

INTERVIEW SUMMARY-TAPE INDEX

NAME: Mona Hubental  
 DATE OF INTERVIEW:  
 LOCATION:  
 INTERVIEWER:  
 REEL NO. *2 side 1 000-600*

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Activities and decisions accomplished with husband.

67:51-72:20

As child, sang in chorus; sang in church choir as adult; voice lessons. Information on Community Action Agency and family planning. Health needs brought about.

END

This is an interview with Mona Hubenthal on March 1, 1975. The interviewer is Lillie Hermann. 1

The interview begins with Mona Hubenthal talking

MH: I had been working <sup>IN MADISON, WISCONSIN</sup> and managing forestry and my husband was employed there by the Forest Products Laboratory, a government research laboratory, forestry and he took a job with IF Locks Company, a manufacturer, of plywood equipment <sup>plywood</sup> ~~part of it was~~ and ~~part of it was~~ machinery which was his field. And so when we were married in 1937 he was transferred from Seattle to Portsmouth, Virginia, which was our first home. We lived there for a year and then we were transferred to Lockport, New York. From there we were transferred back to Rockton, <sup>Ford</sup> Illinois. From there back to Virginia and then to Pascagoula, Mississippi which was on the Gulf coast between mobile and Biloxi.

LH: Oh <sup>clear</sup> way down there.

MH: Yes and then at that time he was changing jobs and his father was very ill and so I took our baby and stayed with his father and mother in Belmont, Wisconsin for 6 months until his father's death and then we located in <sup>Webster</sup> ~~Oyster~~ Grove, Missouri. That was the beginning of the war and his job was with the(?) Aircraft Company working on the C46 which <sup>a</sup> was ~~the~~ cargo plane using plywood which was his field and he was between design and production. And as soon as they got their crew together in <sup>Webster</sup> ~~Oyster~~ Grove, then we were sent to Louisville, Kentucky where they build a tremendous plant to build C46 planes out of plywood. Well then as they, you see when the war began the United States wasn't in any shape to build planes because we didn't have the capacity for producing aluminum. Now as the aluminum manufacturers geared up why it was no longer necessary to continue with the plywood <sup>plane</sup> ~~type~~ which was not as safe or useful. Plywood wasn't a good medium for building an aircraft. It was the best we had at the beginning of the war. So that plant was converted to modifying other planes and they, the B47, when they got off the assembly line in Seattle were already out of date so they were sent to Louisville,

Kentucky and the latest radar equipment controls and everything were installed and then they were sent on their way. So it was a modification <sup>plant</sup> ~~time~~ for planes. We stayed there until the end of the war and then returned to Rockton.

LH: You were a housewife all this time?

MH: Yes. Then we returned to Rockton and where my mother's home was and my husband worked for the Ace American Machine Co. which built or used, manufactured all kinds of woodworking machinery. Then in 1946, Weyerhaeuser Company who had an interest in Potlatch decided that this plant could or the vineire ~~and private~~ <sup>and plywood</sup> plant might be a potential expansion for the saw mill <sup>that was existing here then,</sup> so Homer was hired by them and was sent to Longview, Washington where he did the feasibility setting for the plywood, or the <sup>veneer</sup> vineire ~~plywood~~ <sup>plan</sup>. Then when the board of directors decided to build the plant why which was a matter of some nine months waiting, <sup>why</sup> he moved the children and me out to Idaho and we've been here ever since. Following the vineire plant why then two years later they put in a plywood plant. You asked first if I had worked any time during <sup>those</sup> the first years and I did really, I kind of forgotten that. I was a secretary for the Wisconsin Power and Light Co. in Madison, that was my <sup>employment</sup> ~~department~~. In the first year of our marriage I worked for, well during the time we were first in Virginia, I <sup>worked</sup> for the Seaboard Airline Railway which was kind of an interesting experience because this was, we were married in '37 and the <sup>south</sup> was still in a deep depression.

LH: Even at that late?

MH: Yes in '37 and the Seaboard Airline Railway was in the hands of the receiver, they'd gone bankrupt during the depression and they were just pulling themselves out of that bankruptcy <sup>during</sup> the nine months that I worked for them. During the month we lived in <sup>Pascagoula</sup>, Mississippi, I had an opportunity to see poverty <sup>in the south too</sup> ~~on the farm~~ because <sup>Pascagoula</sup> was just below the

village and the only industry there was a papermill, Sulfite Papermill, that was at Moss Point, about oh maybe 6 or 7 miles away. But the Eagle Ship building Co. had put in a ship building operation in *Pascagoula* and that was just beginning during the summer that we were there and the first ship that they were building was the South African Steamship Line and the interesting thing was, it was the summer before Pearl Harbor when every one of those ships was being taken over by the United States government. it almost seemed in preparation for our entrance into the war should it become necessary, it was the summer before Pearl Harbor. And all those cargo ships were later made into troop ships for the United States. I was going to say something about poverty.

