

Corky Bush

INTERVIEW SUMMARY-TAPE INDEX

NAME: Roberta Nygard
DATE OF INTERVIEW:
LOCATION:
INTERVIEWER: *Corky Bush, Connie Richards*
REEL NO.

TAPE MINUTE	MANUSCRIPT PAGE	SUMMARY OF CONTENTS
0-5:00		Going to college to take courses in education. Allowed only singly women to teach because of lack of jobs.
5:01-15:00		Personal Data Sheet. Story of how baby sister died. Brothers' and sisters' background information.
15:01-20:30		Marriage; wedding and family party. Living on a farm. Children's background information.
20:31-29:30		Childhood - story of wearing hand-me-down clothes. School days. Hired men that worked on parent's farm. Homesickness when going to school.
29:31-34:45		Family life - difference between now and then. Raising chickens, a gardent, etc. Raising food on the farm.
34:46-46:45		Courtship. Depression and lack of work. Parent's feelings on marriage. Dances - Waltzes, Fox Trot - discussion of "art" of dancing. Dance cards.
46:46-56:22		Farm they moved to - older house. Discussion of early marriage. Medical services. Discussion of grandchildren. Antique collecting - hobbies.
56:21-64:00		Political views and parents' influence. World War II and the day it started. Support of family. Worked in husband's dairy.
64:01-71:30		Working in house - fixing it up. Viewpoint on life - work in dairy hard. Going back to college - discussion. Academic interests.
71:31-78:00		Discussion of digging well and problems. Story of "water wishers" - people finding water with divining rods. Discussion of living in rural area. City life vs. rural life.

Roberta Nygard
Page Two

78:01-82:30

City life discussion. Story of trip back to Iowa.

82:31-91:45

Discussion of "flapper" days - dress and hair styles, "bobbed" and "Buster Brown's". Danced Charleston - description. Dance floors and entertainment.

91:46-94:06

First school Roberta taught in.

END

RN: We did teach for three years and we were successful in our teaching. We could go back, we had to go back then, for another year and then we got our Life Certificate and then we could teach for the rest of our lives on our Life Certificate. That was a two year course. That's what I taught on when I went back, oh, about 50 years ago, and I taught for seven years in Potlatch. I've been retired now for seven years. I still was teaching on my Life Certificate, although I went on to the University and I almost graduated. I took on several courses in summer school. After I was 50, I did that.

CB: What courses did you take when you went to Normal School?

RN: Well, I took the rural, it was in Rural Education because I was teaching rural schools and we took all the methods that you have to have and then you have to take language, spelling, and I almost flunked writing. You called it Penmanship, it was the most common method. I almost didn't get to teach because of that.

CB: Almost didn't get to teach?

RN: Well, it was not equitable. It was last quarter; were were on quarters, and I almost failed it.

CR: It must have been really important.

RN: Oh yes. If I hadn't have passed it I wouldn't have gotten my certificate. Then, I taught my three years, then I went back for a year and then I taught four more before I was married.

CB: How many quarters did you need to take before you could go teach the first time, or could you just go teach the first time?

RN: No, you had to go four quarters or a nine month term.

CB: A whole year.

RN: Yes. And we took our practice teaching in the country. Six of us went out in the country to a country school. This was the children's school out of Lewiston a little ways, and we lived in a little old house that didn't even have a bathroom in it. The bathroom was out back and we had a, she was called a supervisor, who lived with us and the supervisor and we were teachers for these children, they were probably 25-30 children in the two rooms. Quite a few of them were Indian children. We would take turns in the house. One week, two of us would buy the groceries and two of us would cook the next week two of us would do the cleaning. That was part of the training, the teacher's training.

CR: You mean learning how to take care of yourselves?

RN: And help with the work and, of course, we had lots of fun. We had lots of varieties too.

CB: Do you have any correspondents and stuff?

RN: I don't know where only two of them are, but the one after I went to, see, I went one quarter, we didn't have to do that at the end of the first year. Then, I took my practice teaching, and then I met this girl from Moscow and then we went back and got an apartment and lived together and then we both taught three years and went back and lived together the next three years, and we've been constant friends. We send letters back and forth all the time since then, nearly 50 years, and we're still real good friends.

CB: Today we read in one of the stories that only single women were allowed to be teaching.

RN: Yes, it got to the place where there were too many teachers. This was after the war, the big war. They very seldom hired married girls.

CB: Why was that?

RN: Well, because there were too many teachers and the single girls needed the work. The married women could keep house at home. They would hire the married men, but not the married women.

I had a little neighbor lady down below here that was married for about six months, but no one knew it. She didn't tell the school board or anybody. But, if she was married she would've lost her job.

CR: Did she get in trouble when they found out, then?

RN: I don't think they found out till the year was over. She was a good teacher, so they didn't really say too much. They didn't make a big fuss about it. One place, I went to apply for a school was the one that's not too far from here and my father and mother knew the family and when I went to apply, he asked a lot of questions. He says, "Do you dance?" Before I could say anything, of course, I always danced quite often so I could do that better than anything else, so I could answer. He says, "Well I guess it's none of my business, but I know you dad and he's a fine man and we'll take the chance on you."

CR: You mean you weren't supposed to say you danced?

RN: I guess not. I wasn't supposed to do anything daring. At least that's the way he thought; everybody didn't, but this particular man felt that way.

CB: You weren't supposed to dance?

RN: Well, he thought so, but I didn't stop dancing.

CB: I need to fill out a couple of things here. I'd like to get your full name and your maiden name.

RN: Okay. I guess I'd better give you Roberta; I've never gone by that, but that's my real name.

CB: You've got a nickname placed there.

RN: Yes. McBride is my maiden name.

CB: Do you have a middle name?

RN: Verna.

CR: Is that Dutch?

CB: What is your family?

RN: Irish, or a little bit of both.

CB: And Bobbie you said you would prefer to be called?

RN: Always been called that.

CB: And the date of your birth?

RN: 1906. I'm not ashamed of it.

CB: It's surprising how many people are. Where were you born?

RN: Well, I was born in Elmira, Washington.

CB: Where is that?

RN: Well, it's down in Big Bend country, down on the Columbia. I was about six months old when my folks moved to Latah County and I've lived here ever since.

CB: That's another question; I'll just get it written down here.

RN: I have another birthday next month, so I've actually lived here almost 69 years. I'll be 69.

CB: So your parents arrived here approximately when?

RN: In 1906, when I was six month old.

CB: How did your parents come?

RN: They brought everything they owned by train. [REDACTED] came by train, too. Of course, he didn't have a car yet. We had one of the first cars in the neighborhood that wasn't a Ford. We had a Chevy. I was about eight years old, I think. We thought we were pretty important, having a different car. What was the name of our Chevy? Narrator is directing her question to her husband, [REDACTED]

EN: Chevy Van.

RN: Chevy Van. And the next car was a Gardner, I remember that.

CB: What's that? I've never heard of one.

RN: I don't think anybody else has one. I don't think they made them too long.

CB: A Gardner.

CR: I'm sure they've had it in the museum at Greenfield Village right outside of Detroit.

CB: What was your mother's maiden name?

RN: [REDACTED]

CB: And do you remember where she was born and what year?

RN: She was born in Crawford County, Iowa.

CR: She's got her birth certificate hanging up.

RN: Here, 1877, you need the year she married?

CB: Yes, I do.

RN: It should say in here.

CB: I forgot to look in the wedding announcement what year it said that she was married.

RN: Well, let me take a look.

CB: Do you remember looking at the wedding announcement?

