

This is an interview with Laura Williamson on July 30, 1975 at Kellogg, Idaho. The interviewer is Dale Anderson.

LW: There is no severance tax in Idaho. Like in New Mexico, every natural resource taken is not replacable as a severance tax. The people, then, gain from that. The people own part of this just because it's here. No one mining company owns it just because they made a claim but Idaho doesn't have that and we'll never have that because the mining laws.

DA: We haven't interviewed a miner's wife.

LW: I did for [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]ey at Boise State University, the interview of the mining wives of the sunshine disaster, did you read about that study being done?

DA: No

LW: I was one of the interviewers on that and a lot of mining wives are reluctant to be in the interviewed.

DA: Would you mind giving us some names. I think two of us are coming back next Monday.

LW: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] her husband was in the mines.

DA: What's her husband's name?

LW: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and she's a fascinating person. She has a pretty interesting background, you know lots of hard times. Miner's wives are just as different as any other people.

DA: We planned on getting two or three miner's wives.

LW: It's an intellectual type of thing with most of them. If their husband is a geologist they might of come. Like I know [REDACTED] [REDACTED] has a geologist, she wasn't there last night, but you might talk to her.

DA: Her husband's name?

LW: [REDACTED]

DA: And now [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] is her husband's name.

LW: Are you working on a mastr's degree?

DA: I'm working on a master's degree in math which has nothing to do with this. We'll see what we can do to get a hold of them.

LW: There's another neighbor down here, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] She didn't want to be interviewed as a survivor. Her husband was in the mine at the time of the fire and she didn't want to be interviewed. Her husband was a survivor, he was in the mine and he got out. There were about 117 men who were in the mine and got out and there were 91 who died. Kellogg's has been through a lot. I grew up here and I didn't know anybody who was working at the sunshine closely but I knew a lot of them, their names were familiar and I was nursing my baby and I'd sit up at night and turn on my radio to see if they found anybody and I would just sit there and cry and cry because I had to be awake to nurse my baby.

DA: Did that affect the nursing of your baby?

LW: No

DA: Who is of these people do you think would be most interesting?

LW: [REDACTED] is very verbal and outgoing and has had a lot of interesting hard knocks that she has conquered, a lot of really shattering kind of things that she has risen above. Everybody has a story and they're all interesting.

DA: A lot of women say, "I don't have anything to say" and then you go interview them and they do have something to say. Fortunately a lot of it is said.

DA: Ok can we start off with personal data?

Your name?

LW: Laura Williamson

DA: Your maiden Name?

LW: [REDACTED]

DA: Any nicknames?

LW: No

DA: Date of your birth?

LW: 4-7-41

DA: The place of your birth?

LW: Kellogg, Idaho.

DA: We have all these questions that probably doesn't apply to you, your locale of residence and the year of arrival in Idaho. You were born here so.

LW: I left when I graduated from high school and went to the University and my husband and I graduated and moved to New Mexico and lived there for five and a half years. Then we went to Tacoma, Wash. and then came back here.

DA: Why did you come back?

LW: Because my husband got a job here.

DA: Did you really want to come back?

LW: No, I cried.

DA: Why didn't you want to come back?

LW: I think really deep down the basic feeling I wanted to get out of Kellogg was I didn't like the small town gossiping, everybody knowing your business and I don't like gossip and I think every woman is a potential gossip. Just because of.....

DA: What about men?

LW: They really don't care so much about gossip, it's not interesting to them. I guy came here to witness the signing for our home, they live down the street. He didn't even tell his wife. Now to me, that's pretty interesting. He didn't gossip he didn't tell his wife. They gossip about different things, I'm sure, that are important to them but womanly things I think are a lot different.

DA: My husband doesn't tell me a lot of things but I remember the office was talking about somebody that works there.

LW: I think they gossip but they have different interests and as I say, his wife, I talked to here a couple days later and I said, "didn't your husband tell you I was moving?" and she said, "no he didn't say anything" He must not of thought i was very important. I don't know, but my hus-

band doesn't tell me things that I think are real interesting and juicy but he thinks aren't important. He tells the kind of thing about somebody getting fired.

DA: Where did you want to live?

LW: Oh anywhere; but basically I think I didn't think there wasn't a lot of growth on the hills and stuff like that. I didn't realize about the health factor of the SO₂ and the production when I was little of the SO₂ wasn't such a threat as it is now.

DA: Have you ever thought about moving?

