

INTERVIEW SUMMARY-TAPE INDEX

NAME: Flodberg, Marie  
 DATE OF INTERVIEW:  
 LOCATION:  
 INTERVIEWER:  
 REEL NO. 5 *Side I 429-844*

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CR: So you have the nickname of Bunny?

MF: Yeah.

CR: What is your address here?

MF: Apartment 31, 616 Warner Avenue, Lewiston.

CR: And what was your maiden name?

MF: Peters.

CR: What year were you born?

MF: 1893. Long, long time ago. Don't tell anyone, though, because there are a few of them, they're curious around here.

CR: They are trying to find out, huh?

MF: I don't think I seem as old as I am, so I say that I'm 102.

CR: So you kid them. So, we won't tell anybody. Where were you born?

MF: In Traer, Iowa, in Tama County. And Traer, Iowa was written up in the Saturday Evening Post, oh, maybe 50 years ago and it

told about that area where I was born. It was part of the Indian reservation in that county, so that probably had something to do with it, but it described the area.

CR: Now would you tell me where was your first residence when you came to Idaho?

MF: Payette.

CR: How do you spell that? I'm not from Idaho so I don't know.

MF: You're not? Where are you from?

CR: Well, I was born and spent most of my life in Michigan.

MF: I have a sister in Waukesha, Wisconsin. That's not too far from Michigan.

CR: And then I spent some time in Virginia and then I came out here.

MF: So you are one of these, what do I call it? What are you connected with? Government project, isn't it?

CR: This project that we're doing?

MF: Yes.

CR: This is for the University of Idaho. There's an Association for the Humanities.

MF: I lived in Troy before I came here and I had relatives and friends in Moscow, and I used to go back and forth to Moscow. I worked at the infirmary at the University. I'm real interested in [unintelligible] so I graduated from nursing school.

CR: Where were you living before you came there?

MF: Reinbeck, Iowa.

CR: What year did you arrive in Idaho?

MF: It must have been 1900.

CR: And how did you come?

MF: By train. Five families going in the Pullman coach. These five families and there were 19 youngsters in this one Pullman coach, and if you don't thing the Pullman porter had some fun keeping them quiet and keeping them in order!

CR: I bet! So, who were the companions on the trip? Did you have your mother and father?

MF: Yes. Two sisters; there were three girls at that time.

CR: No brothers?

MF: My brother was born here.

CR: And there were four other families?

MF: Yes, they all came from Iowa, that same area in Iowa. There must have been more relatives.

CR: If you can talk to me a little bit about your mother's family, what was her maiden name?

MF: Klingebiehl, and her name was Elizabeth.

CR: And when was she born, do you know?

MF: 1866, in June.

CR: And where was she born?

MF: In Germany.

CR: Do you know what part?

MF: The western part of Germany near the French border.

CR: And you tell me that I have a fancy name? [Laughter.]

MF: Is it French?

CR: It's a Luxembourg.

MF: Well, that's in Germany, a portion of Germany. That's in the eastern part of Germany.

CR: I think so. When did your mother die, what year?

MF: 1923, I think.

CR: Do you know what year she got married?

MF: In 1893, at the beginning of the year, and I came along at the end of the year. Like a lot of youngsters. She was married on Valentine's Day.

CR: Was your mother always a homemaker?

MF: Well, she came to this country with her mother. Her brother lived in Illinois and she and her mother came to Illinois. She worked as a maid in a home in a wealthy family. That's where she was until she came to visit her sister in Iowa and met my

dad and stayed.

CR: Did they homestead, or what did your parents do?

MF: No, he bought the farm for \$90. That was his deposit on it. She was a farmer's wife.

CR: Can you remember some of the things she used to do on the farm?

MF: Well, I don't think she did any more than did housework, what you would call, baking, cooking, canning and things of that sort. She didn't work in the fields like some women did.

CR: So she didn't milk the cow or anything like that?

MF: I don't think she did, not that I know of. We had a dairy and she and Dad did the milking together.

CR: What was your father's name?

MF: John Peters.

CR: And do you know his date of birth?

MF: March of 1857.