RN: That was in the other bedroom. The wedding certificate was right on there. I thought Mother's was in here, too. To her husband : Oh, listen over here, she wanted to know when Mother was married. The white one, yes. Dad was born in Indiana.

CR: Was it 1896?

RN: That would be about right.

CB: Well, just this once, don't pay any attention to it.

RN: Okay.

CB: What did your father do?

RN: He was a farmer.

CB: Did he come to Latah County for the land?

RN: Yes, he got 160 acres, some farm land when he came here from Washington. That's good farmland, some of the best farmland around; it was all cleared.

CB: Is that why he came from Indiana to Elmira, Washington?

RN: Well, he went to Iowa first from Indiana; that's where he met my mother. They farmed there a lot. The reason they left, you saw the picture of that little girl?

CB: Yes.

RN: The girl had lived in Iowa, she was about three years old, I think, when she died. Dad had gone out to the barn and she had followed him along like little children do. They had gone up in the hay mound. They had gone up in that and he'd come on down and she came behind him and she hung herself on the scarf.

CB: Oh, no.

RN: And that's the reason my folks moved from Iowa. My mother couldn't stand the association there. Wouldn't that be awful? So, that was the reason.

CB: Oh, yes.

RN: And so that was the reason. But, you know that picture hung on our wall ever since I was a tiny little, well, ever since the baby had died, probably. I knew it was my little sister, but I never knew why she died. My mother couldn't talk about it. She wouldn't even talk; she never even told us the reason. The way I found out was I was about 10 or 12 years old and I read a clipping.

CR: From the paper?

RN: Yes. It was something that she cut out. But she just couldn't talk about it. You can see how terrible it would have been.

CR: It was her first child?

RN: Yes, her first. It would have been the oldest in the family. And that's why the association, this farm that they lived in and everything, they just couldn't stand it. It was too much.

CB: You have two other sisters and brothers?

RN: I have one brother living and one passed away.

CB: I'd like their names.

RN: My oldest brother who passed away was [REDACTED]. My brother, [REDACTED] is the manager of the liquor store in Moscow.

CB: I didn't know that. The next time I go in there I'll have to tell him that I've been out here. And your sisters?

RN: One is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and she never thought to ask Mother why. And now my mother is gone. My other sister is [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. They live over here a little ways, too.

CB: So you've really all stayed in the area. Did [REDACTED] stay in the area?

RN: Yes, he lived in Moscow.

CB: That's interesting. Let's see, your husband's name is [REDACTED].

RN: No, [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

CB: And can you tell us when he was born?

RN: That's a sore subject to him. To husband: Were you born in 1907 or 1908? 1907. I'm older than he is.

CB: I'll bet they teased you about that. I'm half a year older than my husband and I got teased. To [REDACTED]: Where were you born?

RN: Anamoose, North Dakota.

CB: Where and when were you married?

RN: We were married over on a farm.

CB: On the farm where the picture is?

RN: Yes, in 1934, high noon. We had a big chicken dinner afterwards with all the relatives.

CB: Where did you go on your honeymoon?

RN: We went to Lake unintelligible . . I had an aunt that had a nice cottage up there and we stayed there.

CB: Has he always been a farmer? Have you always lived on a farm?

RN: No. We lived in Moscow for eight years and [REDACTED] was a butter maker. He went to the University of Idaho and took a short course over there. But we always had a farm in our minds; we wanted to farm.

CB: When were you able to secure the farm?

RN: When did we move out here?

EN: '42.

CB: That was when I was born, not in March but in July.

EN: You were a war baby, weren't you?

CR: Yes, I was in '45, right at the end, I guess.

RN: You were born in?

CR: I was born in Michigan in '45.

RN: I thought at first you said you were 45, and I thought, well, you can't be. I thought that's what you were trying to tell me.

CB: How many children did you have?

RN: Two boys.

CB: And their names?

RN: [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

CB: And where were they born?

RN: In Moscow.

CB: And when?

RN: [REDACTED] was born in '38, and four years later, [REDACTED] was born. So that would be '42, wasn't it? Sometimes you don't remember those things right off the top of your head.

CB: I can't remember when my brothers and sisters were born. I'm the oldest of five children and if we weren't two years apart and four years apart, I could never figure it out. I can remember how old I am and that's it. What does your son, [REDACTED] do?

RN: He farms here.

CB: And [REDACTED]

RN: He teaches; when he doesn't have to go to school, at night he doesn't have school, and he works for the Forest Service.

CB: Okay. Now I have to ask you to backtrack just a little bit. You went to Lewis-Clark Normal School, is that what it's called?

RN: No, it was called Lewiston State Monastery and unintelligible. It had three or four names.

CB: They are closed down; someone said they were closed down, now.

RN: Yes.

CB: Okay, now I'm going to tell you, I'm going to figure it all out.

RN: Well, no, I graduated from high school in '24 and I stayed out a year. I stayed out in '24 and '25, so I went to Moscow in '25 and '26.

CB: And you were a teacher, and actually, you were in two different periods -- 1920's and the 1960's?

RN: Yes.

CB: Okay, I'll fill in the rest of this. I have a whole lot of questions, so I don't have to make them up as I go along.

RN: I probably can't answer them.

DB: I think you can. Kind of what we do here is we start out from your childhood and work up. But we can start anywhere and move around. When you remember your childhood, do you feel you were treated any differently than the rest of the members in your family, and where were you in the family, were you in the middle?

RN: I was in the middle, I had two older sisters and two younger brothers and nobody had a happier childhood than I had. I just

had the best time, I just can't remember any bad things, hardly. Except that we didn't have a lot, but nobody else did. We had few clothes and I had lots of hand-me-downs, everybody else had hand-me-downs, so we didn't mind.

CR: You lived on the farm when you were growing up?

RN: The only thing that I remember that my heart was broken over was that I had two older sisters, so I would always have to have the hand-me-downs. Usually, I didn't mind because it would be something different. But my older sister had a coat and it was the ugliest coat that was ever made. It was a tan coat with brown stripes and kind of coarse weave. But, of course, when she was through with it, why, then my second sister, [REDACTED] wore it, and it was such good wool material, that I had to have it. I remembered I cried when I had to wear that. It was so ugly and I don't think it ever wore out; I think I finally outgrew it.

CB: I was always lucky. I was the oldest, but I always wore hand-me-ups.

RN: Yeah, I always had hand-me-downs, but I can't remember mine too much. I was happy when I got something new.

CB: Did that happen very often?

RN: I think often enough, but I didn't feel underprivileged, I can't remember, ever. I was a tomboy and I played a lot. My mother, being the nervous type she was, having lost this child. You see, I was the third one. We were two and a half years apart, of three, the girls, and then there was a six year interval before my brother was born and 11 months when my next brother was born. So, my job was to be with those boys on the farm and play with them. By the time they were three or four and ready to play, and I was eight or nine, and I spent several years just doing nothing but playing with them. I didn't have to work or anything because I had two big sisters to work in the house, and Mother needed to know the boys were safe because when I was with them, they weren't falling in the creek or getting hurt or something, and I really just loved it. I thought that was great. We had lots of trees to climb and a big barn to play in, a creek to wade in, and the birds' nests to hunt for. Really, I don't think that I've forgotten, well, obviously, you remember the good things, but it just seems like my childhood was just extra happy. I had loving parents and can't remember any of us ever being singled out or being better than the other one.

CB: Do you remember any birthdays or Christmas's that were especially nice, or do you remember them?

