and then they raise the price of food stamps. That's really too bad.

EC: Well, look at when they had these wars. What I can't understand is they'd go over there and they'd blow all these countries, like Japan, to bits and then the United States goes in there and builds them all up and now they're such a big country that they're practically the top ones in the economy and stuff. They put all those factories in; they give them all of Sitka in Alaska -- the Japanese own practically everything up there.

JS: Really?

EC: Yeah. [redacted] sister-in-law lives in Sitka and that is a

big mill up there.

JS: Is it wood?

EC: Yeah and that all belongs to Japanese.

JS: I think it's crazy -- in exchange for oil there, they're even trading nuclear information. It's so crazy. There should be more valuable things than bombs.

EC: I never seen this country in the shape that it's in now. It's so crazy and mixed up that you can't even sort it out. I mean, they'll tell you, like oil and the gas shortage, oh, the big gas shortage. Then, you know when it come vacation time, they say, now everybody go on your vacation, just go ahead, plan your trips like you planned. There's plenty of gas then. Then, they was making them stay open Sundays to sell gas. Then where the hell did it all come from, all of a sudden, if it was so short just a week before? Then, they got the price up to where they wanted it. Then there was enough gas. Now they're hollering again. See, now they're talking again, putting another nine or ten cents on it. So, I think it's just some kind of a big political gimmick. And then the sugar, now you know there's sugar in all the stores, all you can buy, if you got enough money to buy it.

JS: Yeah, that for sure was a real shortage.

EC: Sugar last summer was $5.00 and something for 25 pounds. Now it's $13.00, and it was up to $14.00, and now it's slowly dropping a little bit.

[redacted] Mama buys powdered sugar. Every once in a while she'll buy that other kind of sugar.

EC: Well, brown sugar, I buy that to bake with and my God, it's $1.44 for three pounds or two pounds, I don't know which it was. It's just ridiculous.

JS: They can put the price up way high and then they'll drop it a little bit so you think it's better, but really it's still a lot higher than it was.

EC: It's just getting ridiculous. And clothes are just ridiculous.

JS: Yeah, I don't buy clothes; I get old ones.

EC: Blouses -- you'd go in a store and you used to pay about $5.00. It's $20 for a blouse, $14, $16, $15.

JS: I haven't shopped for clothes recently.

EC: I took the twins down, they wanted a long coat. So, I took them down to Lewiston and that's where we went last Saturday.

[redacted] Yeah, you should see their coats.

JS: Oh, you went shopping.

EC: And they had a lot prettier coats, I thought, and, of course, you had to pay more and [redacted] coat was $36 on sale, you know, they're having all the sales now, January sales. [redacted] was $48 and then they marked it down to $38.

JS: They probably don't last as well.

EC: No, they're not that good of coats.

JS: Yeah. It seems like the stuff for fashion now and where to function ...

EC: It's real hard to get any. I wanted to get them a good wool coat, but you can't find a good wool coat. Now, like these coats had about 40% wool, but then they got that darn old laminated backing on them, you know.

JS: Yeah, get it comfortable.

EC: And most of the coats are most of those new synthetic fabrics that you can't do anything with.

JS: You don't keep warm.

EC: No.

[Conversation with granddaughter, [redacted].]

JS: Oh yeah, do you want to sign this to say if you want to let us use any of the stuff and the presentation, if you want your name withheld. You don't want your name used? Okay, I should read this; I haven't read it yet. Oh, I know what happened. The head of the grant proposal was kidding about it in class and everything and we should make a release form, so they could use the information and then give them a copy of the form, and if the information was wrong, why, they can sue someone and someone said, "Yes, sue you [redacted] because she made up this form good.

EC: Are you taking some classes?

JS: No, I'm just doing this. I've been doing my weaving, I've been doing real good at getting customers.

[redacted] And she's going to show us, the fourth grade, her loom.

JS: Yeah, I'll bring the loom. There's a new shop in town under the Micro Theater.