

The following interview is of Mamie Resor recorded at St. Maries, Idaho on July 14, 1975. The interviewing is done by Dale Anderson.

DA: First of all we would like to get some personal information and then we get into the questions. If you want to say anything in between, go ahead.
Your name?

MR: Mamie.

DA: Is that your real name?

MR: My real name is Mary but they've always called me Mamie and everybody knows me by Mamie.

DA: Your maiden name?

MR: Mottern

DA: Your date of birth?

MR: August 7, 1914

DA: Place of birth?

MR: Plummer, Idaho

DA: Locale of first residence?

MR: Plummer, do you know where Plummer is?

DA: I've been through Plummer.

Your mother's maiden name?

MR: Cavanaugh (Ella)

DA: My mother's name was Ella. I haven't heard many people by the name of Ella.

MR: I have a new granddaughter that will be a month old tomorrow and her middle name is Ella.

DA: Some friends of mine adopted a little girl and her middle name was Ella and it stands for my mother and her grandmother so that worked out nicely.
The date of her birth?

MR: Feb. 1, 1874

DA: Place of birth?

MR: Romeo, Michigan.

DA: Date of death?

MR: August, 1961

DA: The year that she was married?

MR: 1908

DA: Her occupation or jobs?

MR: Oh my, lots of them. She was a schoolteacher, had a hat shop, had a cafe and she was a midwife and a housewife and a homesteader.

DA: When did she come to Idaho?

MR: Probably around 1900 because she had her homestead on Mobble Creek before she was ever married and she was married in 1908.

DA: Did she come out here with her family?

MR: No she came out with her father when she was 18 years old so it must of been 1892, that's when she came out here.

DA: It was just her and her father that came out to homestead?

MR: Yes

DA: Your father's name?

MR: Edwin Mottern

DA: The date of his birth?

MR: Dec. 7, 1873

DA: Place of his birth?

MR: Knoxville, Tennessee.

DA: The date of his death?

MR: It was 1960

DA: His occupation?

MR: He was mostly a lumberjack.

DA: Was he also a homesteader or just a lumberjack?

MR: I would say mostly a lumberjack he did a lot of odd jobs but I think mainly he was a lumberjack.

DA: Do you know how your parents met?

MR: Yes, they met in Harrison. My mother had a cafe in Harrison and his family moved from the Rockford reservation. When he came from Tennessee they set-

tled on the Rockford reservation, it wasn't even a county or city, it was ~~just a~~ ^{an Indian} reservation ^{in Rockford} and then they went from there to Harrison and he married in Harrison.

DA: Your brothers and sisters?

MR: I have two brothers only and one of them is Joe B. Mottern and the other one is John H. Mottern.

DA: Your husband's name?

MR: Stanley L. Resor

DA: His date of birth?

MR: Oct. 17, 1908

DA: Place of birth?

MR: Phillipsburg, Kansas

DA: The date and place you were married?

MR: August 22, Colorado Springs, Colo.

DA: How did you wind up getting married in Colorado Springs.

MR: Stanley went into the service and he was in the army infantry during World War II and I went down there and was married down there.

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

MR: Probably ten years off and on

DA: Did you know him in high school?

MR: Well really not in school but after he was out of school. I remember him in school but I didn't know him all that well.

DA: How long were you actually courting?

MR: Probably five or six years, off and on.

DA: What was the year you married?

MR: 1942

DA: I got married in Pueblo.

Your husband's occupation?

MR: He has a pool hall downtown and before that he worked for the forest

service.

DA: Do you have children?

MR: Yes, I have two children

DA: Their names?

MR: Andrew John

DA: The date and place of his birth?

MR: Sept. 28, 1943 in Colorado

DA: His occupation?

MR: He's an accountant with the Boeing company in Seattle.

And I have a daughter, Candice Sue Resor Pugh and she was born March 22, 1949 in St. Maries. She majored in Home Ec at the Univ. and she's a home; she took Extension work and she works with Benewah County Ext. Off. An agents office, part time and she's also a clerk with me at ~~David's~~ ^{Davis & Link} part time.

DA: Do you have a grandchild?

MR: Yes, a new one, a month old tomorrow

DA: Is that hers?

MR: Andy has two, I have three granddaughters.

DA: He's in Seattle and *she's* in town.