RN: I remember about the best present I ever got for my birthday was a gold ring with my initial on it. They called them signet

rings. That was quite something and I really thought that was great.

CB: When did you get that?

RN: When I was 12. And I remember going to high school, how frightened I was. We went to country school for eight years, and then we went to Palouse, which isn't a very big town, but I was really scared the first few days.

CR: Was that in ninth grade?

RN: Yes, and the reason I went to Palouse, we lived in Idaho, but I went to Palouse because the roads weren't paved in those days, so they put the cars away in the wintertime. They couldn't drive them and the railroad came out here a little ways and my dad would bring my sister and I, we had, it wasn't an apartment, it was just a room downtown. My dad would bring us down to the railroad station down here on Monday morning and we'd get on the train and go to Palouse and spend through till Friday night and then we'd come back Friday night and he'd meet us down here again on Friday night.

CB: You boarded there, too?

RN: No, we ate out, pancakes, candy bars and tea.

CB: How old were you?

RN: Well, I was about 14.

CR: Oh yeah, ninth grade. Were you accepted in the high school?

RN: Yes, because so many of them were country youngsters that went. This lady had this house just special for us. We couldn't have boys in our room or anything, we all stayed at this one particular place. But we always went home on weekends; we loved our mother's cooking, we could hardly wait. The kids would say, "Well, I'll see you this weekend," and we'd play around and have a lot of fun and we just never did, but we usually did drag someone home with us so we could play together, had extras.

CB: Was your mother a good cook?

RN: Oh, just wonderful! She always said that, on Sunday mornings, both the boys, after we all started growing up, they had their girlfriends and we had our boyfriends, she would say she didn't know how many to get breakfast for because maybe the boys would have a girlfriend there and maybe we'd have somebody and she was never sure how many she had.

CB: It must have been a warm and open type of home.

RN: Yes, everybody loved to come over here for dinner and things. She was a plain good cook. She cooked vegetables and meat. She wasn't what you'd call a real fancy cook; made good bread.

CB: Did she cook for the hired help, too?

RN: Oh, yes. I always think of some of the things that happened to the hired help. We had a man who worked for us. Dad always had a hired man during busy season to help him, but he had a split finger, something had happened to his finger. But anyway, you know how kids are at the table. Oh, my mother would be so cross. He was passing around and that finger would stick out and [REDACTED] would look at me and I would look at her and then, pretty soon, we'd start giggling. Oh, my! And then we had one hired man who always whipped the gravy. When the gravy went around, he'd take his spoon and whip the gravy and, of course, [REDACTED] and I would look at each other and that would be another giggle spell. Once in a while we'd get sent away from the table.

CB: Did you walk to the country school?

RN: Yes, but it was only a half a mile. Some youngsters walked two miles, but we had just a half a mile. I walked to the country school by myself and nobody ever took me, usually about a mile, mile and a half. You weren't hauled to your school, no matter what the weather was. If there was a blizzard, you still walked.

CB: At that time, they wouldn't allow the teachers to live next to the school?

RN: Well, I wouldn't of anyway, I'd been too much of a coward. The last country school that I taught in, I boarded at a ladies' home and there were so many children there, more children had came there because their mother had passed away. I couldn't stand all day and all night, so I moved a little building in, my folks had a little building moved in, and I had it practically touching their building. I could've had, the schoolhouse was real close, I could've had it in the schoolyard, but I was too afraid, so I had it right next to theirs, and I'd sit it there just to teach. It was about ten miles and, in those days, the roads were so bad you stayed there and I unintelligible in there in that little one room, is what it was, with a little woodshed on the side of it.

CB: What influenced you to become a teacher?

RN: Well, I think mainly, after I got out of high school, I didn't study very hard in school. I was really, I think I majored in a good time and my grades weren't very good. My folks were always willing to send some to school if they thought we would do it. But I just got by and that's all I cared and there really wasn't much to say about goin on, so I worked in a boarding house in Potlatch. In those days, there were lots of single men and they had boarding houses just for men, and I waited

tables in this boarding house. I had worked there about six months and I decided I didn't want to wait tables the rest of my life. I had enough money that I could go one quarter and I knew that if I did all right this one quarter, then my folks would help me. So, I made my grades better than I ever did in high school in just this first quarter. So then, I got help from my folks. But I'd never been away from home very long. I felt so crazy to be away from home; it was just in Lewiston, but it seemed like it was 1,000 miles away in those days. I know that if my folks would have sent me and said that you have to go to school, I would have quit and come home. But, I was determined that I wouldn't after I had made up my own mind. I'm sure I would've, otherwise, and I was the one who did it in the beginning or I would've come home. I'm sure I would have. After a little while, I got over it, but at first, I thought I couldn't stand the homesickness. Those hills were just a barrier and I still don't like those Lewiston hills.

CB: Did Lewiston seem huge and sickening and frightening to you?

RN: Oh, no, not so much. I worked for my board and room the first quarter for the family; I helped with the housework and the cooking. Then, it was the next quarter that I went out for teacher's training and that was when I met this girl from Moscow and lived with her. No, I can't remember that it was scary.

CB: If you look at families now, like your grandchildren, and your father and his family, and you look at the family that you raised and you look at your own family, you know, back when you were a child, do you think things are very different now, or do you think families are about the same?

RN: Well, maybe it sounds like I'm bragging a little bit, but both of our families have their meals together; they don't grab them or fight between them to be at both places. I think their family life is real good. They have three children over here, and my older boy has two. They're a real close family. They're real close and they go so many places and they go camping. They never go anywhere without their children, except the one ten days they go to every fall hunting, and that's the one time that they have together that they don't have the children. Oh, I don't see as much difference as a lot of people do. Just part of the family is a lot, too. I still think it's a lot to raise children, if they know if they're raised as a family, they're going to raise their families that way more or less, don't you think?

CB: Yeah, I don't know. I just know some of my own family problems. We were given certain rules. We had to eat together.

RN: I know so many families don't nowadays. They don't know what it is to sit down to the table at a meal.

CB: And we were supposed to carry on a civil and somewhat intelligent conversation.

RN: Yeah, and no quarreling at the table.

CB: And no quarrels.

RN: And giggling, we'd get sent away for that. They may not be perfect parents, but I think they're doing real well with their families. Of course, they so much more than we had. But no one else had anything. We didn't have anything, but we didn't feel poor. If they had to live like, maybe two or three dresses a year and things like that like we had to and hand-me-downs, there'd be trouble nowadays, but we didn't because everybody else was that way.

CB: Was your family self-sufficient? Did you grow on your own farm most of the fields, the farm that you had?

RN: Oh yes, we always had several cows and so Mother made butter and sold butter. She canned hundreds and hundreds of vegetables, and raised their own meat. Very self-sufficient. Usually in the fall, we would go to town and buy new underwear, socks and shoes and overshoes and things that we had, maybe if we got a new coat, things we had to have and I think sometimes that money came out of the grain money. But, usually all the groceries came from the cows and chickens and mother sold eggs.

CR: How about since you moved to the farm, are you pretty self sufficient?

RN: Well, when we first moved here, we had chickens mostly for our own use and we raised a big garden, but we buy probably as many groceries as anybody in town. You know, with the exception of a garden. We live with about the same kinds of self-sufficiency. Although our youngest son, like many young people, is going back to the land. He's putting in orchards and raising lots of garden. He wanted a goat but his wife's sort of down on that.

CR: You don't can a lot anymore, do you?

RN: Not since the children are raised. But I have done a great deal of it. Canned grapefruit, oranges and all our fruit until recently; we don't eat that much anymore. We get fresh fruit, like bananas. Although I do can some of the year but fruit's getting high and the price of sugar -- it doesn't pay.