CR: And where was he born?

MF: Tunning, Germany. That was right near the [unintelligible] border.

CR: They both came from Germany and they met over in Iowa. And the date of his death?

MF: July of 1934, I guess it was.

CR: Can you remember his occupation; what did he do when he came here?

MF: He was a farmer when he came here.

CR: He hadn't done anything in Germany then?

MF: No, he was in the service and he took French leave, I guess, when he came to this country. Like so many boys did at that time. They were sentenced to the army and then when they had a good chance -- he was on vacation or on leave, you call it, and he and someone else came to this country. He had a brother in Illinois and I guess he came to Illinois and then migrated to Iowa. I don't know too much of those details, but I do know that he had a brother in Illinois and then migrated to Iowa. You know, sometimes they don't tell you those things if you ask. A lot of times your mother is more confidential to you than your dad is.



And my mother left a sister in Germany, and her name was, hmmm, now the name slips me. What's this aviator that landed in Germany and is now serving time in Germany. I have a peculiar feeling that he might be my cousin because my mother's sister was married to a man by that name. The last couple days the name, it slipped my mind. I guess I am getting old.

CR: So, your father was first in the service and then he was a farmer and all the rest of his life?

MF: Well, until we came to Idaho he did various things. When we came to Idaho we had a peach orchard and [unintelligible]. He bought some real estate and took care of that and farmed it. The town of Fruitland here in Idaho, was an 80 acre fruit orchard that he had and owned and it finally was blossomed out into a town and so I guess that's where they got the name of Fruitland because of the 80 acre prune orchard.

CR: Would you tell me the names of your sisters?

MF: Elizabeth, Anna and Emma.

CR: And you didn't have a brother?

MF: My brother died when he was five years old.

CR: What was his name?

MF: Rudolph.

CR: How did he die?

MF: Oh, polio, I think. I was only ten years old at the time, so that's all I remember about that.

CR: Can you remember, I'm sure it was awful upsetting to your mother.

MF: That was the thing. After he passed away, then they decided to go back to Iowa. He died here in Idaho and they just felt they did the wrong thing by coming down here -- he was born here.

CR: Can you remember at that time, how they handled the funeral services? Was he buried at your home?

MF: The body was in the home. We had one of those old couches, if you remember, where they come up so that the body was placed on this couch, and I was only ten years old. They had this solution in a china bowl and I had to keep his face moistened all the time. It was like wet compresses on his face to keep it from turning dark. So that's what I had to do as a youngster.

CR: Did it upset you?

MF: No, I just had to do ... I was asked to do it and it was my

responsibility and I don't know that I was upset about it.

CR: Can you describe anymore of what happened when he died?  
Your mother's and father's reaction?

MF: No, other than I was in school that day and I had been home for lunch. I was standing at the back window in the schoolroom and I could see our house from that window and something told me that I had to go home. It was the Saturday before Easter Sunday and I just felt that I had to go home -- something was wrong and I had to be there. When I got there, he had just passed away. I had to call the doctor by phone and say that the youngster had passed away.

CR: Did they light candles around him or anything like that?

MF: Mostly Catholics did those things I think. No, we didn't have any of those rituals.

CR: Was he buried in your home?

MF: He was buried at the cemetery there at Traer.

CR: Did the friends and relatives come?

MF: All the neighborhood. No, all the relatives were out of state; they were in Iowa and they wouldn't come to a youngster's

funeral. But the neighbors and the friends. I don't remember any of the church service. I don't remember that at all. I think probably the youngsters stayed at home instead of going to the service. But I do remember when my grandfather died. That was before we moved to Idaho and I was about three and a half years old. My mother had breakfast ready and she said, "Go upstairs and see why Grandpa doesn't come down for breakfast." So I went upstairs to see and he was lying on the bed; he had his underwear on and one sock on and he had fallen across the bed. So, I came downstairs and remember standing in the doorway of the stairway telling my mother that Grandpa wouldn't talk to me. I don't remember any of the things that happened during the funeral until they had brought the casket into the house. They brought the casket into the parlor and it was a big beautiful black shiny thing with silver handles. My dad raised me up and lifted me up so that I could see Grandpa. He had the most beautiful hair; he had a wave across the top, it was silver white. So I do remember. Of course, we had a picture of him, too. That probably impressed a little more firmly on my mind.