LH: Yes <sup>you were</sup> and also you mentioned a job you <sup>held</sup> had before you went to Mississippi.

What did you do?

MH: Oh I was secretary for the Passenger Traffic Manager at the Seaboard Air-line Railway. It was kind of interesting.

LH: I'll bet it was.

MH: Then, let's see that was my only employment *in Pascagoula*.

LH: Well now you were also referring to seeing the poverty, possibly in connection with the job that you held here in Lewiston?

MH: Well now it sort of alerted me to what the role of the negro was in the South and his place in the economy. There was just very very poor schools and of course the schools in *Pascagoula* were very poor too for white people.

LH: Oh there were poor and then the negroes were poorer.

MH: That's exactly right, that's exactly right. We went to a little mission church and the underpinnings of this church were so eaten away by termites that there were two bricks propping up one end of the piano so that it was level enough so that you could play the piano. It was really terrible and it was, *Pascagoula is practically tropical* and the insect life there is very

abundant.

LH: Yeah I was gonna say they have trouble all over the south with all kinds of insects, I understand.

MH: Yes. Of course that really didn't bother me too much but it was an indication of the fact that people had very very limited incomes so the introduction of <sup>the</sup> ship building into *Pascagoula* was a real bonanza and I haven't returned to *Pascagoula* since 1940 or '41 but everyone tells me that it's a very prosperous and *striving* community and it'd be an interest-  
*again* thing for me to see if I should go back there<sup>^</sup> to see the changes that have taken place.

LH: Do you plan particularly to go back and see this?

MH: We have no immediate plans, it might happen sometime but we have no plans.

LH: Sounds all very interesting if you could I would think, if you haven't seen it, you know in that light. Then how long were you in Lewiston before you went to work for Community Action, or was this the first?

MH: No it wasn't my first job. When we came to Lewiston I became involved in all the civic things that I had participated in at other locations. I first became active in YWCA and I was on the board for 8 years, president of the board for two years and oh just the usual things that mothers and young children do. Den mother, all that sort of thing. Was very active in the *Federated* Church, I'm a congregational and the Federated church was the Federation Of Presbyterian Congregation, <sup>w</sup> While I was at the *home*. (?) Then one summer I was secretary for the *Browns Baseball Team* and following that I was <sup>employed</sup> ~~appointed~~ as the church secretary for 10 years.

LH: Now were these state employment or volunteer?

MH: Yes the *baseball* secretary was the first paid employment and the church secretary was also a paid position. And while I was there at the church I became aware of the fact that a lot of the older people of our church were having to go into nursing homes. <sup>more quickly than</sup> ~~But first thing~~ they needed

to go, for the reason there was no visiting nurse program in the community which could give them some supportive ~~talks there~~ <sup>health care in their own</sup> at home, which was about all they needed. A visiting nurse would also be able to set some standards of health care for people who were ambulatory and could make it on their own with a little guidance. So with some of the other women of our church ~~are~~ <sup>have been</sup> instrumental in getting the visiting nurse program started. The first thing we did was to conduct a survey under the doctors to see if they felt there was a need and if they would use the service if there ~~was~~ <sup>were</sup> one. We had to approach the county commissioners and they said there was no money to have a visiting nurse program. Two years later the County Commissioners felt that a visiting nurse program would save the county money because there were many people who had received medical care under the new federal program. And following their surgery, a hospital patient, the county was forced to pay for their <sup>subsequent</sup> ~~nursing~~ care in a nursing home so they realized that many of them didn't need nursing home care. But they thought that by having a visiting nurse program they could allow these people to return to their own homes so they, Irene S <sup>then</sup> who was director of the nursing services for Nez Perce County called me and asked if I thought the women of the church would be interested in helping and I contacted them and they said they would. <sup>we met</sup> So ~~with~~ the county commissioners ~~had~~ and all the other interested people <sup>and</sup> started this visiting nurse program and I was secretary of that for several years. It was a volunteer. All the time I was working for the church I was active in what we call social action. What the church should be doing in the community to make a better life for everybody. When the Economic Opportunity Act was passed, that seemed the <sup>financial</sup> ~~natural~~ solution to some of the social problems that <sup>existed and</sup> ~~had been~~ about. So the social action committee of our church co-operated with many many other people in making an application to the Office of Economic Opportunity for a pre-

liminary grant which was sort of a study grant, to see what the biggest social needs in the community were which could be met by the Economic Opportunity Act at the time.