CB: Yeah, the price of sugar is a problem.

RN: Both of those, our daughters-in-law, does some canning and make lots of jellies and jams and pickles and things like that. We raise all our own potatoes; we never buy potatoes.

CB: Was your father in wheat farming?

RN: Yes. He raised wheat. They didn't raise peas yet, they came later, after his time. But we raised beans, wheat and barley.

CB: Where did you meet your husband?

RN: He lived about two miles down the road towards Princeton, and I used to see him at dances and things, and once in a while, we'd dance together or something. When we really started going together steadily, we met down here at this Grange Hall. We went together seven years.

CB: Seven years?

RN: Isn't that terrible? It was when the depression came along and in those days women didn't support their husbands. They just didn't want to do it that way. [REDACTED] was out of work and he got enough money cutting wood to buy cigarettes and a little bit of gas, and he had a car and he lived at home.

CB: And you were working?

RN: And I was working.

CR: If you were working, he wouldn't marry you and let you support him?

RN: Well, I couldn't have anyway, then I would have lost my job, too.

CR: Oh, because you couldn't be married.

RN: Yes, and times were so hard at that time that I paid my, I paid the taxes for my dad for two or three years. I was making \$100 a month. I guess maybe I am a pioneer woman a little bit.

CB: Yes, I think you are. Did that bother your father for you to pay his taxes?

RN: No. Everybody was, and he paid me back in later years when he had more money. Everybody was alike, being poor, we were all in the same boat. A lot of them lost their farms because they couldn't pay their taxes. Because Dad was a good farmer, and then, they had their cows and had cream and butter. Just had to weather the storm and get through without losing the farm. It was tough. You just can't tell young people what a terrible depression is like. I hear people say, "I'd like to see these young people nowadays go through a depression." I don't ever want anybody to go through a depression, not like we did. I just couldn't wish that on anybody.

CB: How could people say that?

RN: I just don't feel that way at all. It's a terrible thing. There just wasn't any money. Of course, I didn't suffer because I was working and that was big money in those days. But it was really, really terrible because no money and people would lose their jobs.

CB: Even people around here?

RN: Yes, even people we knew; they just couldn't take it.

CR: Do you think I could trouble you for a cup of instant coffee?

RN: No, not at all.

CB: I could get it, though.

RN: No, I should have thought of that anyway.

There is a short conversation about coffee that is difficult to include in its entirety. What follows is some of that conversation.

CR: Coffee won't keep you awake?

CB: My father-in-law can drink coffee like crazy and it doesn't keep him awake. I can drink one cup at night and that's it. I can drink it in the morning.

RN: I don't think it makes any difference to us.

CR: Not me. Something warm will even make me sleepy sometimes,
Even if it's coffee or tea.

EN: A glass of milk will do that, too.

CB: How did your parents feel about your husband? Did they want
you to marry him?

RN: Yes, they liked [REDACTED] very much.

CB: That's pretty important.

RN: Yes. He loved my mother; he liked my dad too. But, of the
three sisters, all the sons-in-law were crazy about my mother
and they all said they married the daughters because they could
not marry my mother! They loved to come to her meals and, of
course, my older sister and myself never had a mother-in-law.
[REDACTED] lost his mother when he was 12 and [REDACTED] her husband lost
his mother when he was about the same so. So she was like a new
mother to them; they hadn't had a mother for so many years and
she mothered them. She was real popular with the family.

CB: I think it's so sad when some people do marry without their
parents' consent.

RN: I felt so sad about that one little we had today and think how many times that happened in the pioneer days. They married just for conveniences or just because this man was here, and how hard they worked and not having any love. Wouldn't that be a terrible thing?

CB: I wouldn't want to live like that.

RN: Well, I think nowadays, though, you could get a divorce; but you just wouldn't do it.

CB: But you couldn't do that then.

RN: NO, they would move way off from their folks. My mother saw her mother only about four times after she came West, even in those days.

CB: Where was your mother?

RN: In Iowa.

CB: Oh, that's right; that's far.

RN: In those days it was. Nowadays, you can get on a plane and go wherever you want to go. But there was no money and it took so long on a train. I didn't see my grandma very many times.

CB: Could you describe your courtship besides going to the Grange down there?

RN: Well, we danced a lot, about twice a week.

CR: Was it like square dancing or jitterbug?

RN: No, it was just ballroom dancing, waltzes and foxtrots, chicken scratch and the turkey trot. We didn't do too much square dancing; we did a little but not too much.

CB: Who sponsored these dances?

RN: There was a Round Hall about a half a mile over here on our property. Just a couple men ran the Hall and everybody went and you danced with everybody. You met all the kids from the back fields in Lewiston and Moscow.

CR: Even if you were a teacher and you were married, you still danced with everybody?

RN: Oh yes, you always danced the first dance with whomever you were engaged to or married to, and one before lunch, and then the last dance. Our song was "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" in the time when that was popular. That was [REDACTED] and my song and it is today. So, no matter if I had to dance with somebody else, I always skipped the dance till we had that dance together. That's

my favorite song. Then, there was another Round Hall over, I don't know for how long you girls been around here.

CB: I've been here about eight years.

RN: Well, you remember the Round Hall that was over there? Well, I went to lots of dances there, too. Then, we went to a lot of the open air provisions in a lot of towns and we went to those. That was the main thing. Nowadays, like our little granddaughter, she's 16 and she goes to dances. You know they used to have programs for high school; I don't remember when that was. And she said they just danced with their date and that's all they ever dance with. I think that's too bad. We've met so many people from all over, kids from all over, from Spokane to Lewiston.

CR: You know, dancing is almost a sport. It's an art, for others it's a requirement.

RN: No, I never thought of it as anything special. That is what everyone did and you didn't have to run to the tavern. There's nothing else to do but go to the taverns for kids nowadays. What else are they going to do? You have to have something to do.

CR: They don't learn dancing like you did. You know some real steps to make it interesting and exciting.

RN: They always had something for everything in those days, didn't they? They had spoon holders. If we went to the dances and we didn't do the dancing, we felt like we were a wallflower. We would usually have four or five dances ahead and somebody would ask to dance and you held up your hand and you had four, you took the fifth dance.

CB: Oh, really?

RN: Oh yeah. It was real sad if you didn't get to dance at the dance.

CR: From your picture, you look like you were pretty attractive. You must have got yours filled up right away.

RN: If you went all the time, you knew all the kids and usually you danced all the time.

CR: Was it according to whether you were pretty or not, usually if your dance card filled up?

RN: No, I think it was more how well you danced. You know, if you were a good dancer and then some of the boys you like to dance with a lot better because they were a lot better dancers.

CB: There was an article in the latest issue of Women's Sports about ballroom dancing, and it just said that it's coming back

and it's a tremendously great way of dancing.

RN: It seems so funny to me at first in dancing -- you couldn't tell whose partner was whose nowadays; but that wasn't the way we danced at all in those days. We really danced cheek to cheek in those days, you know, real close.

CR: My dad taught me to dance and I love ballroom dancing, but I can't never find a partner. I can never find anybody who really knows how to dance at my age, you know, I have to look for an older man.

RN: No, you couldn't. Do you ever listen to "Lawrence Welk"?

CR: Do you mind if I borrow [REDACTED] some night? We'll let you come along.

RN: Yes, I mind. Laughing. Now, he wasn't as crazy about dancing as I was; but he would go with me all the time because he knew how much I loved to dance. But dancing wasn't quite as much fun for [REDACTED] as it was for me, but he didn't mind.

