An interview with Mabel (Dolly) Parker by Dale Anderson

DA: Your name is Dolly Prker, right? Is Dolly a nickname, or is that your real name?

DP: Nickname.

DA: What is your real name?

DP: Mable.

DA: Did you have a middle name?

DP: Elizabeth.

DA: And your maiden name?

DP: Ebner. E-B-N-E-R.

DA: The date of your birth?

DP: 1893, Twenty third of February.

DA: The place of birth?

DP: Joliet, Illinois.

DA: The local of first residence in Idaho?

DP: Chilco. C-H-I-L-C-O.

DA: Where is that? I never heard of it.

DP: It's between Coeur d'Alene and Sandpoint.

DA: Oh.I haven't been north of Coeur d'Alene on that road.

DP: Yeah.

DA: And where were you living right before you came to Chilco?

DP: That road we lived inJoliet until then.

DA: How do you spell Joliet?

DP: J-O-L-I-E-T.

DA: Now, what else? And the approximate arrival here in Idaho?

DP: Ah, 1911.

DA: And that's the year that you got married?

DP: Yeah.

DA: What was the month and date?

DP: Twelfth of June.

DA: O.K. Your mode of travel?

DP: Train.

DA: And your companions? Your husband? And your mother's maiden name?

DP: Alice Morrison.

DA: Her date of birth?

DP: I don't know.

DA: The approximate year?

DP: Well, I don't know. What's eighteen minus ninety three?

DA: Let's see, that would be 1895... the month and the day?

DP: April fifteenth

DA: The date of her death?

DP: I can't remember all that.

DA: The year she was married, do you know how old she was when she got married?

DP: She was seventeen.

DA: O.K., so that was (?) Her occupation?

DP: She was a housewife.

DA: Father's name?

DP: Edward Ebner.

DA: The date of his birth?

DP: February the fifth.

DA: And do you know how old he was?

DP; Well, he was three years older than my mother.

DA: O.K., the place of his birth?

DA: Joliet.

DA: And the date of his death?

DP:

DA: Your father's occupation

DP: He worked in the steel mill.

DA: O.K., brothers and sisters. All I need is the names.

DP: Marie.

DA: Did she marry?

DP: She died when she was fourteen.

DA: Any others?

DP: My brother, Edward. He died.

DA: Your husband's name?

DP: Cornelius Henry Parker.

DA: The date of his birth?

DP: Well, He's eleven years older than I am.

DA: Oh, so that would be 1882, does that sound right?

DP: 188- yeah, that's right. yeah.

DA: The month and the date?

DP: He was born the twenty third day in March.

DA: The place of his birth?

DP: Rapid City, South Dakota.

DA: Where were you married?

DP: Joliet, Illinois.

DA: Have you been back to Illinois?

DP: Oh yes, many times.

DA: Do you like living here, in contrast to Joliet?

DP: Oh, yes. I wouldn't want to live there. I like small towns.

And Joliet's a pretty big town, you know.

DA: Mm hm. I've heard that before. Did Is your husband living?

DP: No. He died ten years ago.

DA: His occupation

DP: He was a miner.

DA: Any children?

DP: No.

DA: O.K., your education? DA: Skills?

DP: High school. SKills?

DA: Anything that you did that you consider, you know

DP: Well, I was through the police department for sixteen years as a radio aoperator.

DA: I heard that you met alot of people from out of state.

DP: Oh heavens. We're having one tonight. Last year I had 92.

DA: Wow.

DP: Yeah. This year I've only had 42. So far. And you never know when they're comin'.

DA: Do they just come by and look for you, or are these people that you met, and kept in touch with?

DP: No, they're strangers that come from California. I've never seen 'em before.

DA: Mm hm. Are they people that you talked to while you were a police?

DP: No. You see Um, Ray Green (?) called me up on the radio, when

I was workin' there, he makes these kooky calls, you know, and asked

me all about the town, and everything, and I told him, and then

that went over the air; and every week since then, he calls me up.

From California, you know, and that goes over the air, and these

DP: people you hear talkin' and they come up to see me.

DA: Oh.

DP: Yeah. I don't know. There's a few that are, or two or three that come you know, they came one time and they come back. But most of them, I don't know them. I've never seen them before.

DA: Do you enjoy having people here like that?

DP: Oh yes. It's lots of fun. Yes.

DA: Sounds interesting.

DP: Yeah, it is. But somethimes you're paintin' and sometimes you're washin', and because you can't be prepared for company every minute, you know.

DA: Yeah. Um, have you had any jobs other than that?

DP: Yes. I worked at the Union Legion Club for awhile. For about ten years.

DA: What did you do there?

DP: Worked in the office.

DA: Anything else?

DP: No.

DA: Interests, hobbies, and talents...your animals?

DP: You mean what I like? I like people and animals. Quite a combination, isn't it?

DA: Someone once said, that people who treat animals well, usually like people, too.

DP: Of course, these, you can understand how spoiled he is.

And Trampolina (?) is the cat. One morning, it was in the winter time, and someone threw the poor old thing out of the car, and hurt her hip, and she was trying to lounge around in the snow.

You know how terrible that would be. And so finally I couldn't stand it any longer, I took her out, took and put her on the porch, and her hip was hurt. I took her to the vet and he fixed her hip with a cast, you know, and then every time I opened the door, Snooper, my dog, fell in love with the cat, every time I opened the door, he'd push her in, so finally I got Snooper... I finally took the cat in and I thought well, I was feedin' her so well and she was gettin' so fat, and one morning I woke up and had four kittens. But after the kittens got a little older, why then I had her spayed. So now I won't have any more kittens. And I named her tramp, 'cause that's what she was and then a woman from California called me up and said "Do you have any water in your house?" and I said "yes", and she said "Well, git some". I didn't know what she wanted, and finally she said "now" I said "I have the water", and she said " now you name the cat Trampolina". So I did. So now her name's Trampolina.

DA: Do you know why she called?

DP: Well, she didn't want me to name her Tramp.

DA: Oh.

DP: She said, a nice little cat, she said, her name, and she is a good little cat, but you know, I don't like cats very well.

DA: Oh, really?