LH: Now did you work <sup>through</sup> ~~for~~ the inter-agency council?

MH: The interagency council, you see, which is made up of many agencies including the <sup>(?)</sup> *Administratorial Association*, made the application for the fund. That was the applying organization. Well immediately when the grant was received <sup>then</sup> the Community Action Agency was incorporated with ~~the~~ <sup>its own</sup> Board of Directors so the Interagency Council made the application. It had to be some existing incorporated agency to make an application.

LH: Oh that's the way it worked.

MH: But following the grant, when the grant was received then it had to be transferred to the Community Action Agency.

LH: I see. I knew there was some connection with the Interagency Council and your church but I didn't know just exactly how it all fit together.

MH: Then when the grant was received I applied for a position with that group. I had been <sup>at</sup> ~~with~~ the church 10 years and I felt that was long enough, one can become ecstatic in any situation and so I was employed as the clerk-secretary which meant <sup>doing</sup> ~~very~~ many things. Keeping books, writing letters, writing applications, helping with various programs. So I worked for Community Action Agency from 1966 until 1972 <sup>when</sup> ~~then~~ I retired.

LH: And in that amount of time though you eventually became deputy director?

MH: That's correct.

LH: And then what have you been doing since your retirement, enjoying yourself I bet.

MH: Well I continued some of the community activities that I always participated in. I was a member of the State Human Resources Development Council, which I became a member of when I was working with the Community Action Agency, that's a state organization. I also am a member of <sup>the</sup> ~~area~~ *Manpower Board*.



MH: I'm on the public affairs committee at the YWCA. I'm past president of the Green Thumb Garden Club, <sup>its</sup> a couples garden club, my husband and I have always enjoyed. At the club we've been active in beautification of the area. Oh yes another thing I did, I was 8 years a member of the <sup>Lewiston</sup> ~~North~~ <sup>City</sup> ~~Committee~~ Planning Commission which was helpful to me and to the Community Action Agency because I was able to introduce into the Planning(?) some of the goals of Community Action. I was <sup>Chairman of</sup> ~~on~~ the committee which investigated the need for public housing in Nez Perce County and was able to help in the establishment of a housing authority. The housing authority has not been able to do as much as many of us would like in the community because there has not been funds for public housing which I feel is one of the great needs of Nez Perce County. We do not have enough housing for people's <sup>limited</sup> needs. I was on the planning commission during the time when a new comprehensive plan was developed. I was a member of the fort committee. We worked on the(?) <sup>text</sup> for the <sup>an</sup> ~~m1 dome~~ which was <sup>an</sup> industrial <sup>development</sup> and tried very hard to get a good side ordinance passed but was not successful. That's one of the things one has to learn in community effort, is that you win some and you lose some. (Laughter) That was one I lost.

LH: Very true. What are your thoughts on the black water and all the dams and the development of the river period?

MH: Well I think what we have to <sup>accept</sup> ~~expect~~, we have to start from where we are at this moment. Like many, I like natural contours of the river I like things to be left as much as possible in their natural state but we have to accept where we are right at this particular moment and make the best possible use of what we have remaining to us. I think the beautification that is planned by the Army Corp of Engineer for the(?) area is good. Along with many other people I worked very hard to see that the city accepted that beautification area. I hoped that the black water Navigation will prove to be beneficial to the community. I am not sure.

LH: Listening to all these activities and community activities that you've been involved in and in your mind's eye trace all this back to what you saw in the south in the what 40's?

