

The following interview is of Bernice Sullivan made July 15, 1975 in St. Maries, Idaho. Dale Anderson is doing the interviewing.

DA: Let's start by getting your name.

BS: Bernice Sullivan

DA: Your maiden name?

BS: Stohlmann

DA: Nicknames?

BS: I don't have any.

DA: Date of birth?

BS: March 26, 1931.

DA: Place of birth?

BS: Adams, Massachusetts.

DA: Locale of first residence in Idaho?

BS: St. Maries.

DA: And where did you live before coming to St. Maries?

BS: Adams

DA: Approximate year of arrival in Idaho?

BS: 1952

DA: Mode of travel?

BS: I flew

DA: Companions on trip?

BS: None

DA: Your mother's maiden name?

BS: Helen Mogul

DA: Date of birth?

BS: I don't know when my mother was born; she's 26 years older than I am.

DA: Ok, 1905 does that sound right?

BS: Probably, her birthday is Feb. 5th.

DA: Place of birth?

BS: She was born in Adams.

DA: Date of death or is she still living?

BS: She's still living.

DA: Is she in Massachusetts still?

BS: Yes

DA: Do you know the year she was married?

BS: She was married five years before I was born.

DA: Her occupation and jobs?

BS: We just always lived on a farm.

DA: Farmwife?

BS: Yes

DA: Your father's family, his name.

BS: Arthur

DA: The date of his birth?

BS: He was about ten years older than my mother.

DA: 1895, the date?

BS: Nov. 25

DA: Place of birth?

BS: Adams

DA: Is he living?

BS: No, he passed away, I think he died three years ago, it was in May.

DA: His occupation or jobs?

— BS: *farmer*

DA: I have two sisters and one's name is Helen

BA: Her married name?

BS: Storey.

DA: The other one?

— BS: *Sylvia Gardiner*

DA: Are they back in Massachusetts?

— BS: No; I also have one brother, his name is *Jack*.

DA: Your husband's name?

BS: Edward

DA: Date of birth?

BS: 1911 May 7.

DA: Place of birth?

BS: *Chicobee Falls, Mass.*

DA: The date and place you were married?

BS: Here, Feb. 15, 1958

DA: Your children's names and the date and place of birth?

BS: Ok all of them are in here. Travis is the oldest one, Sept. 25, 1959.

Todd, Sept. 24, 1960, Kent, July 2, 196². Louise Jan. 11, 1965;
that's it.

DA: Your education?

BS: I have a BS at the Univ. of Massachusetts.

DA: In what?

BS: Nutrition.

DA: Skills?

ES: I taught school.

DA: How long did you teach?

BS: Six years.

DA: Any other jobs?

BS: No

DA: Your interests, hobbies and talents?

BS: I sew, that's my luxury for myself, I'm a 4-H leader.

DA: Have you ever won any awards, honors or ribbons, have you ever displayed anything at county fairs?

BS:

DA: And you've gotten ribbons for various things?

BS: Not so much here but throughout the time because here it's mostly with the

kids, 4-H work but we take things to the fair and we take them to the Spokane fair.

DA: What sorts of things are they?

BS: Our livestock, our garden stuff and our canned goods. Mostly the things that are in connection with 4-H.

DA: That takes care of that, you can go over that or you can just start telling me about your life, whatever.

BS: I guess I consider living in a rural area an advantage because I've never lived anywhere else and I don't want to live anywhere else. I guess if I wasn't happy about it, I suppose I might think of somewhere else. I think it's the only place to raise children; first I don't want three teenage boys out on the street and it gives them a lot of opportunity to be outside and to learn to work with their hands. I have great hope that if they learn to keep baby animals and things like that and feed things before they feed themselves, they'll take better care of their families when they get up to be the age to have them.

DA: Have they mentioned whether later they would like to live in a rural area?