CR: How old were you then?

MF: This was the summer before I was four years old.

CR: That was longer ago than the other one and you remembered it.

MF: I remember when my grandfather was alive. That was when I

was only three years old, that summer, a little more than three years old. I can remember him carrying me around the yard so I didn't have to walk.

CR: He pampered you.

MF: He was just real good to me.

CR: It's nice to have a grandparent who will pamper you.

MF: I don't remember my grandmother because she died when I was only about a year old, so I don't remember that. But I do remember Grandpa. He used to go for a walk and take me with him. He had a neighbor boy that had a goat and he had a wagon that he hitched this goat to and often times he'd come over and put me in that wagon, it was about five feet long. I don't know whether you've seen those wagons they hitched goats to.

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

MF: They are about that long and yay wide. He'd come over to the house, they lived across the road, our neighbor farmer and he was probably about ten or 12, maybe 14 years old. Take me for a ride and ride up and down the road with a goat hitched to it. They kept that goat in the pig hard; they smelled too much to keep them elsewhere, so he was in the hogs' yard.

CR: Do goats and pigs get along?

MF: Oh yeah; I suppose if maybe the pigs got in the way the goat would thump them or shove them out of the way. I don't remember that, but I do remember seeing him feed him at the trough with the pigs. That was about the same summer that my grandfather died.

CR: I'd like to know your husband's name?

MR: Herman L. Flodberg.

CR: When was he born?

MF: That was in 1895.

CR: And where was he born?

MF: Troy, Idaho.

CR: What year were you married?

MF: 1934.

CR: So, he was pretty old when you got married; and you were too.

MF: Yes, I was 40 years old.

CR: What did you do all that time before you got married?

MF: Well, I went to grade school for four years. Then, we went back to Iowa and I went through the seventh grade in Iowa, and that's when I lived with this friend, and she wanted to come to Payette to visit her relatives. I said, "All right, I'll go with you." So I told my folks I was on my way to Idaho. Well, then I came to Idaho and I went to Boise and first I went to business college for a year and I worked with the Pioneer Tent and Awning Company. Then I decided I'd better go to high school. So I started in a high school. Then, while I was in high school and before I finished, I went into nurses' training. I went to business college in Boise and from there I went to Spokane and I took my nurses' training in Spokane. Then I worked in a hospital. I was in charge of a hospital in Hailey, Idaho. I saw some of these abortions that they are talking about now and nothing was said about it. The patients came in and wanted to be rid of the babies and the doctor performed the operation; I gave the anesthetic.

CR: Did you realize what was happening?

MF: Sure I did. I didn't say anything and he didn't say anything.

CR: Did you think that the woman had a right to do that?

MF: Sure they do. Some of them were girls that were not married.

One of them was a girl who was going to be married in the Mormon Temple. She came and he did a Cesarean abortion on her instead of the normal way that they do it usually.

CR: Why did he do that?

MF: Well, she was a little farther along than she should've been. I think she was three months or four months, something like that. So, there you are. Her sister was watching the operation and she got faint and went out just before the doctor made the incision. Oh, I could tell a lot of things about the doctors, but, of course, you don't dare. So don't mention that.

CR: Where were you married?

MF: In Moscow.

CR: At a church there?

MF: At the Norwegian Parsonage.

CR: When did your husband die?

MF: In 1938.

CR: What year were you married then, again?

MF: In '34.



CR: You were married in '34 and he died in '38? You were only married for four years?

MF: Four years and one month.

CR: What was your husband's occupation?

MF: He was for the PFI. He worked under the state forester before he went over to PFI. He continued practically in the same line of work -- woodsman.

CR: He liked being in the woods?

MF: Yes.

CR: Did you have children, then?

MF: No.

CR: Now, you already told me your education. Let's see if I can remember. You went through eighth grade and had high school?