MR: Yes

DA: Your education?

MR: I'm just a high school graduate.

DA: How long have you lived in St. Maries?

MR: Since 1927

DA: Your skills?

MR: I'm a clerk a buyer and a clerk.

DA: Where did you say your work?

MR: DAVIS and Link; it's a clothing store.

DA: Your interests, hobbies and talents?

MR: I've been with the Amer. Legion Aux. since about 1945 and I have worked with it and I have worked with Senior Girls state for about seven years and I was state director in 1962. I belong to various organizations in town.

DA: What are those?

MR: Eastern Star, 8 et 40.

DA: Awards, honors and ribbons?

MR: The only thing I received an award when I was den Mother but that's the only thing.

DA: Have you ever entered anything in the county fair?

MR: No

DA: Any other hobbies or interests?

MR: No I don't think so.

DA: One thing I think would be nice would be to just kind of do a run down of your life, just go through the history.

MR: I was born in Plummer and I lived there and went through the fifth grade.

DA: What type of school was it?

MR: Just a small school, there was all grades but it wasn't a large school. Then in 1927 I moved to St. Maries and then I went to school here and I was active in school activities, I mean I worked with the annual and was in the pep club; I was pep club president one year and then I started to work at Robinson's, it was a clothing store, I worked there for six years and then I was telephone operator for a couple of years at J.C. Penny for two years just before I was married. Then I went to Colorado where I was married and we lived in Colorado at Ft. Lewis Washington until after the war. We came home in 1945 from Ft. Lewis Wash. My husband guarded the German prisoners at Ft. Lewis. Then we came home in 1945 and I've lived here ever since. While the children were small I worked with the cub scout program and the campfire girls. Andy was in the rifle club and the 4H club

and I helped him with those things. Candy was in the campfire and I was a leader all through Bluebirds and Campfire, I think until the last year. I wasn't a leader and during this time I was busy with the American Legion Auxiliary and for a number of years I was a Rebecca but I dropped out later because I never attended. In my early years before I was married I belonged to the Rebecca Lodge and I went through the chairs before I was married in the Rebecca Lodge. Then I started work in 1959 at Davis and Link to help the children through college and both Andy and Candy have graduated from the Univ. of Idaho.

DA: Did you and your husband expect for them to go to school?

MR: Yes. When Andy was born we took out an endowment for him so that he could go to college and the first year he went he went to the college of Idaho in Caldwell because I had worked for seven years in Caldwell with Girls State and so I wanted him to start school down there so the first year we sent him to the College of Idaho and then the next year he transferred to the Univ. and he graduated in the business with subject being accounting and he went to work that following Nov. for Boeing. (She introduces her husband). He's been with the Boeing company for the last nine years. Candy went two years in the junior college in Coeur d'Alene and transferred to the Univ. and graduated down there.

DA: Did your parents expect for you to go to school?

MR: My mother always wanted me to be a schoolteacher because she was a schoolteacher. When I graduated from high school it was 1932 and it was during the depression and there was very little money to be had. When I went to work in the store downtown everyone said "you're just as well off, you have a job and that's as well as not so I never did go on to College. My mother wanted me to be a schoolteacher.

DA: Did you want to do that?

MR: Sort of but I knew there wouldn't be enough money to put me through school.

At that time there wasn't the opportunities there is now for children to go to school and work; there just wasn't those opportunities at that time.

DA: How long did your mother teach?

MR: I'm not sure; she taught in Minn. and I don't think it was to long but I know I did have a picture of her and she said they called her the kid schoolteacher because she had real curly hair and she had this long curl and she said they called her the kid schoolteacher. She was a remarkable woman, my mother was, she was really something. She first came to Lewiston and then they came up to Harrison and Coeur d'Alene and she homesteaded at Marble Creek when she was just a young girl and she kept her saddle pony at what was then Farrell, it isn't anything now but there was a farmer there that kept her horse and then she would go twice a year from Coeur d'Alene or Harrison to Farrell and then ride her horse up to Marble Creek and twelve miles into the mountains to keep her homestead all by herself. She was just a young girl then.

DA: How long did she do that?

MR: I'm not sure about that either, she had it until after she was married, I know. She probably had it maybe for five or six years, she kept her homestead.

DA: Did they sell?