BS: Right now they say they wouldn't trade with anybody to live in town. I think sometimes job opportunities would be better. We've got a cow that's going to have a calf right away. A lot of the people that live in rural areas don't have to work much harder than people who live in town because right now there's a pressure of paying. The cows got into the sheep last week and we have this large garden and everything like that keeps you much more tied down with much more fewer choices as what you do with your time.

DA: Do you can a lot of your food?

BS: Yes and I have a dehydrater and I dry it, too.

DA: Do you freeze anything?

BS: I freeze more than I can.

DA: What kind of dehydrater do you have?

BS: One of those electric floor shelves, it works really well, I got it last fall. I haven't used it as much this year but I'll have it for the summer.

DA: I'm gonna try getting into that.

BS: It's a good thing because you don't have to have

BS: Our family life here is almost identical to when I was a child. There were four of us, we're almost just exactly the same distance apart in ages and we did a great many of the same things except when I was at home, it was a dairy farm, mainly. We took the same kinds of things in 4H and had a lot of the same opportunities and took music lessons and did basically the same things that we're doing with our children. There weren't very many differences there. We've never had any free time, it didn't matter where I lived. You got up and milked the cow and did all the regular routine things. There wasn't such a thing as to sleep in. My brothers and sisters and I were all in 4H and the only way we got to see anything or do anything was through trips in 4H and by achievements that way and earning things to do.

DA: Did you go on a lot of trips?

BS: I was on judging teams which was the time I got to go to Boston, which was a really big thing and I got to go to Virginia to the East Conference, things like that.

DA: What did you think of Boston?

BS: It was a real big thing because eastern Mass. and western Mass. where we lived were very very different from each other in the way people talked and you've probably heard the way the Kennedy's talked, well the people in our part didn't talk that way. So it was a really big thing and of course they had the subways and a lot of things that we never really heard of so it was a really big deal.

We were expected to go to school, I never questioned it. My mother and

and father did not have an education there was never any consideration. It was almost as though you were predestined to go to and everybody did.

DA: Do you expect that of your children too?

BS: Yes, they've been saving all of their egg money and milk money and things like that so that they'll be prepared as much as we can.

DA: They take care of the chickens and things?

BS: Yes and the profits are theirs. One of them take care of the sheep and one of them the eggs and one of them milking the cow. Like this fair too, there's profits in that. The same ways that we did it.

The things that are available now are the same things that were available when we had our children at the hospital.

DA: Did you husband deliver your children at the hospital?

BS: Yes It was sort of not the thing to do at the time.

DA: Why did he do it then?

BS: Because we wanted to, there was no law, it was just customary that doctors didn't deliver their own wives children.

DA: Was it natural childbirth?

BS: At the time they had that stuff that you could strap on to your wrist that I did have in case I needed it, they didn't have those lamaze lessons or anything. But I had babies very very easily, when I had one pain, we'd go to the hospital as fast as we could go. It was no problem, I had two pains with Louise and it was never any big deal.

We have lots of things to do, it's always like this, there's just no good time because if there isn't one thing, there are three others. Thursday I have to take Kathy to the plank, we're having a livestock thing down at the fairgrounds, it's for the whole county. Monday was demonstration day and Plummer for the little kids and today it's for the big kids in St. Maries . We wanted a large family; now that we have boys that are 13, 14 and 15 you wonder if it was such a good idea, occasionally. But

we are surviving. I think I got my knowledge about the children basically from my mother but you get some it from college and then when you teach school you learn things that you don't want to let happen to your own.

DA: I can believe that. When did you teach school?

BS: When I first came out here; I taught two years in Seventh grade here and then in Plummer I taught for four years.

DA: And what did you teach?

BS: Here I taught English and History and the things like spelling and social studies and all them sort of things. And Plummer I taught English, United States History, Biology, all the home ec courses, coached the basketball team, you know some of the time. Three of the years that I taught over there, you had to do everything because there were all women teachers.

DA: Did you like teaching?

BS: Real well.

DA: Do you plan on going back into it later?

BS: I never considered it seriously, but right now we just couldn't manage the time and I had gone through with my class over there from freshmen to seniors and they ended when I ended about the same time and then we had Todd so there was just no way, except in case of emergency.