MF: But I didn't complete high school, no. When it came to registering for nursing, they accepted my business college credits and the combination of the business college credits and what high school credits I had was equivalent of a high school education.

CR: And how long was your training for nursing?

MF: Three years.

CR: Did you have a degree when you were finished? A bachelors?

MF: No, I didn't have a bachelor's degree. They didn't give bachelor's degree for that. Just a registered nurse.

CR: Now, I imagine you've had quite a few jobs in your life.

MF: Well, no, not too many, no.

CR: Can you tell me which ones?

MF: As I say, I worked in Hailey from out of training and I was there for a year. I had charge of a small hospital, a private hospital, really. I gave the anesthetics for all these surgeries, one kind or another, and took care of the patients and cooked for them.

CR: You did everything?

MF: Yes. Well, we only had about five patients and so there wasn't too much to do. It was to your convenience. You can if you want to.

CR: Did you like that kind of nursing?

MF: Well, it's all right, it's a job. If you want to work, it's all right.

CR: What did you do after that?

MF: Then I went back to Iowa for a time to see my folks, I guess for a month or six weeks. The doctor from Pocatello wired me wanting to know if I would accept a job in the office. So I was there for seven years in Pocatello. I was an office nurse and I gave anesthetics for all the minor surgery.

CR: And after that, did you have another job?

MF: After that, I got married.

CR: When you got married, did you stay at home or did you work?

MF: No, I stayed at home most of the time. I worked part of the time; I worked at the hospital in Moscow at that time. We were living in Troy. Tray was Vollmer at that time. There was a Post Office and as years gone by it was a freight and stock. So, on the old maps of Idaho it's listed as Vollmer. It's 16 miles out of Moscow, so I would drive back and forth. After my husband died, I went East and bought a car and drove a car back.

CR: What year was that?

MF: 1938.

CR: Was that your first car?

MF: No, I bought a car in 1923, something like that. Had a Ford.

CR: How did your husband die?

MF: Well, to tell you the honest truth, I don't know. Too much drink, mostly. But I think he had something else wrong because he wasn't sick too long. It just happened very suddenly. It was best.

CR: How old were you then?

MF: I was 42 or 43, I guess.

CR: Was that pretty much of a shock to you?

MF: No. It was just one of those things. When you have something like that in a home, it's a relief. You just put up with drinking so long. He was his own worst enemy and so I felt he was released. I would have left if he would've live much longer.

CR: You must have been pretty independent by the time you got

married. You were sure of what you wanted to do.

MF: Well, I had a car. I came to Lewiston to take charge of a small hospital and when I got there and met the doctor, oh, I met the doctor and he had an empty house that he was going to equip at the nursing home and when I moved there he had two beds. He had, a couple of days after I came, he had one patient. He had one of these old type desks and on the right hand bottom drawer was filled full of sawdust and he spat into that -- he chewed tobacco. So that got to me. I thought, "Well, of all the filthy things, and to think he was going to operate and things like that." So, I only stayed there for a few months, then I went to Orofino and I worked at the hospital there for a while. Well, that's where I met Herman was at Orofino.

CR: How did you meet him?

MF: Well, he was hospitalized as a patient and I was working at the hospital.

CR: Do you have interests and hobbies that you can tell me about?

MF: Well, what can you do when you can't see?

CR: Is it cataracts?

MF: No, it's deterioration of the retina. There's nothing that

can be done for it. I will gradually lose my sight probably. Maybe not all of it, but it's getting darker and nothing can be done. So, what are you going to do?

CR: I have very, very poor vision without glasses. I have contacts right now.

MF: You are probably nearsighted, then.

CR: Yes, I am nearsighted.

MF: When I was working in Pocatello with this doctor, I learned all those things and I can just about diagnose you. It was interesting work and we had quite a number of interesting patients. Never anything like I have; we had cataracts, sure, but I don't ever remember a doctor diagnose a blindness like I have. Of course, people are living to be older and they do things. We had older patients; we had patients that were 80 years old, but I don't think nothing like that ever came about.

CR: Does that make you angry that that's happening to you? I mean, because you seem like you are so active in every way.

