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[Static and one or two clear words among gibberish...]

MS: I'm not a real strong woman. But I think that women have had a real bad time for a long time. They still do, alot of 'em, but ah...I sometimes think that women did go through the extremes you probably don't.

010 CK: A lot of people say that. And later I'd like for you to tell me how you feel. I think it's really important to get those sorts of ideas down. We have, like some basic questions that we usually ask and don't always ask all of them. They're to a person's experience and that sort of thing so it's...things that wind up brought up quite frequently. And I think it's interesting to find out why and women add different ideas about what it is and what it means.

MS: Um hum. We live in such different ways. I can understand how stuff would be all like the women some places, according to the way of life. But, ah, women back home, like when I grew up, people did and they liked to have something else too. But, ah, 020 I don't think men take it very well.

[Unintelligible remarks between CK and MS]

A woman on T.V. yesterday, she was an older woman. I've forgotten her name but, ah, I had to smile at her. She said that, ah, ...this is where I need specific words. What's this--Lords of the Odd Fellows are the ... and the women are the, now what is it? (mumbles) Subordinate, they're subordinate. And that's what she tell her husband. Is that she is subordinate. Because, ah, but I thought she got a real slick deal. She said,

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031 you know, "my husband, and I love him and so," she said, "I want to respect him and I like to look up to him." Anybody likes it, I think, look up to their husband a little bit. But you can't, a lot of times, because most men don't have what it takes to make you look up to them. So, a lot of women that'd like to do that, get a man that they can't really do that. If you want to look up to 'em you gotta know what you want. (laughter) And that's hard anyway. So that's the luck of times. And I'm surprised at lots of men, too. So that's what she said, but she said, um, "I don't think there's many women that have their breakfast brought to them, all the other things that he does for me because he loves me," she said. And I thought, she's got a strict way of making her marriage go. She probably didn't think that, but she let him think she did anyway. So I thought, well, that's a real good deal, because, ah, I think a lot of people get a line. If you want to get along with a man, you've kinda got to make him think that he's a little bit of something or you're not gonna have a very good marriage a lot of times, as far as marriage is concerned. But, ah, women have done a lot as far as Idaho, I think. You go to any other state in the country and they are the ones that used to rear back and work hard and lots of times the men weren't doing that much hard work. They were playin' around lotta times--talking and gabbing and riding and foolin' around. The women were

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at home, really, the literal stand-by.

CK: Yeah, but it tends to be forgotten. Those things tend to be forgotten. And we are really interested in those examples, although we've realized that, in most of our interviews, the woman has played an important part. But, the man has also been a hard worker.

050 MS: They worked hard, but nine times outta ten, if they don't have a good manager of a wife, and when they don't have alot of money, well, they don't make it near as well as the man whose wife is a good manager. The one who has a good manager for a wife makes it real well while the one that has a wife that doesn't know how to manage anything--he goes and he manages everything and they usually have a hard time. Money doesn't go near as far when a man manages. The women've learned to because they only have so much to do so much with. They have to learn to manage. But, ah, what I wanted to tell you is about my mother and father because, ah, they came out here. Ah, I don't know when my father came out here--in the eighties, I guess. In the eighty-three, probably. But he was down the coast, down to Oregon and Arizona and had his gold thing and had his horses and pack saddles and the whole deal. He used to tell they spread ropes around to keep snakes from comin' in

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when they camped out and we'd hear stories an' all that but didn't pay much attention to it. And he wasn't one to tell great big stories either. Well, he was down gold mining and he was everywhere and up in Murray and all over. Then he finally--he came from West Virginia--and I never did find out how he happened to decide to come out here. But there wasn't anything back there, I don't think, for alot of men. So he came out here and went down to the gold mines down in California and all those places, where he mined for gold. Then he went back East to visit his friends after he'd been out here twenty years. I read a letter, just the other day--been out here twenty years when he went back. And my mother was teaching school and boarding at his house. By the way, his grandfather had <sup>slaves, too.</sup>???? . When I saw the place, he had slaves. So he went back there and met this little red-headed school teacher, and married her and brought her out here and it was alot different out here than it was back there. I've often felt sorry for her because she came out here and he got her a sidesaddle and a horse so she could go riding with him and go out with him. And of course she got pregnant the first thing. (laughter) Three months, I think, and that ended the sidesaddle and the horseback riding. But he'd done for himself all his life and if he hadn't, I don't know what she'd've ever done. Because she wasn't very, well,

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wasn't husky. She wasn't strong. She'd never had any hardships, I don't think, in her life. So he really took care of her. I don't know what woulda happen. I guess I cried all the time--I was the first baby and I'm sure didn't have enough to eat. And so I cried all the time. And my Dad, I think, really kinda <sup>took it up.</sup> [unintelligible]. Then she had another one in eighteen months--another baby. And, we had to go down to the river to get the water--my father always carried the water in from the creek. Filled everything, the woodboxes, done everything. And cooked alot of the meals. And, then I think in another five years, they had this other baby. And to me it was real awful to have to start a fire every time you wanted to heat a cup of water. And carry water as far as we had to carry it. Wash by hand but I think we had a washer before most people did--when ya went like this (gesturing). Ya know, they have a--you've never seen them, I bet.

CK: I don't know.

MS: And then they have a wheel business on the top. You put your clothes in there and the washboard's inside. And you stand there and go (gesturing) back and forth like this and it takes you quite awhile to wash quite a few--er, one washer full of clothes. Then you rinse them. And then you have

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a wringer and you wring 'em out.

CK: Yeah, I've seen the wringers but I don't think I've seen the other. What was there, a lever-thing that you used?