I don't know how anyone could predict the future with grandchildren the way the world is moving right now.

DA: Some of these questions are different age ranges.

BS: I hope by preparing them to raise livestock and the garden and to help me with all of the things that we do with like preserving the vegetables, like if those things will help prepare them; like I taught one of the boys how to sew on the machine and everything. They'll be able to take care of themselves regardless of what comes up. I've talked to my mother about that because all of her other grandchildren are city children and whether it was realistic to be as rural as we are, she thought they had a better

chance of adjusting probably since city children would be in cases of calamities and people or disasters or whatever there might be.

DA: She's right

BS: Last year we had a program on everything that would grow in this area and a few things that we experienced with so they could see that maybe there were a few things that will survive if there's a weather problem. We're also gonna have that trouble this year, too if the weather has been so unusual. One of them is raising peanuts and we have all kinds of strange things down there.

DA: When did you plant the peanuts?

BS: Kent planted them like the instructions said when it was warm in the end of May and then it got very very dry and they didn't come up good. We don't know what we're going to have, we have twelve peanut plants.

DA: I brought some peanuts back from Georgia and they are still in the

BS: They are started, we have two Okra plants, we have odds and ends down there. We have also done a lot of companion planting, Kent is doing a demonstration on it this afternoon, how they like each other and how they dislike each other. We might not be able to walk in the garden but we have it all crammed in.

For recreation, that's kind of a bad question. We can never all get away at once.

DA: Do you and your husband just get away by yourself?

BS: We have never have since we had children, not even one time. Last year the kids all had to be done at the same time for three days and that's the first time we've ever been in the house without them. We ain't gone no where without them, neither. We enjoyed it so much that this year we sent them all away for a week. It was terrible with the chores. It took me two hours in the morning and two hours every night but it was so quiet and peaceful that we could just hardly believe it so we let it happen

that way this year, on purpose. The April school vacation I took the ~~two~~ two little ones to Disneyland. Mike was going to take Ross to Canada for three days. We told them each to take up something that would take three days and we would try to sandwich it in. So we don't think Todd is going to get his three days because he's already been to Washington D.C. and a 4H trip to a conference which was all by himself and now he is in a college in Spokane for two weeks because he's on debate training because he's on the high school debate team. So when he gets home he's gonna have to work and catch up on other things but his choice was to go camping up in the woods somewhere and the forestry will go for one overnight so that's just going to have to do so everyone will have had their three days, except I don't know when I'm getting mine. But last year in October I went to the Univ. of Idaho with the debate team and chaperone the girls for the debate coach and that's the first time I've ever gone anywhere by myself like that. So we have been pretty much at home.

DA: You didn't mention how you and your husband met.

BS: I met him through 4H and I knew him for a long time before we got married. I got married, I guess because we wanted to.

DA: Had you always thought of yourself as being married?

BS: You mean beforehand?

DA: Yes did you see yourself as being a married woman?

BS: Oh yes, I thought I was gonna have six children. My life now is so much like my life when I was growing up, there's no major change. It wasn't as though I dreamed of one thing and did something completely different it was like one routine things except in a different place. We lived in a valley, we it just ran the opposite way. We lived opposite mountain in Massachusetts, which is the tallest mountain in the state. Our house looked out like this does and it's not that different, even though it's completely across the country.

BS: What did I do thirty years ago, I was fourteen, I was just in 4H doing the same thing our 14 yr. old is doing now, except milking more cows, doing the haying, gardening, canning and the sewing.

If I had to I could go back to teaching school there would be no problem with that.

I used to teach Sunday School but I don't anymore.

DA: Was it just a time limitation?

