

INTERVIEW SUMMARY-TAPE INDEX

NAME: Scribner, Mabel  
 DATE OF INTERVIEW:  
 LOCATION:  
 INTERVIEWER:  
 REEL NO.

TAPE MINUTE	MANUSCRIPT PAGE	SUMMARY OF CONTENTS
0-20:42		Personal Data Sheet; hobbies; clubs.
20:41-29:46		Description of life - came from Alberta, Canada. School days. Courtship and marriage. Medical facilities during childbirth. Father a portrait painter.
29:47-36:10		Work before marriage. Advantages/Disadvantages of rural area - comparison between rural and urban living. Friendliness of small town. Travel.
36:11-45:45		Raising children. Housing - log cabin lived in in Avery. Enjoyment of camping and hunting. Father and mother's travels. Story of becoming a U.S. citizen.
45:46-52:08		Childhood - skiing as a child - recreation as child. Discussion of school segregation. Expectations of children. Education.
59:09-60:33		First radio in Avery. Courtship - met on hunting trip. Wedding at home. Hunting trip during electric storm.
60:34-68:00		Expectations of marriage. Decision on having children. Knowledge on childbirth and child raising. Discussion of grandchildren.
68:01-75:43		Discussion of women performing traditionally men's jobs. Enjoyment of life. Recreation - travel.
75:44-85:17		Current interests - entertainment. Discussions with husband. Decision-making. Life now. Canning and freezing - gardening.
85:18-92:15		Depression years and affect. World War II years feelings on wars and battles. Support of family. Stories of daughter baking.

Mabel Scribner  
Page Two

TAPE  
MINUTE

MANUSCRIPT  
PAGE

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

92:16-96:57

1910 Fire during childhood. Story of dog  
bringing the cows in. Dances in early days.  
Train wreck - story of seven brides on train.

96:58-102:15

Life now compared to 30 years ago.

This is an interview with Mabel Scribner on June 20, 1975 in St. Maries, Idaho. The interviewer is Dale Anderson.

DA: If there's anything you don't want to tell about you can just tell me.

Your name?

MS: Mabel Louise Scribner

DA: Your maiden name?

MS: Gamsby, it's Spanish, *Daniel*

DA: Do you have any nicknames?

MS: Well my mother always called me Lou.

DA: What do you go by now?

MS: Mabel. Some of my old friends called me Mibs and I get letters now from some of my old school friends.

DA: The date of your birth?

MS: July 1, 1899; Isn't that interesting?

DA: Place of birth?

MS: Toronto, Ontario, Canada

DA: What was your locale of first residence in Idaho?

MS: Avery, Idaho. Because I grew up in Spokane.

DA: And Spokane was where you were before you came to Avery?

MS: Yes it was before I was married.

DA: And when did you first come to Idaho?

MS: In 1924

DA: How did you come?

MS: By train with my husband on my honeymoon.

DA: Mother's maiden name?

MS: Ida Ruth Brown.

DA: Date of her birth?

MS: Gee she was thirty years older than I, when would that be?

DA: Oh 1869

MS: Yes

DA: Place of birth?

MS: She was born in Toronto.

DA: The date of her death.

MS: In 1942, I think.

DA: And the year that she got married.

MS: They got married, let's see 50 years from 1940. They celebrated their 50th anniversary in 1940.

DA: 1890

MS: Yeah

DA: And her occupations and jobs?

MS: She was always a housewife.

DA: Your father's name?

MS: Sidney Scott Gamsby.

DA: Date of his birth?

MS: He was a year older than my mother.

DA: Ok place of birth?

MS: He was born in Orono, Ontario.

DA: And the date of his death?

MS: He lived with us for 18 years. I think it was, let's see if I can find it in here. I think he's been dead for about 10 years.

DA: About 1965?

MS: Yeah that sounds about right.

DA: He was almost a centurian.

MS: Yeah he was 95.

DA: He was 95 when he died?

MS: Almost, not quite, his birthday was in a couple of weeks.

DA: So that probably would have been around 1963.

And his occupations and jobs?

MS: He was an artist, portrait painter.

DA: Your brothers and sisters.

MS: I had two sisters.

DA: Their names?

MS: Mary Margaret, and then I was next and then my sister Dorothy.

DA: And their married names?

MS: My oldest sister was Henry and my youngest sister was Trimble.

No brothers.

DA: You said your name was Danish?

MS: Way back in the 1600's I guess they came to this country .

DA: Were both your husband's and your family Danish?

MS: No my husband's family were Dutch, I believe.

DA: Your husband's name?

MS: Charles Harry.

DA: Date of his birth?

MS: He's six years older than I am. He's 81 now, he was 81 in April. I believe it was 1894.

DA: Place of birth?

MS: Chatteroy, Washington, just out of Spokane. He was born on a farm.

DA: The date and place you were married?

MS: We were married in Spokane August 11, 1924. We celebrated our 50th anniversary last year.

DA: And his occupation?

MS: He was a forest ranger; he retired in 1952.

DA: Someone said that he did some surveying.

MS: Well on his own after he retired then he was in business for himself and he did crew timber cruising and surveying and everything concerning timber. Timber estimates, he worked for himself for a few years.

DA: Ok children's names.

MS: William Allyn, Mary Gwendolyn Ruth, we call her Gwen.

DA: Now is Ruth a married name or is that a second middle name?

MS: Well Mary was her grandmother Scribner's name and ~~Ruth~~ <sup>Gwendolyn</sup> was the name I

loved and Ruth was my mother's name, Ida Ruth, you see was her name.

DA: And her married name?

MS: Her married name is Wilder. And Sidney, I shouldn't of given you Gwen's first because Sidney is the middle one. And his second name is John.

DA: Ok now the date and place of their birth?

MS: Well Bill was born in 1925 in Spokane, April 27. You know it's funny when you get older it's hard to remember dates, even your children's.

DA: I know a lot of people who can't remember their own brothers and sisters, you just have to think about it.

MS: And Gwen is 1935 in May 31; and now Sid's the one I never can remember but his is somewhere in between there. His is December 25, he was born on Xmas day and I think it was 1930 or '29, I've got it in my book here, do you want that specifically?

DA: Where were Gwen and Sydney born?

MS: They were all born in Spokane. Sidney was born December 25, 1928.