LW: Yes we are trying to move; we have tried to move completely away but the jobs are not there. There are places we don't like, like the seashore where it's terribly damp.

DA: Did you like living in New Mexico?

LW: Yes but we moved away from there because we didn't have any relatives that were close.

DA: Are you close to your relatives now?

LW: No they live in the northwest. My parents live in Seattle, they moved away when I was a sophomore.

DA: Did you stay here to finish high school?

LW: No, when I was a sophomore in college.

But we want to get out, the people are warm and wonderful but the air is coming and Sunday was a terrible example. Our sunflowers got burnt. Our apple trees the leaves just wilted and died.

DA: Was it the heat?

LW: It was the SO₂, that was it. With the lead thing, we have to keep the kids so clean. They came out with a list of things in the newspaper. Wet mop instead of vacuuming, wash your hands before they eat and change their clothes if they've been out in the mud or crud. At least you can do something, you can deal with it but you just get tired of worrying about it.

LW: And you can't keep kids out of digging, they love it. We have a nice sand pile, we brought in new sand, we brought in new rocks, the bunker has given us free and the kids dig down under it. In our sand pile they've dug half way to china, you know. I say don't dig down in the dirt, but they do, that's just play.

DA: That must be hard on them, too.

LW: [REDACTED] said, "mama, is the lead over?" It's never going to be over because it's here, it's six inches deep in the soil and the air still has lead in it, it's five parts per million at the lowest they've been able to obtain. The recommended standard that the government has set is two parts per million.

DA: What's the worst it's ever been?

LW: I don't know what the worst it's ever been. Last year out at the Silver-ton School, which they were thinking of closing, it was 19 parts per million in the air. Anything you breathe is 100% absorbed as opposed to eating you eliminate some in your digestive tract. It isn't 100% absorbed, but the breathing it is 100% absorbed. And Lincoln school where they were going to move the kids was 17 parts per million.

DA: That's not much of an improvement.

LW: Lead is completely different from SO2, two completely different things but I'm one of the few mothers who really worries about it, that hasn't moved. A lot of our friends have moved to Kingston, Wallace, Ogden, Coeur d'Alene and their husbands still work here and somebody told me once that 800 of the Bunker Hill workers live in Coeur d'Alene because their wives won't live here. Number one probably because of the lack of cultural things. Number two the aesthetic lack of green land.

DA: Why is that?

LW: SO2 kills it. The plants are trying to tell us something.

DA: There ~~was~~ ^{were} trees here before the fire?

LW: They used them for mining timber. My grandfatehr on both sides my grand-
parents lived here and I had great uncles that lived here. My parents have
some of their letters. There was a cedar swamp here and the river went all
over this place, it was no specific river bed. It wandered all over this
whole flat area. They made a river channel so the river would stay in one
place so they could build houses and stuff. It was a ceder swam and there
are some real interesting pictures that a man has collected in Mullein
of this whole area and right around the mines you can see where they cut
the timbers to timber the mine. They put timbers up that holds the roof
out. Between that and the fire and when I was little we lived over against
that hill and there was a guy that ran sheep on the hill. You know what
sheep do to hills, they just eat everything. Between all of those things
it really made a dis ster out of this area.

DA: Can we get a little bit information then we'll go back? I'm just fascinated
because I don't know a whole lot about Idaho. It's a great opportunity
for me. What is your mother's maiden name?

LW: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

DA: Date of her birth?

LW: Jan. 24, 1906

DA: The place of her birth?

LW: B.C. Canada

DA: Is she living?

LW: Yes

DA: Year she was married?

LW: It's gonna be 50 years next year

DA: Next year is 77 so that would be '27.

Your mother's occupation and jobs?

LW: She was a homemaker and she was kind of a jani or for the lunch program.
I had three brothers and sisters in college at the same time and she

worked during that time.

DA: Your father's name?

LW: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

DA: The date of his birth?

LW: March 15, 1906

DA: Place of his birth?

LW: Lane, Idaho; it's just about 30 miles down the road.

If you go through Rose Lake past Moscow you get to lane, there's a lane tavern.

DA: Is he still living?

LW: Yes

DA: Your father's occupation?

LW: A mechanic and handyman

DA: Brothers and sisters?

LW: I have two brothers and two sisters.

DA: Their names?

LW: [REDACTED] is 48, [REDACTED] is 46, [REDACTED] is 44 [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] is 39 [REDACTED].

DA: Your husband's name?