MS: Well, it had a handle and wheels, little wheels in there, little cogs and you turned the wheel inside. There's a dasher-thing inside. And that turned around and around and rubbed the clothes against this washboard-thing on the sides.

CK: That isn't too bad. But, ah, the whole idea of washing clothes by hand sounds really bad to me.

MS: Well, I used to--would rather wash by hand than to wash in one of those machines myself. But my father used to wash. He used to run that machine for my mother, so she'd wring the clothes out and help him hang 'em up. But he always turned--washed with that machine. So I didn't do much washing when I was a kid, either. We didn't have as hard a time as lots of people had. We really didn't. It was like it is now. There were the people who just never could manage and never done very much. The people who were real disgusted with everything and the people who didn't think it was bad and I didn't think it was too bad myself. Because I didn't know any better.

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So I didn't think it was too bad. And, uh, \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ ???  
didn't have such a bad time. \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ I used to  
think that that was the worst thing, was having to start fires  
to cook every little thing. If you wanted anything, even in  
107 hot summertime, well, you had to start a fire. But we always  
had the wood in the house. A lot of women had to go out and  
cut wood. A lot of 'em had to go out and carry in the water.  
But my father was an exceptional man because of having taken  
care of himself for so long. And I think/he brought this  
little school teacher out here, well, he thought he better  
do something for her. (chuckling) --but it's pretty rough  
back there, too, I imagine. And the people were different,  
different than she was used to. But there were good neighbors,  
and there was several--quite a few--real capable women, real  
114 good cooks and their homes were real cozy looking, you know.  
And in that age, for convenience, they had carpets and quite  
nice looking furniture. And my father raised cattle. He  
homesteaded this little ranch on the creek and he--I've got  
a letter to my mother about this nice little place on the  
river. It was so pretty there and he liked it there. He took  
that, had it all homesteaded when he went back and got her.  
120 He went back and got her and, I guess, went back and they  
decided to get married and then he came back out here. Then  
she came out by herself. He met her in Blackfoot, Idaho.  
And they were married at that little Cottage Hotel down there.

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CK: I haven't been to Blackfoot yet.

MS: Oh. Well, they call it the Cottage Hotel. I was there last summer. And now it's a little old apartment house, kinda run down lookin' gritty--but a hotel in Blackfoot when they came. And/<sup>they</sup> had a runaway comin' across the desert with a team, from Blackfoot to Mackey, Houston then. So it was in the paper when, ah, my father passed away--  
127 it told about him having that runaway out there in the desert, (laughing) bride and groom. She had to run a two-room cabin, log cabin. And that's where two of us were born and the rest were born in the--what they rebuilt after that.

CK: Was there a midwife or anyone who, ah--?

MS: They had no doctor and a midwife. And I said to my mother  
131 one time, "Weren't you scared to death when you came out here and knew you were gonna have this baby and not a doctor anything?" And she said, "Oh, I had a lot of confidence in this little midwife." I think she was Welsh. I remember her. Because she took care of all of us, I think, up to the last one. There were four of us. So, I can remember her. And she took care of most of the people in the country. I don't know how much they paid her to do it. I don't think she

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got paid very much. But she got paid, I'm sure, but I don't think that they paid her very much. She washed the dishes and done the work and took care of the baby and the mother and delivered it and the whole thing. Hm, now, the cost now--but then. Probably if they paid her twenty-five or thirty dollars -- probably all she got.

CK: But that was quite a bit then.

MS: Yeah--it was then.

CK: I mean, even now, it sounds like it would be quite a bit for then. But then, compared to what doctors get now, I mean...

MS: Yeah. I think a doctor used to charge twenty-five dollars when they finally got doctors. My mother had, uh, I think 143 she had two of us without a doctor and then she had a doctor for the last two. But when babies were born it was twenty-five dollars for the doctor.

CK: Did you have 'em at home?

MS: Um hum, at home, both mine at home. And got along really well, just real well. As well, I think, as most people got along real well. There was one woman, lived right near us, up there,

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the same age as my mother. She had a terrible time--I guess she was sick for days before the baby could be born.

150 Then, finally, I think it died. I think she lost her first baby. Because she just could not -- had such a time to have it. That must be a terrible feeling to have that baby--cannot have it and nobody to help you. So that was-- after that, I remember / <sup>them</sup> talking about that. I didn't remember 'till. ... That baby was about my age.

But then, my father finally got quite a few cattle. He had a few to start with--really start. Took twenty dollars for each one of these--(somebody's) twenty dollar gold bill piece when he went back to West Virginia. Er, fifty, sixer--twenty dollar gold piece. But, ah, they finally got more and more cattle and that was the--cattle, when you've got the cattle in the first place and you have the ranch, if other people didn't make money you made money, 160 you know. Because you didn't have to pay any big price to get into the business. If cattle went down, you hadn't put a lot of money in so if you only got ten dollars a head, well, you got ten dollars a head 'cause you hadn't paid twenty, maybe for 'em when you bought 'em. So he never lost any money on the cattle. I don't think they needed much money if they could've made it, 'cause my uh. I think my father took care of most of the finances, the whole deal because my mother was just too busy or else she didn't feel like it--

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one or the other, some of the time. So he, ah, I think she helped him alot with his figuring, planning and that. But, ah, he bought the groceries and took care of all the business. But they did plan it, before he'd go to town, I think. 'Cause I know they had their pencils and papers and they'd be working. I'm sure she got her two bits worth in most of the time, you know. (laughter)

172 CK: How did you know how to preserve food?

MS: To preserve food? How?

CK: Um hum, how, and did you (do it)?

