

INTERVIEW SUMMARY-TAPE INDEX

NAME: Mimi Smith
DATE OF INTERVIEW:
LOCATION:
INTERVIEWER: *Comie Richard*
REEL NO.:

TAPE MINUTE	MANUSCRIPT PAGE	SUMMARY OF CONTENTS
0-18:10		Personal Data Sheet. Advantages of living in rural area. Comparison between rural and urban living.
18:11-24:59		Raising children. Childhood activities - girl's club when young. Courtship - reasons for marriage. Expectations of marriage. Medical services during childbirth - during children's early life.
25:00-33:57		Discussion of medical services and schooling for child with Cerebral Palsy.
33:58-44:17		Decision on having children. Religious beliefs on birth control. Childbirth and child raising knowledge. Discussion on dealing with a cerebral palsy child -- available services in the area.
44:18-54:30		Future of children - role of children today. Recreation. Support of family. Church and community activities.
54:31-62:01		Life in rural area - suggestions. Current interests. Decision-making in family. Discussion of small town life.

END

CR: Is Mimi your nickname, or is that your real name?

MS: It's a nickname.

CR: What is your real name?

MS: Marie.

CR: Do you have any other nicknames?

MS: No, I don't think so. I can't think of any right now.

CR: What was your maiden name?

MS: Zagelow.

CR: What was your date of birth?

MS: February 25, 1944.

CR: And place of birth?

MS: Moscow.

CR: Have you always lived in Idaho?

MS: Yes.

CR: You were born in Moscow, so that would be your first residence?

MS: Yeah, we lived here though.

CR: Most of your life?

MS: Yeah. There was no hospital here then, so we went to Moscow.

CR: What was your mother's maiden name?

MS: Krick.

CR: Did she have an occupation of any kind?

MS: She worked at a match factory here in Bovill and she's been a housekeeper and babysitter.

CR: Do you know your mother's date of birth?

MS: 1915.

CR: Was she born here?

MS: No, she was born in Uniontown.

CR: Do you remember the year she was married?

MS: She was married when she was 26, so that would be about 34 years ago. So it must have been about '41.

CR: And your father's name?

MS: John Zagelow.

CR: Occupation?

MS: He was master mechanic for PFI.

CR: Is a master after a journeyman? Is that one of the union steps?

MS: Well, I don't know. I think he was just sort of a head mechanic and he just supervised the other ones. He worked at several different jobs in the woods. He was on a cat for a while.

Then he worked in several different shops up here and finally they made him the master mechanic. He supervised all the work up there. They repair all the equipment from the woods and that type of thing.

CR: Do you remember the year he was born?

MS: 1905.

CR: Where?

MS: Here, I think.

CR: And he's still alive?

MS: No.

CR: When did he die?

MS: 1965.

CR: Did you have sisters and brothers?

MS: Two brothers.

CR: What are their names?

MS: Rick and Tom.

CR: What is your husband's name?

MS: Lesley.

CR: And what is his occupation?

MS: He's a machine operator, he operates a 980.

CR: Does he do that with the company here?

MS: Yeah, PFI, the Potlatch Corporation, I guess it's called now.

CR: Do you know the year he was born?

MS: 1944.

CR: And place?

MS: Port Orchard, Washington.

CR: And date and place married?

MS: We were married here in the Catholic church in 1962.

CR: Is that the year you graduated?

MS: Yes.

CR: Okay, I need each of the children's names and the date and place of birth.

MS: Michael was first, June 13, 1963. And Randy, and that was on October 7, 1965. Diane, and her's was June 6, 1967. And Brent, and that was October 2]. I've got one of those down wrong. Randy was '64, Diane was '66 and Brent was '67. I'm sorry.

CR: That's okay. Have you got a high school education?

MS: Yes.

CR: And your husband?

MS: Yes, he does, too.

CR: Do you have any kinds of skills or any handwork or anything you like to do?

MS: Yes. I like to sew and I crochet a little bit, but I don't do either one very well.

CR: Anything else? Baking or cooking?

MS: Well yes, both of those. I like to bake, not particularly cooking; ask my husband, I'm a terrible cook.

CR: Anything else that you can think of that you like to do?

MS: I like to decoupage, that type of thing.

CR: Have you ever had any kind of job or have you stayed home with the kids?