LW: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] When I listened to your program I thought this would be very little about the husbands as this was such a [REDACTED] thing for the women and I feel like my husband is such an important part of my life it just could've been a thing that didn't come through because the stories weren't oriented that way.

DA: I think in the interviews a lot of that comes out.

DA: What is the date of your husband's birth?

LW: Nov. 9, 1937

DA: The place of his birth?

LW: Moscow, Idaho

DA: The date and place you were married?

LW: June 9, 1963, Moscow, Idaho. I'd never do it again, graduation time and at the same time getting married, I was a nervous wreck.

DA: Were you excited at your graduation?

LW: No I was so excited about getting married, I wore this crummy old dress under my gown and half listened. No I wasn't excited at all about graduation; I was excited about getting married.

DA: Why did you get married that day?

LW: Convenience, because we were going to leave the country.

DA: You took off to New Mexico, did you have a honeymoon?

LW: Yeah that was our honeymoon. He didn't have a job. I think we came to the conclusion that both of our parents were going to put all kinds of pressures on us.

DA: How long did you know each other before you got married?

LW: About two or three years.

DA: Did you think you were going to get married?

LW: No, I really thought I was going to be a career person.

DA: What career did you want to get into?

LW:

DA: What did you get a degree in?

LW: Home Ec.

DA: Your husband's occupation and jobs?

LW: He's a teacher; he has a Master's degree in geography and he worked for the Forest Service in the summer.

DA: Did he have his master's when you got married?

LW: No

DA: Your children's names?

LW: [REDACTED] and he was born in Kellogg, Idaho on Feb. 1, 1970

DA: Did you go to Moscow to have him?

LW: Yes

DA: Was it a natural childbirth?

LW: No, he was breach and they put me out, Thank God. [REDACTED] was natural because he came so fast.

DA: I had one pain and went to the hospital is that how it was with you?

LW: No I waited because they told me if you came in with false labor it cost about \$100.00 just to walk in the hospital and if you went home you had to pay for it and our insurance wasn't that great. I waited until I was well on the way and then it was almost to late.

DA: His date of birth?

LW: Feb. 7, 1972

DA: Are you planning on having any more children?

LW: No; we wanted a girl but we don't think we'll get a girl, we'd probably get all boys. The population thing and money.

DA: Your skills?

LW: I'm skilled in a lot of things. Canning, sewing, recycling,

DA: How do you recycle here? Do they recycle the bottles and cans.

LW: No not the bottles but the aluminum cans. I take old jeans that other people don't want and I make patches out of them. I found a poster board that wasn't needed so I brought it home to use for art work. My mother would absolutely die if she found me picking up all the beer cans but I enjoy it. I have nothing better to do with my time and I think it's a good thing to do.

DA: I'm with you all the way.

LW: Some women wouldn't just pick up a beer can. I bike ride. I have ridden my bike to O several times this summer and I have a seat on the back. In the winter we snowshoe.

We bought a wheelbarrow and I scraped all the rusty stuff off and repainted it and it looks pretty good.

DA: How did you get into reupholstering?

L :Home Ec.

DA: Did they have a course in it?

LW: Yeah they had one. I couldn't afford to buy something really neat so I had to redo something.

LW: Do you want to hear about all of my employment that I've had?

DA: Yes

LW: I worked as a waitress at Cougar Mountain Lodge at Swissbury, Idaho.

DA: Was that a summer job?

LW: I did all the waitress kind of stuff and then afterwards we would go out and pick huckleberries and sell those to the tourists. That was really a nice summer. The next summer I worked as a cook for the British Council in Seattle, the summer of the Seattle World's Fair.

DA: Were you in the World's Fair then?

LW: No, this was in the home of the British Counselate which is the business he arranged business things between the United States and Great Britain. They had a son who was about 18 who was attending Cambridge and he came home and I was engaged at the time and so we really had an interesting friendship because neither one of us thought there might be any romantic possibilities so I became a good friend of his. Then we got out of school I worked it was a new way of marketing milk in a carton that fit into your refrigerator with a button and you just held your glass underneath it and then the milk would just pour out of that. I went around and convinced people to try these in their homes and as a result of trying them they would be on a milk delivery. In other words if they weren't getting milk to their home, in order to try this they would have to sign up in order to get milk delivered to their home. I did that for about three weeks in Denver and that was interesting.

DA: Was that a summer job?

LW: This was after we got married and I was just wanting anything. Then my husband got this job in Gallup, New Mexico so I had to quit this other job but it was just a kick to do.