CB: What other things did you like to do?

There is a break in the recording and the conversation picks up here.

RN: These were the paths and you'd fall through the porch, and there was no sidewalks; it was so terribly run down. There was pump water around, of course. We had a little toilet in the back and we had a new home in Moscow. We had built our own home in Moscow, but we were so determined to be farmers that we moved out to here anyway. But, we soon had the bathroom and we decided to remodel and fix the house.

CR: So the actual structure, though, is a very old one?

RN: Yes. I told [REDACTED] we had good two by fours and a pretty good foundation and that's about all. The rest of it was ...

CB: Looks like it had a couple of fireplaces, didn't it?

RN: No, this is for the kitchen stove and this was for the stove in the living room. We have electric heat now. We took out this side; this one is still up there but we don't use it. But, oh, it was so much work with that when we moved in there! I just got that a few days ago.

CB: Oh, what a nice present. How nice to have that around.

Did it ever occur to you not to get married?

RN: Oh, no never. We were terribly in love. Laughter.

CB: Seven years is a long time to go together.

RN: We had lots of good times.

CB: Was it up to your expectations after you were married?
Was it what you thought it would be?

RN: Oh yes, I haven't forgotten.

CB: Do you have any suggestions of how to choose a mate that
you were going to be happy with for 40 or 50 years?

FN: For my granddaughter, you mean?

CB: Yes, for your granddaughter.

RN: Well, you gotta be in love, I know that, you know what that
is. I remember my girlfriend was married the same month I was.
She married a very fine man, and she says, "I know he'll be a
good husband and we'll have a good life together," but she says,
"I'm not desperate in love with him." I thought that was the
funniest thing. I thought, "Goodness, how on earth could you
feel that way?"

CB: Did she grow to love him?

RN: Oh yes, they had a good life and I think they loved each

other, but maybe not as much as some.

CB: But you'd prefer love unintelligible good husband.

RN: He was a good provider and they had a happy time, I think.

CB: Did you discuss whether you would have children or not, and how many?

RN: Yes. We wanted two children. You see, I was 28 and he was 27, so we were old enough so that we didn't want to have children too long, too many, you know.

CB: That's the Irish tradition to marry later in life, about 25.

RN: I imagine if it had not been for the depression, we would have been married a lot sooner. But that's the way it was. We had seen how some of them had struggled so terribly after they had married. They didn't even have enough to eat and they were having babies, and how terribly hard it was to get along during the depression."

CB: Was medical care good during the depression? Were there doctors?

RN: We had doctors, good doctors; but, my folks never had any medical insurance that I remember of. But we didn't have to pay

so much to go to the doctor, a dollar or two; it was so much less. When our babies were born, it was \$35 for the doctor. You see, when my mother had her babies, she had her babies at home, but mine were born in the hospital.

CB: I've always wondered about that, one thing I've never read anyplace.

RN: My folks were always good to keep us, sent us to the dentist. We always went to the dentist regularly. In fact, we hadn't had a lot of work done on our teeth; but, there were five of us and I'm in the middle and none of us had dentures. My mother lived to be 91 and she had her own teeth. We don't have good straight teeth, but we always went to the dentist. Some parents didn't do that. The same with glasses. I wore glasses when I was in the fourth grade; that was quite unusual too in those days. I think I had exceptional parents.

CB: It sounds like it.

RN: I don't know if everybody thinks that about their parents or not, but I do.

CB: I can remember when I first got glasses when I was in the fourth grade and I was in such agony.

RN: Mine were little wire frames.

CB: I had green things that looked like bat wings; I just hated it.

CR: I had them when I was four; I was very young and I have contacts now.

RN: Our granddaughter wears contacts and she gets along beautiful with them.

CB: I've never had luck.

RN: Have you tried?

CB: Yes, I've tried. I have too many waffles in my eye.

RN: Our son tried to and he said he just tried so hard. They're quite a bit of work to take care of them, otherwise, they're better, aren't they?

CB: What would you like your grandchildren to grow up to be?

RN: Be happy. I always said I didn't expect either my children or grandchildren to do any great things, but to just have a happy homelife, that would be as good.

CB: It seems like so far, it's good for your children.

RN: So far, but of course, you know you see families that are happy and all of a sudden, they're divorced. I mean, you don't know these days. It doesn't seem like it was possible, but you see it. I can't say what could happen.

CB: I see that you collect a lot of antiques. Is that what you prefer to do in your leisure time? Do you have some hobby?

RN: Well, I don't care much about sewing. I've made quilts and braided rugs and refinished furniture; so, I guess that's my main hobbies.

CB: Do you belong to any groups or anything?

RN: The Antique Group.

CB: How did you find out about our presentation today?

RN: It was announced in our church.

CB: Oh, that's right.

RN: Wasn't it in the paper; I saw it in there, too. But I didn't know what it was exactly.

CB: We were just really excited that so many women came.

RN: I was sorry there weren't more. I could think of so many that would have enjoyed it that weren't there, but I was wishing there would have been more.

CB: I think that we'll be able to do a better job with publicity now that we've done it once.

RN: And maybe you could say a little more about what it's about because I've heard people say, "Well, I wonder what that is." They were afraid, I think, that it would be something boring where they would have to sit all afternoon. You know people have so many meetings anyway, nowadays, and belong to so many things; they get so involved that they don't like to do something they don't enjoy.

CB: Did you enjoy it?

RN: Oh yes, I really thoroughly did.

CB: So, you were taking a chance on it because you weren't sure what it was.

RN: Yes. I do, not as a hobby, I do a terribly lot of reading. I always have at least two good books going all the time. I get most of my books through the library at Lewiston; they come

right in our mailbox and I send them back.

CB: Oh, I didn't know you could do that.

RN: You can if you live in the country and don't have a library. If you lived in Potlatch, you'd have to go to the library, but being in the country, you could do that.

CB: That's a good service.

RN: Right now I'm reading Upstairs to the Whitehouse.

CB: Oh I've heard of that, is it good?

RN: It's fascinating, yes. I like the biographies and the autobiographies. I think they're my favorite and that's why I enjoyed that today because it's really what they were. I know ██████████ real well; ██████████ ██████████ and her sister was my closest neighbor in Moscow. We're still real close friends.

CB: In my family life, my parents are pretty staunch Republicans and I'm probably a slipped-away Democrat. How do you think your parents influenced you in terms of political belief?

RN: I have a real funny story about that. My mother was a strong Democrat and my dad was a real strong Republican. But they didn't quarrel a lot, but they really had, every once in a

while, they wouldn't all be jokes. So, when it came time to vote, my dad would (he called my mother "Mama," a lot), he said, "Well, I guess I'll go down and cancel Mama's vote." Which he did, and they really were, and I'm like you; I think there ought to be more Democrats, but I don't know how to unintelligible. I tried to vote for the man, but maybe [REDACTED] and I are a little bit more Democrat.

CB: What are your feelings about Roosevelt and getting out of the depression?

RN: Oh, I think he was great. He was President for so many years. I thought it was quite an interesting career. I thought he did a lot.

CB: Do you remember what you were doing when the Second World War started?