MS: I did work at the First Security Bank in Moscow as a book-keeper for about a year.

CR: Any other interests, hobbies or talents?

MS: I was a secretary for the United Cerebral Palsy group in Moscow.

CR: Any other groups that you belong to?

MS: I belong to the extension club up here and the St. Joseph Altar Society and the Fireman's Auxiliary. When you live in a small town, everybody belongs to everything. And the PTSO, I think would be about the only other thing.

CR: What's that?

MS: It's taking the place of PTA here. It's the Parent Teacher Student Organization.

CR: Oh, they include the students now?

MS: Not too many of them come, but it is kind of good because a lot of the times you can get some good ideas from the students.

CR: It's really nice that they can be included in it. When you grew up, we would consider Bovill a rural area and I wondered if you see advantages of living in a rural area over living in an urban area?

MS: Oh, I think so. The schools are small, I like that. With Mike, I know it sounds like there would be lots of advantages in the city, but I think there are here because everyone knows him and they accept things so well. I think that's quite an advantage. The people kind of stick together more and they will help you more. You don't have to worry as much about the kids. There aren't as many things to do as there would be in the city, but they can be on their own a little bit. They can go around and not have to worry so much about bike riding.

CR: How would you compare the life of a rural woman with that of

an urban woman? Thinking of you as a person, the kinds of things you do, what you like?

MS: I wouldn't imagine there would be too much difference, except probably there isn't as much of an opportunity to work or maybe attend classes or something for someone that lives in a smaller town or a rural area.

CR: How does your family life now compare with your family life when you were growing up?

MS: I don't know, it's somewhat the same, I guess. I think we go a lot more than we did when we were kids, we didn't go nearly as much. My mother didn't drive, for one thing. We didn't do nearly as many things. Of course, the school through the eighth grade was up here in Bovill then, and now starting in sixth grade they start going to Deary. I think, by and large, it's about the same.

CR: Do you think your attitude as a parent is anything like your mother's might have been?

MS: Not too much, I don't think really.

CR: Are you raising your children pretty much the way she raised you?

MS: I think maybe we are a little bit more lenient, but not too much more.

CR: Does your mom live near by? Are you close with her?

MS: Oh, yes. She lives in Moscow and works at the University. We are real close.

CR: Can you describe some of the things that you did when you were a child?

MS: We liked to go bike riding, swimming. My brother almost drowned out at Camp A one time, which wasn't too much fun. The boys were both in Cub Scouts. The girls, there were several of us, had a club and we used to try to make things, make some kinds of scarves so they would know we were part of this club. We had this kind of log cabin thing out here in back. It's been long gone now, but it was in the same house then and we had more fun in that thing. It had a brick floor and we had little posts. We painted it red.

CR: That was like your own little playhouse.

MS: Right, real tiny, but we had a lot of fun in that.

CR: Okay, we want to talk about now when you were dating and

and when you got married. Can you tell us what dating was like for you?

MS: Well, one thing that really impresses me that's changed is that the boys dance now. It makes me laugh when I think about it now. We danced together on the slow ones but the girls dance together on the fast dances. That's changed quite a bit. I think it's improved a little.

CR: Did you go to a lot of high school dances?

MS: Yeah, we had sock hops and record hops, an awful lot of them, usually on Friday night or Saturday night we'd have one. Of course, we went to all the ball games and that was lots of fun.

CR: Did you meet your husband in high school?

MS: No, well Lesley started the first grade with the same group of kids that I went all through school with. Then he moved about two years later and then came back once during grade school and then for the whole high school time. We didn't start dating until the last part of our sophomore year, we dated a little bit, and we started going together during our junior year.

CR: Can you tell us some of the reasons why you got married?

MS: I don't know. I wanted to go to school, kind of, but I didn't know exactly what I wanted to do. We just decided we wanted to get married. Luckily, he had gotten a better job. He was driving truck for Potlatch then. He wanted to wait until he had a better job. He was working for Potlatch Timber Agency in Elk River and he didn't make very much -- room and board and about \$200 a month or something like that. Then, when he was making more money and got to work for Potlatch for a while, we decided to get married.

CR: What were your expectations before you got married? Did you have any expectations?