DA: How did you like Denver?

LW: Well we were really poor so we couldn't do anything. Then when we found out my husband got a job we went to celebrate at the outdoor theatre and we took travelers checks and they wouldn't accept travelers checks and there were about fifty cars behind us and fifty cars ahead of us and we couldn't go anywhere except straight on through and we couldn't find a way out so we watched the movie free because they wouldn't take our travelers checks.

DA: That's really strange.

LW: In Gallup, New Mexico I worked as a waitress to help pay gas and all this kind of stuff that we spent on our honeymoon because I had applied for a job as a teacher and they didn't know if they were going to have any openings but Gallup is the kind of town that Kellogg is. A lot of people come and take a look and say Oh no we're not going to live there because it lacks greenery and this kind of thing. Some teacher came and quit a week before school started so I taught Science. About half of the school population was Navajo Indian and a quarter was Mexican American and one quarter was white and it was really an interesting experience.

DA: How long did you teach there?

LW: Two years. I went to school in Albuquerque and I couldn't get a teaching job there and so I worked for a freezer food service as a home economist. Which was really a bunch of BS because they really convinced people that they were going to save all this money and they weren't really going to save. I needed the money so desperately I continued to work for them and finally I heard about this job with the welfare as a case worker and so I quickly got out of this other one and told them off as I left. The whole thing was highly illegal because they would paint over old freezers

and sell them as new. They had chips in them and paint over them and sell them as new and all this. If I were smarter I could've really finished the company. They did so many terrible things. I needed the background in accountancy and bookkeeping that I didn't have in order to really get the facts.

DA: You said that in trying to convince people to buy because it was cheaper to freeze foods? It isn't really?

LW: No, not the way they had this because they would jack up the price of the freezer and they'd jack up the price of the food after you started buying it from them.

DA: So it was just that company?

LW: Yes and I think it has been proven by consumers that it isn't really a savings because it cost a lot of money to rent a freezer and it's a big investment to begin with. If you have ten kids it may be a savings. With a family of four, it isn't a savings, it's more of a convenience than anything.

DA: Other jobs?

LW: Then I got on as a social case worker and did some interesting things in getting women to go back to work and helping them go to school, helping them adjust in going to school with their kids. Coming out of being in their homes. Some of them had been in their homes forever and there was a government program to school them. It was kind of a group therapy type of thing where they could talk amongst themselves and finding out that other people were having a difficult time, too. It was easy to adjust. I think we had 50% of those people permanently off of welfare which was really great and our program was more successful than a lot of programs. I attribute some of that to my home ec background. For welfare people, money is the problem. People call it social problems and if you give them money at least half of them are going to be better off. So helping them

spend that money and that kind of thing.

DA: To spend it wisely.

LW: Yes. So anyway we wanted to move back up to the northwest so I got a job in Tacoma, Wash. doing casework with families of special problems. Then my husband got the job in Kellogg and then we came here and I substitute taught. Then I got pregnant so I didn't work any full time thing. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is a friend of mine, she's a professor of Boise State Univ. and she called about the study of the Sunshine Mine study they were going to do so I worked on that. Then I was supervisor of the Flood study that she headed up under a federal grant. That was last summer that we did the flood study. We had a flood in January. We did a study on that about women's attitudes and how it affected them and whether or not they wanted to live in the same area and this kind of thing. At Xmas we had a really neat opportunity. I've been connected with the environmental movement here and this PETCO Engineering Environmental Company came and said we're having people come and would you and your husband be air monitors. There were thirteen air stations on roofs of houses at Xmas time in the ice and mud and snow and here I was with my husband crawling up on roofs to check the monitors and work on mathematical calculations to give to the lab analyst. Some of the filters had to be very carefully handled with tweezers in a manner that you would in analytic chemistry and I did that, because my husband's eye-hand coordination wasn't as good as mine, any seamstress could do the same thing. That was really interesting.

DA: Did you learn a lot about the air quality?

LW: Yes but it was a totally different thing, this was measuring the air quality and it was a very technical point of view. Where as most of my study was on a very personal basis and how does it affect us right now. The first day it was raining, it was about 33 degrees and the wind was blow-

ing and here we were with our papers writing down this stuff and the wind blowing and the ladder was just about to blow over. There was ice on the roofs because it had snowed. I felt very pleased to be able to do it because when we first started out the guys that were going to train us, they looked at me and they said to themselves, "that lady could never get on top of that roof" and I did. I was scared but I was really proud to do it just to show them and to show myself that I could climb up on those roofs. And there were times when I thought I must of been out of my mind. But it was so interesting, I wanted to do it. I felt it was an important thing to be done.