MR: No she could have but she didn't; she let my father log it with a partner and it wasn't successful, she should've sold it.

DA: Is it still in the family?

MR: No

DA: How far is Helm Creek? Was it actually on the creek or was it near that station?

MR: It was on Eagle Creek; I was up there when I was just a small child, we spent one summer up there; we lived in her cabin that she had made; when I was just a little girl and as I remember it was on Eagle Creek, which

was where her claim was, her homestead.

DA: Who built the cabin, did she do it?

MR: She did, yes.

DA: That's great.

DA: When you were born, were you born in a hospital?

MR: No I was born at home with a midwife, I don't even know who it was.

DA: And what about when you had your children?

MR: They were both born in hospitals.

DA: Where did you learn about childbearing and childraising?

MR: Well just by my own experience, I guess.

DA: When you were pregnant did you ask your doctor a lot of questions?

MR: Not really, I don't think. Of course the first one I had was in Colorado.

Nothing out of the ordinary, just your usual questions. It wasn't all that great.

DA: What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of living in a rural area.

MR: I've always lived in a small town except when we were in Colo. and on the coast and of course, I'd prefer a small town, always. I think you know more people. We enjoyed Colo. and I liked it much better than when we lived at Ft. Lewis; I don't like living in a large town. I didn't then; people aren't friendly, they aren't sociable like people are in a small place. You don't have the friends or the social contacts that you do in a small place.

DA: Do you notice any changes in the atmosphere of the town?

MR: St. Maries is growing and it's different, there's new people; it isn't like it was twenty years ago. Because twenty years ago we knew everybody and you knew practically everybody in town and now there are so many new people and strange people that it's different.

DA: What were some of the things that you did when you were a child?

MR: We swam and I played tennis and of course at that time, during the winter,

we always had our sleds and went coasting, which they don't do now. They swim, but we always swam in the rivers; now they have the pool. I think that's about all.

DA: What did your children do for recreation?

MR: Of course Andy was always real active like his 4H and rifle club and he coasted and went ice skating and some swimming, not a great deal but he did some and he played ball. Candy never swam but she was in 4H and Blue-birds and she took a few dancing lessons when she was little I gave her' dancing lessons and that was about it. She had her girlfriends and they played back and forth and things like that.

DA: What are some of the things you remember about your courtship and early married life?

MR: I don't remember to much about my courtship except that we went to dances and shows and things like that. We went to Spokane a lot and attended lots of dances and shows and down at Lake they had dances and we used to go down there. When I was married I was in Colo.; I went down in August of '42 and I was there until Dec. of '43 when I came home and we enjoyed that because we did a lot of touring on the weekends, we went to all the sightseeing places in Colo. and I enjoyed that. We attended sunrise service when we were there at the Garden of the Gods. That was when Camp Carson was full of soldiers and the air force had the airport there and a lot of the soldiers attended the sunrise service and it was real nice.

DA: What are some of the other places that you went to see in Colo.?

MR: We went to Pueblo, we went to Will Rogers Shrine and the zoo several times and that was real interesting. I understand now that Nora is under Cheyenne mountain and we went to Pike's Peak and there was a lot of things to see and a lot of things to do in Colo. which we didn't have around here.

DA: Especially right around Colo. Springs.

DA: Did you ever go to Mesa Verde?

MR: No; lots of Sundays we went out to Manitu Springs, have you ever been out there?

DA: I've been in that area.

MR: It was sort of like a carnival type place and we went out there any number of Sundays.

DA: Did you go through National Park?

MR: No; we went through Yellowstone Park when I went down, we crossed through it, was all.

DA: I was in Colo. for two summers; I travelled around a bit, I always wanted to see Colo. so I did.

DA: When you were growing up did you see yourself as being married or did you just meet the right person?

MR: No I don't think so. Stanley and I knew each other for quite a while before we got married. I think we just decided to get married; he went to Colo. and decided that that's where he wanted me so we were married down there.

DA: What did you expect of married life?

MR: I've had a very happy married life. I don't think I would want to change it any. If I had it to do over again, I think I'd do the same thing. I've had a happy life. I've had two very nice children, good children, out of my marriage. I've had practically everything that I wanted, there's never been anything; I've been well provided for and I've been real happy.