MS: Well, not exactly, I think. Well, we were pretty young when we got married and you always think you're going to have things one right after another and things would go great. Well, we soon found out that things do go wrong. It has been interesting. We didn't expect to have our kids quite as fast, but that was all right, too.

CR: What medical services were available to you when you were having your children?

MS: Well, we went to the doctor in Moscow and that's where I had all four kids, at the Moscow hospital. They have improved things quite a bit. Mike was two years old before we could even

get a diagnosis on him, but he had cerebral palsy, and I think that's been improved quite a bit now because they usually diagnose it a lot earlier than that. They just kind of put us off for a while.

CR: Do you think if you lived in the big city you would've found out sooner?

MS: Possibly. There wasn't even in Lewiston or Moscow, there just wasn't that much to know about, I don't think. They just kept sending us from this one to that one and nobody really wanted to say, I guess.

CR: Were they afraid to tell you?

MS: I don't know. There were so many things that he couldn't do and they just kept saying that I had a premature baby, which he wasn't. But, because he was pretty small and had problems breathing, that's what they said, that he would be slow. But, by the time he was two, he still couldn't lift his head and hold his head up or sit alone or anything like this. So then they wanted us to go to Crippled Children's Clinic; I finally pinned our doctor down and he said to take him to the Crippled Children's Clinic in Lewiston. So we did that and he was seen by Dr. M_____. He came up from Boise every other month, I think he came up. He's a neurologist and so he diagnosed him as having at least average

intelligence, but as definitely cerebral palsy. So, at that time, of course, we didn't even know what it meant. He was the only one, the first one that told us what was wrong. So then we started therapy.

CR: Did you know what to do afterwards, then?

MS: We went through the health department in Moscow and the health nurse really set everything up. Dr. M_____ made recommendations that he needed physical therapy and then speech therapy, so we started going to the courthouse in Moscow for physical therapy and there was a physical therapist to work with him there and eventually, he was transferred to the nursing home there. When he was three, we started going to WSU, to the speech and hearing clinic for speech therapy. And the students over there worked with him under the supervision of some of the professors. We did this once and we usually ...

CR: Does he go once a week or every day?

MS: No, he doesn't have any physical therapy at the moment, but he does get speech therapy through the school up here once a week. There is a speech therapist that travels around. There are five schools districts and the Moscow district that she goes to, Genesee, Potlatch and several different places and she also comes to Troy, Deary and Bovill.

CR: Do you think once a week is enough for him?

MS: Well, I don't know. I think it would probably help if he had it a couple more times a week. He did spend last year at Boise at the Elk's Rehabilitation Center; they had it everyday, five days a week. I think that did help him a great deal, but there's really no way that you could work it out without him missing a lot of school. And they thought it would be best for him to spend this year up here again. Eventually we're hoping to get him to go to school in Jamestown, North Dakota. It's a school for the handicapped back there. It's supposed to be one of the best in the United States. That would be great if we could do that.

CR: Are there scholarships available that would let you do that?

MS: If we could get him in under the age 18, the school district has to pay for the registration and all that. They have to pay the cost of that. We'd have to find our own money for travelling and so forth.

CR: He would live there, then?

MS: Yes. In Boise, it's just a school for cerebral palsy. Unless you are there for surgery or something, they don't want you to live there. So, they have to find foster parents which

they hadn't never found any foster parents until Mike. There just wasn't any foster parents available that would take a handicapped child. But, this time we got quite a bit of publicity and they did have ten families who applied, so it was really fantastic. And they picked the one that they thought he would feel most at home with and they are really fantastic people. They have four children of their own. A girl, 13, and then a boy, Tad, who's the same age as Mike, and he's legally blind, and then they have twin girls.

CR: Is he going to do that then?

MS: Well, they wanted him to stay here; that was their recommendation, that he return to school and go to a public school. I guess they thought he would get a better education, that it would be better for him to be around normal children, too. This is what we're going to do for a while, at least, and I'm sure he'll be going here again. After that, we'll have to just kind of take it as it comes and see what works out the best. He doesn't type at all and that's one thing he learned to do down in Boise.

CR: He can actually type?

MS: They tape his fingers down like this.

CR: Can he type sentences?

MS: Oh yes. It's a special typewriter that has a plate over the top of it.

CR: Does he have to memorize the letters?