MH: Well not just to the south, Lillie, it seems to me, no actually I think the social problems <sup>in the south</sup> were starved. You'd of have to be blind not to have seen them. That was just a dramatic exhibit, but the same social problems exist everywhere. I grew up during the depression, I was raised on a farm, my father lost our farm in the early 30's and we moved to, <sup>well</sup> ~~oh~~ no it was in the late 20's, and we moved to a village. There were no boys in our family and so there really wasn't, well there probably wasn't the urge to remain farming <sup>that</sup> ~~had~~ there would've been had there been boys in the family who were interested in farming. My family had illnesses. My older sister was an invalid from the time she was about 8 until she died when she was 26. My mother was deaf from her <sup>early</sup> childhood, well infancy practically. That was before the days of hearing aids. She read lips and <sup>lived</sup> ~~led~~ a remarkably full and active life in spite of her handicap and was a very influential woman in the community. My older, next to the oldest <sup>R</sup> ~~st~~ sister, there were three girls in the family, had asthma and she died when she was 35 with cancer. So I was the only surviving child in my mother's family. My father died before I was married so at the time I was married there was my mother, my sister Mary and me in our family and then Mary died about 6 or 7 years later so that just left my mother and me ~~left~~ in the family. So I saw the need for health care.

LH: I was going to say, what health services were available?

MH: none, there was no health services available. And I recall in growing up with an invalid in our family, my family never did went away from the home as a group, someone always had to remain at home with my sister, <sup>who was an invalid.</sup>

LH: Now was she just physically unable?

MH: She was physically handicapped and visually handicapped. Her mind was clear.

MH: She was a very gentle and loving person and so whenever we went away <sup>why</sup> we always brought something back to my sister, you know <sup>as</sup> ~~in~~ a way of reliving the experience <sup>to</sup> ~~and~~ tell her about it. We read aloud a great deal. So the family you see, had Jeanette as an educational project as well as a health care project. But there were no resources for health care for her.

LH: But this then is the background of why you got involved in the type of community activities you did in <sup>later</sup> ~~older~~ years?

MH: That's right. Then when I was about 18 I went to a church youth camp at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. The people I met there were perfectly fascinating and they did a great deal for me, they were all from Chicago. I remember one of the women <sup>on</sup> ~~of~~ the faculty at the youth camp was a negro woman who was on the faculty at the University of Chicago. A brilliant woman with a doctorate. I don't know, I don't recall now what her ~~field~~ field was but I have a feeling it was something in political science, probably. It seemed to me, then that doors were closed to her because she was a negro and she had this brilliant mind, marvelous education and I, who had only a high school education had all kinds of opportunities. And as the week went on I felt smaller and smaller. She was my roommate, she was perfectly wonderful to me and I'll never forget her. Then, of course as I went south and saw the contrast between her and the negroes in the deep south, it certainly was a marvelous illustration of how people can develop, given opportunity.

LH: Well now you were saying <sup>that</sup> she had so many doors closed to her.

MH: Because she was a negro.

LH: Yes, have you found that you had doors closed to you or have had in the past because you're a woman?

MH: You know I suppose there have been but I haven't been always aware of it until the more recent years. I am a rather aggressive person, I don't know, am I aggressive, Lillie?

LH: I wouldn't say so. Well ok. you're aggressive, yes, in a positive sort of a way. There's aggressiveness as far as I'm concerned <sup>that works in</sup> ~~in~~ a negative sort of a way.

MH: Well I've tried not to be abrasive but it seems as though, no, I would think the limitations that were placed on me as I was growing up were more <sup>those of</sup> ~~there was~~ a poverty because we were poor, rather than because I was a girl. There were such limited opportunities for everybody in the 30's, <sup>you see</sup> the depression days were as hard on young men as they were on young women. I was very lucky to have a job. A lot of the young men that I knew were without any work at all. True, mine was a low paying job but nevertheless, I did have a job and it was the only income my family had during the depression, well for about 2 years. We all lived on my salary.

LH: You were the soul supporter of the family?

MH: Right.

LH: So many of rural women's accomplishments have been to care of their families and this sort of thing or also displays at county fairs and ribbons and this type of thing, now have you ever done any of this?

MH: No. I think once upon a time, I won a prize for a pumpkin pie. (Laughter) But I was just, oh maybe 12, something like that.

LH: Sounds like you were so busy with these other things I don't see how you could've possibly had time for this sort of thing, too.

MH: I graduated from high school when I was barely 16. I was 16 in January and graduated from high school in June and I was too young to get a job and didn't have enough money to go to college. So I went back to high school the next year and took bookkeeping and some more typing and shorthand and chemistry and a few things like that and then got a job when I was just barely 17. I recall that my first employer, Mr. Gray, was a darling gentleman of the old school. He was the manager of the Wisconsin Power and Light Company and he hired me. And he used to say, "Miss Graham,

you know we almost had to disobey the child labor laws when we hired you."

LH: What suggestions would you give to a young woman that would best prepare her for life in a rural setting or a small town?

