

An interview with Phyllis McArthur, interviewed by Kathy Naugle

KN: O.K., now I want to make sure I spell it right. It's P_H-Y-L-L-I-S?

P.M: Right.

KN: M-A-C?

PM: M-C.

:

KN:Oh.

PM: Capital A.

KN: And your maiden name?

PM: [REDACTED]

KN: And your *date of* birthdate?

PM: May 31, 1918.

KN: And place of birth?

PM: Weippe, Idaho.

KN: O.K., how do I spell that?

PM: W-E-I-P-P-E.

KN: I don't think I've seen that before.

PM: Go towards Pierce...

KN: Not too much, huh-uh, and your phone number, in case we want to call you.

PM: [REDACTED]

KN: O.K., any nicknames? Do you have any nicknames that people call you now or that they did call you when you were younger?

PM: Just Phyll.

KN: Phyll? Is that what they call you in those Council meetings?

PM: Oh, I have lotsa people call me that, mostly men.

KN: I s'pose, yeah.

PM: That do it. And I have a few lady friends that don't call me anything else.

KN: And let's see. I just had your address w^ritten down here.

PM: Box 72, Orofino, 146 (176?) Johnson Avenue. Which one do you want?

KN: I want them both. This is the biggest apartment I've ever been in.

I didn't expect it to keep going back. Oh gosh. Um, let's see, when did you first, where did you first come in Idaho? You were already born in Idaho, so you left.

PM: Born and raised in Idaho. My grandparents, which you saw a very nice picture of, were pioneers, all pioneers, from Clearwater County.

KN: That came, where did they come from?

PM: West Virginia.

KN: Let's see. Pretty loud pencil.

PM: I don't know whether you have a place to add that or not, but my grandfather, my family, are well known here because they had the first telephone office here and operated the first telephone office in Clearwater County.

KN: Oh, really?

PM: They owned the first car in Clearwater County. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

KN: Now that was his name?

PM: [REDACTED]

KN: Let's see, let's get down to grandparents. Um, now what was your mother's or father's name?

PM: Mother's.

KN: Mother's. So her maiden name was [REDACTED] And her first name?

PM: [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

KN: Gee, it wasn't short for [REDACTED] It was just...

PM: [REDACTED].

KN: That's neat.

PM: Very odd name.

KN: Yeah, I would expect it to be a middle name. Is it [REDACTED]

KN: or [REDACTED]

PM: [REDACTED]

KN: O.K. And her birthdate?

PM: Was, ah, March the eighth, 1897.

KN: O.K. And where was she born? Back in Virginia, I suppose.

PM: No she was born...

KN: Oh, they came here.

PM: Yes she was born and raised in...

KN: So you were ^{born} born there.

PM: Yes.

KN: And she's living now. She lives at a care center?

PM: Mm-hm.

KN: And what year did your mother and father get married?

PM: Oh, I can't answer that.

KN: About when? Let's see, she was born in 97

PM: Is 80, 83, uh 1897, I thought I figured that ^{up a while ago} ~~out~~ 1975, take away 1897

KN: I have as much trouble as, Let's see that's 75 plus three, that's 78

PM: Well then she's 80, 83 years old.

KN: then we've got to add, take off five years 1892.

PM: 1892?

KN: Uh-huh. is when she must have been born?

Can that be eight years plus seventy five would make her 83.

PM: O.K.

KN: So, um, let's see, she would have been eight years old in 1900.

PM: She was ^{well, about} twenty three years old when they were married.

KN: O.K. So...

PM: Can you figure that out?

Mc Arthur/ Naugle

kn: Yeah, I think, 16, 1916, maybe, I think so.

PM: Well, I was born in 1918, and there's two children before me, so it has to be before that, about, I would say ^{about} 19, ah because she had, I think she had one right away and than another one right away...

KN: Uh HUH.

PM: There's not much difference between

KN: Oh that might be right then, about 1915?

PM: I would say 1914.

KN: O.K. And, uh, did she ever work outside the home? Or did she stay...

PM: OH no, she worked outside the home and of course they had the telephone office. Have you seen, you know where the court-house is?

KN: I went by it yesterday.

PM: And of course there's Wes(?) gun and tackle shop? Right just when you notice it. That used to be their home, I remember going there, and that used to be years, that many years ago, and it used to be the telephone office down in that building.

KN: And that's where they, that was their business.

PM: That was their business and she worked in the telephone office,
I know.

KN: Uh-huh.

PM: Now where she worked, I have never heard her say anything about working anyplace else.

KN: You think she probably did, or you just don't know where it was?

PM: Uh, I don't, I think she might have worked babysitting, or something like that for other people, *Back then,*

KN: Uh, huh.

PM: Back then, but I don't know.

KN: But this business, it went on for quite a while so she worked.

McArthur/ Naugle

PM: Oh yes, they used to be telephone operators, the three girls.

KN: She and her sisters? Oh!

PM: Uh, huh, and that's all I know about, of course I was thinking about my mother, her mind is sharp as a tack. Yet, and i don't know whether she would be a good interviewer or not. I would say yes.

KN: Oh, gee, that would be, we might be coming back to the area again and then that would be fun to get, because then we'd have two generations, too, and we might even get your daughter, too.

PM: And she is ah, my daughter has had an interesting life, but anyhow, I would say if you're back, my mother would make a good person to interview.

KN: Let me put that down.

PM: [REDACTED]

KN: Now your father's name is, what?

PM: [REDACTED] Too bad I have this cold, in case I have to get up and...

KN: Oh, go...O.K., and his birthdate?

PM: Well he was eighteen years older than she was.