MS: How? CK: Yeah, how? MS: Used to can it just like we can it now, only I think they put, uh, kettle--open kettle is what they call it. Put it in a kettle and then poured it in the jars and lots of people still do it that way. But I 176 always put mine in a jar and cold-packed it. But she canned quite alot of food that they didn't can--she didn't can vegetables. And I don't think many did at that time but, ah, in my time, now ah, alot of people canned vegetables. I've never canned vegetables either. Because I'm always half afraid of 'em and, um, you know that they do get that uh poisoning.

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From vegetables, sometimes. I had a friend who just canned gallons and gallons of vegetables.

183 CK: Did you have a pressure-cooker?

MS: No. She canned them in a boiler and I never knew of anybody getting sick on anything she ever canned or things spoiling or anything. And she used to--she worked so hard. Some people worked so hard. My family didn't work as hard as lots of people. Because, ah, well. The people lived down below us, on ranches that raised gardens. We didn't raise too much garden, really, because, ah, there's lots of alkali through on that ranch and there was a lot of things that wouldn't grow very good. Couldn't raise potatoes there because of the alkali. But we'd always have a little garden in the summer. Like radishes and lettuce and a few things like that. But, ah, we didn't raise potatoes and we didn't raise lots of other things that maybe other people did. But these other people, down below Mackey--they were really quite people too. And they really knew how to manage better than--I think they made about the most money, I think, almost in the whole country. They came here and had a big family and one woman's feet were growin' like this (gesturing).

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Course, she'd worn too small of shoes. They'd go to town and buy a year's supply of shoes for all the kids. If their feet grew, they grew down in the shoe and couldn't go any farther. And so, they, ah, this woman had terrible feet. I never saw such feet. And she told me that. That her father--her father, especially, was a really fine man, I thought. And I think that old lady run that place, too. Fact, I'm sure she did. 'Cause she worked hard and so did he. But they always came to town dressed up. They really looked nice. He was a real good-looking man but she was kind of a short, fat pillow lady and she was kinda--I think she had quite a temper and I think. I think alot of women run the man, which is alright. But I think it can go both ways, sometimes. But, uh, they had everything. They really had this lovely garden and all these roasts and meat and just canned everything. And had the best meals you ever saw. And they had a great big house--they had a lovely big house and it used to be alot of fun to go there. It was like the old pictures years ago--they used to show a Thanksgiving, you know, with the fat old lady sittin' at the end of the table and turkey in the middle. That's the way it was to go down there. But they, they really. All those kids worked so hard. They all worked hard but I think they had a kind of a nice life. Think they got along pretty good and, ah, I think they were quite happy. And we were too. I don't think--I didn't think

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that it was bad. Just like I say, we didn't know any better. But one day--I often think, when kids come home from school and they don't know where their parents are, there's not a meal on the table and there's nobody around and prob'ly the house is torn upside-down. That happens in alot of places, not just to poor people either. I always knew when we come home, that my mother and father would be there. And dinner would be cooking someplace. Fire'd be burning. And I used to love that. An' still do. I like to come home and find somebody there. And I can't help if one of my kids nowadays wouldn't like to come home to that.

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CK: Yeah. That takes--it's a whole different atmosphere.

MS: What you say?

CK: It's a different atmosphere.

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MS: Yes. They're gonna grow up til they won't know--I don't think alot of 'em know what home is now. My daughter's husband, his father was a doctor and his mother was a nurse. And when she married him, I don't think he knew what it was to have a meal. She said he'd only go to the 'fridgerator and get a weinie and a piece of bread and butter or something like that and have a meal. She had to teach him to like to eat meals. And of course, I think meals and family, people

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visiting and talking about what they're doing, I think that's worth alot. It was to me and I've often thought I wonder what I'd have done if I woulda come home and there'd been nobody there. And I wouldn't have known where they were and I wouldn't have known when they were gonna be home. I'm sure that woulda done something to me. 235 'Cause I always remember, ah, sometimes my mother and father both cooked at a time and sometimes she cooked dinner and alot of times he cooked dinner and I think the reason-- he liked to cook. And I think one of the reasons that he liked to cook was because he'd traveled around so much himself and knew what it was to come home real hungry and not have anything to eat. So he liked to have something cooked when he got home, so if mother didn't get it done, he did. Most people...didn't have too bad a time. But, ah, alot of 'em had a kinda bad time, hard time, and didn't get along very good and that, but I don't think people had as bad a time getting along 'cause they didn't have so many things to fight about.

245 CK: Yeah. What are some of the things that you did to help your family? I mean, when you were growing up?

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MS: Oh, I washed the dishes, always. I always washed the dishes, mopped the floors, and I cooked quite a bit. We had a hayman, and ya always helped cook for haymen. Lots of times, I got so I wouldn't vary anything and could cook for the hayman. And, uh, I never done much washing, but done ironing.

250 And, uh, I guess that's all there is. We had horses to ride and, uh, I used to be tickled to death to see people coming. Just tickled to death to see a buggy coming up through the fields with some people with bonnets and things on and look like women in there--and kids! Tickled to death!

CK: How far to your nearest neighbors?

MS: Oh, not very far. Prob'ly half a mile. But there weren't too many of them. Kind of a little nest, you know, and then there'd be quite a few miles to somebody else. It was about twelve miles, or fourteen maybe, to Houston, before they built Mackey. I remember the railroad coming to Mackey.

260 And, uh, most everybody went to town, that day, to see the train come in. It was school day, so we didn't go. Kids stayed in school. Everybody went to see the train come in. And then they had a mine there too. And I always remember when that mine closed down. I never forgot that. They opened that mine and it really boomed that little ol' town.