BS: Yes. I'm not as enthused about the church program right at the present time as I was then. At that time we were very good friends with the minister but that wasn't the reason I did it. Now circumstances have changed at the church and also if we do too much living as far out as we do; the kids are trapped at church for a very long time and that's hard for any 13 yr. or teenage boys to do and still retain the desire to go to church or Sunday School or anything else, if they stay too long so we don't want to wreck that. Because our church involvement has been much less, however, our children's activities have increased recently. I guess it was the first and the third one then all of them got in the Nazarene churches, music program because they have an outstanding music program. They were going to Sunday School in one place and a music program in the other and they put on a economical musical cooler furnace which was really tremendous. So our whole Sunday was really tied up with all of these things, because they practiced for that in the afternoon.

DA: Is there a difference now with church activities and when you were growing up?

BS: I sang in the choir and I taught Sunday School then, I guess not. We did more or less the same thing. There were quite as many different things to do then, there was more the routine things. I think there is more variety now, there is more youth program here.

I don't know how anybody that didn't ever live on a farm could ever prepare

prepare themselves to live on one? Without being there; my main responsibility is getting everything born, the only thing you can do is be present at 400 births before you feel at all competent.

DA: You think it takes that long?

BS: I have very involved births sometimes, our goat had problems this year. It take a lot of time and a lot of experience.

We have a dairy cow, horses, lots of sheep and a goat and pigs and chickens and turkeys. The only way you can know what to do is to have been there.

DA: Do you butcher your own meat?

BS: Usually one of the neighbors does the butchering because we're chicken. We help take out all the insides.

DA: Do you wrap your own meat?

BS: There's a place here you can go and they cut it while you are there and then wrap it up while you are there. You need all sorts of expensive tools in order to do a really good job. We don't go into that but we would if we had to.

We do get the newspaper now, up until the last year, we didn't ever get the Spokane paper but now we do we always got the local one.

Magazines we get a farm thing, The Idaho Farmer, THE Goat Journal, Sports Illustrated, the boys and horse magazines. I don't think we get anything that's non agricultural except Sports Illustrated. I don't watch TV except one thing in the morning. I watch the Today show and eat breakfast if I can manage it so I'll get some news. The school bus comes about 8 o'clock and that's my luxury if I can watch a little bit of that.

DA: Do the children watch TV much?

BS: Not this time of year; lately we've been working in the garden till 9 when the weather was good.

DA: Do you have any restrictions on how much they watch?

BS: There is one that you do not watch TV during the day until after supper.

BS: I don't censor it to much anymore, I used to more when they were little.

DA: What do you think about the variety of TV shows that are on?

BS: That's kind of hard for me to answer because I watch such a limited amount myself. Once in awhile they might watch one of those detective type of things but they're not up late enough to watch movies or anything. I think a lot of it I have seen, they could just as well leave off. Our kids read a lot, they watch Tv and read at the same time so they're not to sure of what they are doing. They work on their 4H books and watch. They rarely just sit in here and just watch. It's sort of not the thing to do, they should be doing something else. As a reward, I let them watch if they shell peas. So that's a big thing so it's not such a bad job.

DA: Is there anything you might say about being a doctor's wife?

BS: It doesn't matter, nobody thinks of you as a doctor's wife particularly. First I was a teacher and people know me as a teacher before they knew me as a doctor's wife. I'm just somebody's mother and I never feel that I'm put in a classification and there's not any big, what are those medical type societies that they have in some places, like the auxiliary and all this kind of stuff. I really don't think that it makes any difference to anybody.

DA: Do you have a lot of interruptions in the night?

BS: We kind of have an agreement with each other, I never woke up with the babies and I never wake up for the telephone, so lots of times I don't know, sometimes I do but they take turns so it's not as regular as it used to be when there were only two doctors, then there were lots but now;

DA: What type of doctor is he?

BS: He's a General Practitioner so it isn't to bad.

DA: Did you know your husband before you came out here?

BS: Yes

DA: Is that why you came out here?

BS: Yes

DA: Why did he come out here?

BS: Because he wanted to practice somewhere else and he had looked in lots of different places and this appealed to him.

DA: Have you tried making your own soap?

BS: No we make butter and everything else but we haven't done soap. I have a mill and I grind all of our wheat and I make all of our bread, things like that. One of our neighbors had and it sounded interesting.