MF: Why should you? It doesn't do any good. No, it's just something that you have to put up with and hope that you don't go completely blind.

CR: Then you accept it?

MF: Well, you have to. There's no two ways about it. You know, I've seen several doctors and there's nothing to be done.

CR: Well, before that happened to your eyes, did you have hobbies that you liked?

MF: When I had an acre of hillside where my home was, I landscaped that. That was just a side line; I did that when I wasn't working. But I worked at the hospital and drove back and forth to Moscow, so most of the time I was working in Moscow in surgery or on the floors or wherever they needed me. One year I was in the diet kitchen and in charge of diets.

CR: Do you enjoy cooking and baking and things like that?

MF: Yes. I could serve a better meal than the dietician.

CR: Do you belong to Connie's group? What is she in charge of?

MF: To tell you the truth, I don't know what the name of her group is. I go to some of these things. I belong to a health group. We have a health group connected with the County Health Association and different groups that are here. They call them the Silver Seniors. They're just local groups, there's probably 15 or 20 women here, there are about five groups here in the center

that meet at different times. Instead of getting too large, we have some that belong to one group and others belong to another group. But they all do about the same thing. Nothing much, maybe I shouldn't say that, but they collect some money and they go on trips and sometimes, folks feel bad because they couldn't go on the trip. This money business is a mistake, I think, because there's usually feelings about it, sometimes hard feelings. You can't participate for certain reasons and that was on a date and you couldn't go.

CR: Have you ever won an award, honor, or ribbon for anything?

MF: Well, when I was at Moscow for six years I was in charge of the women's division at the fair, and I always had blue ribbons on cooking and sewing. I did a lot of sewing, a lot of sewing. Blue ribbons in sewing and baking and cooking and what not. I wond an electric roaster one year, a drawing in Troy, the first year I was there. Another year I took a chance on a white faced steer and won a 750 pound steer. I took it to Spokane to the stock yard and I got \$220 for it, so my dollar was well invested. So I've been lucky in drawing some things of that sort quite often.

CR: Now, do you think of yourself more as a rural woman rather than a city girl?



MF: I don't know.

CR: Have you lived your life in rural areas?

MF: Mostly. In Troy, I lived 16 miles outside of Moscow. I drove back and forth to work and that was from '34 on until I came here four years ago, or five years ago. I've been here just five years.

CR: Were you living on a farm there?

MF: I had rock gardens, rock walls, and planted flowers and shrubs and things. It was 225 feet frontage and that was rock garden, rock wall, flowers and shrubs. I should have pictures of people, I think I do somewhere around.

CR: Can you tell me about your family life when you were married?

MF: Well, he was in the woods and I was there and that's all.

CR: You weren't together too much?

MF: No. He came home maybe once every two weeks or once a month. He was usually up in the woods 50 or 60 miles away from home. Sometimes it was convenient for him to come home. He was camp clerk part of the time and so he had to stay.

CR: Can you describe some of the things that you and your sisters did when you were young?

MF: I can't remember much of anything there.

CR: Like you were telling me about the goats and the wagon.

MF: I was the oldest child then, and my sister was a baby at that time, so I was the first one. I don't remember her, other than she was the baby. The other one, she's just a year and a half younger than I am. My other sister was two years younger than that so they were too small for me to play with or think about.

CR: Maybe you could think about a special Christmas or a holiday or something. Can you remember what your mom or dad did for Christmas? Did you have a Christmas tree?

MF: I don't remember any Christmases at all until we went to Idaho.

CR: And what happened there?

MF: I don't remember anything except one Halloween evening, one of the neighbor girls came over and said that we'd better be careful because the neighbor boys would probably come over and do all sorts of damage. I was about eight years old about that

time and I thought, "All right, I'll fix it." We had a picket fence and I stretched a rope across the gate about six inches above the ground. I waited till it got dark so that nobody would see me do it, and if they opened the gate they'd come in and fall. And the neighbor girls did it -- they were the ones.

CR: So it got the girls instead of the boys?