DA: And their occupations?

MS: Bill lives in Boise and he works for the state. He's recreation or director or something for the Land Board; I have a card here I never can remember because; I guess I don't have his card. Here you are trying to keep track of me and I'm running all over. (She's looking for a card)  
I'm sure it's the Land Board I'll have to ask my husband. It used to be the State Forestry and I never can remember what it is now. I think it's the Land Board. And Gwen is a housewife but she was educated to be a technician.

DA: Did she ever do that?

MS: Oh yes, she worked for Parke Davis for two years in Detroit.

DA: That's a drug company right?

MS: Yes and she worked on the polio deal, you know before they finally had it. And then Sidney he's the resident engineer for the Highway Department in

Sandpoint, Idaho.

DA: Sounds like your children have done well.

MS: Yeah they have.

DA: Your education?

MS: Mine is just high school, I didn't go to college.

DA: Skills?

MS: Skills, I have no skills, I'm a housewife. I was a photographer, that was what I did before I was married.

DA: Did you take pictures of people?

MS: No I worked in the dark room I was a Chemistry major. I went to the Eastern School of Photography for a little bit and learned how to develop pictures and all the formulas and stuff like that, I worked in the dark room.

DA: Do you do your own pictures?

MS: Not now.

DA: Did you use to?

MS: Oh yeah.

DA: Where exactly did you work for the photography?

MS: I worked at Libbey Art Studio. I apprenticed there. I had to apprentice for six months.

DA: Did you have any other jobs after that?

MS: No then I got married.

DA: Interests, hobbies and talents?

MS: I collect collections which is most of my hobbies.

DA: What type of collections?

MS: I collect thimbles and I collect buttons, I'll show you my buttons after while.

DA: I've never heard of anyone collecting thimbles, that sounds interesting.

MS: Oh haven't you, I'm just starting that and I have; I collect frogs. I have them all packed away because I didn't have room to put them anywhere. I've

got mugs, I collect mugs and I'm very much interested in flowers. That's really my hobby. I love to work in the garden and I tell everybody that I collect dust.

DA: Clubs, groups and societies that you belong to?

MS: Do you want it all? I belong to the DAR, The American Legion Aux. and I belong to World War I Aux. I belong to the St. Maries Garden Club. St. Maries Camera Club, The Rebekah Lodge. I also belong to the St. Maries Grange and the friendship club there.

DA: Are you active in all these now?

MS: I'm active in all except the Grange. And the DAR I belong in Coeur d'Alene, I go when I can. I'm past president of all the others that I mentioned.

DA: You are busy. Do you have any awards, honors or ribbons?

MS: Well you know I had one award, when the Skywatch; did you ever hear of that?

DA: During the war?

MS: During the war I have my life membership to the Air Force. I guess that's an honor, I figure it is. Oh and I belong to the Senior Citizens, too, I forgot that, Fishing Club of America. There see that's my life membership. I have the wings and I have a medal.

DA: That is an award.

MS: For putting in 500 hours I think I had.

DA: And where were you?

MS: Here in St. Maries, yeah we had a Skywatch Building here, they moved it up on the top of our city hall when we quit then they got other facilities for knowing when these planes come in. That's my husband's card when he went in business for himself. I told you he worked for the <sup>E</sup> First Service and then when he retired he went into business for himself. You'll have to edit this because there's so much chatter, it isn't of value.



DA: Ok I guess that finishes all those questions; now there's others. Ok now why don't you just kind of tell me maybe a brief rundown of your life and then we'll go over some of the more specific questions.

MS: Well I was born in Ontario, Canada and when I was six years old my father's health failed, he was an artist and indoors all the time and the doctor told him he would have to come west. He took a homestead in Alberta and that's when I was six and on the way out we had two train wrecks, I remember those very vividly. The trains all turned over and there were several people hurt but our family didn't happen to be hurt and we lived on the homestead for about three years and then we moved to Edmonton and I went to school in Edmonton to the sixth grade.

DA: Was it a one room school?

MS: No it was out in the country but when I went to Edmonton it was a big;

DA: You were in town?

MS: Yeah, when I started the school it was <sup>one</sup> a room school and it was only three miles from where we lived but there was so much bad roads that we'd have to stay during the school year, it was just a little cabin and my auntie was the teacher so she kept the three girls, the three of us. We'd stay there for the week and then we'd go home for the weekend. When school started, do you know what saw horses are, that they use in carpentry?

DA: Yeah.

MS: They had those high ones for <sup>a</sup> desk and the low ones to sit on and we had slates and we had bottles of water that we had to wash our slates with and for blackboards there were window shades, green window shades and she'd write on these window shades with chalk. I went back 30 years later and they took me back to the old schoolhouse where I had gone to school and the writing was still on the window shades but they had blackboards then.

DA: What was your father doing then?

MS: He was painting.

DA: He continued painting all the time?

MS: Oh yeah. During the war, see we came from Edmonton, we moved to Furney and then we were in B.C. and he was painting portraits, finishing for the Chicago Portrait Company. You wouldn't know what that was, that's a long story. So from Nelson we came to Spokane in 1914 and my dad's partner that did the selling skipped out with all the money and we were left stranded with no money so my dad went out and rustled a canvas, I guess my mother had some in the stuff we had, we were in a hotel downtown and dad met a minister. He told him that his partner had left him and he didn't know where he was and he hadn't any money and the minister said, would you like a house and we went to this Methodist parsonage that had been vacated, they had a new church and dad made they were native scenes, only little ones on canvas. He went from door to door and sold those, got on his feet. His dad was a photographer so he could retouch film and make use of it at that time and he went to one of the studios in town and asked if they had any he could do so he retouched for about a year before he went into the portrait work again by himself. Then we just lived in Spokane, a happy life and everything and got our own home and all and went to school there.

DA: High School?

MS: High school. Then I; my younger sister got married, she ran away and got married and went to the coast to live. So then the next year my other sister got married and I had to dance in the because I was the youngest. I was the one that should've got married but I didn't until I met Charlie on a hunting trip one time. He was going to the Univ. of Idaho at that time to be a forester and so we had a very short courtship and then we got married.

DA: You were on a hunting trip?

MS: He and my sister and her husband were on a hunting trip and some others.