KN: O.K. That'll give us uh,

PM: So you figure that out.

KN: Ninety two minus eighteen, seventy four, eighteen seventy four. And where was he born?

PM: He was born in Missouri someplace. I can't remember the town.

KN: It was your, yeah, your mother's family that were the pioneers out here. Is your father still living?

PM: No.

KN: When did he die? Just the year.

PM: I don't know. Perhaps you're better at that than I am, but I just cannot remember. He's been dead about ten years.

McArthur/ Naugle

KN: O.K. In 65?

PM: Look on the back of the picture.

KN: Ah, what did he do? What was his, what were the jobs that he had?
That you remember.

PM: Well, see ^{they,} he worked for the telephone company.

KN: For your, That was your mother's families?

PM: No for the telephone company way back when, that's where she (?)
was workin' as a lineman for the telephone company.

KN: Oh O.K., but the telephone company wasn't the same company.

PM: No, he, that was his, when he came out here from Missouri when he
was a young fella he worked for the telephone company I can't tell ya
what name it is, and then

KN: Uh huh

PM: And then uh, they farmed, when

KN: He and your mother?

PM: Grampa and grandma owned a big farm ^{up here} in the Weippe country and they
were put on it, and farmed it, and eventually bought it all their life.

KN: Your mother and father.

PM: That's right. That's where all those children were born and

KN: Oh, I see, that's why it was the same place as where your mother was born.
It was the homestead. And so he was a telephone company lineman, and
then he worked the ranch.

PM: That's right.

KN: And was he, did they do that up to the time that he retired?

PM: Yes, until he passed away.

KN: Uh huh, let's see, how many brothers and sisters do you have?

PM: I have two brothers and three sisters.

McArthur/ Naugle

KN: What are your brothers' names and ages?

PM: [redacted] approximately 56.

KN: Mm hm.

PM: [redacted] I would say about 50.

KN: O.K. And then

PM: It's ^{so} hard. I can't remember those things.

KN: I, the only way I remember my sister's age is I remember she's seven years older than me, *so I have to*

PM: Yeah

KN: So I have to count up like that, too. And then you say you have two sisters and

PM: Three sisters, [redacted] and ah she's approximately 60...this is gonna take two hours. I don't have two hours.

KN: I think we could

PM: Just rush for time

KN: Yeah, now on your sisters we've got [redacted]

PM: And ah, ^E[redacted], and what did I tell you on [redacted] ...?

KN: About 60?

PM: Yeah she's about 60, and [redacted] is ~~about~~ 58.

KN: Mm hm.

PM: And then comes me.

KN: Mm hm.

PM: And then ~~comes~~ [redacted]

KN: [redacted] the baby.

PM: [redacted] the baby, underneath the two boys.

KN: So she's in her forties, *probably.*

Mcarthur/ Naugle

PM: Yes, what's [REDACTED]

KN: 50, about?

PM: Yes, she's somewhere, I would say 47, 48.

KN: O.K.

PM: There's not too much difference between all us children.

KN: No, they, right in a row.

PM: yes, that's the way they did in those days.

KN: Mm hm.

PM: Yeah, like they say, "you, we've come a long way, baby". *In this day + age.*

KN: Now, let's see, your husband's name, is it [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

PM: It's [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

KN: Let's see

PM: [REDACTED].

KN: [REDACTED]

PM: [REDACTED]

KN: Huh!

PM: He was named after an army fella whose last name was [REDACTED]

KN: Oh, like a buddy of his father's?

PM: ^{uh,} A buddy of his father's.

KN: Oh, and what's his birthdate?

PM: Ah, March the eighteenth, 1912.

KN: And where was he born?

PM: Oregon City, Oregon.

KN: And you two were married, where?

PM: We were married in Lewiston, in 1936? Next year we'll be celebratin'
our fortieth...

KN: Fortieth, That's really something. Forty years. Um, now I noticed on the

McArthur/ Naugle

KN: ^{back} of his shirt, he, does he work in electric?

PM: Well he had a business here for twenty years, ^{right down underneath} he

KN: Oh,

PM: He owned this building he was a logger, and he worked...

KN: Oh.

PM: I'll tell you, it was a whole new life for us when we decided to take the plunge.

KN: When you came, when you moved into town?

PM: Yeah, we owned a home up here, and uh, we were living here when he was workin' ^{we} on the poles, he had his own pole truck, and decided to it, these people wanted to sell, and my husband started workin for him, for the former owner

KN: Of this downstairs, what was it, an appliance shop?

PM: Well, yes, in a small town it's everything. My husband, you wouldn't believe him. He can do anything! Anybody, anything, anybody wanted fixed, he could almost fix it. They'd bring in sewing machines, vaccuum cleaners, and of course we sold ^{whirlpool} appliances, and years ago, 20 years ago or more, records.

KN: Really?

PM: Record shop, and if we didn't have the biggest record business in the world. We just made money off those records, back when they were selling 78's and 35's and all those things, you know.

KN: So, so when did he make the change from logging to this business? About what years?

PM: 1953.

KN: '53. And that's still, he still, you own it.

PM: No. No, he's retired. ^{of course} And the reason we still have these clothes

Mc Arthur/ Naugle

PM: and so on, and you can make \$200. a month on your social security.

KN: Oh, mm hm.

PM: And in this day and age you have to make every bit of money that you can, so he makes his \$200. dollars a month.

KN: Oh, I see, so you can earn up to that much and still get social security. Yeah, so he works ^{down} in the shop.

PM: And we still keep our business, except it's alot easier now, I still have my desk out here.