MF: I did the same thing out at the barn, but the boys didn't show up. I did the same thing out at the barn at the gate next to the barn. I got a rope and stretched it in case anybody come and let the gate down and tried to cross the fence, they'd get caught. So, I had ideas then, I was up to mischief. I could always climb a tree a lot higher than any of the boys.

CR: When you met your husband, did you court at all?

MF: Well, when you meet a patient and the fellow is down in bed, you don't do much.

CR: Did you get married soon after he was released from the hospital?

MF: We married in March. I met him early in December, so it wasn't very long.

CR: Can you tell me what were the reasons that you got married?

MF: Well, why does anybody get married?

CR: Well, some people have different reasons.

MF: I don't know.

CR: You were just in love?

MF: Well, I guess he just felt he wanted a home. We were married and went to Spokane and bought our furniture and this is what we bought.

CR: What did you used to do for recreation and relaxation for yourself? Did you ever go places with girlfriends?

MF: When you live alone, you don't go anyplace. When you are working at the hospital, driving back and forth, you are busy everyday, you don't go places very often. You don't go to dances when you are alone. If you don't have a dancing partner, why, you don't go. I like to dance.

CR: When you were married did you husband like to dance?

MF: Yes.

CR: So, you did some dancing then?

MF: Not very much because he was working and I was working. No, we didn't go to dances very much. A few times, but not much.

CR: Most of the women I have talked to get married much younger and I'd kind of like to know why you didn't get married younger.

MF: As me another foolish question! To young to tend with.

CR: So you were an exception then, because most women got married young then.

MF: Well, I tell you, before I went to Boise we used to go to dances. One of the boys there I would dance with. There was never thoughts when we were together. There was never any demonstration of affections or anything.

CR: You were pretty strong minded. You wanted to be a nurse and you were going to go ahead and do that?

MF: Yeah.

CR: One of these questions here talks about supporting your family. I guess you have pretty much financially supported yourself most of your life.

MF: Yes.

CR: When you were married, you continued to work?

MF: Sure. Not all the time, but she spent part of his money for parties for the other men. He said they had to share the expense for the parties, so there were times when \$100 would go for payment of a party for somebody else. I said, "Why?" He said you had to in order to be a good sport. I said that I would be a bad sport if I had to do that. There was no sense in that, paying for the party for the boss, or paying for the boss's party, I should say. Let him pay his own. No, I always had my own money and spent it, saved it and what not.

CR: I want you to tell me some more about the things you are doing right now. What did Connie say that you do? You take mail for somebody?

MF: I go get the keys for the people here. I stop and pick up their key and then get their mail and bring it to them. Some of those people who are not able to be out.

CR: Do you take it right to their door?

MF: Yes. I go in and pick up their key and get the mail and usually I come home with something to eat for lunch or supper.

CR: Somebody gives you something?

MF: Always get something. Today, I got a big bowl of noodles and turkey and lettuce salad and I was asked at another place for a beef hamburger and french fries, so I had the beef hamburger and french fries, so I'll have the noodles another time.

CR: Isn't that something? It seems like a nice little community here for you.

MF: Oh, yes.

CR: You have people to visit with and people to ...

MF: Well, it breaks the monotony for those who don't get out. But, they have other friends that come in. I spend about two hours every morning gathering keys and waiting for the mail and taking the mail back and posting their letters.

CR: And everybody kind of helps everybody else, huh? Like, you bring the mail and they give you some food.

CR: If you were talking to some younger girls today, what suggestions would you want to make to them? What things would you talk to them about?

MF: I think that's pretty much up to the individual. It's hard to tell someone else what to do and what not to do. You know that, too. You have certain ideas about what you would like to

do. Things you hear about some of these people and you think, well, maybe you could help them by telling them to do this, and so they don't want to be told.

CR: Well, if a young girl came to you and said, "Bunny, I want you to share some advice with me and tell me what to watch out for in the future and tell me, from all your experience of living." You must have some idea about ...

MF: Things are not what they were 50 years ago when I was young, when I came out of training.

CR: It might have even been harder for a girl like you to be like she was.