And we went up to see them just for the Sunday, you know and I met him and I guess it was love at first sight. It was long, that was in October and in March he asked me to marry him and in August we were married. So that set my life. Then we lived in Avery and had our first baby and then we were transferred to St. Maries.

DA: When you were in Avery did you have a doctor or did you have your children at home?

MS: I went to Spokane, my home to my folks, my mother and father because they were; but my family doctor I went to him because I knew him. There was a doctor in Avery and I used to go to him for little things like a cold. Avery was quite a town when we went there but there was no way to get there except by railroad or by trail, a horseback trail.

DA: How did you get there?

MS: I went by train. Milwaukee had two trains a day then. It was a great thing to go down and watch the train come in at noon and then again at night. When Sidney was about a year old, I guess we moved to St. Maries, we were transferred here and then we lived here and Gwena was born. When she was six years old we went to Montana, to *Great* Falls, we lived there during World War II and after that they asked Charlie if he'd like to come back here and he said he would. We had always planned to come back to St. Maries when we retire. So we came back and we had the ranger station up at Red Ives up the river about 93 miles.

DA: That's past Avery, right?

MS: Yeah about 50 miles past Avery. In 1952 we decided we'd retire because we had enough time in and with his army time, he had been over in France for a year and a half during World War I.

DA: That was before you got married?

MS: Yes. But that time counted on his government service and so then he retired *and we lived here.*

My daddy lived with us for 18 years; my mother died, it was while we were living in *Great* Falls and dad came to live with us and he lived with us for 18 years before he died and it was real wonderful to have him.

DA: How many paintings do you have that he did?

MS: This one and that iris over there and there's one of his portraits of our youngest boy. I have a portrait of each one of the children but I don't have them up. You'll have to stand up to see it, it's between the windows. That's Sidney, he hasn't changed a great deal in his face.

DA: He has a very mature face in this picture.

MS: Yes it's a good portrait of him.

DA: Did your parents stay in Spokane until your mother died?

MS: They had their home there.

DA: And you were working when you met your husband?

MS: Yes I was working.

DA: How long did you work?

MS: Oh about a year.

DA: You just planned to do that until you got married?

MS: I wasn't too interested in it. I'm more interested in photography now than I was then. I did it for the money. Our youth today they don't care about money like that.

DA: Well some do and some don't. Sometimes I do and sometimes I don't.

MS: The only thing money's good for is to get you what you want.

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

MS: Well I think the fresh air. That's one of the things I enjoyed the most in the ranger, when we were out at the ranger station, was that wonderful morning fresh air. Through the forest you know, when you go through on the roads, that's the most heavenly smell, odor or whatever you want to say.

DA: Which place did you like living the most?

MS: I have never had a favorite spot. Ever place I've ever lived, I've enjoyed. I think we make our own pleasures and enjoyments. I don't think any; I think you can say "well I hate this" and you can say "oh I love it" and just get the good out of it. That's the way I feel, that's my philosophy. I don't think I've enjoyed living in one place any more than another.

DA: How would you compare the life of a rural woman with that of an urban woman?

MS: I have been both, I guess you'd say. I don't think they are so terribly different. As I say, you make your own life, you can be happy in the city or town. I prefer a little town though to a large city.

DA: Why?

MS: I think everybody is more friendly; for instance now when you go to our hospital, everybody knows me and they call me by my first name. It's just pleasant, it's just like a family where as if you go to a city hospital, I've been to both; in a city hospital, you are just a number, that's all. You don't have that loving care that you have in a rural area. Our community hospital, I think is marvelous.

DA: We've heard a lot of comments about your hospital.

MS: The doctors are so friendly, I'd just as soon have one of them as another although I do favor my doctor, Dr. Rap. He's saved my life a couple of times and I just can't think of him any other way but with great love, you know. You know there are a lot of kinds of love but I just have that great affection for him. Is that a good comparison?

I also enjoyed the city life because when I was a girl we used to rush to the gallery to the old auditorium theatre and see all the good shows. When I was a teenager, we'd take our lunch and stand in line and when the doors would open we'd dash to the gallery, clear up to the top so I saw a lot of artists. Al Jolson was one and then Madame Alda I heard her sing and Madame Shomonkine.

Just a lot of the artists and the Shakesperan plays and always the follies. We always went to see the follies. So there's that advantage. I thought my children didn't have the advantages that I had. I don't know, it just something that helps you, broadens your view a little bit.

DA: Have you made any trips to town to see those sort of things?

MS: Once in a great while I have, not as often as I'd like because I don't drive and in order to go I would have to go on the bus and stay overnight I have been in the few travelogs that they've had in the coliseum. And of course I made a lot of trips to the Expo. We were there about ten times. It was different every time. Yeah I miss it this year.

DA: Did you go to the world's fair in Seattle?

MS: No I don't know why I didn't. I can't remember. I would like to have seen it and I'm sure there was a reason. I may have been sick.

DA: Would you compare the way you were raised as opposed to the way you raised your children?

MS: I had a wonderful life as a child. I hope our children did. Charlie and I have been very strick disciplinarians and when I look back I tell the kids, I say "We were awful strict with you weren't we?" And they always say, "well we turned out alright I don't know why you worry" We didn't allow them to do a lot of things that the children now a days get to do. I think I kept them children longer than the children today. I had most of the raising to do because I was; in the first part of our married life; in the summertime there wasn't no facilities for me to take a baby out, you know, it was to primitive, we thought it was. So I had most of the raising of them. They were good kids I didn't have any of the severe problems like the parents have nowadays. I don't know why. I know things went on just about like they do now they were different but then there were problems with children. I can remember when I was a girl in Eigh School, one girl that I coached in mathematics she was a dope; she sold

her mother's diamond ring to get dope. So you see it was even in those days. It's more prevalent now; and another thing, I think anyway that the radio and TV brings in things so much closer and quicker that we learn things sooner than we used to. I think the world will go on to progressing as it always has.

DA: What type of housing have you had throughout the years?

MS: Well when I was at home before I was married, I had a lovely home. In the forest service we lived in a log cabin in Avery. Up on the old forestry right in town there's two log cabins, well we lived in the first log cabin. And it's still there. We've had good homes most of the time. When we'd go out in the summertime we had a shack that we had a carpenter build. Just two rooms and we kind of batched and rustic.