DP: But then, what can you do? So anyway, I have Trampolina, and she follows me always like a dog. When I take him for walks, she's right there. Course, she's a little bit lame, you know, she never did get over her injuries, but then she's a good cat, clean and she never bothers anything in the kitchen or anything. AS far

- DP: as cats go, she's really a good one.
- DA: I like cats, but I'm allergic to them. If I'm around them a lot.

 You know, or the house has a lot of fur, you know and I'm

 here for quite awhile it won't bother me, but otherwise, I'll

 pet cats, you know. Why should I hate 'em?
- DP: Well anyway, like I say, she's a prize cat, and poor old thing has had such a hard life, you know, she seems so grateful to have a home that that's, I think, why she's so good. And of course they romp and play, you know, and he just loves her. IN fact when she had her babies, he'd wait until she got out of the box and then he'd crawl in and take care of the babies 'till she's câme back.
- DA: Now that's unusual.
- DP: It is. Yes, it is. But he just loves her, I can't believe it, he just loves her, you know.
- DA: Clubs, groups and societies that you belong to, or that you have belonged to?
- DP: Oh brother. Well I belong to sisters. And the Dokeys(?)
- DA: Dokeys?
- DP: It's Santa. S-A-N-T-A. Women's auxiliary of the... and I belong to Business Women's Club.

DA:

- DP: Yeah. And um, Past President's Club, and Association.

 Let me see if I belong to anything else. Senior Citizen's Club,

 A.A.R.P., that's enough, isn't it?
- DA: Yeah, unless you think of anything else that you think's important.

DA: Awards, honors and ribbons.

DP: What?

DA: Awards, honors and ribbons?

DP: Well, I got a watch from the police department. And a citation from the Governor.

DA: What's the citation for?

DP: Well, it was for being a good citizen. In a, oh I think that's too many things to tell.

DA: Well, if it's important to you, go ahead and tell it.

DP: Well. I have life membership in Parent-Teachers (Association?)

DA: Parent-Teachers?

DP: P.T.A.

DA: Oh, you said Parent-Teachers. That kinda seems unusual, since you don't have any children of your own. You just were interested as a person in the community?

DP: Sure.

DA: I see why you got the good citizenship award. Citation.

DP: 'Cause I was a, um Instarted the P.T.A., you know.

DA: Oh you did?

DP: Yeah.

DA: How did you meet your husband?

DP: Well, I went out to South Dakota and he was out there and I met him that way.

DA: Were you just visiting out there, or did you decide to go work?

DP: Oh, no, I would go visit my aunt.

DA: Mm hm. How long did you know him before you got married?

DP: About two years.

- DA: Well, did you stay out there with your aunt, or did you he decide to follow you to Joliet, or?
- DP: Oh, no, he just came back there to visit. No, he still lived in Dakota Cody (?) you know. So then he came back, I don't know, four or five times I think, and then we finally got married. But he got his back hurt in the mining, and he was an invalid for 32 years.

 So that was pretty rough.
- DA: How long had you been married before that happened?
- DP: Well, about I don't remember all those dates.
- DA: Well, You know, not dates, but just approximately, you know whether it was ten years, or three...
- DP: Oh no, it was about twenty years ago, twenty-two, or something like that
- DA: Oh.
- DP: A long time ago. And then, what else do you want to know?
- DA: Um, well, would you just outline your life, or would you like to rather I just ask you questions?
- DP: Yeah.
- DA: Ask questions? O.K., what did you and your husband do when you were courting?
- DP: Well, we weren't courting very much when he was out in Dakota and I was in/Illinois.
- DA: Did you write letters?
- DP: Yeah, we corresponded. Yeah.
- DA: Why did you decide to come out here? To Idaho.
- DP: Well, in the first place he had a lot of fruit at Chilco. We moved back there.
- DA: Mm hm.

- DP: And it didn't work out, and we came out here. And that's the way it is.
- DA: Did he come here looking for a job in the mines, or was there just no other jobs?
- DP: No he came here to get a job in the mines. He went broke on
 the fruit farm 'till he got ripped(?)
 on that outfit, so then we came here. And then we were here about
 forty?
 four years and then we went to Montana and home-steaded. We were
 there, I s'pose about eight years and then we came back here.
 We've been here ever since.
- DA: Did you like home-steading in Montana?
- DP: It's fun. But I would rather have a button to press, and get rights and carry some land.
- DA: Oh.
- DP: Because to me it was fun. You know, but it wasn't as easy as it is livin' in the city, you know.
- DA: Mm hm.
- DP: And then we came back here in December and get back here.
- DA: Were you glad, coming back to Kellogg?
- DP: Oh, you bet. There's no where in the world I'd rather live.
- DA: Why?
- DP: Well, in the first place, it's beautiful country. And four seasons is what I love. Every spring, and fall, and winter. I love the snow. And the people here are wonderful. And that's all that matters.
- DA: Mm hm. Do you really notice the difference between your live in Joliet and your life here?

- DP: Well, in comparison, and of course then I was younger, too, you realize that. There's a difference in the span of life, too, you know, but I know I've been back there and I don't know how I ever lived there in the first place. 'Course, I didn't know any better but nights are hot, it's smokey and dirty, not for me.

 I'm happy right here. This is the best place in all the world to live. I'm glad everybody don't know that, or everybody'd be here.

 Let's just kinda keep it a secret.
- DA: (Laughter)Well, people tell us about the smelter's smoke, but I think that keeps people away.
- DP: I think! people depend on smelter's smoke. My husband
 you take kids here, basketball and football, and they're all
 supposedly down with lead poisoning and they wouldn't even
 now that's a lota hooy that smelter's smoke stuff.

DA: Oh,

DP: No, I don't believe that.

DA; Mm hm.

- DP: If you have smelter's smoke, so what? There's no where in the world where it's perfect. Everything has its drawback, you know. Either it's hot or its cold, or it rains too much, or it don't rain enough. We don't have everything.
- DA: Or crowded, or space.
- DP: Yeah, we don't have any snakes(?) that's one god's blessing, isn't it?
- DA: I really find it pleasant.
- DP: There isn't any better place in the world, than here, I don't think. And the people, they're like families. Now I was around

DP: here in our neighborhood, I've lived here two or three years, you know, and it's just like the families. Like your very own.

Especially like me, I don't have any family, you know, so

DA: Um, why didn't you have any children? Did you not want children, or were you not able to have children?

DP: No, I wasn't able to.

DA: Did you want children.