MF: Not for anyone who was independent and thinks she knows it all. I would hesitate to talk to anyone. Of course, there are a few things you probably might advise them about. But, not having had any girls, it's hard to tell. You almost have to live with a youngster in order to know what to suggest. There are things, everyone likes different things. We don't all like to do the same thing.

CR: Did you decide that you didn't want to have children?

MF: No, it's just one of those things. When you are 40 years old, you really don't expect those things.



CR: Do you get any magazines or newspapers? Or would it be impossible for you to read them?

MF: I get all my books and magazines from "Sing Song Records." They are furnished by the Library of the Blind and we get magazines. I get the Reader's Digest, Harper's, and National Geographic.

CR: Do you get recent issues on records?

MF: They come every month. The Reader's Digest comes regularly, the first of every month, and it's the full magazine from beginning to end: table of contents, the funny little quips at the foot of the page, and all the rest of it. Harper's is a very interesting, more so than ... well, you know what the Reader's Digest is. Harper's is something that a lot of adults subscribe to. There are a lot of interesting articles in Harper's.

CR: Yeah, we get Harper's at our house.

MF: And then, National Geographic. Now I am reading Celia Garth. It's a story during the Revolutionary days. The other one that I've just finished was Calico Palace, about a young girl who comes amiss because she had no home, or her mother didn't want her, really. She came to California with the first gold rush trip that left San Francisco and went up into the mountains.

A young man that she married, he had a wife; but, they were married and after six months they separated again. They decided that that was the thing to do and then, later one she married again and had a child. Her child and husband died within a week of one another. Later on in the book she married another man and suppose she was kind of happy. There were a lot of trials and tribulations all through her story.

CR: How long does it take you to listen to a story like that?

MF: It depends on how many records there are. There were 19 records in this Calico Palace, and I didn't listen to this Celia Garth. That's a story of Revolutionary times. There were quite a bit of records there, too, I think probably about 12 or 13. But the Reader's Digest comes in four records. National Geographic comes in two. Harper's is on four records.

CR: Then do you return those?

MF: I can keep Harper's; they don't ask them to be returned. The Reader's Digest, the National Geographic, and the others, they're furnished from the Library for the Blind out of Boise. Those are all free, they come to us post free and we take them over to the post office and the mail carrier picks them up and returns them. They're all free to us. We should pay for them by right and I intend to give the library something for it.

CR: That sounds like a good service for you.

MF: Well, it gives you something, it gives you some worthwhile information. You can get instructions in typing. I had an instruction record on typing and I sent it back. I should've kept it, so I'm going to send for it again and bring my typing up to date.

CR: When you came out here, you ran away?

MF: Well, I didn't run away. This girl was coming to visit, her cousin's in Idaho and I happened to have an uncle there, so I thought, "Well, I'll go with you." I was only 16 or 17 at the time, I guess. I had worked and earned some money and had enough money to pay my railroad fare, so I came West. Of course, we had lived at Payette, so I knew people there and my uncle lived there, so I wasn't coming in among strangers.

CR: Did your family know you were coming, then, or not?

MF: Well, we had written to her cousin and her aunt and uncle and told them that we were coming, and I wrote to my uncle and told him.

CR: And how did you come out?

MF: By train. Then it was ten years before I went home again.

CR: Was your family mad at you?

MF: No. They knew me.

CR: They expected you by then?

MF: I was too independent.

CR: I must say that it was exceptional that you were that way. In those days, women weren't supposed to be that way.

MF: When I was 14, a neighbor called and wanted to know if I'd do some sewing for her and I sure, "Sure." So I went out to her home; she had twins and a girl who was two years older. The twins were five and the girl was seven. So, I was there for three weeks and sewed for her, dresses and panties and things of that sort that youngsters wore. Fifty cents a day. When I finished there, another lady called and wanted to know if I would do some sewing for her and I said, "Sure." So she said, "Oh, I'll pay you 75 cents a day." By that time I was in seventh heaven. So I was there for two or three weeks and I remember one of the things that I made for her was a purple vellard [?] dress. Beautiful material. And you [unintelligible] material like that and it is really beautiful. We made a yolk on the dress and it was embroidered net. So, instead of leaving it plain, I took the purple thread and button holder on around the design and that just set off the dress.