KN: I noticed that.

PM: I have to do my same kind of work, in the uh, secretarial end of it as I did when we were in business, only it's ~~on~~ on a smaller scale.

KN: Mm hm.

PM: I do my books every three months instead of every month now. And, and we, you know, he has his [?] business, and he was very well liked, and of course,

KN: Some people probably wouldn't let him retire, even if he wanted to, just quit the whole thing.

PM: That's probably right. And that, does that answer your questions on that?

KN: Yeah. I think really well. Let's see now, now I can remember your daughter's middle name, ^{Roy} but what was her first

PM: [REDACTED] like [REDACTED] what was her name in the story?

KN: [REDACTED]

PM: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

KN: And her last name, now is?

PM: [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

KN: And, her birthdate?

PM: ¹⁵ May the twentieth, ^{we} ~~they~~ were married in 36? Thirty nine.

Mc Arthur/ Naugle

KN: And is sheworking outside the house, or

PM: No.

KN: She's got, how many children ^{does} ~~has~~ she ^{have} ~~got~~?

pm: Two.

KN: Ah, one of those

PM: One of those are hers.

PM: Ah hah. And then, you had one other daughter, but no sons?

PM: No.

kn; And your other daughter's name is?

PM: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] if you want the middle name.

KN: ^{Sure.} And her last name?

PM: [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

KN: [REDACTED] And when was she born?

PM: She was born in 1936.

KN; She was the older?

PM: Older, and ^{we} ~~they~~ were married on March the sixth, she was born on March the eighth, a year later. And my mother's birthday is March the eighth.

KN: Is that right?

PM: My mother and my daughter are both the same. Same date, March the eighth.

KN: And then she passed away, ^{what year}

PM; Three years ago.

KN: That was 72?

PM; Yes, three years ago, ~~September the twenty-third.~~ ^{September the} Twenty fourth. Sept. 24th.

KN: Now, uh, what schooling, what grades did you complete?

PM: Well, uh, I only had a high-school education, and of course that after you grow up to realize and uh, of course, that's where I'm trying to help my grandchildren, to not make mistakes cuz I never had a mother that,

McArthur/ Naugle

PM: in those days, I say, and I don't think I'm wrong, your mother, and of course especially my mother, was never a mother to me. I think she was just too busy, all us kids think that, and anyhow I think that after you've lived your life and seen all the mistakes you've made, you can sure try to help somebody.

KN: Yeah.

PM: You can sit down and talk to them. Like uh, ^{I mean} of course, that's one of my main goals in life, is to try to help the grandchildren. [&] Talk to 'em as friends. Whether it does any good or not, I think is up to them.

KN: Yeah.

PM: ^{But} Some children it ~~does~~ ^{do} some good, and others it won't do a bit of good. They'll have to learn their own way.

KN: So you say your parents didn't encourage you to go on to college. Did you ever think about it?

PM: Well, we were, Ah I wish I knew how to express myself on this, Yes, we started to ^{Kinden (?)} business college in Spokane.

KN: Did you? You and your sisters?

PM: My sister and I, my second sister and I were in the same grade.

KN: Uh, huh.

PM: I skipped one grade in school.

KN: Uh, huh.

PM: And she and I were graduated together from highschool. [REDACTED] And we were both sent up there to (Kinden?) But I don't remember the circumstances, I don't remember whether we wanted to go, I don't remember anything. All I remember is being ^{so} homesick, and quitting, and they had a terrible time with us, and we stayed in people's ^s homes, you know, to work our way

KN: Uh, huh, did you both stay at the same place?

McArthur/ Naugle

PM: No. We didn't.

KN: Oh, I see why you'd be homesick then.

PM: And of course we weren't prepared for any kind of a life like that, and of course, ^{I think} life then is so different than life now, you know, I think maybe children are more equipped for that stuff nowadays. They're so independent and so grown up, and I just don't know. I just don't know what happened. Maybe my mother ^{would have} ~~was give~~ an entirely different version, but I just hardly remember anything about family life when I was young.

KN: Have you thought about going back to school, would you be interested in it, or?

PM: No. No, all I want now is a little peace and quiet in my life. I have worked and ^(+orn) ~~to~~ my heart out in this town for so long and of course there's people that argue with me that say I'm not gonna be content to uh, goof around. But I say, just watch me; I'm so fed up with, I've had too much, is the way I put it. I've had too much pressures and too much to do, I just want to be peaceful and quiet and do my own thing now.

KN: That makes sense. It really, although if I knew you better, I might agree with some of the people that said you wouldn't be satisfied, if you had all that responsibility, you might get bored more than someone that just stayed home, but, let's see, um, we'll just talk about... now what would you say your skills are? I know your professional skills and that kind of thing.

PM: Well, I say that there's not too much that I can't, ^{it} couldn't accomplish. I, and ^{think} ~~God~~ my husband is along. ^{Goes along with me.} We want to grow old gracefully with things to do.

McArthur/ Naugle

KN: Mm hm.

PM: And of course, we took up golfing and of course, I only learned ~~it then~~ ^{to knit}.

And he, we both are avid bridge players and, uh, now I learned before him

and I was a little concerned that he might not learn ^{and he kinda balked at it.}

KN: This bridge?

PM: Bridge . And he did. And of course I admire and love my husband for all those things. Because we don't want to, I know too many people, and in my own family that can't do anything.

KN: Together?

PM: Or just sit around and do nothing, and of course, I can't see it that way.

And of course we'll be playing golf 'till the day we won't be able to put one foot in front of the other, you know. And Of course, I think it's good exercise, it's good for the mind, and uh, it's absolutely good therapy for people. I've heard it time and time again and especially with sorrow in your family, when you lose a child, you never get over it.