RN: Now, that was when Pearl Harbor was, oh yes, I'll never forget. You know, isn't it funny how people say quite often they remember something. I was in the basement, it was on a Sunday, of course. I can remember, and [REDACTED] worked on Sundays when he worked at the creamery; we were in Moscow and I was washing clothes. [REDACTED] was tiny and I was always so afraid that something was going to happen to him, and I'd run up and down the stairs about a dozen times while I was washing just to see that he was okay. And I heard the flash on the radio and I

remember thinking the minute I heard it, I thought, "Oh, [REDACTED] will go." It was the man who worked for [REDACTED]. He was the only unmarried young man that worked at the creamery, and I said that he'd be the first ones to go, and sure enough, he was shot. He lived to come home about two years. He was shot in the back. Oh, I can remember and I can remember just exactly what I was doing when Kennedy was shot. I was teaching and I came up the hallway and one of the teachers stuck her head out the door and said that our President had been shot, he's still alive but we don't know for how long. I remember even the children cried, and I remember that none of us could eat, we just couldn't eat our lunch; it was about 11:30.

CB: I remember where I was and what I was doing when Kennedy was shot. It's one of those things that seem to get fixed.

RN: Yes, you just never forget.

CB: I have to explain this question, but the question is: What was the most significant thing that you've done in your life to support your family? Not necessarily monetarily, but what do you think, what two or three things do you think you've done for your family that either nobody else could have done or that needed to be done at exactly that time? Well, one thing that you've already answered to that you've told about is helping your father pay the taxes on the land.

RN: Now you mean as I was growing up, or do you mean my own family?

CB: Either or both.

CR: Another way to look at that is: What would your family have had to do without if you weren't there?

RN: Well, I don't know. I never supported my family except to help with the taxes. I used to buy my mother some clothes, a new dress and new coat. That's a hard question to answer.

CB: Yes, that is a hard question to answer.

RN: Of course, when I taught school, I helped with the expenses after we were married. Of course, that was years later. We'd been married seven years before I taught school. Oh, I forgot something. After we'd been out here a little while, we ran a dairy. We had a dairy and we milked 50 cows and that was before I started and went back to teaching. When I went back to teaching we sold the dairy, and I always worked unintelligible at the dairy. I never milked, but I carried the milk and put it in the coolers and did the washing up; then, while he was finishing cleaning barns and things, I'd run up and get breakfast and get the kids off to school and he'd be up. We usually have breakfast together because he'd get up at four in the morning. [REDACTED] did,

he did for years, 17 years I think you had. He got up at four every morning and I would try it and I'd get up at four as long as I could take it. But, no matter how early I went to bed, I just simply couldn't take it too long, so I was just too tired. Then [REDACTED] he would tell me, "Well then, don't do it, wait until six," because that was plenty early enough to do the washing. I would do that a while and then, after a while, I'd think, "Well, I feel bad leaving [REDACTED] down there alone." So, I'd try it again at four o'clock, but I couldn't last. So, I really was an important member in the dairy. I've always worked in Four-H and our boys were in Four-H for years. Both of them went to Chicago as Four-H members. And [REDACTED] went to Washington, D.C. for the Outstanding Member for the State of Idaho. He was one of the four.

CB: Have you ever entered a county fair?

RN: Yes. I took my canning, when I was first married, I won first prize in it every year, and I can remember so plainly. We had so little during the depression and the prize was \$7.50. Oh my goodness, that was so much money. I just thought that was an awful lot of money.

CB: What did you spend it on?

RN: Oh, probably a new dress or something, a new pair of shoes. It didn't go for anything foolish.

CB: Did you keep the books for the farm?

RN: No. In the days when I was growing up, there were no books kept. There wasn't any income tax in those days. But since we've had books, and there's a terrific amount of bookkeeping on a farm nowadays and especially in the partnership my husband is in, I don't do any of it. Never was much as a bookkeeper, not very good with figures. Of course, we have our income tax done by an accountant, but then I have to get the books ready. Oh, you just can't imagine the bookkeeping there is. After we sold the cows, we didn't need to keep the cows for our own milk. We wanted to be entirely out of it.

CB: Did you work in the carpentry work in fixing the house and repairing and refinishing?

RN: No. [REDACTED] did some; but the buildings, he didn't build, but he put all the salt ceilings in and took out the partition. There was a bedroom in that end of the room and he did a lot of it.

CB: But you were responsible for the papering and decorating?

RN: Yes, I did all the paper hanging. He paints, he's a real good painter, but he draws the line when it comes to papering. He just hates paper hanging, so I do that all alone. He isn't even around when I do that. I've done all that's been done. I

kind of like to do that.

CB: How did you learn?

RN: We did it at home. My sister, [REDACTED] and I, we lived in an old house and we wanted to make it look nice, why, we'd have new paper. You're getting sleepy again.

CR: No, I'm just yawning and exercising a little.

CB: Where did you learn how to refinish the furniture? Did it just come natural?

RN: Oh, I probably heard somebody tell how they did it; I just don't remember exactly now. Somebody probably told us how to do it. You use paint remover, you know how you do it. Somebody says, "You use paint remover, is that all you have to do?" They don't know how much sanding that you do and all that.

CB: I got a mahogany table and I really didn't want to mess with the paint remover, you know, I was just really afraid. I sanded the whole thing. I spent weeks doing that, but I think it was worthwhile and I didn't work up the grain, mahogany.

RN: I don't think paint remover hurts furniture much. All of ours had paint remover.

CB: Well, I didn't know it then.

RN: You thought that was the thing to do in those days?

CB: Yes, I'm never going to do it that way again.

RN: I don't know if there would be anything else very exciting that's happened. I almost forgot about the dairy.

CB: You didn't tell us anything about that. Was the dairy here?

RN: Yes. The milking barn is where we have our yester years. The antique barn, the overflows from the house.

CB: Do you sell them or just show them?

RN: We collect them. To a lot of people, we act like we're kind of selfish. "Well, you would sell one of these, wouldn't you?" And I'd say, "No, we're collectors not sellers."

CB: I think I already know the answer to this, but I'd like to ask you anyway. If you could go back and live any part of your life over again and could do anything you wanted to do, would you do anything differently? What would you chance? Would you try some things you haven't done yet?

RN: Well, I can't think of anything too much. The dairy years were hard because we couldn't go anyplace. I think if we could have made a living without the dairy it would have been much easier, although it was interesting. We had registered cows and we kept them coming, studded and bloodlines and knew so many of the other dairymen around. Had an interesting time, but it was what I could call the hard years. It was the hard years of our marriage. We were raising our family then and we always had good meals. Meals on time, anyway, even though I worked in the barn. Otherwise, I don't think I've worked too much; we've always loved the farm.

CB: Would you go back to school to get your degree? I'd like you to tell me a little bit more about returning to the university.

RN: Well, the first summer I went, I took three courses, nine hours, and did you know [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] He's retired.

CB: Yes. I'd have to say semi-retired; he's still doing a lot of advising.

RN: No, you're thinking of a different [REDACTED] I'm sure. The [REDACTED] [REDACTED] that I'm thinking of ...

CB: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

RN: No.

CB: Okay, the wrong [REDACTED]

RN: I forget what his first name is, but his wife taught Well, anyway, he helped me fill out my form. I had never gone to a university; I'd gone to a smaller school and I said, "Those sound awfully hard." And he says, "They're all hard." And they were, after not being in school for 40 years or more; they were hard, it wasn't easy.

CB: Did you like going back?

RN: Yes, I enjoyed it. I especially enjoyed the associations and the lectures. They were interesting but I didn't like the tests.

CB: Did you feel that the students looked down on you because you were older?

RN: No, I dyed my hair brown in those days. laughing .

CB: Did you really?

RN: Just until about three years ago, I guess.

CB: It's so pretty like that.