DA: Is there an environmental group here?

LW: No everybody that is interest d in the environment has moved out. They know it's so crummy. All the guys that measure the stuff, they won't even live in Kellogg. The environmental head of Bunker Hill lives in Coeur d'Alene. The people who know won't even live here. It's the dumb poor little poor people that continue to live here and this is the thing. Sure I want the Bunker Hill to go, sure I want them to make a profit I think, like Sunday they shoud of had a health warning. They know it's a health hazard to people that are old, to little children and anybody who is sick with emphesema of lung related diseases. They know it's a health hazards at certain levels and on Sunday I'm sure it was at that level and there should of been a warning for people to get out but they don't do things like that. I've testified in a lot of the hearings and I've lost a lot of friends but my church friends and people like this who are really against me, they know that I tell the truth. I'm not trying to make any enemies by saying what I say.

DA: Are they against what you're doing because they are involved with the mining?

LW: They are threatened because the Bunker Hill said if they must meet these

standards they will close. And if they close then 50 year old so and so who doesn't want to move and whos husband can't get another job, probably, is threatened and I don't blame them. But I still feel that I must say what I think and until we move and I get my children out of here I'll continue to say what I think.

DA: What clubs, groups and societies do you belong to?

LW: I go to a book club and we discuss different books like one month it may be historical books and another it may be educational books.

DA: And you get to read what you want but it's in that area and you compare?

LW: Right, we have two or three people assigned and then they report. We set it all up to begin with. Some people let people come into their house to visit and then they don't have to report on a book. The people whose homes are not used do the reporting on the books. And you can do a report on a book if you want. I really get a lot out of it because I find out that I don't have to read all the books that I'm really interested in. I belong to TOPS, take off pounds sensibly and I feel I'm a person who can do almost anything I want to. Dieting has been my big failure in life. I really feel like I'm smart enough I could have been a doctor but I have failed miserably at dieting.

DA: Did you ever have a desire to be a doctor or do you just feel you are capable?

LW: No, I feel I am capable.

DA: Have you lost any weight since belong to TOPS?

LW: Yeah, I've lost about fifty pounds but I haven't lost any weight this year. That was two years ago. I think there are people overweight. Some people don't really think a lot about it. It bothers me, it bothers me a lot intellectually because I know it's just as bad for my health as breathing ^{so} is or smoking that I don't do because my rational is that it's bad for my health. Like when I was climbing the roofs, I was in pretty

good health because I had been bicycling and things like that. I could feel it, I could feel the extra weight. If I had been 100 lbs. less it probably wouldn't of fazed me. I could go up to the bunkering work, which I think would be really interesting so I could find out what goes on, but I'm sure they'd never hire me because of my back and I'm sure my doctor would never approve. If I weighed less that might not be.

DA: From what you've told me it doesn't seem to be restricting you very much.

LW: No but it does bother me. Not enough to do anything about it.

DA: Do you belong to anything else?

LW: We are very active in our church. I'm teaching vacation Bible school and I head up paints if we want to paint something and I organize parties for our young parents group and this kind of thing. I go to the Y on Tues. and Thurs. and play volleyball. That's really a big deal for me, I love that volleyball. There's a group of about 50 women and not everybody gets there all the time because they have children that might be sick or this or that so there's usually about 20 that show up at any one time. We really have a good time. I started playing about two years ago, We have a babysitter up there and that's an outlet for a lot of women and we are really good, we're really getting better. I'm a lot better than I used to be.

DA: This is just a group that gets together?

LW: This is Y; the Y started the program. We do exercises and we play volleyball and some people go swimming but I play volleyball because it's so much fun.

DA: Is there any thought of you competing against other people?

LW: No, my husband and I play volleyball with his teachers and their wives. Sometimes in the spring when nothing else ^{they'll get some volleyball going} is going on and I always go to that. I'm always better than the women PE teachers over there, which makes me feel really good.

DA: Do the teachers get together a lot here?