KN: Mm hm.

PM: And of course, you go out there on that golf course, it's a therapy, you know, you don't think about it .

KN: Mm Hm.

PM: And of course, we love to get together with our family, with friends and play bridge, and I started to ^{in learning} ~~learn to~~ knit last year, didn't have to much of a chance, and of course this year with the chamber of commerce...

KN: Oh...

PM: I can spend every bit of my waking time with that chamber of commerce...

KN: Sure you could.

PM: So I am going to be I'm going to be handicapped this winter the rest of this

McArthur/ Naugle

PM: winter, ^{for} trying to take up knitting again. And I sew. I have sewed from the time I was first married, but there ^{was all those} ~~were~~ years between, when we ran this business, that I could not sew.

KN: Sure.

PM: I just have too much to do. Now I'm back to it again.

KN: Yeah.

PM: Of course it was the best thing that ever happened to us when we quit that business. We tried to sell our business, and we couldn't. Then after the death of our daughter, we just ^{did not want it,} couldn't stand it!

KN: Oh, really?

PM: We couldn't stand it. And the two of us workin in that business together, I tell you fellas have a way of and we get wrapped up in our lives and...

KN: Well that's

PM: Well anyhow, we could not stand that business, and we tried to sell it, and couldn't, and you know it was the greatest thing in the world we didn't think that it could ever be possible, we just quit it. Plain quit it.

KN: Sometimes that's really hard.

PM: We had a big quitting business sale, and to look back on it ^{now}, we never dreamed that it would work out so great. And, I just ^(neither) one can get over how great it was that we took that step.

KN: That you finally, yeah.

PM: Finally took that step.

KN: Well, did you always, you got the business in the fifties.

PM: Fifty-three.

KN: And you worked there ever since. When did you get your chamber of

Mcarthur/ Naugle

KN: commerce is it a ^{appointed} ~~private~~ position, or? Is it elected?

PM: Oh the board of directors have to elect you, I was elected.

KN: How long have you been doing that?

PM: Well, now that's only for a year.

KN: Oh, O.K.

PM: And that was last January. And Of course this chamber of, I was one of
 the progressive merchants, what we call the progressive merchants in town.
 And when we were in business, I was just continually, and you know, I worked
 so hard in that progressive merchants, nobody knows.

KN: And that was a paying job.

PM: Oh no. We had a president, but any time there was anything to do, it was
 I was, I spearheaded it. I mean, in fact I know, and people say that
 I was president and secretary both.

KN: Oh.

PM: I was secretary and treasurer, and we had a president. But anyhow,
 there's alot of work to it. *There's a lot of work to it.*

KN: Oh, as much as you'll accept, I think.

PM: And we had all these promotions a year we had all lined out and all that s
 stuff, and then ^(any glory to myself) I say it to state a fact, and anyone in this town
 that know me, and alot do, will tell you the same name, I tell it like
 it is. And I just cannot be a two-faced person. I and, I'll practically
 tell you ^{out} to your face, and most people admire me for that, but O.K.,
 the hospital on the ^{Hillary?} ~~hill~~, and I'm sure you know what that is

KN: Mm hm.

PM: The ladies workin' for the hospital, and the hospital on Hillary
 was about to fold. It was in bad shape.

KN: Mm hm.

McArthur/ Naugle

PM: They couldn't get anybody to come to the meetings, and I started it (I joined it) about two years, let's see, I was hospitalized in the early part of last year, and I ^{joined} started it about two years before that, well, after the death of our daughter,

KN: Mm hm.

PM: Well, I just got closer to the hospital, ^{I don't know what it is,} anyhow, I guess they asked me if I would take presidency

kn; Of the auxiliary.

PM: Of the auxiliary. Do you know that it amounts to the fact that I put that thing on its feet?

KN: I'm not surprised, seeing the other kind of things that you did.

PM: I tell you, you just wouldn't believe it, and of course I got all kinds of compliments, and I, but that does not bother me one bit, I mean, my head is not swelled, I don't, it doesn't make one bit of difference if people say good or bad things about me, it doesn't change me one bit.

KN: Now all three of these things, the chamber of commerce, the merchants association, the auxiliary, none of them were jobs you got paid for.

PM: Oh no, huh uh, and you just can't believe what that hospital auxiliary's doing, course you have, if they thought I was good, you should know last year's president, the one that came after me. She was ten times better than I was. And I was good. Because I believe in doing something. And I believe in publicity and trying to get committees, and makin' them work, and everything, you know.

KN: Then I say, would you agree that one of your skills is leadership? ^{organization}

PM: Leadership. I've always been a leader, and of course you get kinda bossy.

McArthur/Naugle

KN: Well.

PM: And my son-in-law tells me I would make a good first sargeant in the army. And of course, the chamber of commerce was in bad shape, too. It was dying on the vine. And I don't know what it is about me. I think one thing is people like to be told to work (?)

KN: Yeah, people like to have things...

PM: They like to have a leader that cracks the whip. I honestly believe that, because, I'm telling you, you wouldn't believe the fantastic response and the crowd we're getting. We've had all the way from our lowest meeting has been about twenty three, twenty three people, and we were lucky if we were getting about five or six and up to ten, fifteen, twenty, in the last two or three years; now I was the treasurer of the chamber of commerce for ten years.

KN: Oh, wow.

PM: Yeah, but it isn't too much of a job, because it takes some more of your time on top of all this other, the business I had to run and all this other stuff.