DA: It really isn't hard.

BS: Have you tried that?

DA: Yeah

BS: I sew a lot when I can find the time; that's my reward if I get something done then I can take time to sew. That's really hard at this time of year to get any of that done.

I guess everybody else in the family would consider horseback riding recreation and relaxation, I don't but everybody else does. I go to be nice once in awhile but it's not a treat for me.

DA: Do your children groom their own horses?

BS: Right, they all ride in the north Idahonian endurance rides and in 4H competitions and we've all been to the district horseshows, the local ones and things like that; they do a lot.

DA: Did you ever consider living in a city?

BS: No; you know how big Plummer is; I lived there for a little while and Plummer certainly is no city and that was enough. No, I have to be out where I can dig and have animals and do things. I just never ever even thought of it. Once in a blue moon I'll say that living in town would look good to me today when thirty things has gone wrong. When we don't have any water and everything has to be watered. When you're not on

city water something is always happening. Last spring we got a rock in the water supply all it was but in February you have to dig up the whole water system.

DA: Did you help do that?

BS: I didn't help dig but I helped haul water and get everything watered and lead things to the creek.

DA: Do you know all about farm machinery, can you fix it?

BS: No I'm no mechanic, I don't think none of us are. We have to trade with the neighbors for getting things fixed.

DA: Do you mean you trade your abilities?

BS: Yes

DA: Is there any difference that you noticed between the east and the west?

BS: My father was probably a little bit more independent as far as trading with people but he had been a farmer and he was born and he died in the same house. Everything was very familiar to him, that was the way it always was. He *did* his farming and everything with horses. There was less that had to be done; you couldn't do by yourself. Although there was one family that we did a lot of trading back and forth with. Where as here there are probably three or four families that we trade back and forth with.

DA: Did you notice a difference in people?

BS: I think there is a difference in farm people than there is in city people. Pretty basically the same I think.

DA: Is there any particular interesting stories or incidents that have happened in your life with the children or trips or anything like that?

BS: I think most of the things we done rather routinely.

DA: OF course what you say is routine it wouldn't be a routine to a lot of people.

BS: I can't think of any particular thing or any particular place.

DA: Did you build your own home?

BS: No this was an old farm house but we had added on a whole chunk in the front end. He keeps fixing one piece at a time, I don't think we'll ever be finished. Something we do in our neighborhood, there are about four families once in awhile we have gatherengs as to what we have on hand. For instance on hand tools and things like that so that if there was no gas, the rotitillers; what does everybody have that they could help themselves and what could we trade back and forth, what do we have on hand. Once in awhile we have a Sunday meeting just to check up on people and see how we're doing.

DA: What are you depending on the store for?

BS: Oh I can go a long long time without going to the store unless I need detergent. I keep that on hand.

DA: Paper goods?

BS: Right, paper towels but you don't really need to have them but detergent and soap is pretty hard to go without.

DA: What about things like sugar or honey?

BS: All of us have honey stored, that's one of the things on our trading list. One of the people that we're the closest to have bees, we have the milk cow. We try to completment what the others have. The husband in that family is a mechanic so that's what his trading ability is.

DA: That sounds like the way to live.

BS: There's a lot of things that we do for each other that you can't put a money value on. You figure you have to give your time which is more valuable lots of times.

DA: What about carpentry and things like that?

BS: Everybody pretty much attacks it the best they can. We had that part of the house built on but we have done a lot of it ourselves. Then these people that have the bees, the mechanic, right now they're building

their own house.

BS: Then when things are born that's my tradable skill.

DA: I have helped quite a few of the people in the neighborhood that way.

DA: Isn't it with sheep that if the mother won't nurse them and there's a dead lamb that you take the skin off the dead lamb?

BS: Well M a really good mother and we have had sheep for seven years and we have not had a disowned lamb. We had one who had a dead lamb once and we wanted to give her one and all you do is take a lamb from somebody else and stick it in the water like in the afterbirth and we have never had any trouble in taking them that way. It's always been very easy to transfer a lamb without going to the skinning process and everything. Just stuck them in warm water and slop them up a little bit so she thinks she had it.