DA: Did you have inside or outdoor plumbing?

MS: Outdoor plumbing; now I guess they have <sup>have</sup> to indoor. When we were at Red Eye it was after we came back from Thompson Falls we had a very modern home in the forest service. It was one that had been built during the three C's Era and it had hardwood floors and tiled bathroom and it was a beautiful place. It's still up there. It's really nice and it was fairly new when we went up there. But we've had good housing all the time. I liked the camp though. I just love to rough it. Fave a bonfire to cook my weiners over. Yeah I like it.

DA: You mean just going out and camping now or just earlier?

Have you always liked to camp?

MS: I've always liked to camp. I've always liked to live out, I like the outdoors.

DA: Do you have a tent or what sort of accommodations do you have when you go camping?

MS: We have an old trailer house but we don't always take that. We have a plywood board that we put in our bronco and a thin mattress and our sleep-

ing bags and we sleep right in the Bronco and then just use the facilities in the campground that we come to.

DA: Do you go fishing and hunting?

MS: Yes we do, we fish a lot and we hunt every fall.

DA: Do you go hunting yourself?

MS: I don't hunt anymore but I used to, I can't anymore.

DA: Were you a good shot?

MS: Well I was fairly good, I shot a rabbit with a pistol one time at quite a distance, 25 ft. I guess. About the length of this room.

DA: Do you ever hunt for meat?

MS: My husband does but we haven't had any luck in the last two years. He even goes hunting into Canada. The other years he's been but he didn't get any last year.

DA: When were you naturalized?

MS: 1956 that was a long time but you see there was a thing. My dad was an american citizen when I was born. Hew was in the state of Washington when it was made a state. Then he went to San Francisco and then he went back to Orono and married my mother and they went to New York then and lived in New York state for a long time and they came back and my sister was born in Toronto and then he lived out there and I was born and my younger sister was born in Toronto. So I never cared about whether I was a citizen or not but dad was. He took his papers as soon as he came back to the states in 1914 but I married Charlie just a year to late to become a citizen by marriage. So then we lived in Avery and we weren't near a county seat so I couldn't take it out. So then I came here and I was satisfied to put my name in every January. One January it was rather late and I handed my card to the postmaster and he took it. But for some reason it got mislaid and the man came from Spokane and said, "You didn't register this January, how come?" And I said, "yes I did, Mr. Walker took my re-



gistration." and he said "well I wanted to ask you anyway, why aren't you a citizen?" And I said, "well I'm scared." And he said, "well there's nothing to be scared about." I said, "well I'd like to be a citizen," because I was getting to the point to where I'd like to vote and take part in politics and he said, " well you come to Spokane and then we'll see." I told him then that my father was a citizen when I was born, which ordinarily would make me a U.S. citizen. My dad then took out a homestead which made him a not an american citizen so he had to take out his papers again to be an american citizen. So he took them out before I was 18, so when I went in there the head man interviewed me and said, "now I'm gonna tell you something. We could go back through all this but it would take a number of years. If you just want to declare that you're not a citizen then we can go ahead." So I said ok I'm not a citizen." So then I went to school, I took a course at the Univ. in citizenship and then a year later I passed my examination.

DA: Was your husband always a citizen?

MS: Yeah his parents were pioneers of Washington state.

DA: What were some of the things that you and your sisters did when you were children?

MS: Well for one thing we didn't have skis and we used to use \_\_\_\_\_ for skis and ski down little hills.

DA: Are you a good skier?

MS: No I don't ski at all now. I did when the children were young. They used to ski and I used to go with them and fall down the hill. I never was a good bicycle rider either. Then we used to ride down the hills in dishpans and shovels and all kinds of things. Homemade sleds, out on the homestead we didn't have regular sleds like they have now. And I used to ride an ox. We had a team of oxen and one of them we could ride. I used to ride horseback, I used to play kick the can. Do you know how to play kick the

can? That was a real good game at school.

DA: Maybe I don't know how to play your form of kick the can.

MS: It's just like hide and go seek only you kick the can. Then I used to play tennis and volleyball. Those were school games though. We used to play baseball with a tennis ball and a racket, we girls used to. You see in Canada, when I was a little girl, the boys and girls were segregated. The girls sat on one side of the room and the boys sat on the other. They had separate schoolyards. The boys <sup>played</sup> ~~sat~~ on one side of the schoolyard and the girls played on the other side. We didn't mingle. Isn't that funny? That's <sup>segregation</sup> ~~segregation~~ isn't it?

DA: In Megan, Georgia that's where I went to school, they had ~~segregated~~ <sup>segregated</sup> schools and they did that, I'm not sure but I think they ~~segregated~~ <sup>segregated</sup> schools when they were trying to integrate them racially so they ~~segregated~~ <sup>segregated</sup> them sexually. And it was like that. Then they put the schools together but they still had a building that was basically for females and the other one was males. The girls were there and there were a few classes maybe an accelerated class or something like that, that were mixed. But I was trying to think when I was in school; I don't think the ~~segregated~~ <sup>segregated</sup> playground was segregated as the girls all played together and the boys all played together so they segregated themselves. It's interesting that that's the way they did it.

MS: Yes it was enforced.

DA: You know, I mean totally.

MS: I don't know when they quit because as long as I went to school it was ~~segregated~~ <sup>segregated</sup>. I have a friend here who could tell me but she would remember the same as I did. Even in the little country school the boys were on one side of the room and the girls on the other. That seems silly because <sup>at</sup> ~~in~~ the playgrounds in the country school we played together.

DA: When your children were in school were there schools in Avery?

MS: Well they went to school in St. Maries. We came to St. Maries the year

that Bill started school. It was just about like it is now. Then when we went to Montana Gwen was just starting to school. The boys finished high school; Bill finished high school when he was 18 and they took him right into the Navy. I believe it was World War II that was going and he didn't get to go to college until after he got out of the Navy and then he got the G.I. bill and went to school on that.

DA: Did you expect your children to go on to school?

MS: We expected them to. They knew from the time they started to school that college would be the last.

DA: That was for all of them?

MS: For all of them, yeah we planned for that.

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

MS: No you see it wasn't in that time now for instance, you could teach with an 8th grade diploma back when I was a little. Now they have to, the grade school teachers have to go back to school for refresher courses all the time. Even when they have their certificate; I think it's a good thing.