KN: So youve done a lot of book-keeping work, that you have book-keeping skills, too.

PM: Yeah, every time I was in an organization, I always ended up being secretary-treasurer. You know, it just follows some people.

KN: Yeah, I think so. What other skills would you list, then? Not hobbies, not crafts and things, but, you have leadership skills and book-keeping. What other skills would you say that you've used in what work you've done?

PM: What would you think, Kathy, from talking to me?

KN: Well, I think that leadership...

PM: And a clean place, our building has to look just right, I still think that it has to look clean, all just nice, and I still think that

McArthur/ Naugle

PM: most people like that. You take a building that's run down and kept, inside and out, ^{not well} ~~it~~ kept...

KN: Did you have something to do with this, the one across the street, the one they chipped away, the brick?

PM: No. I didn't.

KN: That's nice looking.

PM: But I've been hollering ever since, waving the flag, because I think it's a fantastic thing for Orofino, and I ^{honored it} _{in} chamber of commerce.

KN: Oh, really, because I know you spoke last night about beautification, and I know you're interested in it.

PM: Yeah, and of course I talk about that all the time, because any person that likes to see neat children, neat houses, neat businesses, neat streets and everything is, I mean, bound to want something like that for your town.

KN: Yeah. Let me ask you

PM: ^{if I could crack the whip that has a business to shape up} And tell everybody in this, to fix their buildings up and clean them up, why that's what I can do. That's what I do.

KN: Have you ever gotten any awards or honors for either or any of the organizations you've been in, or any of the work you've done, or for any crafts, or ~~for~~ anything? Have you ever gotten any recognition?

PM: No, except they have me up ^{as} ~~for~~ woman of the year.

KN: Well that's something.

PM: But I lost out, I didn't get it.

KN: ^{you were nominated.} Was that last year?

PM: Year before last.

KN: Have you ever entered anything in a fair, or

PM: No. No, I've never had time for that.

KN: Mm hm. Let's see, now if I can get to some more general questions. You already know some of the things I wanted to ask. What can you say, what comes to mind, in describing the difference between a rural woman and an urban woman? You've lived here since before you got married. Do you consider ^{yourself,} it rural, or urban, or?

PM: I consider it rural. Now your first question what's the difference between an urban and a rural woman, well you can't. Some women, I mean, maybe their lives are different, but you can't tell whether that's some old farmer woman, or some old urban woman, as far as that goes. It has to be the difference in their lives. Actually, I can't uh, now what are we talkin' about?

KN: Well

PM: The advantages?

KN: Sure. Which would be more appealing to you? What do you think the advantages are for being a rural over an urban woman.

PM: This is just like anything else. Everything has its advantages and disadvantages.

KN: Yeah

PM: But of course, as I told you before, I am, I would always be partial and say more advantages to a rural community and, their lives.

Because, and possibly because that's been my life. And I can't stand a large town. I think people are too unfriendly, in a small town most everybody knows about your business, too, but I don't care.

KN: Mm hm.

PM: And naturally, you're goin to have a lot more advantages in a large town. I mean a community.

KN: Now what kind of advantages are you talking about? In a large town?

- PM: Uh, you can see, uh, and go to ^{(ten times)?} a few more things in the arts and entertainments, and it varies, uh, what shall we call it? Shall we ^{call it} say from the very low class to the high class?
- KN: Yeah that makes sense.
- PM: And of course, I don't know, just more things to see. Just take this, ^{community with} compared to Spokane, even that, and of course there's ten times more crime, and I think the drug problem is ten times easier to control in small towns than it is in a large town, too. I think, I still think, despite ^{if} everybody knows, supposedly knows about everybody ^{else's} business, I still think you can get, have a better life and identify, and communicate more with another person.
- KN: In a small town?
- PM: Mm hm.
- KN: Um, I think that makes sense.
- PM: I'd like to hear your opinions.
- KN: Well, 'course I listen to so many different people that I was ~~thinking~~ ^{of} thinking of something I was going to ask you though, take a, now I think ^{you'd agree} you're a strong enough woman that, set down anyplace, you wouldn't whither away, but take a kind of a timid woman who, oh I don't know what to say, except that ^{who} grew up very traditionally, whose mother always stays at home, do you think that woman would have more of a chance of doing more with her life in a small place or a large place?
- PM: Where?
- KN: In a small place or in a large place?
- PM: In a large ~~place~~ city.

KN: Do you think so?

PM: Yes I do.

KN: Do you think she'd be more likely to?

PM: Yes I do. I definitely think that.

KN: And why?

PM: I might be wrong, well because, ^{it's because} maybe, I think a small town is too cruel. ^{you take}
That a timid person, I think you're speaking about a timid person
that doesn't do too much.

KN: Mm hm.

PM: You know, I'm not a timid person, and as you say, I'm a very strong
person when it comes to, and a leader, O.K., you take this other kind of
a person, and yet on the other hand that might be hard to answer.
In a small town maybe somebody could take her by the hand and, ah,
and pour into a person like me, ^{or make her feel better,} or whatever, and in a large town
she would just be lost in the crowd. I don't know but ^{it} seems to me
like she would be more apt to do something with herself in a large
town. ^{Now} That's all I can comment on that.

KN: That's ... I'm interested in that, in fact it's the first time it's
come up as a question and I'd like to see what some other people
would say. I tend to agree with you. You were saying, back when we
were talking about I think brothers and sisters, or your mother,
that you can't remember that much about your family life when you
were younger.