It wasn't open very long until it closed down--allat once,

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the mine shut down. I suppose I didn't know it was gonna shut down. I imagine people knew that probably it was gonna close. So, everybody went to town, after the mine closed. And people were all over, getting ready to move out. And they left their houses, and people bought houses for four hundred dollars. A two bedroom house. And that mine/never did start again. At Mackey.

272 I think there still may be ore around there, but they've never re-opened that. It must have brought in alot of money, and I expect somebody lost alot of money too. It was a big smelter, and it really boomed, spreading houses.

CK: And Mackey is down near Blackfoot?

MS: No, it's quite a ways from Blackfoot. It's, uhm, probably two-three hours drive, I think, in a car from Blackfoot. It's, ah, near Sun Valley. It's about forty miles, maybe, from Sun Valley. You've been there?

280 CK: Yeah, we went down to Boise, uhm, and then my husband picked us up at the airport. And we went out to, ah, his wife's mother's and father's ranch. And stayed there, and then we kind of rode out from there...

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MS: And where was the ranch?

CK: Um, King Hill.

MS: Oh, King Hill. That's not far from Boise.

CK: And then we went up around and we went into Sun Valley.  
It's like a different world.

MS: Yes, my, that Sun Valley is. You go back into the hills  
and see all buildings they've built and all the new homes  
they're building back in there. You should-- didn't you just went right by  
this old city out there in the mountains?

CK: Yeah, we went around...I guess the major part and saw all  
the different houses. There're houses that are different  
from any that you see any place else. And all together.

292 MS: Yeah, it's all together. And condiminiums and just everything.  
And they're just buying that country down there, just  
buying it up like mad.

CK: And now, where is Mackey in relationship to that?

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MS: Well, there's a, you know when you get to Sun Valley, there's a summit but I don't think you went over it. You can go over that summit right into Mackey. But, ah, you probably went around by Arco. Is that the way you went?

CK: Um...I remember the name Arco but I don't really recall going through it.

MS: Remember Challis...Salmon? CK: Oh, no, we didn't go through Salmon.

MS: Hm...and you didn't go through Blackfoot either..?.

CK: We went through Fairfield on the way out. We went kinda up...

MS: Oh, oh, you went through Fairfield and then there's a little ol' mining town I think you go through, a dilapadated ol' mining town on that road. Used to be, I understand.

CK: Well, my husband and men went looking for some old mines. And we found a place where there was oh, one or two old mines. But we never did see any--it didn't look like much of a community. So we, you know, we saw the mines and stuff.

MS: [Some unintelligible conversation with another person, briefly in the room.] She thinks she's gonna have to go for groceries with me. I didn't get to see her last night to tell her--

311 I wanted to tell her so she wouldn't come over to get ready to go.

CK: Yeah. Um, could we get some of the personal data, that is

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the front and back of a sheet. And it's, you know, just to verify your relatives and things like that. And I think it's really important, like Debbie, she wanted to go back and trace the family.

MS: Um hum. My family record from my father. We can't get much on my mother but we, my father's parents came from England. <sup>318</sup> And, of course, they were in the civil war and the whole thing. (unintelligible) not the civil war--the revolution, the revolution. Oh, my father--they were in West Virginian\* so they were really with the North. They withdrew from the South, West Virginia did, but ah, my father was twelve years old in that civil war. He used to tell us about that war and what they did and all the things, you know, it was so bad. Carpetbaggers and the whole thing. And I used to, oh I used to worry about that. I used to go out in the old <sup>328</sup> outside toilet (chuckles) an' get scared to death, thinking about a war. Fraid we'd get in another war. And I go back and say, "Granpa do you think we'll ever get in another war?" (He said) "No, I don't think so. We're gonna be too civilized to ever get in another war." So I'd be satisfied with that. But I'd still worry about that. And of course, all through that time there were wars. And I had wars to think about, that Russian and Japanese war, Spanish-American war, so I

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340 never got rid of thinkin' about wars. Then the first world war came and scared me to death. You know, I heard my father tell about this draft and how they drafted men for the revolu, ah, for the civil war. And I think 'how horrible!' To think they'd draft yer husband yer brothers and father-- how horrible! When they come up with that draft, I just was scared to death. My husband didn't go because, ah, it never came to--he was passed for because of being on the farm. But if they'd a fought very much longer, I think they'd taken him too but he didn't have to go. I was scared to death-- my brother went. And I had an uncle that fought in the revolution er not ah civil war I mean the (unintelligible)

CK: Which war had the greatest effect on your life?

354 MS: Oh the first world war. I was very--the revolution bothered me because I was just so young when I used to hear my father talk about it and I'm sure it impressed him alot because twelve years old, you know. And so he used to talk about that alot. There was quite a few old -- there was a world war veteran or two around there that fought in the revolution. At that time there were quite a few, that was there when we came to Lost River. And we'd get together and talk about war and talk about news--when I started to school, I knew more news than any th'other kids. Used to hear all these

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old fellas talking about the war and about everything else that went on. School used to take this little magazine, I've forgotten what we called it, now, kids used to read that and I always knew that, all of that, before I ever got that.

CK: What was your father's name? MS: Parsons, Robert Parsons.

CK: And when was he born? MS: Hm...I'll have to...get those papers.

362 CK: If you can't give the exact date, that's okay. We'd just like to have an idea, but if you have it all written down 'cause I'm gonna want your mother's date of birth.