DA: A lot of states are requiring that you get a masters for so many years and you have to have put in so many hours.

MS: That's right. I think that people were well educated in those days. But it was different. There's so many more things now for children to learn than there were when I was a little girl. For instance we have telephones now, they are just taken for granted. And radio, tv, all this, well they have all those things to learn about in school where we didn't have that.

DA: Do you remember when you got your first radio?

MS: I hardly do, I remember when the first radio came to Avery and it wasn't very good. It was an Atwater Kent. I can remember so well. One of the rangers got it and we'd all gather there at night to hear the program, there would be an awful lot of static. Because the Milwaukee railroad was electrified through Avery on through to Missoula, or almost to Missoula

and that caused an interference with the radio which I don't know whether they realized it at the time or not. We learned later that it does interfere.

DA: Did you have radio when you were in Spokane?

MS: No they weren't. We had an old Victorola with a horn on it. Well before I left home mother and dad had a nice Victorola. Before that, at first we had an Edison Roles, that was kind of primitive.

DA: What were some of the things that you remember about your courtship and right after you got married?

MS: I met my husband on a hunting trip and in those days they used to have rabbit drives. I don't know whether you've heard of them or not or whether they have them now or not. They had them down around Ritzville. It happened that the next Sunday he was going on a rabbit drive and he asked me if I'd like to go along and I said, "yes I sure would" So we went and that's when I shot my rabbit with a pistol at about 25 feet and everybody thought that was marvelous. Anyway I went with him on that and then he went to the Univ. and I didn't see him a lot but we wrote back and forth. I remember he used to wear a red plaid shirt that I liked real well. I fell in love with his shirt. Then we were planning to be married in October and in August that year there were some terrible electric storms, real bad and a lot of rain, it just rained and rained. He phoned one weekend and my mother was real mad and he said, "how would you like to get married and come up here and have your honeymoon during the summer?" And I was thrilled, you know how a girl is. I turned to mother and I said, "we're going to be married August 11." Because there's a lot of rain and the forest and he couldn't come in and mother said, "well your dress isn't ready and won't be ready." And I said, "well we'll just get married, I don't care." So we did, we just got married.

DA: Where did you get married?

MS: At home in my mother's parlor. They used to have parlors instead of living rooms. And so I got married in the parlor and some friends ~~said~~, it just seemed like hundreds of lads to the house and I don't know who it was. But I never found out who sent them. But we were married and mother hurried and bought a wedding cake and asked the relatives you know and had a supper and the train left for Avery about 9 o'clock. We were married at seven and left at nine. I remember that terrible horseback ride from Avery up to Red Eye and I hadn't ridden a horse for ages. You can imagine how happy I was. Then I got poisoned with poison ivy and I was a mess.

DA: This was on the way up to Red Eye?

MS: No this was after we'd been there awhile. That year, the Buttes lookout was struck with lightning and there was a boy in there and he was so scared when it started to lightning he was supposed to be looking for fires, you know, but he wrapped up in blankets on the bed and it saved him. He would of been electrocuted otherwise because the lookout was blown blue. The shelves and everything, it was fantastic the way everything was shoved around from the electricity. Danny Warner, who was head of the 4-H down in Moscow for awhile, he must of moved away from there, but he was the cook, he was going to college and working his way through and he was the cook, he was just twenty years old and this lightning storm, Charlie was ten miles away and he told the boys to saddle my horse and send me there and I started out and I had a pistol on my hip and I lost it. I felt on my hip and it was gone so I had to turn around and get it so I turned around and got it and started off again and I was going down this switchback over the little Northfork and I heard this screaming. They had told me about cougars and how they sounded like a human voice. I wasn't used to my mane but the horse would snort and brace his feet everytime there was lightning coming down so I happen to look up and I saw this guy up there waving his dish towel and it was Danny Warren and

they had sent him to rescue me in this electric storm. I went blissfully through there in the crackle of the lightning. If you've ever been in a lightning storm, you've got lightning coming down all around you it's real funny but I went back and the joke of it is I let him walk all the way back to the cabin, it was two miles back to the cabin and he had run he was washing dishes, and I never thought to get off and let him ride my horse.

~~Base~~ So the first thing when I met him again out at the 4-H, Charlie worked with the 4-H and Danny grabbed me and he said, "you remember when you let me walk all the way back to camp." And I remembered.

DA: Was that the best thing to do, was try to get to camp in that situation?

MS: Yeah, get out of the storm because it was getting worse all the time and I was riding right into it. So they sent him out to rescue me and he never forgot it and I never did either.

DA: What were some of your expectations before you got married?

MS: Well I always thought that I would have a beautiful home, I used to dream you know, and take in children that didn't have any home. That was one of my dreams. Of course after I met my husband my dream was to have a family of my own.

DA: Well before, were you actually planning on being married or just by yourself taking in children?

MS: I never planned on being married, it was quite a sudden thing with me.

DA: That's really interesting because some of the other people that I've been talking to they always planned to be married.

MS: No I never did, I always intended to be an old maid and I always said this. I'd be an old maid and I'd have a home and a lot of cats and a lot of little children

DA: And he changed your mind?

MS: Well when I saw him that was it. I decided then I wanted to get married. It was just sudden and our marriage was sudden, you see, from October to

August was a short courtship.

DA: Nine months, that's not too short.

MS: Well it didn't happen to be because we've lived together for 50 years so it's been ok.

DA: Have your expectations been met?

MS: Yes I've had everything my heart's desired and a few things extra.

DA: What affected the number of children that you have?

MS: I wanted more but I was unable to have any more. I would like to have a large family, like my daughter has nine and of course we just had the three and they were far apart. I have always had rather poor health.

DA: How many grandchildren do you have?

MS: Thirteen.

DA: What do you expect of their lives?

MS: Oh I just hope that they'll go on to school and be good citizens. That's the main thing with me is to be a good citizen.

DA: Where did you learn about childbirth and childrearing?

MS: I hardly remember, it just seemed to come naturally. I can't remember any specific thing at all. I don't know why they are bringing that into the schools now, sex education.

DA: You don't remember, was it your mother that told you about it?

MS: Yes it was my mother.