DA: I think I've met the happiest people here in St. Maries. I haven't; this is the first place that I've done interviews and I've just found so many really happy people here and it's nice, it really is.

What affected the number of children that you had?

MR: I wanted two and I have two; I wanted a boy and I wanted a girl and that's what I have and as I say they've been real good children; I couldn't ask for better children.

DA: What do you do for recreation now?

MR: Not much; I'm going to Coeur d'Alene Thursday for the state convention for the American Legion. But I had cancer in 1967 and I've had a double mastectomy and one in '67 and one in '69 so that limits what I can do and what I can't do and I don't do much anymore, other than work and enjoy myself.

DA: What sorts of recreation did you do before then?

MR: We went to a lot of parties at the elk and I belonged to Mother's Club for years, they always had parties and meetings and I belong to a Bridge Club and I've played bridge with the same group of girls for over twenty years. Then besides raising children and doing all the things for them which is what I have done all their lives while they were home. We always entertained for them. When Andy graduated from high school on that night I had all his class her for a party and I did the same for Candy when she graduated from high school.

DA: Were you working all the time that your children were growing up?

MR: I started in '59.

DA: And how old were they?

MR: Candy was about ten; I worked part time from about '59-'62 but then after I came back from Girls State after I was director at the end of '62 then that fall I started to work steady.

DA: What do you think about women working when their children are small?

MR: I have mixed emotions. I never have been sorry that I was home with my children when they were little and I was home with them. Every mother should be home with her children when they are small.

DA: What do you mean by small?

MR: I mean until they are at least high school age. I think after they are up in high school, probably, then they can do for themselves. I think when they are little they need their mothers at home, they really do. I'm not sorry that I stayed home with mine. You have lots of time to work after

they're grown and the reason I went to work was to help Andy through College; I knew that I would have to help him. By that time Candy was big enough to, more or less take care of herself and I was here after school. Then Stanley's mother lived with us at that time and his mother was always here to help me with Candy while she was through high school. But I think when they are little every mother should be home with ~~the~~^{her} children.

DA: Did you sew for them?

MR: Somewhat; not a lot. I sewed some for Candy but not a whole lot.

DA: Did you teach her how to sew?

MR: Somewhat, not a lot. She did a little bit of sewing but not too much. When she went to College ~~to~~^{she} took sewing because she took Home Economics and she sews a lot now.

DA: Do you still have a garden?

MR: No

DA: You've never had one?

MR: NO; I've never had a garden.

DA: Have you ever bough stuff to can?

MR: I canned when the children were little and I still can, although we don't can like we used to. I used to can a lot of fruits and things but now the only thing we make is dill pickles because that's all we eat. We used a few vegetables and canned a few pears. I don't cann like I used to.

DA: Does your family ever get together for recreation?

MR: Always on Thanksgiving and Xmas.

Thanksgiving I have the family all here for dinner including my brothers and their family and then for Xmas we go to my oldest brother and his family.

DA: Is this something that you developed from your family?

MR: I think so, yes. My father was a great believer in having his family all together and when we were first married and our children were small we'd

get together on Sundays on Holidays.

DA: What did you do on these gatherings?

MR: Just have dinner and visit and spend the day together; take pictures and things like that.

DA: Didn't you mention you were in some sort of church activity?

MR: I have taught Sunday School when I was younger and I've always sent my children to church. However, I'm not a member of the church but we have always gone and I've sent the children until they were grown and they still go to church.

DA: What denomination?

MR: Growing up we went to the Presbyterian, my daughter married a Lutheran and she goes to that church now and she's going to have her baby baptized. a Lutheran, and then probably join that church. My son has always gone to the Presbyterian church. However, I don't think they attend church in Seattle right now but when they go it's the Presbyterian church.

DA: What magazines and newspapers do you subscribe to?

MR: The local paper and the Spokesman Review and the magazines; Better Homes and Gardens, Family Circle and Woman's Day and the Reader's Digest.

DA: Do you watch television much?

MR: Not as much as Stanley does, I do some, yes.

DA: What sorts of tv shows do you like?

MR: I like country and western; I like Saturday night western shows. I sort of like "All in the Family" and those type of shows. I do watch some of the McMillan and wife. I do watch some of those but I don't like them as well as I used to.. I like the "Today Show"

DA: What are some of the most common things that your husband asks you about?