MS: This is not one of his better sheets; this was at the first of the year. He does pretty well. He does a lot better than that now.

CR: He did this whole line? "I am Mike Smith from Bovill, Idaho."

MS: Yes, he's writing a book about his life.

CR: Really?

MS: Yes. He says he's writing it because he wants everyone to know how he feels. So, this Mrs. Wind who is an aid in the fourth grade room in the afternoon was really helping him a lot on the words. But, the ideas are all his own. Of course, I supplied some of the facts because he couldn't remember some of the dates and things like that. But I think it's going to be kind of neat. I think there's 10 or 12 pages that he has typed. He has to make a rough draft first. This is his foster family. George is Japanese.

CR: He has stayed some time with them, then?

MS: He stayed when they were evaluating him, he stayed the whole month of October in the hospital part and went to the school, the Rehabilitation Center. They said if they couldn't find a foster family, even though they could accept him, he was accepted to go there, they'd have to send him home because it costs \$70 a day to keep him in the hospital, so naturally, it would be too expensive to do that. So he spent the rest of the time from October till the end of May with the family. They are really fantastic people.

CR: What factors most affected the number of children you have?

MS: They were all surprises.

CR: Was there not enough birth control available to you then?

MS: Well, I am a Catholic and my husband isn't, so we really had a problem there. Finally, after Brent was born, I talked to one of the priests and he agreed that I could use birth control pills, so that helped. Until that time, it was a religious thing.

CR: I understand that.

MS: It's going to be a little bit easier being a Catholic.

CR: Yeah, just find the right priest.

MS: I talked to several, you know, and this one was at the Parish Renewal and I think he was a lot more liberal than others.

CR: Where did you get your knowledge about childbirth and child-rearing? Was your mother very open about telling you?

MS: Well, I think she was, if I would've asked her more. She told me, she told me the basic things and if I had any questions to ask her, I was too embarrassed to ask her. But, we did have a sociology course in high school where I think we learned. It isn't the same as the ones they have now as I think they have improved them a great deal, but that helped some. We had Home Ec where we studied discipline for children and this type of thing.

CR: In your work with cerebral palsy being a secretary, I'm just really impressed with the way you handle Mike. I wondered if you have ever advised other mothers who have children with cerebral palsy, the best ways to handle the children?

MS: Well, not really, but there are a lot of more books out now. I think you learn by doing it. This is what we're hoping this group will do. They just started this fall in Lewiston. This is one of the things we are hoping to accomplish is to get together so the parents can talk if they have a problem or something that maybe someone else has done, and I think we can all

learn from that. It helps, too, because even the doctors don't know about all the services that are available. We're just finding out some of them ourselves that we didn't even know existed. So, I think that this group will really help.

CR: Will you go down to the Lewiston group once in a while?

MS: We have meetings once a month. We did miss a couple this winter because the roads were so bad. There's another lady in town that has a mentally retarded boy who has cerebral palsy, too. He's very slightly affected physically, his balance is a little bit bad and his coordination is a little bit off, but toehrwise he has good physical control. But, we get together and go down to the meetings. Not too many parents are coming and we are hoping to get more. But there are a lot of other groups. Parents of exceptional children, I think it is, and parents of retarded children have a group, too.

CR: Is Mike considered an exceptional child?

MS: Well, he could be, I guess, but, see, he isn't mentally retarded. They wanted us to join that group for mentally retarded but this was mostly for mongoloid children and things like this, and it's kind of a different problem, really. There are surely children who are cerebral palsy that are also retarded. But you teach them in different ways. It's a lot of different things.

CR: I'm divorced and my husband is an economist for the Council for Exceptional children in Virginia. He calls periodically and I'm tempted to ask him if there are any services available for you out here that he could find out about because he's at the headquarters for them. He might know some things. I'll have to ask if I can remember the next time he calls again.

MS: This is the thing. It's amazing that there are things if a person just knows about them. This one lady in Lewiston, I was just really amazed because her boy is 17 or 18 and he's had no therapy whatsoever through the whole first part of his life. Now he is getting some but it's too late -- his muscles tighten up and they grow this way. Especially with, well, Milke has very little drastic movement but the spastic ones, the muscles are so tight, if you just leave them that way, they grow that way and you can really have some problems because eventually the muscles get hard the there's nothing you can do.