MH: I really think that girls and boys, this shouldn't be just for girls, I think girls and boys both should have basic skills. I think girls should know how to cook, boys should know how to cook. Girls should know how to wisely spend money, so should boys. I think as time goes on more and more there will be a sharing of the domestic chores. My husband, fortunately for me, knows how to cook and he's never done laundry and some cleaning, but he's an orderly person and <sup>I</sup> never had to pick up after and I feel very sorry for wives whose husbands have no skills and who assume that everything that happens within the door of the house is the woman's job, it shouldn't be. But you were asking <sup>mostly</sup> about what girls should do. I really been quite surprised to discover how poorly prepared some girls are to manage a home. I think you've been impressed with that too, have you not, Lillie?

LH: Yes.

MH: It seems to me as though teaching people that every object that is man-made, if it has value, should be preserved. Now the furnishings in my home are all the furnishings that belonged to my mother, my husband's mother or our grandmother and they were well taken care of or I wouldn't have them and they're <sup>a source</sup> ~~sort of~~ a pleasure to me. I'm appalled at the lack of care that expensive items received in our culture.

LH: This also gives a person a tie in with your background and structural background that I feel is lost. In new furnishings that are just kept as long as they're in style and this sort of thing.

MH: Now for instance, (?) clock on the mantle was one that my grandfather bought during the civil war and it still runs and the horse's

heads on either side of the fireplace were the hitching posts that were in front of Homer's father's office in Belmont, Wisconsin. He was a country doctor and in the earlier days of his practice he drove a team. There was a hitching post in front of his office so that his patients would have a place to tie their team<sup>up</sup> when they came to see him for services. So those things in our home and others sort of give us a feeling of the past ~~sometimes~~ and I'm pleased that the young people today are also enjoying these things.

LH: It <sup>does as if</sup> seems ~~that~~ their values are being rediscovered.

MH: Yes, I think that's true. I'm not so concerned about the fact that antiques are high on the market right now. The thing that I'm concerned about is that they were carefully made, they have been used and enjoyed and they can still give pleasure and enjoyment to people today.

LH: What are some of the advantages and disadvantages that you can see, living in a rural area?

MH: Well I think its' disadvantages are far fewer than its advantages. I like a smaller community.

LH: Do you consider yourself as a rural woman or an urban woman?

MH: Well you know rural and urban, there's always a fine line. If you're thinking of Lewiston as rural and it may be, then I'm rural. I was raised on a farm. We, I feel very close to the close to the soil. We garden, we raise a garden and we have two city lots which we landscaped. Things that we like to plant, some shrubs and flowers and trees that we like but we also have grapes and vegetable garden and asparagus beds and that supply our table needs and I can and freeze things for our winter use. So if that makes me a rural woman, I'm a rural woman.

LH: There are several definitions as to what rural, the differences between rural and urban but the one that we are using in this project is, so many people per square acre and in this way Lewiston has been rural up until

just very recently. So you're kind of on the border here and this is why I was asking.

MH: Well of course many of the problems that I have worked on in the last few years, here in Lewiston, I suppose might be considered urban problems. Unemployment, poverty, of course one can have poverty in the rural life as well. But I guess <sup>maybe</sup> I'm a little of each.

LH: How <sup>does</sup> ~~is~~ your family life now compared to the family life, your family life when you were a child, both financially, free time and any other way you can think of this.

MH: Well financially I'm much better off than I was as a child. We were able to do more for our two sons in the way of offering educational opportunities than my parents were able to offer me. Our older son graduated from Washington State University as an architect then received a masters in <sup>from</sup> design <sup>at</sup> Yale University. Our younger son graduated from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin. He was an honor student there. Our older son was an honor student as well. They took advantage of the opportunities that we were able to provide them. The youngest <sup>R SON</sup> ~~one~~ I think is probably following <sup>S</sup> ~~ing~~ a little bit more of my outlook in that his work has been more socially oriented. He's worked as a counselor in the Job Corp for a year, he went to(?) in Middle Asia in the Peace Corp. His present work is for the San Mateo <sup>County</sup> Mental Health Department in California. The older boy seems to have more of his father's skills. He is in Alaska at Fairbanks, he's a designer for an architectural firm.

LH: I hadn't realized that.

MH: He's not been there very long, just a couple of months. He taught for 5 years in the Architectural Department at Washington State University. Then let's see, what was the other part of that question?

LH: Your free time.

MH: What was that?

LH: How does your family life as a child compare to your family life now with free time, or any other way in which you can compare.