MS: Well, let's see. I'll tell you how to figure it out, anyway. I'm seventy-three and he was about forty-five years older than me. He was about forty-five when I was born. Hm... I've got things in here, but it'll take me a little while to find 'em. CK: Okay, so he was probably born around <sup>1857</sup>~~1847~~.

MS: Mother was twenty-nine when I was born. Maybe I've got it over here.

CK: Do you know the day? MS: My mother was born on March the 22nd, but I'm not sure of the year. Every time I look for this...

CK: You were born in 1902? MS: um hum. CK: And the date? the month?

MS: Oh, May the 19th. CK: And you were named Parsons? MS: Um hum.

CK: And you were born at Mackey? MS: I was born above Mackey about twelve miles--Mackey was the post office though.

385 CK: Did you have any nicknames? MS: Nickname, no. Just plain Mae.

CK: Do you have a middle name? MS: Ada Mae, but I never use the Ada much. CK: And your mother's maiden name?

MS: Her name was Celia Wilmont. C-e-l-i-a. She taught school for

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ten years before she came out here.

CK: Did your father and mother ever kid about the fact--didn't you say she was from the South?

MS: Yes, she was born in West Virginia. Both of them were. She was born near Elkins and my father--there's a town store in Elkins called Parsons, West Virginia.

400 CK: And where was your father born?

MS: Parsons, I guess. I saw something the other day at Chink river? Cheek river! Cheek river. He used to talk about the Cheek river all the time, you know? That place where he was born was right close to the Cheek river.

CK: Okay. Your mother was a teacher and then she was, what? A ranch wife.

MS: She was teaching and she was, ah, boarding with my father's parents, right close to the plantation where his grandfather used to live. He used to play with the little negro slaves.

409 And he used to tell about 'em selling the slaves. He said that, ah. Well, I think his son must've gotten along good with the slaves and he never believed in slavery. And he wasn't, um, (unintelligible) He always took up to the negroes. He always thought slavery was terrible. And he said that he'd seen them sell a slave and he'd play with these little kids and they'd sell a slave--the mother or the father or the children. And he said it'd be such a terrible day--they'd have a negro sale and people bid on these negroes. And took the parents or whoever. Took them someplace else. And maybe they'd get a better place and maybe worse. They'd be separating whole

families. That is the worst thing he ever saw. But then alot of folks didn't have slaves. They were different. People, ah, I think about that sometimes. They just were quite a bit different, I think.

425 Part of my father's. My mother's people were teachers, more. No, ah, there's teachers in my father's family too.

I guess my father's family maybe had more money. That's probably it--that they had these slaves. So I kinda had something in my mind that made me think they were just a little different. But I went back there and I met some of them; I met my mother's brother. But there wasn't very many livin' when i was there. Well, I can't find that (the family names and dates on paper) and I know it's right here in big letters. I can pick it up some days and just find it like nothing. But I can't find it--doesn't matter anyways, I guess.

CK: Well, got 1873--around there--for your mother. And 1857 for your father. And I'll put question marks here. What was the month and date for your father--his birthday.

437 MS: Let's see--his was--it was May the 30th.

CK: Got three names written down already. Um...the date of your mother's death?

MS: I think she died in...I don't know...1930, I think.

CK: The year that they were married? MS: 1891, there's no doubt about that.

Mae Sibley

MS(cont): They were married in 1891 in May and I was born in May after that. Don't need to worry about what time I got here. You can find out alot of things on the record sometimes. They were married a year, just a year, about a year. I was born the 19th of May and they were married in May. CK: You said 1891? MS: In 1891, May.

450 CK: And you were born in 1893? MS: 1892. CK: So you are eighty-three?

MS: Eighty-three, um hum. CK: Okay...(writing it down)..there.

MS: Momma didn't die in 1930 either. She died about thirty-six years ago. CK: Okay. It'd be about... 'bout thirty-nine.

MS: Um hum. CK: And the date of your father's death?

MS: Well, he died in, I think he died in February and I think he'd been dead about five years, probably, when she died.

463 CK: Okay, your father's occupation or job? MS: Well he was a... I guess you'd call him a rancher. He had cattle and he had a ranch. CK: Okay, and your brothers and sisters names?

MS: Ah, my sister's name is Clara Parsons Walker. And she was born 1892, November 17th. And I have a brother, Wayne Parsons, I don't know where Wayne is. But he's about <sup>seventy</sup> forty-eight. He was born, ah, in 1894, I guess. And my other brother is Dale Parsons. D-A-Y-L-E, Dayle. And, uh, I think he's (unintelligible). CK: Okay, your husband's name?

MS: Clifford Sibley. CK: Did you call him Clifford or Cliff?

MS: We called him Sibb most of the time--that's what everybody called him. But ah, Cliff was his name. They used to call him Cliff all the time--he came to (unintelligible) and they called him Sibb and he went by the name of Sibb all the rest of the time. And he was born in 1892. CK: The place of his birth?

MS: He was born in Utah. I know the name of the place, but I can't think of it. It's just barely a spot in the road now. Sortin' through, the other day, some things and I found that and I think I threw it away. CK: The date and place you were married? MS: Oh, we were married above Mackey, a few miles from where I lived. And we--I was married in 1911.

500 CK: The month and day? MS: September 20th. CK: Oh--I was married on September 22nd. Hm...and the date of his death?

MS: Um...he died in 1964, I think. CK: His occupation and jobs?

MS: Well he was buildings and grounds supervisor for the Kellogg school, and he had been for a long time when he died. Supervisor  
512 buildings and grounds. No, wait...he died in sixty-eight. What did I say? CK: Sixty-four. MS: Sixty-eight.