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

MS: No I didn't, I was; from the very beginning when I went to the doctor, because I was in Spokane with my mother and she insisted on that. No I didn't ask him a lot of questions, I just felt it was a natural denouement and that it would be alright.

DA: You were talking about your grandchildren going on to school, is there anything in particular that you'd like to see them get into or do you

just want them to go on to school?

MS: Well I have one grandson who's married and (end of tape, side 1 on tape 8) (continued on tape 9) has finished college and he had a scholarship to the University of Arizona. He's a violinist, he played in the orchestra and the other ones in that family that are school age, the one boy after that one that's married, did a rather, what I would call a normal life. The other boy went one year to college and decided it wasn't for him so he went away from home and went on a fishing boat and went on to trade school and learned to be a cabinet maker and he got his journeymen's license or whatever you have to have but he just didn't want to form a schooling. Then the girl, the next one, she just wants to go all the time to school, she said she'd like to go to school the rest of her life. She's planning to be a teacher, she's been going now for four or five years and she works to earn her own tuition. She goes to the Boise State and she went to Denver. I don't know what the school is there she went to. But she's traveled around to different schools, she likes to go. Then the next boy started to college and he is a musician, he's a drummer and he's real good and he decided and he got the swelled head, I'd say and he decided that he could make it with a couple of other boys. So for a year he went floating around over the country trying to get jobs as a drummer. He played for dances and things and he found that was not for him so he's now working and he plans to go to the Univ. of Idaho this fall. Then the girl, the next one in that family was a girl and she has just completed her high school and a year in South America. She went on one of these exchange student deal. She's going, she thinks to the Univ. of Arizona, maybe to the Univ. of New Mexico, she doesn't know which one yet. She wants to specialize in language, she wants to be a linguist. Then my other; the daughter's children are not quite old enough yet. The girl who is 17, she went to Girl's State this year but she has it in her



head she wants to be a forest ranger, of all things, like her grandfather.

DA: What do you think of that?

MS: I think that would be fine. A lot of girls have been lookout and I think it's getting more that girls are doing the things that boys do and it isn't too hard a job being a forest ranger, she could do that very nicely I think.

DA: What do you think about the women who are getting jobs that men have traditionally held?

MS: Well I think it's ok, but I feel that a woman's place is in the home with her family. That's one thing I don't agree about but I think a woman that has to raise her children and needs a job I don't know why she can't take the place of a man. I could have and I just feel that they are capable but I feel that they have a different role. I feel that a woman's place, if she's going to be a mother, she should be in the home making a home for her children until they are 18 or so, able to be on their own because there are to many things happen in the home and I just can't see little kids coming home to a babysitter. I think they need their mother to hand their cookies to them and be a momma. That's just old fashioned.

DA: How would you feel if any of your children or any of your grandchildren didn't want to have any children?

MS: Well now one boy doesn't have any children, he wanted children but he couldn't have and they didn't want to adopt for some reason. I wanted them to adopt a couple, I don't believe in adopting one, I think they should have two because you spoil one, but they didn't want children so that's up to them, that's the way I feel. I never have interfered in the family life of our children because I feel when they are ready to go out and be married and have a home of their own that's their business and I feel like an outsider as far as that goes except that I can love my grandchildren. And of course, as far as working, one daughter-in-law

does work, she teaches music in Boise. I don't object to that, I always felt that <sup>it was to bad;</sup> ~~which was a little different as~~ <sup>though,</sup> she taught in her home, which is a little different than when they go outside the home. But in the way too I felt that children didn't have all the home life. If you've ever gone into an empty house, that's the way children feel when they go in and their mother isn't there. I just feel that they need their mother there. I'm old fashioned, I know.

DA: I was going to ask you if there's anything about your life that you would change?

MS: Not a thing.

DA: You see I knew you were going to answer that.

MS: No I have enjoyed my life. I feel that I've had a very full life because I didn't get married until I was 24 and I had an opportunity to work, to do things that you can't do after you are married. After you are married there is a certain amount of give and take and you have to be willing to sacrifice and I've been rewarded, that's the way I feel. I just feel very happy, I'm a very happy person.

DA: I could tell, maybe it's your flowers.

What do you do for recreation?

MS: You mean together?

DA: Yes

MS: Well one thing we do is go to a couple of clubs together and we have dinners, ask our friends into dinner and my husband loves to show his slides. He's quite a photographer with flower slides and scenery slides. And we travel a lot but we find that St. Maries, Idaho is the ideal place to live.

DA: Where have you traveled?

MS: I have been to Arkansas and Texas and Alabama and Tennessee and Michigan. That is to stay over, I've been through many other states. I've been to California and Oregon, Montana, the Dakotas, the Badlands and all the

places of interest in those spots. We won't be able to do that to much longer because we're getting to old but we could arm chair travel then you know and rehash the places we've been and the things we've done.

DA: When you go travelling, is it usually to see relatives or to visit scenery?

MS: Scenery places, The National Parks and the National Monuments, things like that. I have never been to Washington D.C. but I'd love to go. I have an auntie, my dad's only sister and she's 90, she lives in New York and I'd like to go and see her and I may one of these days if she lives long enough and I live long enough.

DA: Just hop on a plane and go.

MS: We did for Xmas, we went to Tennessee by plane, my first airplane ride.

DA: How did you like it?

MS: I liked it for the reason that we got there so fast. We had breakfast at home and we were at my daughter's in Memphis, Tennessee for supper that night. It seemed unbelievable. I used to dream as a little girl of putting my ring on the dresser. My auntie said to put my ring on the dresser and maybe you'll be where you want to be in the morning. And I would be where I wanted to be, at home. We love to travel. That and fishing, I think are our main recreational deals. When there's a good show, a real good show we often go.

*investigate*

DA: What do you do for relaxation, like when you are knitting or gardening?

MS: Reading.

DA: What types of books do you read?

MS: I like homey things; I read a lot of things that aren't that way but my favorite are stories of girls that are poor and make it big, you know this sort of thing. I'm kind of romantic, in other words. I like that kind of a story but I do like history, I like to read about the women of yesterday and the things that they had to do. I especially liked a book about Abigail Adams and her life. I thought that was a wonderful

book. That's about all. We play cards sometimes too but not in public.

With friends.

DA: What type of magazines do you get?