MR: I don't know.

DA: How do you make family decisions?

MR: We discuss it; if there's a problem, we discuss it and decide what to do.

DA: When the children were growing up, was that a family thing, where everyone was involved or was it just between you and your husband?

MR: If it pertained to them, we discussed it with them, if it was something with us, we discussed it just between the two of us.

DA: Is that how it happened when you were growing up?

MR: I think so.

DA: What are some of the things that you might tell a young woman who was planning on coming to a small town in a rural area?

MR: I think the first thing you have to do is you have to be friendly and be yourself. You have to make friends, you have to put your best foot forward to make friends, I think. You can't just remain to yourself, you have to be active and I think that's the main thing.

DA: Is there anything else you'd like to tell me?

MR: No I don't think so.

DA: Would you like to tell me something else about your mother?

MR: She was a very good looking woman, she was a very stylish woman and I know when I went to work because that was during the depression, I bought an awful lot of clothes and she always said that she was always well dressed when she was a young girl. She had this cafe and she made hats when she lived in Coeur d'Alene, she had a little hat shop and then she married my father and they lived in Plummer and at that time he had a stullyard, what they call stull and it was like poles today, a poleyard. She was a Rebecca, she joined the Rebecca Lodge when she was a girl in Plummer, she wasn't a young girl. She was fairly old when she was married. She was always a very well liked woman. She was always a busy woman. She came to St. Maries and was active with her Lodge and in fact she was chaplain for the Rebecca Lodge for years and years and years. She went to Ground Lodge with my sister-in-law a number of times. She received a degree in chilvary from the Rebecca Lodge and that's the highest honor you can get

in the Rebecca Lodge.

DA: I'm interested in the idea that she was a homesteader, too.

SR: Whenever we had any trouble, she stuck up for me. (Husband)

MR: She always took Stanley's side or my brother's wife's side. She knew there was two sides to every story. When I was going through high school, as I said it was during depression time, she would go to the doctor's here, Dr. Robins, Dr. Cornwall and Dr. Platt, and they would come and get her and she would go out to these homes out of town and deliver the babies with them and stay for two or three days with these doctors, I remember that. She was quite a person. Is there any other questions?

DA: Did the depression affect your life?

MR: There was just no money; we didn't have the things in school. My brothers worked after school at odd jobs downtown and to make their money to go to school with and my mother but I had very few clothes. We had enough to eat but there was none of the extra things to be had while I was in school, that is in high school. We got by but we didn't have very much.

DA: Did the war affect your life in any way?

MR: Only that I got married because I went back to Colo. and got married during the war. Stanley was in infantry in Colo. and he was sent to Ft. Lewis to guard the Germans. He never went overseas, which I was thankful for. I enjoyed those years. We met people and we still have friends that we knew, that we met when he was in the army and we correspond with them once a year at Xmas time. We have had a couple come to visit us but it's been a number of years. We had a family from Michigan that stopped to see us that we knew when he was in the service. We had another couple come from Calif. I might say the year that Stanley was at Ft. Lewis Andy was picked as, he was probably about 2½, and they picked Stanley for there paper that they published at Ft. Lewis as the father of the year. They printed his

picture with Andy and it went all over the world as father of the year.

We still have the picture. It was a nice honor for both Stanley and Andy.

DA: Have you travelled very much besides to Colo.?

MR: My oldest brother is a Ford dealer and I have been to San Francisco for a car showing and I have been to Las Vegas for a car showing. We've been to Reno several times and now that Andy lives in Seattle, we go over there.

DA: Have you ever been outside of the United States?

MR: No; well up to Canada; we went up fishing a few times. Well we went up to Michigan too. When the kids were little we went to Michingan one time on a trip.

DA: What do you do for vacations?

MR: since I've been working, we just take a few days at a time but we usually go over to Andy's and then we have a cousin that lives in Southern Idaho and we go down to Boise in the Boise area, he lives down there, we've been down there. A couple of times I went with my brother because Stanley couldn't get away so I went to Las Vegas. They would be fun to interview because they've been to Europe and the San Juan Islands with the Ford people. They live here in St. Maries.

DA: Is there anything else you can think of?

MR: No I think I've about covered everything.

(end of interview) tape 16 side 2