PM:

KN: What I wanted to ask was, are there any comparisons you can make
between family life now, with you being the mother and with your
^{grown}
~~grand~~-daughter and grand-children, and the family life back when

KN: your mother was the mother, and you ^{by you} were the sisters and brothers. *were the young children.*
Are there any similarities left, or do you think it's all, do
times have changed all that?

PM: Well, Kathy, and of course the part that worries me
I can't remember. I don't know why I can't remember. I had
a hysterectomy when I was very young, and they say, I have heard,
they say that has caused, you to have a bad memory, I don't know
whether my mind has been filled with so much stuff that I don't have
time to train my mind but it always worried me, my
memory is bad. Bad. And I just cannot remember the other sisters,
I mean, I just don't hardly remember. I don't know why. Do you
remember lots? About your childhood?

KN: I do. I remember more than alot of people, I think. I can go
back way far, there's maybe a couple of years I can't remember,
when we were moving alot, but, I've heard this enough times from
other people, about my memory, you know

PM: It worries me.

KN: Does it?

PM: Yeah. I mean do you hear it from other people?

KN: Yeah. Alot. Alot. And especially some people, some will say they
can remember things way far back, but they can't remember things
last week, and some will say the opposite, and, but you do say you
remember your mother was really busy when you kids were little.

PM: I think she was terribly busy except I probably don't remember that
she had cows and chickens and gardens, and ^{having} ~~grand~~ children all the
time, I imagine she had a lot of bad times and

KN: Do you think you spent more time with your kids than she was able

KN: to spend, or, that was probably a pretty busy time for you, too.

PM: Oh, I s'pose ^{of course we} ~~she~~ had more time you know, you and I would say I used my life and when I were younger it was nothing whatever compared to her life. I only had two children and a whole different li.fe.

KN: This is another thing that we have run into, it's very predictable, but many of the women, or most of the women that came from larger families have smaller families. Do you think that it had to do with do you think it's just a function of birth-control that's available or do you think that, for instance, did you make a conscious decision and say, I remember I had a lot of brothers and sisters and say I don't want that many people in my family, so ^{we} I'll just have two, or?

PM: Oh, I, I don't exactly remember. I don't know, I just didn't want any children, alot of children, so I suppose that's the answer to it.

KN: Mm hm.

PM: My mother told me that they just didn't know any better. You know, and, you know, Kathy, the times are so different

KN: Mm hm.

PM: I mean, they really, and God knows what it's gonna be like in the next generation. But back in my mother's generation to my generation, it ^{was} ~~is~~ so different, ^{take} and from my generation to these grand-children's g generation, it is so different. I mean

KN: Did she tell you, Did you find out about children, and bearing children and um,

PM: No.

KN: Where they come from, from your mother? Or did you, or just something when you had one, you found out. They didn't discuss it.

PM: My mother, if you'd ask her, maybe she'd tell you, but I remember

PM: nothing about her ever talkin' to us, and I don't think she did,
I don't ^{believe she did with any of her children} know if all mothers were like that or not, but I think she
never, that her children ^{just} didn't mean much to her. ~~That~~ they were
there, and that was it. That's the impression that I have.

KN: That's interesting. I wonder if that has to do with generations, too.

PM: I don't know. I don't have a very close relationship with my mother,
never did, and I never will, and I don't know if there are any other
families that have that same feeling or not. ^{of course, maybe I'm senile,} Maybe I should say
things that aren't true, but I usually don't.

KN: Well, how about when your daughters came of age, did you sit
down with them and talk to them about child-birth, and?

PM: No, I don't think I did my own daughters, but I'm tellin' you it's
different with ~~these grandchildren~~ -

KN: Mm hm.

PM: And of course, I presume it has a lot to do with their mother not
being here, and maybe it's because I'm older and wiser, and have
learned, and I would say a lot has to do with their mother being gone,
and I just wish that everybody could talk to their children like
I'm talking to these grand-children, because I think, I mean, I'm
telling them that I'm their friend as well as their grandmother,
and that I care, and yet I'll listen to 'em, in other words I
think I'm the greatest mother in the world, now.

KN: Mm hm, I know what you mean.

PM: Unfortunately, it's too bad everybody can't become a grandmother
before (a mother?)

KN: Let's see, I have to check back here. You were married in '36,
and you were how old then?

PM: I was eighteen, then.

KN: Did you get married fairly soon after you came back from Spokane?
After you quit business school?

PM: Oh, yeah

KN: Did you know your husband before you'd left?

PM: Oh yeah, let's not go into that, *I didn't have an ideal romance,*
 you surely don't wanna tell people
 about that.

KN: Oh, no, well, like I say, you know

PM: Of course, you might like to.

KN: Sure. These are some of the things that would be interesting, *er that we ask*
 why
 did you decide to get married.

PM: my interview belongs in the true stories, not in the

KN: Oh, would you rather not talk about that particular

PM: Yeah.

KN: O.K. Well, let me ask, you've kinda explained what you do for
 recreation, tell me if I'm wrong, but it sounds like *you've got* ~~there are~~ some
 things you and your husband do together, like um, the bridge, and
 golf, and there are some things that you do on your own, knitting
 and sewing.

PM: Well, now you wouldn't expect him to do knitting and sewing.

KN: Well, I don't know. It sounds like you've got a mixture there,
 that you don't have to do all your things together, but that you do
 some things together.

PM: We go alot.

KN: You go sight-seeing, travelling?

PM: Vacationing, and go up along the way *and.... chamber of commerce or wed've*
probably been gone

KN: Oh, if you'd take it, ya

PM: I can see ^{where} if somebody'd retired, I don't ^{know} see how in the world these
business
 people do what I do this year, runnin a big development in a small
 town. That's what you're gonna find.