CK: Your children's names, and the date and place of birth and their occupations? MS: Well, ah, Helen Sibley--Helen Mae Sibley and she was born in 1915. May the ah...June second.

CK: Okay. Did she ever marry? MS: She was a nurse. Yes-- she's married; her name is Sader. CK: S-a-d-e-r?

MS: Uh huh. [yes] CK: Okay. MS: I should put that Butler because she's been married twice and her children--she  
524 has a son by Butler. CK: Okay, but right now she's Sader?

MS: Yeah, she's Sader now. CK: And the place of her birth?

MS: Mhm, she was born right in Mackey. And the other one, Sybil Lemich, she was born in ]9]8. And she's a --[interrupted]

CK: How do you spell Lemich?

MS: she's a...I don't know what--they prob'ly--what they called an office worker, a clerk or something. She clerked in stores, kept books in stores but she's been married a long time and she hasn't worked for anything since she had, ah, music, she's worked in music quite a bit. But ah--  
537 why don't you put that down for her?

CK: Okay. How do you spell Lemich?

MS: L-e-m-i-c-h.

CK: Okay. And her place of birth?

MS: It was Hailey, Idaho. You remember going through Hailey?

CK: It does seem a little more familiar.

MS: Yeah I think you had to probably go through Hailey to get out of Sun Valley.

544 CK: I'm not really sure but that sounds familiar.

MS: You mighta just gone through there and not paid much attention at first.

CK: Yeah, we were not really familiar with that area. But you see signs on the roadside even though you don't go through.

MS: That's right--sometimes you see them. And you can remember it when you're young. I'm getting so I can't remember.

550 That's one of the real bad things about me anymore.

CK: Let me be clear on this--you just have the two children, right?

MS: Yeah, um hum. CK: How many great grandchildren do you have?

MS: I have four great grandchildren. CK: And how many grandchildren?

MS: I have two grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

CK: Okay. This isn't really important as far as the sheet goes, so I'll just write them in.

560 MS: I was gonna tell you another thing that used to happen years ago. I think there are alot of men that didn't have any training for anything. They lived in the East and they came out here and there wasn't much for 'em to do alot of times. Some of 'em got out and really found things and some of 'em didn't. And I can remember three or four of 'em committed suicide over there. And, uh, they used to have one, specially big cattle ranch there, and one time they had a hard winter. And they had, I guess

cattle died all over the country. And they still, the oldtimers still talks about the hard winter. I can't remember that. But I can remember the Kims that had this big ranch and all those cattle. And these fellas used to come out here and most of 'em had a horse and saddle. And, uh, I guess they'd go to this ranch and they'd stay there because there's no place to go or nothing better and I think these fellas just let 'em stay. And they'd stay 'til I guess they thought they'd worn their welcome out and then they'd go somewhere else, fool around. And, ah, just didn't--there just wasn't anything for 'em. And, ah, there was, um, let's see--one called [unintelligible]. I don't know whether he shot himself or what he done, but he used to come down here and go to sleep. He'd sit there and go to sleep. And he had a real stiff hat--and it had a kinda beady thing around for a band. And he had a horse that had the big, uh, oh I can't think what you call it. Goes over the shoes. If you've ever seen it--the kind from the stirrups of the saddle and it comes down. Hadda a big, like a big leather thing you put your foot in. And it's just about this shape [gesturing]. And you find your foot there--it just looked pretty, that's all. And then he had...you know, just because I want to think of these things, I can't. They have this thing that goes around the neck of a horse and goes down to the cinch here.

Goes around his neck and sometimes they got alot of fancywork on 'em. Comes down here. And the bridle has alot of work. This guy had all this on his horse. And his hat. And I used to like to see him ride off with that outfit 'cause it was just real pretty. But he'd come and stay all day and pull his hat down over his face and sleep. Half the day he'd sleep--called him Real Hazy. And, ah, he shot himself or done something. He just either didn't feel well--I don't know what was th'matter with him to kill himself. And 'nother one hung himself up there by a bridge. And, uh, forgotten, there was another one that took his own life--I can't remember what he done. And then there was one came up to see his girlfriend, one night, and I 'magine she didn't wanna marry him because he didn't have any--know what he'd of done with her if he'd of married her. And he took ladinum when he killed himself. And then there was another fella that, uh, his wife was post-mistress and she was, uh, some such a [unintelligible] as Martha Washington or somebody like that--she was a real pretty woman, but quite old. And he took ladinum [law-di-num] too. And, ah, CK: What is that? MS: Ladinum--it puts you to sleep. So used to--I think they used to use it to put people to sleep and they used to put it in liniment, because you put it on and it'll stop the pain. If you got pain, like arthritis or something. I remember my mother had a great ~~big~~

big bottle of liniment and it was marked "Ladinum" on it. That's what he took, I can remember that. And remember the morning that they come out and told us about it. And they said that they tried to get him up, and they whipped him with towels--I never forgot that 'cause I wasn't very old--and they couldn't bring him to. But that's that many people I can remember that took their own lives. 625 And then I thought, 'Well, we're all the people who can get out and know what to do for themselves, and there's some people that just gets discouraged and they don't know what to do.' So I could imagine that poor old guy that come up there to see that girl and I guess he thought, "Well, there's nothing for me," so he took ladinum too. That many--I've often thought of that. How hopeless it must've seemed to them. There was no jobs and they'd just go and stay with--they used to come to our house quite often, some of those fellas, and stay. All of them had stayed at our house except this man that was--that his wife was postmistress. And they were quite prominent people. There's Easley Hot Springs down there--it's named after them. Down there right close to Sun Valley. [Unintelligible] so they were really quite prominent people but he drank. And I think he just, <sup>thought, "well, it's</sup> "no use, can't quit it." And he had this nice wife and a few nice children, and then, well... There's lots of sad things

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about that. There's one of them I think for alot of people, I think it was hopeless, and still is alot of places. People are kinda the same, you know,

CK: Yeah, but it's really strange that you knew, just within a few years, that many people who did that. I mean, you know now, I think I've heard of a few people who lived, oh, maybe within a mile of my house, or went to the same school or something like that. But, you know, not that I was living in personal contact with them.