MH: Well since I retired why I have much more free time than I had growing up. So there really wouldn't be much comparison. So the things that I do now are my own bolition, not to earn a living.

LH: O.K. Can you remember when you were a child growing up how this compares to say when your mother was your age and her free time.

MH: Oh well my mother, she just didn't have any free time. I ~~can~~ remember when I was a child I said to mama once, "I don't wanna grow up," and she couldn't understand that and I said, "I just don't want to work as hard as you do."

LH: OK. Now you talk about your free time how do you see this in relationship to the younger generation's free time? Or ~~using~~ <sup>even</sup> your grandchildren.

MH: Well I don't know, I really don't have any way to answer that because it seems to me as though, people who are *vitaly* <sup>(?)</sup> interested in what's going on in the world, interested in what's going on their community will find that their hours are full because there are things that you do to maintain a home, there are things that you do to earn a living and sometimes it's difficult to squeeze in the time for recreation. I think we've allowed sometimes outside interest <sup>as</sup> ~~in~~ television and *SO ON* to clutter our lives so that we the world is too much with us. I think one has to really work hard to keep ~~that~~ some time for themselves in which they can reflect and refresh their minds and answer their souls because if one is a sensitive person there's plenty of, the problems of the world can really weight on them. Is that the sort of thing you wanted to hear?

LH: Yes. It isn't a matter of what we want to hear, we're gonna.

MH: What I wanna say, is that correct?

LH: Yes. The other thing then, can you remember and decide some of the things that you and your brothers and sisters did when you were children, in



your case, sisters.

MH: What we did for amusement is that what you're meaning?

LH: Well you already discussed working.

(voices are cut off and the interview continues a few seconds later)

LH: You said you belonged to the Grange.

MH: Yes and we belonged to the church and we lived on the home farm so lots of aunts, uncles and cousins came to see us. It was the typical social life of a rural community but there was lots of time to be alone, also. I think people need time to be alone. I think that's one of the things that I think about in society now is that there's too little time to reflect and be alone. I have to have it.

LH: Yes, I find this too. What was the attitude in your home towards education?

MH: Very positive. My parents were eager for Mary and I to receive as much education as we possibly could. I think it was a <sup>source</sup> ~~sort~~ of sadness to them that our resources were so limited. They always encouraged us to attend the good things you know, like the concerts, the plays, everything that was available which would widen our horizons a bit.

LH: And of course with no brothers you couldn't compare if the daughters in the family or the sons were encouraged more or less to continue an education or anything like that.

MH: No.

LH: Do you care to dispose some of the things about your early courtship? What you did in your early married life.

MH: What we did, oh we met in Madison, Wisconsin.

LH: How long did you know Homer before you married him?

MH: Let's see, we met in, about a year, just a little over a year and we met in Madison and Madison is an exciting place for young people to be. I was 25 and he was 30 and I remember we used to go canoeing on Lake Men-

dota, that was one of the things we did and there were opportunities to swim there and we both had apartments so we, I believe he had a room at the time but I had an apartment with another girl and it was just an exciting, interesting place to be. His job was rather interesting, The Forest Products Laboratory and they had a baseball, what do you call it, not tournament but, well anyway the men all volunteered and signed up for different teams and then they competed with each other.

LH: Kind of an intramural type of thing.

MH: Yes and Madison has perfectly marvelous parks and of course five lakes and the Universities there so there were plays, there was music, it's just a great place to be so that's where we were when we met during the times <sup>when</sup> we were dating before our marriage. Well now he went to Seattle after we had known each other for about 8 months, he took a job in Seattle and then he was there for about 5 months when he was transferred to Virginia and we were married on his way East. So that's about it.

LH: Do you recall some of the reasons you were married?

MH: I beg your pardon?

LH: Or the reasons that you married?

MH: Well I was eager to be married. (long pause here) I never thought of reasons to get married, I just thought it was a perfectly natural and normal thing to be doing. I had dated before that but I had never been engaged before or <sup>been</sup> ~~couldn't get~~ terribly serious about anybody.

LH: But you didn't marry because you felt there was pressure put on you or anything like this?