DA: Do you raise the sheep for their wool?

BS: The kind we have are dual purpose sheep and they have a high quality wool but they're also good meat sheep so the kids show them both ways and with 4H. Last year we had a queen size blanket made for each of the kids with the wool.

DA: Do you do your own shearing?

BS: Todd does, right. We used to always have it done but sheep shearers are very hard to come by now. There's an old sheep shearer in the area and he sold his equipment and came and showed him how to do it. He's kind of slow but he gets it done. He considers that his greatest accomplishment.

DA: What do you do with the wool after that?

BS: There's a wool pool in Spokane where the kids in 4H can take it and sell it. Other people can too but they also cater to the children and that's why we had the blankets made last year. The cost was so low as the pool did not sell, store it till next year it's bound to go up but we didn't have good storage facilities. We had blankets made and a coat for Todd.

So it was more meaningful to them.

DA: Has anyone in your family ever tried processing the wool themselves, spinning it or anything like that?

BS: We tanned some sheepskins with the wool on them and we have those in case anyone is ever bedridden or something but it was an awful lot of work the way we did it and we haven't tried it since. But we know a little lady who has taken our wool and she has done spinning and she even sent us a sample of cloth this spring. She's moved to Pennsylvania and she still has us send our wool back there because she can't get any of this quality. So that's kind of interesting because she showed us all the stages and all the time she does something new or dyes it differently she sends it. Louise did that for her science fair project for two years in a row. She did natural dying with plants and this year she won the grand award in Spokane and got a set of World Book Encyclopedias. So she feels pretty good about that.

DA: Do any of the children do any other handwork?

BS: No by the time they get their chores done they play sports and musical instruments, they're in music programs at the school. They do science projects; we don't have any time, they might be inclined. We live a very scheduled life. Sometimes maybe I think they are missing something not having the free time but they're the ones who say I want to do this and this. If you sign up to do it you will finish it.

DA: Have you been back to Massachusetts?

BS: The kids and I went back in 1973 and spent two weeks but we can't foresee ever getting back there. The way things have been going lately. That was before we had a milking cow, she didn't start giving milk yet. She's one of the things that really keeps us tied home because Kent has a big milk cly and tell that he has to take care of. I hope my mother will come out this fall, she's thinking of it.

DA: Did you go back before then?

BS: I've been back probably every three or four years; things didn't get quite as complicated when the kids were little they weren't going to school; it was easy if you could find someone to feed everything. We haven't been back together maybe since Kent was six months old.

DA: Do you go on family picnics and things like that?

BS: In an extreme blue moon.

DA: We're more apt to have people here, like the 4th of July we had a celebration here. It's always a big picnic type of thing and everybody brings their fireworks how many or few they have. We have them put them all off together so we have a display. We always have a big Xmas Eve thing.

DA: Is that family or family and friends?

BS: Family and friends, right. Once in awhile it gets rotated around but we have a bigger house than lots of people but often times it ends up here. On New Year's Eve we always do something so that hopefully we educate the children to have a good time at home rather than think they must go out. Lots during the year it's all most impossible to schedule something that everybody can go to at the same time.

DA: What about fishing and hunting?

BS: Mike doesn't fish or Hunt at all; the kids do a little, not very much. However we are very proud of Kent because the coyote that killed our sheep, he shot. The first live animal you shoot must be kind of scary, they wiggle around a lot; I was amazed. He had taken gun safety in school and he's taking it in 4H and we had let him shoot ground squirrels but that's different, I think. That's another thing that requires time to go somewhere. In the winter hunting season is beyond here that's when they're all playing basketball, probably.

DA: Do you fish?

BS: No

DA: Is there anything else about your life that you can think of?

BS: It's hard to think of your own because;

DA: Did you ever get involved with winter sports?