DP: Oh, well, and how. I practically raised four. I always knew that someone would leave a baby on the doorstep, but they never did. They once left a little puppy, but, in a basket, but that wasn't a baby..

DA: Right.

DP: And anyways, just a puppy.

DA: Who were these four children you raised?

DP: Well, they were, their mothers worked and their cousins so while she worked, I kept the kids in the day time, all the time, you know and they were like my own kids.

DA: Mm hm. Now there are people going back

DP:

DA; I couldn't agree with you more, and I really like kids...

DP: Yeah

DA: What do you think about working mothers?

DP: Well, I'll tell ya what I think about it, because, if I had to live on bread and water, I would stay home and take care of my kids. Because in the first place, you take a mother that works all day, and she tries to do so much she falls apart after all that work. Now you take a mother that's workin'

- DP: and she worked, and she's tired when she comes home, and she can't adjust to her children...she's too tired, you know, you can only do so much. If you do a day's work and you have to come home and do another day's work, it's hard on your nerves.

 So if I had children that's what I think about it.
- DA: Did you ever think about adoption?
- DP: Well, yes, I did, but when you have a husband that's in a wheel chair, they won't let you adopt children. They won't let you do that. So that's why I never adopted any.
- DA: When did you start working there, and was it financial, or did you just want to work?
- DP: Well, I, we spent all our money trying to cure my husband, you know, took him all over tryin' to get him, the arthritis set in after he, when he got hurt. And after we go around you run outa money, you know it only goes so far, that's why I worked in the fruit department, so I could earn enough money to keep us goin'.
- DA: Did you enjoy your job?
- DP: Oh boy, and how. I had a wonderful job, and they were so nice to me there, you know, yes I do. I enjoy every day I worked.
- DA: Before your husband was injured, where you ever aprehensive about his working in the mines?
- DP: No. I wasn't.
- DA: Mm hm.
- DP: It's safer to work in the mine than drive down the highway.
- DA: Someone else made that comment.
- DP: It is.
- DA: Mm hm.
- DP: No, I never worried about that. But then it was too bad he got hurt.

- DP: But he was a very happy person, and here he was never depressed in any way, and he never had a doctor before in all his life.

 He was never sick.
- DA: Mm. Poor old thing.
- DP: And he took it on the chin, you know, when he knew that he would never walk anymore. He just figured it was his fate. So he was never sick, you know, he never figured, so we bought a violin
- DA: Oh, really?
- DP: Yeah, he never took any lessons, but pretty soon he could play and he knew an awful lot of songs.
- DA: Do you play any instruments?
- DP: Who me? Uh-uh.
- DA: What types of T.V. shows do you watch?
- DP: Well, I love travelogues, and I like animal pictures, you know when they have animal pictures, and like Little House on the Prairie and stuff like that. And I like quiz shows. They're real good.
- DA: Do you like the ones that have been on recently? They keep changing them.
- DP: Well, there's some of them that I don't like. There's one good thing about television. If you don't like it you can turn it off.

 Or turn to another station. Some of them, there are some programs that I don't like very well. I don't like a lot of these crazy sex stuff. I think that's better off in the bedroom, or some where. I don't like that. But they have many other good programs on like the news, and all that stuff, you know.

 But, they have some real, they have some nice programs. And I like that awful well. And what else do you want for me to tell ya?

- DA: Oh, I have lots of questions, as long as you keep answereing them, you know, if you get tired I'll put them away, but I have quite a few more questions. What types of magazines or newspapers do you subscribe to regularly?
- DP: Well, just the weekly news, and the Spokane paper, the review, and I get the Reader's Digest, and T.V. Guide. That's the kind of magazines I like. And there's others you buy, but then, you know, I don't take them
- DA: You just buy ocasionally.
- DP: Yeah, that's right.
- DA: Do you like to read?
- DP: Oh, you bet.
- DA: What types of books do you read?
- DP: Well, um, I like to read you know, there's some of them
 that are very good, and I like to read those kinda books. And
 magazines
 mystery books and the books they have nowadays, I don't
 want to read them, the books they have now, you know?
- DA: Mm hm.
- DP: The best sellers, I think I'd rather have the poor sellers, as far as I'm concerned.
- DA: Do you think they're too
- DP: Yeah. I don't think they oughta have them on the book stand,
 myself. They're no good. But then everybody has their own taste
 whatever they like, like I say they have all kindsa books. You
 buy what you want.
- DA: Right.

DP: And everybody has a different idea of what they're wantin'
to read and that's what they can read. But these new ones,
huh-uh. I'd rather go out and look at some flowers or a tree
or something, something that's beautiful besides alot of dirty
words in a book. That's true.

DA: Do you like to go camping?

DP: Oh, you bet. And I like to fish. I don't catch very many, but I have a lot of fun dangling the hook in the water.

DA: Is there any type of fishing that you like the best?

DP: When we were kids my dad used to take us out in the wilderness(?) rivers and we used to catch bullheads, and but now, of course I mostly get trout.

DA: They're alot better.

DP: You mean to eat?

DA: Yes, to eat.

DP: Well, I don't know. I can't remember what a bullhead tasted like, many years ago, but trout's very good.

DA: It's also a lot easier to catch.

DP: Oh yeah. You know when we were back there, we had a, my dad, he had a pole and he had a cork. And when the cork went under the water, we just sat there, and then we had to fish. Now you have the stream.

DA: I mean as far as cleaning.

DP: Oh, oh yeah, gee those other things are awful hard. I think out here they call them catfish. They're on that order anyway.

DA: I'm used to calling them catfish.

DP: Yeah. And you have to skin them.

- DA: Yeah.
- DP: SO, they're hard to clean. But the trout really is a awfuly good fish.
- DA: Mm hm. Do you hunt, or have you hunted?
- DP: No, Never. I wouldn't shoot anything, no, uh-uh. I don't even like to eat wild meat 'cause know how the poor it deer
- DA: What about a poor little cow?
- DP: Well I don't know. I guess we're used to that.
- DA: Yeah. I agree with you.
- DP: But I probably saw a cow bein' slaughtered, killed, I couldn't eat it. But when you buy it in the butcher shop, you don't think that, you know.
- DA: Yeah.
- DP: So, The other day a woman was tellin' me, or did I hear it on the radio, I don't know. But anyways, they raised ducks. And they, no she tell me it was in California. And they raised ducks.