MH: Oh no. Even Homer's parents were in a difficult situation. His father was then an invalid and they had economic difficulties and my mother was a widow and I had been helping support her. So we didn't, after we were married we didn't give financial support to his parents but we did give financial support to my mother until her death. She came out here after

we'd been in Idaho. She continued to stay in Rockton. She rented rooms in her house and that gave her some extra income and with what we were able to help her why she was able to maintain a home there. But when she was 80 years old she started coming to Idaho every winter and stayed the winter with us, she'd come out in October and go back in May and when she was 85, we thought that was a bit strenuous for an 85 year old lady so, she sold her house and moved out here and made her home with us, the last 5 years of her life. Homer's mother came out to Idaho and had an apartment close to us during the last 5 years of her life. So we had both of our mothers here in Idaho with us for what support and comfort we could give them in their last years.

LH: What was your expectations of marriage and do you feel that these have been met?

MH: Yes they have.

LH: What were they?

MH: Well (long pause) I wanted <sup>love,</sup> ~~a nice~~ companionship, children, a new dimension in my life.

LH: What were the medical services that were available to you when your children were being born?

MH: They were not much. My oldest child was born in Beloit, Wisconsin and I had to have a Cesarean section, developed an infection and nearly died. Following that I had Indometreocious (?) implants of uterine tissue which it plagued me and some of them were removed and then I became pregnant the second time and my second child was born in Louisville, Kentucky and I knew that I had to seek the best possible medical attention and went to a gynecologist there who performed the Ceseran and removed the Indometreocious implants that continued to grow. The fee for his services was 10% of my husband's annual income. We did have Blue Cross so that was a help. After we came to Idaho I continued to have trouble with the Indometreocious

and went to a gynecologist in Spokane who performed a hysterectomy and I have since been in very good health.

LH: So all of these factors were definitely saying or affected the number of children you had.

MH: Yes.

LH: Where did you get your knowledge about childbirth and childrearing? In a certain place?

MH: Well I read whatever I could.

LH: How did this relate to the placement of you in your<sup>own</sup> family. What I mean is did you care for younger brothers and sisters, cousins or anything with your sisters?

MH: No, I was the youngest child.

LH: You were?

MH: Yes. So I had not been around infants or children so raising a family was kind of hard on me. I mean I took it pretty seriously and I was 30 when my oldest child was born.

LH: Now what do you see as a future for your sons, your grandchildren?

MH: I don't know, I don't know.

LH: Do you feel that the role of children has changed since you had your children? (Interruption by the telephone) The question is repeated.

MH: (Very long pause) I can't see. I've been thinking about my grandchildren that are very small so at this point my grandchildren are very much like my children were and their mothers are doing the best they know how as I did. I don't see very much change.

LH: What do you personally do for recreation, relaxation?

MH: I walk, we belong to the Community Concert Association. I go to the plays that I'm interested in. We travel a great deal. I think we traveled about three months out of the last year. We went back to Wisconsin for my husband's 50th anniversary of graduating from College in Platteville, Wis-

consin. At Christmas time we spent two weeks in California with our family. We spent a week in Portland at Thanksgiving time with our family, with our children. (Voices are cut off and continues with Mona speaking) We've all realized that we'd better make the best <sup>use</sup> ~~years~~ of our time knowing that there may be many changes in their lives. For instance Graham has gone to Alaska and no doubt will be moving his family up there which will make our contacts with him much more limited than in the past and Mahlon is anticipating Graduate School next year and it's possible that he might go east. We're grateful for the opportunities that we've had during the past here to be with them. We don't know what the future holds.

LH: Sounds as if your family is getting more widespread too.

MH: Right.

LH: Do you have any plans to go to Alaska?

MH: Possibly. I would imagine within a year we might make a trip up there depending on what their situation is.

LH: How do the things you do now compare with the things you did 30 years ago?

MH: Well I have a great deal more time and so retirement just isn't all that bad. I'm rather enjoying retirement. Being able to do the things that I want to do.

LH: Was there ever a time in your life when you had the major responsibility for the financial support of your family?

MH: Yes

LH: Now you had said this you know as far as your family went before you were married, what about since you've been married?

MH: No, not the major support but my income has certainly made it possible for us to have more things, to live a poor, not live a poor life, what shall I say. Well we've had more recreational opportunities because I contributed to the family income and I think it's been a help to our

children in their education as well.

LH: Now this is as far as contributing to the family income but do you see your contributions as a mother and garden, canning, this sort of thing, <sup>as a contribution</sup> to the support of your family?

MH: Oh, definitely, definitely. I think that a woman who devotes a 100% of her time to her home makes a tremendous financial contribution to her family. I didn't work until my youngest child was already in school, maybe 4th or 5th grade, something like that but it was kind of hard at times to work and be a mother and be a homemaker, it's hard work, I don't deny that.

LH: What do you see in the years ahead when you may be left alone?