BS: The normal little things, skating a little and I didn't like to ski. I always play basketball and I coached basketball.

DA: Have they always had basketball teams around here?

BS: Back east they did and then when I came out here to teach, they did in Plummer. They had it from school to school, just like the boys did. And now, of course it's being revived everywhere but it has only been our here in Plummer for 15 years.

DA: How would you compare your education with your children's say up until High School?

BS: We had opportunities to do more things, not specifically of what the school did, and every day things, I don't think there's that much difference there. Like in the science fair things, the kids have gone on trips to Lewiston and trips to Spokane and they do educational things while they are there. That kind of thing they are getting a lot more broader outlook on things. Also they've travelled a lot more on their athletic teams. When I was in high school there wasn't a debate team or anything and I think Todd has gained tremendously from going on that. Our music program back east; we just stayed home unless we went to a basketball game or something in a nearby town because the towns back there are very close. Whereas when our kids go they might go 150 miles to play at a basketball game. The music program had a trip to Southern Idaho this year, they went to Boise. The science fair kids went to Lewiston and Spokane so they have travelled a great deal more than what I ever did when I was going to school.

DA: What do you think about a lot of the new ideas in education?

BS: I think there alright, especially for the kids who aren't having any

trouble in school. Sometimes I think it's a dis-service to the kids who are struggling along with just the basic things. It's harder to adjust to the changes. I used to worry, especially in this theory that all the emphasis or and extra money was spent on the handicapped and slow learners and things, they really have very few programs for fast students, for accelerated ones. If you get involved in music and debate you don't have time for any of that anyway. In a small town like this it's the same kids who do everything. It isn't spread out as much. I know the science teacher was complaining when they have to compete in Spokane, there are good science students in Spokane, their scientists and science students but here they are the same kids who are playing on the basketball team and who are playing the band. Because there are so few kids for so many things. Of course in Spokane most of the kids wouldn't even make the basketball team. Here, they have more time to spend on it. I don't have any complaints about it, I'm a regular attender on school board meetings once in awhile. I cause quite a disturbance over some things.

DA: What do you get upset about?

BS: There building up the school because I was chairman of the bond committee, the bond was passed in December of 1973 and they still have not dug a hole.

DA: Do you like the location it's in?

BS: I liked the previous location better, it was handy, it's closer to us. It had a lot less desirable features. They spent a whole year and a half fighting over that. They changed the location three times. It makes no common sense because we have lost so much to inflation and building costs. I just feel they should of gone ahead and done what they said they were going to do.

DA: Do you get involved in politics?

BS: No, just school politics. I have to get rowled up i order to get in-

volved in political things. I feel very involved in that. Then school is so crowded that almost every church in town could hold a school.

(end of tape side 1)

The new grade school is finished, this year they'll be using the Lutheran and Presbyterian churches every single day. They were using one of the other churches for a special education program.

I don't have a gas shortage before our kids get out of school.

DA: How do they get to school?

BS: They ride the bus; but it's not getting to school and back that's our problem, its the extra curricular things. Last year I drove 28 miles a day just to go to basketball practice and back.

DA: Is there anyone else out here that you could go with?

BS: One family, we take turns with our junior high age one.

In September Todd should be able to get his license and we have an old jeep that he can use and that will help. From the time they get home from school all I do is get people where they're going. To music lessons or to music events; Louise is taking acrobat dancing and we're lucky, our music teacher lives down around the corner from us so when it's good weather they can walk.

DA: Is it singing or do they all play instruments?

BS: They all play instruments.

DA: Do you ever get together and have them play as a family thing?

BS: We usually do that at Xmas but it gets very complicating because one plays in the grade school band and one in junior high and two in the high school and it is very difficult to get music that coordinates everybody on their correct level. A man came two weeks ago and is interested in buying a horse from us, he's taking music composition at the Univ. of Id. for his master's degree so we thought that might be a fun thing to do if he could write some music for us but that may materialize. We have one musical

child, the rest of them just sort of manage.