 And she said they killed the ducks, you know. And they had 'em all name named. And then when they put 'em in the freezer, they cleaned them and put 'em in the freezer, they put the names on each one. And nobody could eat 'em. So they had to give the ducks away.
- DA: Oh.
- DP: It was a crazy thing to put the names on, wasn't it?
- DA: I know.
- DP: That's what she said, too.
- DA: Yeah, that would make it really difficult.
- DP: Well, you couldn't.No.

DA: Did the depression have much effect on your life?

DP: No. We lived here, and everybody worked. They maybe worked four days a week, or so, you know, but things were cheaper and everybody got along fine. Back East, everybody was in the depression, because I went back there that one time, and it was terrible. Nobody was workin' or anything, but, in our country here, anybody that wanted to work, could work. You know, even four days a week, well that would keep you goin' at least.

DA: Well, did they work four days a week so that most people that wanted to work could work?

DP: Yeah.

DA: I wonder if people would still like to do that

DP: Well, I don't know. I think that if it came right down to it they would. I mean, I don't know anywhere, but I think they Cause people are would here. We're awful good here about things. Course, I always brag about this place, because I love it. You know, when you like anything it's easy, and I don't, it is that people here are so darned good. You know, if you have any trouble, or anything, that's when you fond out how good people are. And I know from workin' where I did, down at the police department, if anybody get into trouble, then everybody pitched in. Everybody. And they your time, you know. And in the first place, everydidn't and you had that terrible mine disaster, the sunshine mine, body knows everybody. And you can't imagine the whole town mourned.

- DP: It was terrible.
- DA: I heard that the town...I heard that everybody really pulled together.
- DP: Oh, they did. Well everybody, if you didn't have anybody in the mine, you knewsomebody that did have. You know, that many people lived, you know, so everybody had a heartache.
- DA: How man long did it really take for Kellogg to recover from that?
- DP: Well, I don't think that they did recover yet. I don't think so.
 You mean the memory, or what?
- DA: Um, I mean, you know, people started, I think that was a really bad question. You know, just before things seemed to get back flowing again, I think
- DP: Back to normal.
- DA: Yeah.
- DP: Well, I don't know. I would think uh, for the earthquake comin' for the outsiders, you know, of course people, their own people, will never forget it.
- DA: Oh Right.
- DP: But outsiders, you know, well, time goes on, you know, it gets a little easier. But I would think six months before, really, everybody the outsiders did, well like when you went to the store, when you had that disaster, nobody asked you if you wanted a cup of coffee, or really carried on a conversation. Everybody was sick. But then, gradually, it worked back to where people were normal again.
- DA: Mm hm. Um, what were some of the things that you and your brothers and sisters did for recreation when you were growing up?

DP: Well, 'course I lived in the city. The only thing that I ever done is go to parks and stuff like that. I never saw a cow 'till I was twelve years old.

DA: Oh, really?

DP: No. We lived where they had but they never had cows and So the first cow I ever saw I thought all cows done, lived for, was to horn ya. You know, I could face any kind of an animal but a cow, you know, I was used to the other animals, you know, but a cow, they didn't have cows in cities. So, we just were normal kids, and played games and went swimmin' and stuff like that, you know.

DA: Mm hm. Did you go camping?

DP: Yes. My dad, every summer, he'd take us two weeks camping.

Along the river.

DA: Is that in Illinois?

DP: Yeah.

DA: Did you go outside of Illinois very much when you were growing up?

DP: Well, we used to go to Michigan and Indiana and stuff like that.

There was not, not like now with alot of cars and stuff, you know.

We would go on excursions and stuff, you know, go to Lake Michigan, and go to Chicago, we weren't only a few miles from Chicago, and we would go on the boat, you know, Benton harbor, oh and Michigan City, and places like that, and Milwaukee and stuff like that...that's what we'd do. In the summer, you know.

DA: You like to travel, right?

DP: Oh yes, I like to travel.

DA: When you travel, do you like to go see people, or places?

DP: Well, it all depends, I'm goin' to California the ninth, down to San Diego, and I'm going to go down, and I'm not going to do anything but call one of the kids that I practically raised, and I'm just gonna play with the three kids. And they can go anywhere that they want to, but I'm going to visit the kids.

DA: Oh.

DP: That's the truth. I like to go and see things, too, you know.

DA: Mm hm.

DP: But I've been to Hawaii, and

DA: How did you like Hawaii?

DP: Well, we were there six weeks and it's very beautiful. 'Course the flowers and everything, you know, well, they grow like mad.

And it was very, very beautiful, but, I think if I had to live there, I wouldn't like it because it's all the same all the time, you know, no snow or you don't see the colors in the fall, and that's what I like.

DA: Have you involved yourself with winter sports?

DP: No. Not here. Well, years ago we used to go skiing, before they had ski lodges. We used to ski uphill in the dumps, you know, mine dumps. But then, I don't ski anymore.

DA: Mm hm.

DP: I'm lucky if I walk along pretty good.

DA: (Laughter) Were you interested when you were in Joliet were you interested in learning how to ski?

DP: We never had no skiin' back there. Gee, no.

- DA: I mean, when I was little, I read books and people talked about skiing and I always thought it would be really neat, because I had skis.
- DP: Well, I never wrote (?) read a book, I didn't know there was any skiing 'till I came out where there was much snow, 'cause there it's horrible. Now we have a big back porch that come down there, it's beautiful, but there it's more like a sleet.

 And it's very cold in the winter. And I went to the convent when I was a little girl. I used to have to walk. They didn't have buses in those days, you know. I used to have to take the street car in the morning, and then get off and have to walk about four blocks to the convent every day, you know. And gee, you'd stand, and your hands and your legs, gettin' couple a blocks sometimes, it was real cold. But here you don't have that bad cold weather. And there it was damp', more damp, too, you know?
- DA: Yeah.
- DP: But we just had a lot of fun like all kids, we played games, and baseball and stuff like that, you know?
- DA: Mm hm.
- DR: And we did a lot of skating in the winter. I remember my father bought me skates and they were two-runners, when I was little.

 He used to take me skating and the kids made fun of me because I had two runners on my skates. Boy, was I unhappy. Oh was I glad when I got my first one with one blade on it, you know.
- DA: Were two runners unusual?
- DP: Yea, well, I was very small, and my dad thought they'd be better, you know, that one. You know, there weren't that many that ever

DP: had two, uh that I can remember. I was always littler ones that had skates, too.