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MS: Well, that one man's name was Roe Haden, had that beautiful riding outfit, and one was Higgy Hubbard. And there's-- I said Easley, didn't I? The other two of them, now I can't think of their names. I don't think there was too many years between them, unless Mr. Easley. I think he was maybe quite a little bit later than the others. But he was probably--he had whiskers clear down to here like this. I used to think those were so terrible. I used to think it was awful for people to go around with whiskers, now here everybody goes around with them worse than they used to, I think.

CK: Don't you think it looks nice on some men?

MS: Oh, some look alright with them. But I still think they look better without them. This, ah, Gene that's on the Today show, I was looking at him this morning. And I thought, "I wonder what in the world he looks like. I wonder why he's got all those whiskers. I wonder if he looks awful without them or why would he cover himself up like that?"

CK: You probably wouldn't know him if shaved.

MS: No, I don't think you would. He might be real homely, maybe he's homelier than he is with them. I don't know.  
(laughter)

CK: Do you always watch the Today show?

MS: Um hum, quite a bit.

CK: Are there any other T.V. shows that you like to watch?

MS: Oh, there's alot of educational things on T.V. There's alot of good things on there. I usually watch this one that comes in from Spokane. You know, on seven. I watch some of that, quite a bit of it. Then there's three plays that I watch--soap operas, they call them. Alot of people

think that they're for fun, but I think they're quite educational in a way, too. They show you how alot of people live and, uh, how they solve their problems and I think there's quite a bit to learn from them.

688 CK: One thing that kind of amazed me is, um, the one-lives you occasionally see in them. [Unintelligible] so that they do bring issues that are <sup>real</sup> whole problems and they bring it to life. And it exposes more people to those types of thing. But I just--I remember when I was little and they would be on and I thought, "People just were not like that!" Well, they're <sup>within</sup> one family and you ~~just~~ don't have that many divorces and people who <sup>die of something like that,</sup> [unintelligible] you know, just within a few words. And it usually doesn't happen like that. But there's some people in there that I'd worry about.

702 MS: Yes, I've been shocked at lots of things. But, uh, nothing is gonna shock me too much any more, I don't think. But I--my mother never--I never knew much about--she never gossiped before me and she had books all around for me to read and I knew--you can read alot of books about sex and still don't know too much about it. And alot of kids see alot of things and people think they know alot about it and they still don't either, I don't think.

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And, uh, for--she'd never tell me. She never told me herself because I think she didn't know how but she had all these things for me to read and I, I ah, I read alot about alot of things. But twas real good for me to know.

CK: What types of books did you like to read?

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MS: Did I then? I read everything when I was a kid. Mother always had books when I <sup>on every/</sup> <sup>thing.</sup> And so I always used to read. I was the only one of the kids that did. But I read everything--still do.

CK: Is there anything that you like now, as a favorite--any types?

MS: Hmm...I read just about everything I can find. I think I've read all the things. I read religious books, I read good books about the government, I like to read books about people. Older people--I like to read biographies real well. I always like to read them. And, uh, I like to read stories too. And now, uh, like this--right now I'm reading this, um, let's see. [Unintelligible]. I've got this one that I've decided yet to read in this magazine. The Joshua Tree. I'm kind of [unintelligible] but not reading it. (walking around room) Then I was going about these the other day--this is what I read, everything.

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This is about the modern life and modern way of living and (laughter).

CK: Oh, that's interesting.

MS: They are kind of interesting, yeah. Way people do. They said the other day, you know, that, uh, that um, some were shocked at Mrs. Ford and I said [speaking to someone who has entered the room during this comment] "Shut the door, would ya babe." ] I said, "I wasn't shocked at it. I thought 'twas real good deal what she said." Anything happen to her daughter, which it could. They're human too, I think it's good that people find out the president's human. The better off they'll be too. And uh, I thought, well, that was a real smart thing. Anything did happen to her daughter, she surely would wanta talk to her and do the best she could by her. She wouldn't be much of a woman if she didn't.

CK: Well, did you hear the two women on the Today show who were talking about that interview and one of 'em saying, "Well, he shouldn't have asked that question."

MS: No, I didn't.

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CK: The other woman said, you know, "Well, she could've just said the question wasn't in good taste or something like that, and just put him off. And yet she probably didn't want to put him down and she really wanted to be honest."

MS: Well, that's about I'd say what she said.

CK: Well, I didn't see her and I just saw that other interview afterwards.

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MS: Well, I didn't hear her say it but I read it. But I thought, uh, you know, just years ago, <sup>people,</sup> /their pride was hurt real bad when something happened to their daughter. And specially a lot of men. Their pride was really hurt if anything happened to their daughters and some of 'em used to just turn them out and just wouldn't have anything to do with them. People used to treat 'em terrible. And I think that was-- always did think--that was terrible. And I still do. So I thought it was kind of a nice thing that she said, well, if it did happen to her, then--and I don't think she should think that it, that it might not. Probably they didn't think what happened to Nixon would happen to him either. So, ah, they don't know what might happen to their daughter, so I thought--when she first said it, I was kinda shocked and then I thought, well I think that's alright. Because, uh, not that I think--I'd feel real bad

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if it happened to my daughter. She would too. Anybody would. Some people don't, I don't think, but most people would feel real bad about it. Then if it did, you can't let your child down. That's not the thing to do. Maybe you should get about it a little, but I hope it never happens. But if it does, it should.