DA:

BS: I have always felt it was very good discipline if you had any talent or not you would fight it out with the instrument. I have always read the articles to the kids on how if you teach your hands to work on musical instruments it will increase your athletic ability and this was a great appeal to the boys. There are statistics on that; for those reasons and as well for the pleasure that people usually derive from it as they get older. We just thought that music was very important.

DA: How did they feel about learning how to sew?

BS: Oh each boy made a shirt, they didn't complain at all.

DA: Do the high schools here have home ec programs for boys?

BS: I think they do now but with everything else they're doing, they could never fit it in anyway.

DA: Besides they don't need it, right?

BS: Right because they've all had at least four years of cooking in 4H and some basic sewing and there's no way they can get out of helping, when your canning or dehydrating everybody has to help. We made jerky out of a whole lamb last year so we've had a lot of practice making jerky.

DA: Do you smoke that or just dehydrated it?

BS: We dehydrated it. We marinated it and then put it in there.

DA: Is there anything else?

BS: Not that I can think of. So what are you going to do with this stuff now that I have a minute that I can listen.

DA: At present I will be taking those back and I will record them from a cassette to a reel to reel and it will probably be stored at the women's Center until November and that's when the grant is over. They may decide to write another grant so that they can do some writing and some editing. The editing would be like; where you talked about child rearing, we mark it

and that sort of thing. If the grant doesn't do anything it will be in our files and I'll give you a release form. Researchers could go and use it. If your children wanted to go and listen to it sometime, it would be available to them. Probably it would be there mostly for researchers and relatives.

BS: It's a fun thing, I'll bet for you.

DA: I believe that St. Maries is a friendly town. I've met some really wonderful people here. I think the happiest people I've ever met on a whole, have been here. I like to pick up their enthusiasm about life, the way they are living and being satisfied with their life.

BS: That's good. I've thought it's a good place for the kids because the school isn't fancy, they don't provide lots of things. One of my sister's children go to school in Syracuse, New York which is a big town but I wouldn't trade the educational advantages for the just plain living advantages.

DA: I think your children are learning so much.

BS: I'm just so satisfied.

DA: They're learning to do things and that's the most important thing of all.

BS: They learn to many more things other than just study, I think, whereas these city things is more on the book education. They have some very fine teachers here, There are those you are not so impressed with but that will be no matter where you are. If a kid is interested in that particular thing, they'll learn it anyway provided they know how to read.

DA: At the Women's Center we have a brown bag series and a focus series. The focus series is something where we'll have a continuing thing like marriage and alternatives and we have married couples and couples who are living together. Some people have talked about divorce who are separated and widows. We've had lawyers come in and talk about all sorts of things that deal with women but would you be interested in just some time coming up and talking about the life of a rural woman? It's usually at noon and it

would be some time during the winter. Do you think we could plan on something like that?

BS: It's kind of scary to think about but I'm convinced about October and November are months that I can foresee leaving home.

DA: I don't know what is already scheduled yet. I think it will be really fantastic to have you come and talk. It just depends on how many people come. There would be people asking questions and things like that and it's a very relaxed atmosphere. I think you'd probably be relaxed anyway. Could we kind of count on it?

BS: Right now, I would say no; I really feel it's necessary to get more down to earth and be less dependent on stores and transportation. There are a lot of little things that if people knew that aren't that hard.

DA: Have you heard about Carla Emery?

BS: I have looked through her book that the other people have had. I have a big collection of books from the inflation survivor people. So far I haven't decided that I've needed hers because of what I have. However, every once in a while I think about it. I wonder if she's accumulated anymore information than I grew up with. A lot of these things she has learned since she came here.

DA: Her latest book is something that a lot of people are working on at the school that she has written; it's just different survival things. One is a man who has written a book on energy.

BS: Our oldest boy is specially interested in survival foods long before it became a big thing. He was still in grade school when he did his science fair project and on wildfoods and plants in the area. I have to pick it up, it's at the library now on display. He wants to be a landscape architect so he's really interested in plants.

(end of interview)