DA: Yeah. But it sounds like something like a training bike, you know?

DP: No Well, it's the same idea as a training bike.

DA: I wouldn't mind doing that with two runners. I haven't
even skated in my life, and I wouldn't mind starting out on
two runners, but I can see people kidding you about it.

DP: Yeah, when, you know, kids are kinda cruel, sometimes, you know.

They say, what're you skatin' with those on, you know, and (here's)

they have a basket, and put 'em in a basket and all that stuff.

But anyway, my dad took me by the hand and we went skatin'.

We used to skate then on the rivers. They used to freeze over.

They don't do that anymore.

DA: Why?

DP: Well, the climate's changing so many times, everywhere.

DA: Mm hm.

DP: We used to never have any wind out here. I used to be so happy when I'd see there was a wind so I could wash blankets. And now I'm, whin I see there's a wind, I'm afraid to put 'em on there I'm afraid they'll blow off.

DA: (Laughs)

DP: That's the difference in the climate. It really has changed a lot since we've been here.

DA: I have always been amazed by at the idea of putting something out to dry and it takes an hour here, and in Georgia it always took two or three, you know?

DP: Where did you live in Georgia?

DA: Columbus.

DP: I was down in Brunswick. Do you know where that is?

DA: Mm hm. I haven't been there, but I know where it is

DP: It's near I was down there.

DA: Was that a visit, or?

DP: Yeah.

DA: How did you like it?

DP: Well, it was ah, it was, to me, I thought, I liked to see the trees with all the stuff hanging down like we see in horror movies, you know, and stuff? And it was, to me it was a flat country, and I like the mountains. We went down past, we went down to Florida. It was a pretty country, you know. Only there was so many snakes.

DA: Yeah.

DP: Would you like a cup of coffee?

DA: No, would you?

DP: Yeah.

DA: Were you affected very much by the war?

DP: Well, in the war, world war, my brother went to the war. And he never got across the water.

DA: World War Two?

DP: World War One.

DA: OH

DP: He was only seventeen.

DA: Oh

DP: And he was in a camp when they signed, the armistice was signed,

- DP: you know, so he never got to go, so he was the only one, my sister was already dead, and my brother was my child.

 And I just loved him. He didn't go. Later on he died malaria, or
- DA: Mm. That sounds unusual. Was he too far away from a doctor, or?
- DP: No, but they didn't have all those penicillin in those days, either. You know, and now they have everything.

 said, well, in those days, you was a goner. And that's what happened to him, no he went to the doctor in the night before he took sick in the afternoon, and he operated on him that night.

 He lived two days.
- DA: That's too bad.
- DP: Yeah.
- DA: I bet you were releived, though, when he didn't have to go overseas during the war.
- DP: Well, he wanted to go so bad, but, you kinda felt sorry for him, you know, he was in a camp in Georgia when the war ended.
- DA: Where was he in Georgia, do you remember?
- DP: No, no don't remember.
- DA: What were some of the things that you did right after you and your husband got married for recreation?
- DP: Well, we went, we danced a lot. He used to play for dances. And we danced a lot. He didn't dance much. He done the playing and I done the dancin'.
- DA: Yeah.
- DP: And then we, we just you know, like people do nowadays.
- DA: MM hm.
- DP: So.

- DA: Um, what do you think are the major differences between when you were growing up and now?
- DP: Well, it kinda, it's like two different lives. Now when we were kids, we were contented to be home. A home was the nicest place in the world. You know, in our own home. Nowadays, kids don't wanna be home, they have to have recreation and all that. We didn't have anything like that. We were happy we'd go sleighridin' in the winter, and skatin' and stuff. We didn't have to have clubs to go to or nothin' like they do now. 'Course I think alot of that is because they don't have no home life. And my mother was a wonderful person and me, I liked every minute, every hour happy. And now I've got so many things to be thankful for.
- DA: Did your mother can and preserve food?
- DP: No. Huh uh.
- DR: Have you ever done that sort of thing?
- DP: Oh yes. I used to can everything, but nowadays, by the time you buy the jars, and the sugar, and the fruit, it (they have to ship everything in), It's cheaper to buy canned. The only reason it's good, maybe it's better than what I canned, I don't know.

 But for me, now, I don't do anything like that.
- DA: I bought some peaches and canned them, and I decided it wasn't worth the effort and they weren't just fresh off the trees they'd been

DP:

DA: Yakima, yeah. So ones out of my garden makes sense, but that other thing

- Well, if a person, if you have to buy it in the first place, it don't pay. But those early arden peaches sure are wonderful peaches, and that's what I buy. You know, and stuff like that. What else do you want to know?
- Um, have you been involved in any church activities?
- Oh, yes, I used to teach Sunday School.
- DA: What church?
- DP: United Church. I used to teach, but them after I started to work, I couldn't take care of the house and Cornelius, and I had to have some time, you know. So I didn't go in the mornings any more, you know?
- DA: Yeah. Does church still play a major part in your life?
- DP: Well, I'm starting to think that I don't go very much. I listen to the programs on the radio on Sunday mornings. That may not be the best thing to do, but it's the easiest.
- DA; Yeah You are involved with listening -
- DP: Oh, you bet. And I like to read books, you know, bible story books and stuff like that. I like that.
- DP: I don't know, I worked so many
 years t you just Kinda get
 years t you habit of goin Although I donate to the church. I always donate to the church, but I'm not a very good church member.
- DA: Mm, was your husband also involved in the
- DP: No. No, well you know, he wasn't, well, I don't know. I usually went to church and he stayed home and done the dishes.
- DA: (Laughs).
- Well, maybe I didn't ask him to go because I knew if I did, I'd have to come home and wash the dishes.

DA: Do you have animals?

DP: Oh, always. Always had dogs. But this is the first cat.

DA: Mm hm.

DP: But I always had dogs. Then when they die, I die a little bit, too.

DA: Mm hm, yeah, you really become a part of their lives, and then if people with children talk to other children and people with animals wind up talking about their animals, quite frequently.

Um, are there any interesting incidents that you can think about that were happening when you were working at the police department?

DP: Well, there were lots of 'em. Then I guess maybe I'd better not tell all that stuff.