CK: Well, you know, I tend to think that most people would think--that that's in the back of their mind and if we she kind of left it as dead that...

MS: Um hum, um hum. Well, I thought that when she first said it, when I first thought of it, too. And then I thought, 'Oh, I don't know. She's a kinda down to earth person anyway.' So I think maybe it was alright.

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CK: Um hum. Ah, can we go back to the personal record? Um...Your education?

MS: Mine? I had one year of high school.

CK: What type of school did you go to?

MS: Well, it was a, uh, an average type of high school. But they only had two years of high school in Mackey when I was there. And that was--they hadn't had that very long.

think I  
I don't think--I remember--I/was about the, ah, I was <sup>the</sup>  
third eighth grade graduating class. And about the  
third time that they'd had a graduating class in the  
eighth grade.

815 CK: How much education did your mother have?

MS: I don't know. She--I know she went to a teachers', ah,  
"institute" she called it. Teachers' institute. She  
had to go every year or so. And then she had, ah, her  
little certificate that she got every year. Had the  
grades on them and the kind of, ah, first, second or third,  
I think, grade. [Unintelligible] first, second and third,  
I think, grade. The best was first, second and third.  
But I don't think she went to college. But I think she  
went to a teachers' training school and I think she was  
a good teacher. Because, uh, I was just taught so much--  
830 she taught me. I was in second grade when I started school.  
And uh, she--so she got my sister and got so busy with  
kids she couldn't do anything with us anymore. She didn't  
have that much time to start, and she spent quite a bit  
of time with me, I think. And I know she taught me real  
thoroughly what she did teach me. And I have letters  
from people that said they went to school to her and that  
she was a good teacher. And then her sister, I think, taught  
one of the first years of school that was ever taught  
around Mackey. She came out here after my parents got married

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 and came out here. My father brought his nephew and another man with him. Friends, I guess. The other one was, ah, he was my father's brother's wife's nephew. He brought those two young men out here with him. And of course got married out here. But my, ah--this nephew stayed with my mother and father. And ah, who knows, my mother's sister came out here I guess to teach school-- and they probably had something else in mind too. But she came out here to teach school anyway and then she married this nephew of my father. And she taught school at, ah, just a little ways from where we lived. A little ~~of~~ country school.

861 CK: What do you think about the changes in education?

MS: Well, <sup>sometimes</sup> frankly I think we're missing something in education. I don't think people--I think we should have--be taught a few things we aren't taught. There's an awful lot to know and I'd like to know a lot of it. But I do think alot of people don't know how to get the most out of life and [unintelligible]. And it'd be nice if they knew a little bit about raising children. Some of them do but some of them don't know a thing about poor little kids. And a little bit more about how to spend money. How to manage a home. I think there should be a few courses like that someplace. They do have, um, <sup>physical</sup> ~~political~~ culture-- not <sup>physical</sup> ~~political~~ culture but ah, what is it when they teach

sewing and all of those?

CK: Home ec.

882 MS: Home ec, yeah.

CK: But they don't do--well, at least in the first courses, they're more interested in cooking and sewing and not so much in financial. MS: No. CK: They leave that to the math courses that are business math or the math courses for the people who aren't going on in Math. If you're a Math major, you kind of skip over the financial parts of those things that are offered.

MS: I think with alot of

[Break in tape]

CK: Yeah, I don't ever remember one of my home ec teachers and I guess I took too many. <sup>once</sup> One in junior high and <sup>once</sup> one in high school, saying anything about stock from bone, you know, and I just kinda picked that up on my own. I was reading my cookbook. And my mother, I don't remember ever doing it and I don't even remember my grandmother doing it, though she cans just constantly in the summertime. And, uh, shelling all the peas and things for that. But I don't recall them making stock from bones. And I started doing it 'cause it's really good.

914 MS: It is good--it's real good. There's alot of things,

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cooking things and [unintelligible] that you learn when you have to. We didn't have to be economical at home when I was a kid. We weren't wasteful at all, but if we needed anything we had it. But when I first got married and the Depression came along, I tell ya, I learned how to stretch food out and did a pretty good job of it. Because you better or you're (laughing) not gonna have it, that's all.

CK: What were some of the things that you learned?

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MS: I don't know now, <sup>while</sup> you want me to tell you. You want to know and I can't tell you now. Ah, um...it's hard to think now. You always--of course we had lots of game, for one thing, and there's lots of ways of cooking them if you want to change them a little bit. And of course we had potatoes and meat--if you wanted to stretch that out a little bit, you could make stew out of it and make meat loaf and cook quite a few potatoes and put quite a lot of bread in it. But just to cook, the only way you could do it would be to [unintelligible]. because I know this <sup>because</sup> ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ <sup>xxxxxx</sup> of being around other people. Lots of times, I could think, well, I can just make that go so much farther. And this woman that I--these people who canned all this food, they were the best cooks, and knew how to make food go along ways. But I did too.

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But just right now, this asking questions, sudden, how  
I did it..we had a cake that we used to make with coffee  
and raisins, no eggs in it. And my kids still like that  
cake better'n any other cake. And making an apple cake--  
put an egg in, and grated raw apples in it, and now  
can't remember what else was in it. I've got the recipe  
though. But alot of things like that 970

END OF TAPE

the time