MH: Well I don't know, I'm hoping I won't be (Lots of laughter) I have no thoughts.

LH: And the last few things here. What magazines, newspapers and this sort of thing do you subscribe to?

MH: Well the Lewiston Morning Tribune, of course, The Atlantic Monthly, News-week Magazine and The Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, I've belonged to for a number of years and they put out some excellent reports. I get the Common Cause <sup>reports</sup> ~~Weekly~~. Let's see what else is around here, National Geographic, Sunset Magazine, McCall's which I do not like very much and do not intend to subscribe to again, in fact, <sup>I think</sup> that the women's magazines now are really very poor.

LH: In what way?

MH: Well they are mostly advertising and I think they're just too lightweight for me to waste my time on.

LH: And what TV programs do you enjoy the most?

MH: We like the Public Broadcasting Station, Channel 12 from the University of Idaho, Channel 10 from WSU and 7 from Spokane, we're on the cable. We generally listen to more of the news broadcast, either Cronkite or

Chancellor in the evening. We like Masterpiece Theater, which is a ~~TV~~ <sup>PBS</sup> program. Occasionally we watch "What's my Line." We don't listen to any of the comedy programs.

LH: The garbage.

MH: We have enjoyed Mary Tyler Moore some and Sanford and Son and Chico and the man is sort of amusing. Those are the three we ever see. Oh we watch All in the Family occasionally and we used to enjoy him a great deal but somehow his bigatry is just a bit too bigated to be real somehow, it doesn't seem, I think it would be better if his bigatry <sup>were</sup> ~~would be~~ downplayed a little bit so it came a little closer to reality.

LH: And thinking back what are some of the most common things your husband discusses with you or asks about.

MH: (Long pause) Well we do so many things together that it would be difficult to say what are the most common things, <sup>Lillie.</sup> We garden together, we refinish furniture together, we can together, we travel and we plan our trips, we talk about our children, we visit our friends together, that sort of thing.

LH: You sound like you thoroughly enjoy each other.

MH: We ~~think we~~ do.

LH: Is there anything else that you'd like to tell about your experiences as a rural woman?

MH: I can't think of anything, in fact I've talked my head off. (lots laughter)

LH: Oh no.

MH: Well I mentioned earlier that my parents were always eager for us to go to concerts and plays and so on and we did sing in all the choruses that were available and after I started working I sang in the choir in the Second Congregational Church, <sup>at Beloit,</sup> ~~by the way~~ which was a very large church with a very fine choir and choir director. At that time I started taking voice lessons and <sup>I</sup> ~~used to do the~~ <sup>concerto</sup> ~~childhood~~ <sup>in that church</sup> solo work and enjoyed it

very much so through the years I've always found singing to be one of my pleasures and one of the pleasant rewards from that was that in any new community that we went to it was such an easy way to make friends. To join some chorul group or choir, it was a very pleasant thing to do, I've enjoyed singing.

LH: Did you ever have any formal voice lessons?

MH: Yes I did, I took voice lessons when I was singing in this choir that I mentioned in Wisconsin. I would say that I've had about maybe 3 years of voice lessons.

LH: Do you still sing?

MH: No I think that I sing off the Hymns in church, shall we say.

LH: *For say* they always mention when you do come for your open amusement and other people's amazement?

LH: That's it?

MH: Yes

MH: The Communication Action Agency received a grant for outreach work for family planning. The outreach work was essential to getting the family planning idea across to low income women. I directed the program that the ~~Communication~~<sup>ty.</sup> Action Agency carried on in this regard and I was a member of the district family planning board. What else did I miss. Also in connection with better health care services for this area. I worked with the Clearwater County Community Action Agency Center at Weippe in *an* attempt to get Nurse practitioners for the Weippe ~~Perce~~<sup>Pierce</sup> headquarters area. Health care services in that area are minimum. Often times people died on the way to the hospital or accident cases went untreated simply because there was no professional available to take care of them. We were not successful in setting up this particular program that I was interested in but the long range results of that effort were good because now there is a nurse practitioner located in headquarters or rather in



Pierce. She relates to an Orofino doctor so that I really feel that the Community Action Agency calling attention to the great need there was the, brought about this positive result so that although we weren't able to get what we had originally planned, there is now a service available in the community which they would not have had, had the Community Action Agency not worked as hard as we did to bring about that result. It's not very well worded. (Voices are cut off again and it is the end of the interview)

(End of interview with Mona Hubenthal)

Tape 2