RN: No, I didn't feel like it because there were quite a few, especially in summer school, you know. A lot of the teachers go back for refresher courses and there were lots of older people, too. Then I took a lot of correspondence courses, too. They were kind of interesting; I didn't mind going to them.

CB: What would be your two or three academic interests? What do you like to study or read about the most?

RN: Well, the fun time when I was teaching, even though it was the hardest for me going to school, I liked to teach math the best in fourth grade. I think I was maybe a better teacher in math than anything I taught. And then I liked science. I grew up on a farm and I always enjoyed the birds; we had quite a bit of wildlife on our farm. We always had a science fair every year.

CB: Do you feel that you influenced your husband's thinking, and on what kinds of issues?

RN: Well, I think we do each other. I think we influence each other's thinking. I think he does mine. We think more or less an awful lot that we don't have any fights about it. We've always gotten along real good.

CB: There's a couple areas where that we maybe better not get into.

RN: Well, let's see, our topics are quite similar; we go to church together.

CB: My husband's a geologist and, of course, is not a believer in water witches. I don't believe in water witches.

RN: Well now, that's the part we disagree a little bit. We don't quarrel about it; but, I never could quite understand it but my husband thinks there's nothing like it. We dug a well right here, low, where you'd think about 300 feet, and got enough water to get by for a while, when we had the dairy, but not nearly enough. We just had a terrible struggle with the water. Finally, we just decided we couldn't stand it any longer and that was before our kids unintelligible on the hill. [REDACTED] had a large unintelligible and of all places, was clear up on the hill in an alfalfa patch, he found a spot. We went 200 and, oh, 10 or 12 feet. And when our family moved up there, of course, counting the shop, they had four bathrooms, washers and dryers like we all have, and dishwashers, and we never saw any difference. The well was so good that they could water their lawn and water their garden. So, he really thinks the witching paid off there. I don't know; I'm like you.

CR: I didn't even know what you were talking about. I thought it was people that find water. Yeah, I know now, the people that go around with a stick?

EN: Yes. There's another name.

RN: Yes, there is another name. What is that other name they call it? Oh yes, this man used a stick, or did he have an iron? Copper? ... And it worked like that. He said when he did it, he says, "Now, I want you to put the stick here, I don't want you to put it over here, it's got to be right there." And that drill had to go right where that space is. And [REDACTED] was there to see that he did, and they did, they got the water. But I'm kind of like you; I just can't go along with it as strong as he does. I don't quarrel about it, it's fine. We got wonderful and that's important, but I have never quite. This old man had done a lot of it. He recently passed away; but he did a great deal of it around this country. He's drilled, witted, many of them. What is that other name you call it, I can't think of it. But, you know they even write it up in the yearbook that the government puts out about them. Have you read it in there?

CB: Yes. Do you like living in a rural area? Have you ever wanted to live in the city or a large town?

RN: Never. Never want to live in a city or a large town.

CB: What do you like about your life here in this country?

RN: Well, I like the privacy we have. You can run outside in your underwear if you want to. Laughter. I think that's a lot of it.

CR: Don't you get lonely sometimes, though? When you were younger, did you feel lonely?

RN: No. When I was younger and raising my family, I was busy every day. The one thing I never did was I never drove a car.

CB: You never drove a car? How did you get in today?

RN: Oh, I cam in with one of the neighbor ladies. It's too bad, I should've learned years ago.

CB: Unintelligible.

RN: No, I have never let myself get lonely. I can always read and waste time. We've always, we've had the little organ and we had a piano, we had a player piano until recently. We gave it to our son and I can have enough fun with that, I can pass away time; not entertain anyone else but I can entertain myself. I can't remember having too much lonely times.

CB: How do you think the life that you live is different from the life of a woman who lives in the city or the suburbs?

RN: Well, I feel safer here than I would in a big city. Of course, my not having lived that way, it's kind of hard to compare. I wouldn't compare. I think it would be rather interesting, though. You could go to libraries, and I'm interested in museums and things like that.

CB: Do you ever take vacations to the city?

RN: No, not too much because my husband doesn't like to drive in the city.

CR: I don't either; I hate to drive around Washington, D.C.

RN: Oh, you have, huh?

CR: I lived right outside of the area.

RN: Where did you grow up?

CR: I grew up in Michigan.

RN: Oh. And you?

CB: In upstate New York.

RN: Oh, for goodness sakes. What brought you to Idaho? You see, I'm interviewing you now.

CB: Well, I fell in love with the West. It sounds so hokey and everything else.

RN: You just came out to go to school or something?

CB: Well, I went to school in Bowling Green, Ohio, and I minored in Geology, and one way to get a Geology minor was to go West on a field trip. We got six credits and we took six weeks and we went in the first part of the summer. We toured the West and then we went to a field camp, in that area, and we were supposed to map it and I just literally fell in love with the West. I can remember my first mountains, I just fell in love with it. I don't want to go back there.

RN: Have you been to southern Idaho much? It's so different there, isn't it, than northern Idaho. It doesn't seem like the same state. They raise different things and the mountains are different; it's altogether different. Our state is real odd that way.

CB: I just fell in love with the West.

RN: Now would you like to go back there and live, or did you fall in love with the West, too?

CR: I think I could stay here. I liked it there a lot. I lived near Detroit.

RN: Oh, are your folks still there?

CR: Yes.

RN: Our son and daughter-in-law just went back to Detroit and just got home, just ahead of a terrible storm and brought a 2½ ton truck and another piggy back on the back. They were just ahead of us and, you know, they were frightened of Detroit. They stayed in Pontiac overnight and they kind of told them to be careful about not going out at night and staying in a motel. They were really awfully glad to get out of there because they were kind of afraid.

EN: They told them to get back in there in their motel to stay there and in the next morning, get their truck and get their rig and get out of there before somebody mugged them.

RN: And, of course, they probably knew they were travelers and they might have a little more money on them.

CB: I've always lived either in a rural area or a very small town or city no bigger than Moscow, so I've never really lived in the city.

RN: I don't know much about cities; I just wouldn't know much. I like to go to Spokane to shop. There's some really nice stores.

CR: The Bon Marche.

RN: Yeah, we got one of those in Lewiston, too.

EN: There may not be anything in there telling about the whole state. They were talking about when they became a state, they said nothing doing, the United States didn't want them, unintelligible build a town, and they wouldn't do it.

CR: Is that because it was unintelligible ?

EN: No, it was just the county, the way it was located around...

RN: Unintelligible. Did you swim a lot in the East?

CB: That's the only thing that I miss about the East is it's so green all the time because there is so much moisture. Moisture in the air all the time, it's raining all the time.

RN: How long have you been in Idaho?

CB: Eight years, and I've been two years in Montana.

RN: Yeah, Montana is a pretty state. Parts of it is rather barren, but we've driven into Montana quite a lot.

CB: Is there anything else you would like to tell us that you can remember?

RN: Well, [REDACTED] what have I done that exciting?

EN: You got married. Lots of laughter.

RN: Was that a mistake?

RN: No. You took that wild trip back to see your grandmother.

RN: Oh yeah.

CB: You want to tell us about that?

RN: Oh, yes. After I taught school two years or three and I had enough money, that girlfriend and I went on the train, first class, and got to see my grandmother in Iowa. Before we got on the train, we said, "Now, let's don't tell anybody we're schoolteachers." They might have thought we were old maids, but we weren't quite old enough to be old maids yet. We didn't want anybody to know it. So we said, "Well, we won't even mention that we're schoolteachers," and the first person we talked to on the train said, "Do you girls teach school?" I spent six weeks there with my grandmother and that's as far east I've ever been. That was near Omaha, just across the Nebraska border into Iowa. I enjoyed it that summer but I didn't like the lightning storms. The thunder, it scared me half to death.