CR: I don't know what kind of material that is.

MF: It's an older material; they don't have it anymore. It's a felt material, so it was soft and it had a print in it, a floral design, not very heavy, just lightly designed. It was a dainty design, I should say.

CR: She trusted you quite a bit.

MF: Well, I made some other dresses first and then she had me do that.

CR: She brought out that first before she had you use the more expensive material. What other materials did they use then?

MF: I think the materials were a bit more cottons and things of that sort. A lot of pretty cottons. I don't remember anything other than those vellards [?]. Those vellards were a nice dressy silk, they had a soft feeling. I don't know of anything we have today that is like that at all.

CR: Do you have pictures when you were younger?

MF: I had my nurses' pictures and that's all.

CR: Where are they, do you know?

MF: I have a Kodak album somewhere, but I couldn't tell you where.

CR: Because one of the things that we can do as part of our project is if someone has an old picture, we can promise to be very careful and borrow it and the photographer can blow it up and make a new picture for our files.

MF: I'll go through some things and I'll see if I can find one, but I didn't have many pictures. I don't make a pretty picture.

CR: I don't believe that! You did something different than most women did at that time. Did you feel like other women were angry with you or how did they treat you? You know, women who did more traditional things at that time.

MF: I don't know that I even considered that. It never bothered me. I did as I pleased and let them do as they pleased. If they didn't like it. I was more or less independent, I think. They may have envied me, but it didn't bother me if they did.

CR: You've spent a lot of years nursing then, more than anything else?

MF: And in between, I did dress making. When I wasn't working at the hospital and had spare time and was with friends, I

usually sewed. I usually sewed when I was with friends, if they had sewing to do, why, I was there. I had a friend in Sandpoint and stayed with her at times and she says, "Oh, I have some material and I like it when you make a dress for me, it always looks different." And I made one dress for her and we didn't put any trimming on it, but we bought some buttons. So, we went to Spokane and stopped at the Crescent. I don't know whether you know Spokane or not.

CR: Just a little.

MF: It's one of the big department stores. Of course, that was 20 or 30 years ago, too. And she asked to see some buttons, and then after she had seen what was in the case there, she says, "Is this all the buttons you have?" And the clerk says, "Well, we have some more expensive buttons." So she says, "May I see them, please?" She got out some of the most expensive buttons and she picked out three of them and they were \$1.25 a piece! That was all the trimming that was on the dress and it set off the dress.

CR: Sometimes they are prettier like that. I've done some sewing too and I don't usually put too many fancy things on it, but I like nice buttons. Did you make the dress that you have on?

MF: No.

CR: Do you have anything left that you've made for yourself?

MF: Oh, I have a few things, yes.

CR: Would you mind showing them to me?

MF: No. I've got the dress that I had one; that was the dress I changed after I heard you were coming. I thought maybe I'd better put on something else. When I was with the fiddlers group in Moscow, and I belonged to the square dance then, so I square danced. When I was ready to come to Lewiston, one of the women there had gained 15 pounds in weight and she had dresses that she couldn't wear and never would wear again. So I fell heir to ten dresses and this happens to be one of them. They all fit and then when I came here, there was one of the folks that lived here who had lost 12 pounds and she had dresses that were just my size. So I got five dresses from here. Since I've been here, I haven't bought a thing.

CR: That's good because clothing is really high right now.

MF: Yes.

CR: If I had more time I would do more sewing.

MF: I like to sew, I always did.



CR: Yeah, I do enjoy sewing, too. I just don't seem to have the time lately.

MF: The thing is that some of these dresses that I have now are for short sleeve, and with all these blotches that have appeared on my arms, I look better with long sleeves than I do in short sleeves.

CR: Those aren't blotches, those are senior citizens' freckles.

MF: Senior freckles, I agree. Probably now that I can't see too well I can't see them, but those that are real dark do show up a bit.

CR: It looks like those are some of your nursing shoes that you have on. Did you used to wear those shoes when you were nursing?

MF: Yes. Well, these are new ones. They probably need cleaning.