DA: Well, whatever you think you can tell, or just one thing.

Well, we had one little boy, he used to , they'd always bring him to the station 'cause he was shoplifting, you know, so one day when they brought him in I told him, "I didn't have any little boys". 'Course, they used to bring the kids in, and we'd talk to them, you know. 'Cause we could do more with them than the price. They were frightened of the price, you know.

So I told him, I said, "Dillinger started out like that". And he would think a little, and more, and pretty soon he thought that was terrible. He said " was he your brother?" and I said, " no, he wasn't any relation, thank heavens," I told him if he wanted anything to come back Monday, and he come back, you know. So he did that for about four years. When he wanted anything, he'd come in and we never have him back anymore.

DA: Didn't he ever come and ask for something to the?

No, no, he was only six years old and he'd like a little car, or a candy bar, or something like that, you know. And I always kept cookies down at the police department so whenever they'd 10114000 or come in to see me, I'd give them a cookie or something/ and sometimes they were frightened, and you'd be surprised what a candy bar or whata lollypop would do for the kids, you know.

Mm hm, were there lots of kids, or? DA:

DP: Well, lots of times the mother would have to come on account of the father, and the little things would be waitin', our desks would be downstairs, and they left the little children sit upstairs, with me, you know, I'd give them a cookie, or somethin'. Tryin' to calm 'em down, feel sorry for them, you know.

DA: Mm hm.

That's the kinda stuff we used to do. Or if a man and woman DP: and were havin' a terrible time, come in, we'd give 'em each a cup a' coffee, they'd settle down, you know. Maybe they'd make up a little bit.

DA: (laughs)

DP:

Mm hm. Sounds like you were just as much a personal relations DA: type person as much as just a radio operator.

you know, DP: Well, you know, they're all people. Everybody's human, you know. And it's so much easier to be nice to people than to be mean to 'em. It's awful hard to be mean to anybody, but it's so easy to be nice. And that's why I figured a cup a' coffee would, I know the chief told me 'one time, he said, " we sure would get a lot more fines if youweren't around because there's people that come in and we

DP: put 'em in jail and we have a fight, but if they give 'em a cup a' coffee and make up for it, we lose our fines".

But I guess we prospered, anyway.

DA: Were you what we now call a dispatcher?

DP: Radio operator. Iwas a radio operator. Then we done the filing, and made out accident reports, helped 'em with accident reports.

We done everything that you had, little things, you know. And we made out the complaints and warrents and stuff like that, and then we'd have to take care, if the women, we'd have to search the women when they brought 'em in. And take care of the women too, you know. If they hollered for somethin', why you went down. The men, they took care of the men. But we didn't have very many women in. Once in a great while. And we'd always have the same ones in, so we'd get well acquainted with them, you know? what they wanted.

DA: What were women

DP: Well, uh, mostly for bein' drunk, you know, and then oh, sometimes, we had one woman, and she used to, if anybody put any money on the bar, she used to grab it. And then we'd have to search her you know, and get the money back, she'd have it maybe in her shoe, or somewhere.

DA: Mm hm.

DP: But, uh, we had to take care of the women. But then, they
weren't bad to take care of. They weren't always in the blue(?)
you know? Mostly, they'd go to sleep, and when they'd wake up,
they'd be sorry. And like I say, we didn't have any thing. We
had, uh, two different times, murder times, but they couldn't a'

DP: even told me. One fella shot a man, and he come in and told me that hedid and I told him to stay there till the police come, and he did.

DA: Was it an accident, or?

DP: No. It was, uh, this other man was tryin' to get his wife,

I guess, and so he come in one day and he when he was cleanin'

fish, and , they'd been fishin', and he told him to stay out,

and he just didn't do it, so he just let'm have it.

DA: Mm.

DP: Then the other man, he was a kinda pitiful thing. He was in the rooming?

room in a boarding house, and they were teasing him all the time

about him having a lot of money and everything, you know, and so

they kept on and on, so they had to put him in an almost crazy

so he thought they were breakin' in and he shot one of 'em.

DA: Mm.

DP: He come up and told me.

DA: It doesn't sound like you would be frightened under those circumstances.

DP: No. No, they wouldn't.

DA: To kill somebody, just, you know, out on the street.

DP: Well, they wouldn't hurt me. No, I never was afraid of any of them. There was never one man that they brought in that I ever heard even cuss. You know, they'd look over and see that radio was like over here, and then, you've been in our police department, haven't you?

DA: Not here.

DP: Well, we have the radios like over there and then the counter,

DP: and then, this is all open here. And then the jails are down-stairs. And they'd be on the other side of the counter, if they happened to look, say somethin' not nice, they'd look over, and half of 'em would say excuse me. And they was very, even gentlemanly when they were drunk, most of 'em. At least I thought they were.

DA: Yeah.

DP: No, no. (to dog.)

DA: He wants some attention, doesn't he?

DP: No, he wants to go for a walk. I take him up to the trailer, him and Trampolina, every day.

DA: Oh. You mean out through here somewhere?

DP: Up the back hill. It's oh, that peak out here. And I, (he heard me say that).

DA: (laughs)

DP: He even knows when

DA: Oh. Dogs are real smart. It's amazing how smart they are.

DP: Well, is there anything else you wanna know?

DA: Are there any animal stories you'd like to tell me?

DP: Oh, I don't think I know very many. The only thing I could say is that the town has changed since we first came here. There wasn't any pavements, or any thing, you know? We'd come down-hill and mud, or mud, mud downtown, when they used to lay planks down for you to walk on, you know. Downtown. And it was awfu 1 muddy. So I've seen many, many changes since I've been here.

DP: and I know when they paved the streets; finally put pavement they danced for two nights, in the street.

DA: (laughs)

And then one thing I think is kinda cute, we had a strike here, you know, and it lasted for quite a while, and they decided to paint the town. So everybody got in and they painted the town. You know women, and the kids, and everybody painted. Then the first night they had the great big tables in front of the, blocked off the street in front of the police department, and they had hot dogs, and buns, and baked beans, and potato salad, and everybody come to eat. And then the next night they had the dance. For everybody paintin', you know? See, the merchants furnished all that stuff from paint and they painted everything. We just had a beautiful time.

DA: Was it just decided while they weren't working that they would just improve the town?

DP: Yes. So they did.

DA: Why that's marvelous.