KN: I think so, yeah, because

PM: It takes all your heart and energy to run your business and anyhow, he told me that he would divorce me if I and we ^awnt to travel, and I think that when death(?) goes through you like this it changes you

KN: Makes life a little more precious?

PM: You bet. you bet, you wanna live for today!

KN: Yeah. Then you think that's had a big effect on your attitude about.

PM: Oh yes. I'm sure it has.

KN: About what you want out of your life.

PM: I think you get awful independent. And I've talked with other ~~people~~ ^{so} people that feel the same way, I don't think that I'm alone in it. You know, you just feel like you're here today and gone tomorrow, so you just live your life a lot differently. You just live it with a passion!

KN: Yeah, I think that I can understand that.

PM: Personally I think that, and I don't know, maybe that's what makes a teacher and these children without a stepmother, you've heard of the ~~typical~~ mean stepmother.

KN: Yeah.

PM: So, we had ^{one} and of course that makes it alot harder.

KN: I see, he remarried.

PM: Yeah, he remarried, within eight months, to a witch.

KN: Oh.

PM: She hated me from the time, because I stand for too much, I think She was insanely jealous of

KN: Of the memory of

McArthur/ Naugle

PM: It's terrible. For three years now, and it never got any better.
 But anyhow ^{when you have those things to live} with, it's hard, when you live with your, I don't know.
 I thought I was pretty big, but I've tried, and I don't think I'm
 big enough to go down there now and tell her, look, forget the past
 and then, I just don't think I can do it. I'm too much to the children,
 and to me, and to the family, and everything else, and that's it. I
 tried two years ago and it didn't work out, so I don't think I'm
 big enough to do it anymore.

KN: I see what you mean.

PM: No you don't. Nobody knows what I'm talkin' about.

KN: Well, yeah -

PM: Until they've been in it themselves.

KN: Let me ask you this. This is another subject, but, in your life ^{now}
 you've lived through the depression, and through World War two,
 what, of those two, which effected you the most? Which would you
 think was the bigger disaster?

PM: I can't answer that at all 'cause I don't remember.

KN: Is that right?

PM: No, I don't remember any depression, I don't remember war, nothing.

KN: Let's see, the depression you would have been about I forgot, you
 were eighteen when you got married, ⁱⁿ and 36,

PM: When was the depression?

KN: The depression, say ~~30~~, 1930. Say 29-30. You were about twelve.
^{so you were pretty small}

PM: But see, my mother, I remember my mother saying now that the
 depression didn't affect us ^{too} ~~so~~ bad. We had a farm

KN: It's because you were out here.

PM: Sure. And that farm, I suppose we didn't go hungry. And I suppose

McArthur/ Naugle

PM: we didn't have too many clothes. But I don't know. I don't remember one thing about that.

KN: ~~Yeah.~~ Now

PM: I should have been old enough to remember that.

KN: Well, I don't know. I think that's pretty young. You know, that's only fifth or sixth grade, or something. Now, World War Two, that would have been about ten years before you got this business. So,

PM: When was World War Two?

KN: Forty-five, Forty three, forty five. Remember that at all? Did [REDACTED] have to go in the service, or was he already done?

PM: No, he never went in the service. And I can't answer that. I had a brother that went in the service.

KN: Mm hm.

PM: But he never

KN: You're doing a fine job. I mean you're really being articulate.

PM: My mind has been too busy. You have to train yourself.

KN: Yeah.

PM: You can train yourself. *you can read...*

KN: I don't want to put words in your mouth, but I think the fact that you've been appointed and elected to the kind of positions that you have, speaks highly. I mean You don't think they'd ask someone to do that they thought couldn't express themselves.

PM: You know, if I get fouled up in a meeting, or something, and I *did + I* had a meeting on the first of October, which wasn't very long ago you know

KN: Mm hm.

PM: And you know how you call a meeting to order?

KN: Oh, I remember that kinda stuff.

PM: Well I couldn't remember it.

KN: Well, I remember that problem.

PM: But I said, I know that I don't know how to go through this meeting just all efficiently^{cy}, like, I said, I need help. And so I just asked somebody, and of course they get a big bang out of it.

KN: Mm hm.

PM: And they don't care. So what. So, I'm too old to care about that stuff anymore.

KN: But you're still willing to learn it, I mean, if you don't know and you ask, that's learning, too. It doesn't mean you have to go to school. We haven't asked, we haven't talked about anything about religion. Do you go to church? Or do you consider yourself religious? Does it occupy a very big place in your life?

PM: You know something, if you sit down and analyze yourself, you think about this. I am absolutely no good. I support the church ^{with a check.}
_{I'm a Methodist,}

KN: I was too.

PM: But I don't go to church. I don't wanna go to church. And I feel like it's just like anything else. ^{The church} ~~It~~ needs help just like the chamber of commerce, I should change it so it's the other way around. The hospital on Hillary needs help, just like the church.

KN: Ah huh.

PM: And I don't mind helpin' the church, so I'm helping this other way. I don't know what's wrong with me.

KN: Well, that makes sense to me.

PM: real, real well, and I told them the same thing I'm tellin' you, and if they dislike me for it, that's their business. But I am not going to church.

KN: Is it, was there a time in your life earlier when you went to church more often, or?

PM: I'm just like my husband, he feels the same way it was from his earlier life. Turn that off.

And I don't know if you're kidding yourself or not, but I don't think so. You don't have to go to church to be a good person.

And maybe that's the wrong attitude, but that's my husband

that we had religion forced down us when we were little, and it just didn't seem real. We're very proud to support it financially.