CB: What did you think of flappers?

RN: Oh, I was a flapper, oh, definitely.

CB: Really?

RN: Oh, I was in high school; I was the typical flapper.

CB: Did you have the hat and the rose here, or whatever?

RN: Oh, yes, and we wore these big rimmed glasses. My girlfriend and I were the first two in high school that had bobbed hair. In fact, we had it cut Buster Brown.

CB: Oh, what did you parents say?

RN: Well, I begged my mother for weeks and weeks and weeks to have it cut. That was before anybody thought it was proper, and my sister, [REDACTED] that you met today, cut it. Finally, I remember that we just followed her around for days begging for [REDACTED] to cut my hair. [REDACTED] wanted to cut it -- she wanted to see how terrible I'd look before she'd do it. Finally, my mother says, "Well, I'm not gonna get any rest until you girls do it." So, we went in the bedroom and [REDACTED] cut my hair. And oh, I was scared to come out, it looked so funny; I thought I did, anyway. Oh, I was a typical flapper, absolutely.

CB: Was she really?

EN: Yes, she was.

CB: So that picture that we saw with the wave, was that considered bobbed? As long as it was short hair?

RN: Now, you can laugh all you want. Narrator is showing school pictures. This is my high school graduation picture. That dress was gray, of all colors; can you imagine?

EN: That doesn't show your color of hair like that other one.

RN: Oh yes it does. I had bobbed hair when I was about a sophomore in high school.

EN: The one that I was thinking about was when I first saw you. I didn't know you then, but I saw you then.

RN: When I had a Buster Brown.

CB: When you say Buster Brown, was it straighter and not curled?

RN: Just straight across there and down here and straight across there, and rather short. Narrator is showing with her hands.

CB: Yeah, only short, but sort of full.

RN: This was just straight across, straight across.

CB: Weren't you supposed to have a little kind of half-curl when you tipped your head and doing the Charleston?

RN: Oh yes, we danced the Charleston. We learned by hanging on to the back of the chair until we'd get our legs to go that way.

CB: That's marvelous.

CR: Those glasses, that was the style that was popular then?

RN: Yes. Those were later, because when I first had glasses when I was a little tiny girl, they were wire.

CB: How did you curl your hair when it was curly?

RN: We had curling irons, and you put them down in a lamp.

CB: You know they're using those again nowadays, in new short styles that sort of flip up.

RN: I know. My granddaughter has an electric curling iron. She had it down here when she was staying with us, curled it under a little bit. Oh, and I can remember Mother made most of my clothes. She was a real good sewer and of course, in those days, that was terribly short; but most of the girls were wearing them that way. My dresses couldn't be below the knee and they couldn't be above the knee; but it had to hit me right in the middle of the knee. That was the way it had to be. She'd have to work so hard to make sure it'd be right there because I wouldn't wear it any other way. I wish I could write down about the flapper days,

but I just don't know how to do it. But we really had a good time. Well, after the war, things were booming. There was more money and we had more clothes.

EN: In those days, we had all those dance halls, outdoor dance halls, dances from here to half way to Spokane.

RN: Lewiston, we went to dances in Lewiston.

CR: Did they ever have a famous dance band come?

RN: Oh yes. Johnny Cash came to Riverside down here, and Tex Ritter.

EN: All those western men.

CR: This wasn't earlier?

RN: No, that was really much later. But then we always had a Fourth of July celebration where these dance halls were. The one that was over here, and they lasted three days. They would dance in the afternoon and in the evening, then they'd always have ball games. If you wanted to go watch the gallgame, then that was fine. But if you like to dance, better well, then. I always stayed and danced because that's what I liked the best. I always said that on the Fourth of July or during the Fourth of July celebration that I danced day and night for three days. All

afternoon and all night, you know, for three days.

CR: Did you ever do a dance marathon like they used to do?

RN: No, but we've gone to them. [REDACTED] and I used to go to Spokane and watch them. They were fun to watch.

CB: They're having one at the SUB Ballroom tomorrow night.

RN: Oh, really? Well now, that would be ballroom dancing. They would be hanging on to each other and they'd have to hold each other up.

CB: Yeah.

RN: And we used to go to, see, we didn't have regular TVs, not until later, but we used to go to the vaudeville in Spokane. Ernie and I used to go to those and, my, we thought, that was great. I don't know whether we saw anybody famous or not, did we? I remember seeing some Siamese twins who sang, once. They were kind of fastened at the side and they were real pretty girls with curls, and they sang.

CR: I'll bet you thought of Gypsy Rose Lee, huh?

CB: Do you think Gypsy Rose Lee ever sang in Spokane?

RN: No, I don't think so. I don't think we saw anybody real famous.

EN: Yes we did, we saw unintelligible .

RN: Oh yeah. When I was going to Normal School, that was one of his last, he just directed two numbers and he was so old then that he directed two numbers and had somebody else do the rest of them. I remember they had to build a big platform, much bigger than they had in the school. So that was quite something to see, I guess.

CB: I thought that the most exciting times to be a teenager would be in the 1920's and the 1950's.

RN: I graduated from high school in 1924, so I really was what you called a typical flapper, and we wore lots of rouge and lipstick.

CR: And how did your mother like that? Did she mind?

RN: No, she didn't seem to mind. She knew we did. I know she used to get kind of cross with me once in a while, but because I had to have my dresses a certain length, but she'd usually go along with it.

CR: Did she wear rouge or anything like that?

RN: Yeah, she'd wear a little.

CB: It was okey for you to do that then.

RN: She'd never tell us that we couldn't. All the girls did. We didn't use eye makeup much. We had mascara and we had the little thing that curls your eyelashes. We did that, but not to use it around the eyes like the girls do nowadays. Now, our little granddaughter, that's what she uses more than anything else, eye makeup. But we didn't use so much of that. But, oh my, we'd primp terribly. You know, nowadays, kids will go out and look so awful and their awful old clothes, and we just thought we had to get really dolled to go out.

CR: How long did it take you to get ready to go somewhere special?

RN: Well, sometimes we'd start pretty early in the afternoon. We'd have to curl each other's hair, put on all our makeup, and I don't know how long.

CR: Well, it was kind of fun to spend your time doing that. I really liked my senior prom, a bunch of girls would get together and do each other's hair.

RN: Now, you are going to school now in Idaho?

CR: Yes, I'm a graduate student.

RN: And what will you be then when you're through?

CR: Well, I haven't decided yet. I haven't declared a degree program; I'm just taking some courses that I think would be interesting. If I stay, I may move to Seattle and go to the University of Washington. If I stay, I'll probably get a masters in anthropology.

CB: You better not.

CR: Why?

CB: We need you.

RN: You can get a masters over here in anthropology?

CR: Yes, I can get that here.

CB: Can you think of any more questions?

EN: Are you going to school, too?

CB: No, I work at the U of I.

RN: Do you want to know anything about the first school I taught?

CB: Yes.

RN: There were more teachers than schools in those days, so we had a problem getting a school. I think I had the one farthest back in the woods in Latah County, and it was back in Helmer. Do you know where Helmer is?

CB: Yes.

RN: Well, I would go to Potlatch on a train to Helmer, and the people whom I stayed with would meet me by a sled in the winter because we had so much snow much longer. They'd meet me with a team and a sled and we'd have to go about 16 miles in the sled to the school and I got out, this was Christmas. That was real hard on me.