DP: Yeah.

DA: You know, I'm just amazed people don't do this sort of thing anymore.

DP: Well, they did and it was fun; little kids'd come in for a paintbrush that we had at the police department, you know, They would come in, I think they had about a quart of paint on them and about a pint on the building.

DA: (laughs)

DP: They were real cute. And they worked hard, you know.

DP: 'Course the little kids, they had everybody a paintbrush, you know, and some of the women, I took, it was on television, there are was one big, oh, she was a pretty big, fat woman, and she was up on the ladder just a paintin' to beat the band and she got kinda mad 'cause she didn't know they took her picture.

DA: Oh (laughs).

DP: But they did that. And I think that was a nice thing to tell.

DA: Yeah. It has a lot of community spirit.

DP: Yeah, it is, and if you have any trouble in this town, boy, everybody pitches in and helps.

DA: Are there any changes in the town?

DP: I think it gets better and better. It never gets worse and worse.

DA: You sound like a very positive person. It's really nice to meet positive people.

DP: Well, I think it's true. They've improved the town so much, and done so many things since I came, you wouldn't know it was the same place. We've got the nicest swimmin' pool, we've got a little park, and a nice ground, and they've done everything they could to make people happy. And that's all you can do. No, I, and you've got good supermarkets, just wonderful supermarkets, you know; and what more could you do? You know, maybe in a big city, you have uh, oh,uh museums and stuff like that, but I, museums are fine, but friends are what count.

DA: Mm hm.

DP: You know, you get tired of goin' to museums; you aint never get tired of friends.

DA: Mm.

DP: So that's the way I feel about the town. They've improved it

I never seen anything go backward. They've gone forward all the
time. And we've got a good highway now, when you used to go
'round, of course, you'd drive 'round all the curves, and I'd
get sick and heave? Well, now it's great, and a good road
what more could you ask?

DA: Yeah. It's really nice, being on that road.

DP: Well, it is. And like in California, where they have all those highways, my goodness, I don't know how people drive. And like here, in a small town, now like in California, I was down there a couple of years ago, We whated to go anywhere, we rode for hours to get anyplace. So if you have friends livin' down there, you don't go and see 'em because it takes so long to git there. And here, you can get in the car and jump down the hill and you're right where you want to be.

DA: Now we've been througho came here the other time, and this time, you know, some of us walked back to the motel from where we were and there were a lot of people that were where we could walk

DP: Yes.

DA: They were staying, so it wasn't any hassle at all. We just had in one car.

DP: That's right. And We've got wonderful schools. And the hospital is a delight to be sick in. The nurses over there are like your family. They don't give you a number like they do in big cities. You're a, really a person.

DA: Mm hm.

DP: And that's somethin'.

DA: UM, you mentioned starting the P.T.A. Was it you and a group of people?

DP: Yes. We were charter members. There's only three of us left.

DA: Mm hm.

DP: And a

DA: Why did you get involved with the schools?

DP: Well, a, I always figured the, I didnt' have any children, and I had more time than the people that did. That's the way I figured it. You know, if I had, in those days I didn't work, and I had all day and people that have children, they have to feed them and take care of them, and they don't have as much time as I had. So I just figured it was up to me to do that.

And that's how I got involved. So anyway, we don't have a school up here anymore. They bust the kids now.

DA: Oh. They went to Kellogg.

DP: Yeah. Well, I guess it was a better way to do because it costs an awful lot to keep up the school when you didn't have too terrible many children up there, you know? 'Course you hate to see the school go, you know, and it was a dandy school. And they took 'em to schools that weren't quite so nice. But then I guess they, in order to cut down on taxes, and stuff, they have to do what they see fit.

DA: Yeah.

DP: So our children, they meet right out here in the driveway, and they pick 'em up and take 'em.

- DA: Do you think that changed people's involvement with the school, not having it right in the area, and having it down in Kellogg, or is it just close enough in Kellogg?
- DP Well, I can understand in a big city where they bus 'em miles you know, and have a school close. Now my cousin's little girl, she lives over there, and they have a school three blocks and those children have to go about four miles to go to another school.

 That, I think, is ridiculous. But like here where it's close, it don't take the children but a few minutes to go down to Kellogg and it's all one, anyway. Well, I think that it makes a lot of difference. It depends on where you live. But I know that if I had three little boys and lived just a couple of blocks from the school and then I had to get up early, and get the kids ready and bus 'em way over across the city, I wouldn't like that.

 But like here, why I think it's O.K.
- DA: Yeah. I wasn't sure exactly how far away Porter? is. It's like you say, in town.
- DP: Well, this is the old town. When they discovered ore, they discovered it right up here a little way. They, later on, they figured they would tunnel in and get the ore. And that's what built Kellogg. So that's why were all, really all in one.

DA:

- DP: Yes right up the gulch here. You haven't been up to the steel , have ya?
- DA: No I haven't.

 when you get up there

 Off

 DP: Well, that's where you turn up, right up to the left, and that's

 where they discovered ore. The ore. Well then they, you know

- DP; would ah, get the cable to go across, 'course, I wasn't here then. I only know what I've heard people say. All up the gulch and all over. But when they decided they'd tunnel in, that's what started Kellogg. Of course there's more flat land in Kelloff than there is up here, as you can see. There's houses, many of 'em are gone now, they burned 'em down because people'd go away and they'd go to wrach and ruin, so they burned many of 'em down; but I never lived up here when that was, you know; And when it was in full glory, I never lived here then.
- DA: Mm hm. Do you remember them talking about the fire that they had here?
- DP: Well, no. The only thing I know 'bout the fire is what I read in books, you know. And I guess it was pretty bad.
- DA: I rather doubt it, over the fourth of July.
- DP: Yeah.
- DA: Then you were coming up here and it seemed like it was a pretty bad, very bad for the community. That was another time when the community really pulled together.
- DP: Yes. Well of course I think it was more centered around Wallace than Kellogg.
- DA: And we haven't gotten into Wallace. I'm sure there are some people from Wallace to interview...names from ...we have interviewed people from Pinehurst, or Smelterville, but we haven't actually gotten into Wallace.

DP: Yeah. When it was in its glory day, it was really somethin',

I guess. But then, I wasn't old enough then to be around.