KN: O.K., let's see. There are a couple of more things that I want to get to. What suggestions would you give a woman who was moving to a rural area? Who hadn't lived there before, what?

PM: Explain that a little more.

KN: If you ^{knew of} someone who wasn't used to a rural area and said

"I'm afraid to move there, I don't know what it will be like, I don't know how to go about making friends," or whatever?

PM: Oh shoot, of course I don't have any kind of sympathy for those kind of people at all. I guess because I'm not that kind of a person

KN: Mm hm.

PM: And I can't, you can do anything if you want to, and I suppose if I were to help them or anything, I'd probably baby them along for awhile and then I'd ^{probably} tell 'em ^{right out} to pitch in and start helping and shape up, because what do you think you'd tell them? I

McArthur/ Naugle

PM: can't answer any more.

KN: That's O.K. That's a fair thing to say. What kind of magazines do you subscribe to, you and your husband, ^{together} or you alone. What do you enjoy reading?

PM: Kathy, if you can believe it or not that's one thing we're looking forward to. I there are two of us we take the Reader's Digest and that is all. Oh, he takes the Popular Mechanics, he loves that, and we read the Reader's Digest, and that is all. I am not very intellectual.

KN: How about T.V. programs? Do you enjoy, are there some that are ^{really} your favorites, do you watch it much? I know that you're pretty busy.

PM: Oh, we watch lots of movies. Well, yes. I like a lot of shows. Do you want me to ^{tell you my favorites?}

KN: What kind? Do you like musical entertainment, or there's lots of police shows on

PM: Well, I ah, we like Cher, and we like , oh dear, what's the two show, we always watch Cannon, and Kojack, and we like good movies, and now we like something with a story to it

KN; Uh huh.

PM: And especially I like love stories. And I ~~do not~~ like musical comedies. And ^{In fact I'd} ~~I guess that~~ ^{myself} about sum-~~me~~ up that I'm not a very happy person.

KN: Oh you have not.

PM: I can't stand musical comedy and

KN: Situation comedies, yeah

PM: ^{Like that Hogan's Heroes,} ~~I'm just not~~ light hearted. ^{maybe} You can figure out what kind of a I can't stand anything that's

McArthur/ Naugle

PM: Person I am.

KN: You're too hard on yourself.

PM: Too serious. ^{that's what I am.} Now, anything else?

KN: Yes, I've got one last thing for you, and I'm gonna leave it up to you. Is there anything else you'd like to say, as a rural woman? About your life, or about being a woman and living in a rural community, or anything?

PM:

KN: You're saying at least you're not a woman in the traditional housewife sense, right?

PM: And yet I'm a, I think I'm a beautiful person ^{when it comes to house keeping.} ~~in the sense that~~ I love to cook, I love to clean, I like to wash, and all those things.

KN: But would you be happy just doing that?

PM: Yeah

KN: ^{would you?} Now, huh?

PM: And I'm looking forward to our new home, and I just love to do those things. And I also communicate alot better with a man than ~~with~~ a woman.

KN: That sounds like [REDACTED] last night, that was part of her story. That she thought, if you remember, that was the last one I did, and she said that first because she sounded like a man, or liked to do things liked ^{that men} a man, that she thought she had more in common with them and -

PM: Well, men just like me better than women, and I ^{just} like men better than women, and I just don't know, and of course ~~I might~~, first ^{which one of the women? I'm like me!} you have to like yourself. But sometimes I hate myself. But that's natural. I get so mad, I have ~~everything~~ everything in the world

McArthur/ Naugle

PM: a person could want . And why? I'm happy. Why does life make you feel that way? I'm happy. And what, that's the truth. And that's what shakes me up every time I get down in the dumps. Is I have everything in the world a person could want.

KN: I think that's a ^{beautiful} place to end it. I really do.

PM: Yeah. ^{it is} And I tell ya, I have the finest husband in the world. And no problems with children, unhealthy children, and nothing like that that I ever had. Don't want for anything. Have enough money to, don't want. Now what more could a person want?

KN: I don't know. ^{Well,} I guess there are things, though, that you still want to do, you're building a house, is that it?

PM: Yes.

KN: And you want to travel?

PM: And another thing, Kathy, you can't imagine until it happens to you. My husband shot a man and robbin' our store

KN: Oh gosh.

PM: And ^{boy, I have clippings} he had noteriety, and ^{that's something that} ~~it~~ just doesn't happen in a small town.

KN: You just want to get away from those memories

PM: Yeah, I just can't stay in this place by myself, and I was upstairs, phoning the police when, and you know we had a in our store there, of course I heard the shot, ^{gun} this gun go off. And he shot the man, ^{as he was runnin' out the back} he didnt' shoot him to kill him, he just shot him to

KN: Yeah.

PM: But I tell you, if he hadn't been a hero, and we got a letter from the governor and everything because it takes quite a man

McArthur/ Naugle

PM: to stand and do what ██████ ^{these days,} did, and of course, I think that takes a part of your life, too.

KN: Oh.

PM: And of course, it takes all of these ^{little} things to take a little chunk out of your life, you know and I think that's why you, that's why you have these times in your life that you don't wanna live anymore; you know, you snap yourself out of them, and of course that's why people are in mental institutions

KN: ^{Yeah,} Mm hm.

PM: Is because they're not strong enough to snap themselves out of it.

KN: I think you've really hit it there. Is that strong. You have to be strong.

PM: Yeah. I can't imagine that ████████████████████ people can't get a hold of their bootstraps, and shake themselves out of that. *Well, Kathy,* It's getting late.

The End.