CR: What are some of the things you need? Like, could I find out if scholarship money is available to send him down to North Dakota?

MS: Yeah, this would be a help.

CR: Are you more concerned with services coming to your area?

MS: Well, we are hoping that we can get more services to the area. That's one of the big needs now; there are very few recreational opportunities that these kids can do. They're trying to get a pool in Lewiston, but then this is still quite a ways, you know. We're hoping Mike can go to a Camp Easter Seal camp this summer. We just found out about this. Even this school in Boise, the Rehabilitation Center, it was fantastic school but it's a shame they can't have something like this in northern Idaho because there isn't anything. The closest is Spokane and they don't accept people from out of state.

CR: Have the teachers here in Mike's school ever had a workshop in how to handle exceptional children?

MS: No. I think a couple of them had some special ed courses. I don't think they have ever specifically worked with cerebral palsy children.

CR: He's coming out in July for about ten days and maybe that would be when he could find out about this area.

MS: Another thing that concerns me is so many of the doctors don't know anything about it. I don't know. They try to get the doctors from this area to have a workshop but United Cerebral Palsy was going to pay for it, you know, pay their way down and stuff like this and they couldn't find anybody that would go.

Now they have talked to Dr. Thorson who's an orthopedic surgeon, he did Mike's surgery. He said that having known earlier, he might have been able to arrange to go, but the rest of them weren't interested. They sent out cards and things to them and they wouldn't even answer the cards.

CR: I know a lot of them are really busy, but you would think they would explain themselves.

MS: This is one thing we wish we could get is someone who can diagnose. The earlier you can start with it the better it is. There just isn't anybody around that knows that much about it. At least no one that we have been able to find yet. There's no specialist for anything like this, not here anyway.

CR: What do you see as the future for your children?

MS: I'm hoping they'll go on to some kind of school, if not college, at least some kind of a training school, a business college or something.

CR: Would you like them to stay around here, or would it matter that much?

MS: Well, I wouldn't mind if they stayed around here, but I wouldn't want them to work in the woods, and I know my husband

sure doesn't want them to.

CR: Do you see that sort of a trap here? I mean, when youngsters grow up, they go into this without looking at other possibilities?

MS: Yes I do because once you have several children, it's really hard to get out. You have a layoff in the spring for at least two months and in the fall, so it's just really hard to get out. Some families have and, but they had to struggle. You have to take a chance trying to do it. I just think it's much better to have a steadier job. My oldest brother went to college and now he works in Portland as an engineer. I think he really has a lot of advantages, maybe that you wouldn't have living here. It isn't so much as living here; if there were more job opportunities and things, but there just isn't that much. I would hate them to be gone too far.

CR: They could go to the University of Idaho; that wouldn't be too farm.

MS: This is what my mother says. They could come and live with Grandma.

CR: Has the role of children changed since you had children?

MS: I don't know if I can answer that one.

CR: What do you do personally for recreation or relaxation?

MS: Eat. We like to get together and have barbecues with other families, like in the summertime. In the spring, there are a couple of families we are real good friends with. We like to make a stew and everybody brings whatever they want to to put in the stew and make a big bonfire and play baseball and have a lot of fun. Usually, it's kind of wet; we can't wait for it to dry out so we can get out. We usually do that for fun. I really like to go to movies.

CR: Do you do anything by yourself, or is it mostly family recreation?

MS: We like to ride bikes and things like that. Some of the clubs I've belonged to. We like to go shopping once in a while. We don't usually have money, but we can do a lot of looking.

CR: Thinking back, what are some of the things you have done to support your family? This question is written because many farmers' wives do canning and sewing. They don't bring in any money but they alleviate having to buy things.

MS: Oh, I do some canning and sewing. I babysat for a family

that had four kids so that their mother could work out in the woods with her husband.

CR: That must have been hard. Did she bring them over here?

MS: Yes. It wasn't too hard. They are about the same ages as our kids so it wasn't too bad.

CR: Did you get paid for that?

MS: Yes.

CR: Has there ever been a time when you had the major responsibility for the financial support of your family?

MS: No.

CR: Have you ever thought of what you would do if something happened to your husband?