So when I moved up here there was just a store and a post office, and stuff like that, you know. But then, Kellogg built, they started buildin' down in Kellogg, it's such a pretty little thing. They just...mountains all around, and I think it's awful pretty. And Wallace is pretty, too.

- DA: It really was nice, when the sun was shining, and
- DP: Oh yes.
- DA: The light on the snow.
- DP: The snow is beautiful when it snows. Jiminy, it's pretty.
- DA: I'd like to see more trees. I'm used to a lot of trees.

 When I first came to Idaho, going across the southern part,
- DP: Yeah
- DA: I just went" wait a minute" I see those mountains over there, but this is pretty flat.
- DP: Well, the southern part of, we shouldn't belong to Idaho, we should belong to Washington or Montana because we're up here in this little neck of the woods, you know, and Idaho, the southern part is so much different than the northern part.
- DA: Is there anything else that you can think of? Any interesting stories, or anything that you consider important?
- DP: Well, I don't know.
- DA: Anything about you as a woman?
- DP: Well, no, I'm not that interesting a person, myself. I'm sure you'll meet many people can be more interesting than I am.
- DA: Well, I heard that, we heard this story about somebody had a sign on their car, I guess, and they wanted to meet Dolly.
- DP: Yeah, and they did. They came from California.
- DA: Well, was it that this man had taped something that you said?
- DP: No.
- DA: Your description of Kellogg?
- DP: No,

DP: no, no. This man has a radio talk-show in California.

DA: Uh huh.

DP: And then when I was at the police department, he just called different towns, see? And I was at the police department and I was workin' nights, and he called me. And he asked me different questions, you know, and well, I didn't know he was from California or anything. And after he hung up why then there was a friend of mine that lived in California, and she called me up and told me that she heard me on the radio. Well, I said, I'm sure it can't be me, I really don't reach that far. We just got, then we could only get as far as Spokane. And like over to Deer Lodge, Monatana. And then another woman called me up and told me. So then, next week, Ray Green called again. And, so it's been goin' on now like that for five years. And these people who come to see me, have heard me on the radio. That's how they happen to come.

DA: Yeah.

DP: Yeah.

DA: That's really interesting.

DP: Oh yeah, they come with all kinds of things.

DA: Are you glad that you got involved with that?

DP: Oh, it's a lot of fun meetin' different people. Like I tell you they come when I'm, you can't always be ready, you know, * can be in the bathtub, or paintin' the fence, or paintin' the shed, or somethin', but I clean myself up and come in and visit with 'em anyway.

DP: They don't seem to care.

DA: Mm hm.

DP: So, but then last year there were so many 'cause on account of Expo.

DA: Oh, yeah.

DP: That's why I had so many last year. But this year there hasn't been that many. There'll be more when school, you see, this talk show he has, it don't go on 'till late at night. Twelve o'clock. So almost everybody that comes are young, are older people that can stay up and listen to him because if you work, you can't stay up all night and hear a program, you know. So most of them are older people and they're very interesting and wonderful people. Just wonderful.

DA: So you did this when you were at the

DP: Well, he calls me up now at home

DA: You still do it?

DP: Oh yes. He calls me up every week when I'm home, now . Yeah.

DA; So it's been for the last five years?

DP: Yes. He's been up here three or four times. He has a television show, too. In California. Talk show.

DA: Mm hm. Does he call other people, regularly?

DP: Well, he has makes, he calls different little towns, you know, or different places, he calls, not maybe special towns; yeah, he calls a lot of people.

DA: Mm hm. But I mean does he call them regularly like he calls you?

DP: No. There's one other woman and myself that he calls every

DP: week. And she, done call her Mrs. X, cause she won't tell him her name.

DA: Oh.

DP: And I don't care about my name, you know, that don't make any difference, but that's how I got involved with the California people. And they are so nice.

DA: Does that make you feel special?

DP: No, heavens no. Why would it make me feel special?

DA: I don't know, that he has continued to call you and broadcast what you're talking about.

DP: No, not, why would I be anything special? No, no, don't make me feel that way 'tall. The only thing that make s me feel happy is that the people are, just stop, you know. So, like the one, about a week ago some people come over from Pasco to visit and that's a long ways, and it was a hot day, you know. Well, you know, you're so happy to think that they'd come out here to do that.

DA: Mm hm.

DP: That's the only thing, way I feel about it. I'm just happy that they feel, you know, think enough of me to come up and visit. I don't know what they think when they leave.

DA: (Laughs).

DP: But I'll tell you what they think when they come.

DA: What sorts of things do you talk about with them on the radio?

DP: Oh, different things that happen. If we have a c_elebration, or what the weather's like, and about Trampolina and

DP: Snooper. They're always interested in that, like I told you, a woman called me up to baptise Snooper, er Trampolina.

DA: Uh huh.

DP: From California. She heard me on the radio, and she just called up and told me, "Tramp wasn't a good name, name her Trampolina." Which I did.

DA: (Laughs).

DP: Yeah, and that one friend that comes up, she came up one time and I didn't know her and she told me what her name was and she said she came from California and she had a chauffeur.

DA: Oh.

DP: And she stayed, they stayed at the Sunshine Motel, though, because she didn't know that, ever since that, she comes up and stays maybe a month with me. And she's gonna come when I come back from California. We're going the ninth and she's comin' about the twenty second or somethin'. She comes up and stays with me. I got acquainted with her that way; I didn't know her and she didn't know me, but she keeps comin' back.

DA: Mm hm. Must be nice for her too, that she can listen to the radio and find out how you're doing.

DP: Oh yes. Many people call up, too, you know? They visit on their telephone.

DA: Mm hm. Did you make this Afghan in here?

DP: No. Heavens, no. I'm not a sewer or a knitter. I never had time fer that. I have other things to do besides knittin' or sewin'.

My neighbors around here, they think I'm terrible. But I'd

DP: rather get out and clean the house, or a fence, or something like that.

DA: Yeah.

DP: I don't like to do that kinda stuff. So. No, I got that for a present.

DA: It's very pretty.

DP: It is a pretty one, isn't it?

DA: Mm hm. I like the colors. Um, I have a release form here which allows you, you'll keep, this one part is for you which is like an agreement between us, that however you say that you want this used, that that will be the way it is used. If you don't want your name used, fine. If you don't mind your name being used or, you know, you don't think you said anything bad about someone else, you know, with their name, I don't recall. So...

The End.