MS: We get; I'll go over her and read them, I can't really remember. I get my DAR magazine for one, and we get the Chevron U.S.A. we belong to that club. Fields & Steam, National Wildlife, American Rifleman, Fishing World, Modern Maturity, Arizona Highways,

DA: What is this Modern Maturity magazine?

MS: Well that's like for senior citizens. There's a joke about it; one of my friends takes it and her husband thought it was Modern Maternity and it had been coming for nearly a year, and he said, "what in the world are you taking Modern Maternity for?" So she put him right. Let's see there's National Geographic, The Reader's Digest, Ford Times, Modern Photography, And my magazines, I take Sunset, Good Housekeeping, Travel, Prevention, and my friend and I trade I give her Good Housekeeping and she gives me that. I said Dollars and American Evolution and I taken the Redbook but I've given those out to be read by somebody else. I guess that's about all.

DA: You do read a lot, that's quite a list.

M Do you watch television very much?

MS: I watch several programs and specials. It's color but I watch the game programs, I like those.

DA: A lot of them they are changing the format and I don't like that. Oh I do like some of the older ones.

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

MS: You know he's a very silent sort of man and never interferes. That's why I think I've had such a good life. He hardly ever asks me about anything unless it's "where are my socks, or where are my underwear" He doesn't; he might ask me some little thing about clubs, you know, but

nothing, you know; he's quite secure in his own knowledge, he doesn't need any from me.

DA: When there's a major decision to be made?

MS: We talk it over.

DA: What are some of the factors that influenced your decision to live where you have lived?

MS: Well mostly our work and of course we liked Avery. We had an awful lot of fun when we lived in Avery. Then when we were transferred to St. Maries we like it and we've always liked it and we'll probably always live here. I think because it's close to fishing and hunting and the climate is good. It's a little warmer than Spokane. My favorite place would have been Coeur d'Alene but my husband said St. Maries, so I love St. Maries too and I don't care where I am as long as I'm happy. But I think the hunting, fishing and climate is what influenced my husband's decision.

DA: Somebody else commented on the climate being good.

MS: It is good.

DA: Do you have a garden other than the flower garden?

MS: My husband has the vegetable garden and I have a flower garden.

DA: Do you can and preserve foods?

MS: I freeze most everything. I used to can an awful lot but I don't anymore. The only thing I can is surplus because I figure I can buy it just as cheap in the store rather than can. I hate to can, that way I'm not a homebody, once I get into it, I like to do it but I think about it and the anticipation is awful. I hate that mess. I do freeze beans and corn and cherries, apples, berries. We have those in our garden and I do the surplus.

DA: What kind of berries?

MS: Raspberries. We did have strawberries and we both thought it broke our back to pick them so we'd rather buy them. It takes time, you know. We

can get good ones. In a small place like this you can get fresh ones. Now like in the city, possibly you couldn't get them real fresh from a farmer. We don't bother with those. We grow beans, corn, tomatoes, peppers, onions, garlic, lettuce.

DA: How do you grow your garlic?

MS: You take these little toes, they are like a cluster and you pull one of those off and plant it.

DA: The ones that you buy at the grocery store?

MS: You could and in the fall in October and then you cover them with straw and in the spring they pop up through the straw and you leave them there until harvest time in August or September and take them out and they've grown into a big bulb.

DA: I didn't know when to put them in the ground.

MS: In October, that's a good time in this area. We have an Italian neighbor and he told us.

DA: Is there anything unusual that you grow in your garden?

MS: We did grown sunflowers one year and artichokes, I guess they are Jerusalem artichokes. They are like potatoes and that's one of the unusual things, I think that most people don't grow. You know in the south they have these red beans, the purple looking beans, we grow those, which most people around don't grow and I love them. They have such a sweet flavor, I think, I just like them. I froze them and they freeze real well too. I think that's all, we have tried various things like cholobra but we don't grow those. This year we don't have anything unusual because we plan to go places. We just lost our little dog and they makes us kind of lonesome.

DA: What kind of a dog was it?

MS: It was a little mongrel but she was a darling. She was part spaniel and part terrier. Her hair was so soft and silky and she was smart, but a

truck hit her and killed her instantly.

DA: That's too bad.

DA: Did the depression affect your lives very much?

MS: We were in the forest service, they lowered our salary for a year at that time. It really didn't.

DA: Did you have a garden at that time?

MS: Yes we had a garden and we owned our home so actually the only thing that affected us was that it took all our savings. The banks went under and we didn't get any back which was bad. But so many people suffered and we didn't suffer at all.

DA: Does the depression ever come up with the discussions you have with your friends?

MS: Yeah they often mention that you should've lived in the days of the depression. Actually there were shortages that we had. I think maybe the war years were worse for me when the boys went in the service.

DA: Did your husband go off to the second war?

MS: No, but when your children are in the war you worry. With the depression I thought, well we can always live on what we raise in the garden and we owned our home and Charlie was getting a salary from the government so I think the people that didn't have a regular salary like that. I think we were fortunate, we were just one of those fortunate people.

DA: Was there any other effects of the war rather than having your sons involved?

MS: It just tears my heart to think of taking the cream of our youth and sending them to a battlefield. I could just cry when I think about it, I think it's terrible, I think we should be more civilized and be able to settle things at a bargain table or something and not the battles, don't you?

DA: Yeah, what did you think about the Vietnamese War?

MS: I thought that was horrible, I don't think we had any business over there, I shouldn't say that should I?

DA: It doesn't matter.

MS: I just don't think we had any business over there. I realize why we were there. It was on account of that tact that we signed, we had to keep our word to it but gee they were there too long. When the other countries withdrew, I think we should have, too. I like to help the other people but I don't think we need to give our lives, like young men and women, I don't think that's necessary.

DA: What are the things that you do to support the family, like you do the cooking and you canned things and things like that. What other types of things did you do in raising the family?

MS: We used to garden, the boys used to have to help me garden and I paid them a little fee whenever they did things and we used to play games with them like Monopoly, cards, canasta; the games that they could play. Then they used to love to make model airplanes, which kept them busy and then they used to carve. We used to get mill blocks, we had a mill here at that time and the mill ends and plain pieces and we used to get a load of those and they would build things with those, it was always on hand for them.

DA: Did you ever sew for your children?

MS: Oh yeah I made all their clothes, I used to make all their shirts until they were about 10 years old and then they began to not want me to make their shirts.