MS: Oh, yeah. I think everybody thinks about that sometime or another. I'd probably try to get a job, maybe in a bank again. I'm not really trained for anything else. I did have a little shorthand and bookkeeping in high school, but that was a long time ago. You forget more than you ever knew about it.

CR: Would you take a refresher course and try to get a job?

MS: I would probably have to move because I don't know if I could stay here and meet all the finances.

CR: Are there any other church activities or community activities that you are involved in?

MS: I collect for the Cancer Society, the American Cancer Society. I guess just about everybody works on the same things up here. Oh, the Fireman's Auziliary has done several things; we've put on dinners for the Lion's club. We painted the picnic tables for the Bovill picnic. Things like that. I used to work up at the schoolhouse in the kindergarten room for part of the day and the first grade room.

CR: Has anyone ever tried to get other industries in here so that you would have more job opportunities?

MS: I really don't know. I think they try to encourage it a little bit, but I don't really know of anything specifically that they have done.

CR: Do you think that's something that's needed?

MS: Yes, because there is just the lumber industry and I think

it definitely is needed.

CR: Have you ever displayed anything in the county fairs?

MS: No.

CR: Do they have a county fair near here?

MS: In Moscow.

CR: What suggestions would you give a young women that would best prepare her for farm life or life in a small town?

MS: I really don't know. I wouldn't know what to tell her.

CR: Were there any adjustments that you had to make as a married woman? I guess you're not really lonely here.

MS: We lived for about a year in Lewiston after we got married, and I was a great deal lonelier there because I didn't drive at that time very well, and you just didn't really have much to do. I think try to get them to join some of the clubs and things like that. There isn't not that much to do individually, although some of the women do have a bowling league that they belong to. You can go over to Moscow and bowl. I would think just try to get out and meet people and get involved in the community as much as possible.

CR: Are people pretty much accepting to new people that come in here?

MS: I think so. The youth group here visits a lot of the newcomers and takes around a paper that gives the names of the clubs and who to contact if you want to get involved in the different churches and things like that, which I think really help. I think the people here are pretty friendly.

CR: Do you get any magazines or newspapers here at your home?

MS: We get the Idahonian and the Lewiston Tribune. Reader's Digest. Of course, we make good use of the Bookmobile.

CR: Does it come right down the street here, or do you have to meet it somewhere?

MS: During the school year, it comes up on every other Wednesday at the school. About three o'clock when the school is dismissed it goes down here to the Shell station so that the other people from the town can take advantage of it. Usually, that's where it is.

CR: Do you use it for your children or do you get books for yourself?

MS: Both the children and I do, too.

CR: What TV programs do you watch?

MS: I like "Rhoda," but I can't watch it because [unintelligible] is on now. I like "Police Story" and things like that. I usually like lighter kinds of programs, although we do like some of the documentaries and things. "Wild Kingdom," the kids like that.

CR: What are the most common things your husband will ask you about?

MS: Sometimes like buying a car or when he changes jobs and things like that.

CR: Do you talk about it before you make a decision?

MS: Yes, usually.

CR: When it comes to discipline with the children, does he take part in that or is it mostly left to you?

MS: He does probably about half of it. I do it, of course, during the day when he's not here. When he's here, we try to decide things together. We try to stick together on it, but sometimes we don't see things alike.

CR: This last question is asking about your decision to live in a small town. I think I've got an idea from the things that you said. It was just the most convenient thing for you to do -- you grew up here, right? Was there any other reason for living here?

MS: Well, I think we just kind of liked small town life and it is easier for the kids in a lot of ways and we have good friends here if we need help. Last year, Brent had to have an eye operation and Mike had to have a bone fusion on both of his elbows and it was really fantastic because there were so many people who offered to help with the kids.

CR: Did you have medical insurance that covered those things?

MS: Yes. Boy, we'd really be fouled if we didn't. I think we did really consider moving. Especially when we thought Mike would be going to the school in Boise. But then, we are getting so we can see a lot of the same things are coming to northern Idaho. We just think that with jobs and everything, we would have a better chance here because Lesley isn't really trained for anything else except for the wood work.

CR: Does he like his work?

MS: Pretty well. He's been on this machine for a year now and he likes it better than anything else he's ever done.

CR: Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your experience as a rural woman?

MS: I've never thought of myself as a rural woman, I guess. Okay, I can't think of anything.