DA: Did you have a treadle or an electric sewing machine?

MS: I had a treadle sewing machine.

DA: Do you still have it?

MS: No I sold it, I have an electric now.

DA: Did you teach your daughter how to knit and crochet?



MS: Yeah she crochets and knits and embroiders and cooks. In fact when our first grandchild was born, she took care of the house while I went down to Moscow; that's where they lived then, and I went down there for a week when the baby came and Gwen did the cooking. Her dad tells the story about baking bread, we had to bake bread you see because we were up at the ranger station and we didn't get supplies, we always baked our bread and she got her hands all full of this dough and she didn't know what to do. So she called him and he helped her out but I guess that was quite funny. Then she said she made a huckleberry pie and it had a double crust because she put the sugar and flour on top and the pie crust on and cooked the flour and sugar and made a crust but she's a good cook now.

DA: Is there anything else that you'd like to tell me about your life?

MS: Well let's see, as a little girl I think I had quite a few experiences. My grandmother, my mother's mother lived with us, she made her home with us for a number of years and two aunties I had and you know, they sort of spoiled little girls because you would ask you mother if you could do something and she says no and then you go and ask grandma and she says yes. In the 1910 fire it was here as well as up in Alberta, this terrible fire and we were on a homestead, Mother and father and the rest of us were there; I had cousins that lived with us too. They all went away and left grandmother and my auntie and two children at home and the fire was coming right up to our house and it was as close as a block. Then they came in to fight it and us kids; there were slews, do you know what a slew is, it's a puddle of water and a pond like but they called them slews because they have grass in them and they fixed tubs and we had little five pound lard buckets and we carried water and carried these tubs and it was prairie fire, you see so they fought them with gunny sacks and I remember that quite distinctly, that's quite a thing in my life. Before they came we had a collie dog that we used to get the cows

and that day we had a sod roof stable and they used to put hay on it in the wintertime, you'd stack the hay around the stable and the dog came at the door and cried and pawed at the door and grandmother went to the door and he caught her apron and drew her toward the barn and she went down there and the hay was on fire so we were able to put that out, grandmother and us two kids. I remember this little dog used to, you would just say "go get the cows, Bob" and he's go and he'd bring the cows in no matter where they were. Sometimes it would take him an hour or half an hour. He was a real good cow dog. Then I remember the dances they used to have out in the country and they'd take the kids; have you ever read the Virginian, they would take the kids and put them in the bedroom on a pile of clothes and they would sleep while the people danced until daylight and then they'd drive home. As I grew older I'd participate in the dances to, they didn't have enough women, mostly all bachelors and so the little kids danced too, square dances. There were lots of things that happened through the years, you know, when you are growing up. I always think that our school, remember our I told you about the window blinds for blackboards. These two wrecks we were in I remember one woman on that train her little dog was in the baggage car and it tipped over and she was screaming for her little dog, I can remember that.

DA: What caused the wreck?

MS: A bolt in the engine I guess fell down and ripped up the track. We were sailing along, it was just after supper, we lost our lunch basket and everything, they took us in the baggage car from where it <sup>ec</sup>wrecked to Winnipeg, that was in Manitoba. I was scared to death because they had crates of chickens and they were making such a noise in this baggage car and we sat on an old trunk until we got to Winnipeg.

DA: Was that the second wreck or the first one?

MS: That was the second wreck.

DA: What caused the first one?

MS: It wasn't bad, it was about the same thing. There were seven brides on the train and they said the seven brides caused the wreck. They were going out west to be married. One of them was my auntie, she was with us

DA: Was that an arranged wedding or did she know the man that she was going to marry?

MS: Oh she knew my uncle, he was a druggist in Calgary. It was like when they brought them over from Europe, the brides from Europe. I can't think of anything else.

DA: Can you contrast your life now to what it was 30 years ago?

MS: Well I have more money, I don't have to pinch the pennies like I did that long ago because we were raising our family and trying to put them through college and that's quite a job and it's worse now because it cost so much more, tuition and everything. I think we mortgaged our house a couple of times to get money to send them to school. But we were bound they were going to have a college education. Well yes 30 years ago I drove the car and I could go wherever I wanted to. I had a car but then we decided that one was enough for us when we retired and we wanted a vehicle that would go anywhere so we have a Bronco and it's really comfortable. It has bucket seats and it has 4-wheel drive and we go through snow banks and everything. We haven't attempted to go drive south, though. When we go on a trip another couple usually goes along with us, take four in a car and we stay in motels, we don't camp. Because us women we think that we should have a vacation too and not have to cook. And when you take a trailer house or camp usually the bulk of the cooking and stuff falls on the women and we miss out on a lot so we won't cook, yeah we have a good time. It costs a little more but then it's a little more pleasant. I think the men like it better too when they go off to see something and we might be washing dishes, we

go with them. It makes it nicer for everybody. When we can afford it. Of course when we go to the woods, we don't do that, like when we go to the Badlands or to the painted desert or something like that we stay in a motel. I wish they would have motels though that are not so plush. You know just a nice clean bed and a place to wash yourself and not so much money because you just go in there and go to bed and you don't need carpets on the floor and all that sort of anything.

The south is very interesting historically, I think. When we go down to visit Gwen she always takes us to all these wonderful places and I love it. I'd like to spend more time there.

DA: What time of the year have you been in the south?

MS: When I went to Arkansas it was Arkansas and I was there in July and August, the hottest time of the year and I tell you I had a permanent when I went and it all came out and I was the saddest looking thing. So I went to the beauty parlor; Gwen got an appointment for me and the girl said, now listen I'm going to give you a southern permanent, you take off everything that you don't have to have on, just wear a dress and let yourself perspire and you'll be happy." And I did and I was happy and I went for a walk every afternoon and the perspiration would just drip down me, it was great. That was that and then when we went to Alabama we went in October and it was beautiful and we went up into the Smoky mountains.

DA: I haven't been to the Smoky mountains.

MS: Oh it's beautiful and the next time we went was in the spring, we went to Tennessee, they live in Humbolt. It was perfect for me but it was too hot for my husband he just couldn't stand that humid humidity. But I don't mind it. So this last time was in December, we went Xmas shopping, it was real nice.

(End of interview, tape 9)  
side 2