LW: I think some of them, we go to all the parties that they have. We went up the last day of school. They'd been up to the local Pub drinking, you know and we went up to a place called the snakepit and they have the best steaks around and they had really huge juicy steaks. They also had Rocky mountain oysters, do you know what they are? There were a lot of people who hadn't had rocky mountain oysters so this one guy who works two jobs and has more money than anybody else said, "ok, I'll buy rocky mountain oysters for everybody so we can all try them," So we were sitting there and some of the girls were sitting there and didn't know what they were and everybody agreed that they were pretty good and here was this one girl who wouldn't eat it and I said "why don't you take a taste?" She thought that it was instead of sheep's testicales, it was deep fat fried shit.

DA: Did somebody finally tell her?

LW: Yeah but she still wouldn't taste it but they were delicious. Have you ever had one?

DA: No

LW: They are really good, they're kind of like a deep fat fried breaded kind of thing. They advertise them, they advertise them all the time and I don't know if they were fresh but they were really good. It taste kind of like a cross between a scallop and a piece of liver. Real tender and kind of like a rich meat type of thing.

DA: When I was in Colo. I went out to look for some.

LW: They are really good, but I wouldn't want to sit and eat a whole plate of them. I wouldn't ever order them because they are too rich. It'd be like eating all dessert or something. But anyway they did crazy things.

LW: We go up the river to swim, we used to when I was little. My father would come home from work at the bunker and we'd go up and go swimming in that beautiful clear water. Cold on a hot day, it would feel so good.

DA: Where did you go?

LW: The Northfork River; the swimming area got completely washed away during the flood. We go up to the Bumble Bee turnoff and go swimming and oh boy it's so nice.

DA: Do you still go up there?

LW: Yeah unpolluted.

DA: Is it protected by the mountains?

LW: What do you mean?

DA: Well you said it was unpolluted.

LW: The reason it's unpolluted at Bumble Bee is because nobody lives up there to put junk into the water. The reason rivers get polluted is because of people, not mountains.

DA: What I was thinking of was from the air.

LW: Oh I guess so, I don't know. The air goes up and down the valley but that's another twist in the valley.

DA: Anything else?

LW: Occasionally I join the AAUW but not every year because I'll join and I'll go to one meeting and I'll think it's a waste of money. So then they have some really interesting programs so then I join again. I'm not in it this year but I might be in it next year.

DA:

DA: Awards, ribbons or honors?

LW: From when?

DA: Anytime.

LW: I got a lot of scholarships in high school and I play the oboe and I went band when I was a junior in high school. I've gotten little ci-

tations from the church for doing things that nobody else will do.

DA: What sorts of things are those?

LW: Just little pieces of paper that certify that you gave up your time and talent.

DA: What things do you do?

LW: With the vacation Bible School and Sunday School, you know. Other things that other people don't want to do. I don't do things that I don't want to do for the main part but I enjoy doing them.

DA: Are you going to teach your boys how to iron so you don't have to do it?

LW: No my husband is pretty cheauvinistic, he allows me a l t of freedom but ironing and dishes is something he will never do. I suppose if I die, he'll do them.

DA: What about when you were working did he help out then?

LW: Yes he helped a lot but he never did dishes or ironing. There were a lot of other things to do.

DA: Do you plan on teaching your boys like cooking and sewing?

LW: They like to learn everything that we do. What we do and enjoy they want to learn so I imagine they'll get some matter of everything. But my son, my gosh, I almost died because at Sunday School they were talking the lesson to be helpers and Jesus wants us to be helpers and he said, somebody said, "do you help momma do dishes" and he said, "I don't that's women's work" I almost died because I really feel that I do it because my husband doesn't like it not because it's a woman's job.

DA: It's to bad that they're picking that up from him.

LW: Well I told him about it and he said he'd do it once in awhile but he never does. They have tried to wash dishes.

DA: They are still really young. [REDACTED] is at the age where he wants to do things like that.

LW: They help me like they prëss on the presser foot when I sew.

DA: How do they coordinate that?

LW: I just say stop and go and I tell them it's important that it will go through my finger if they don't, so they do. And I kind of watch it.

DA: The scholarships that you won were those academic or need or both?

LW: Both; In fact poor bunker hill because I really have them about this air stuff and they gave me several scholarships for school. They probably think they shouldn't have done it. I won that Wash. Water Power one for demonstrating and a Heckle Bunker Hill and a Murry Kingsbury and that kind of thing.

DA: Anything else? What is the Murray Kingsbury, who is that?

LW: Just a lady who has a lot of money. In Wallace there's a lot of mining money just made to sit there at the right places at the right time. She and her husband were invested. A friend came along and said, "I need some money I think I've got something really good" They had some money and they both invested and they made it big and so she just set up a fund.

DA: What kind of scholarship was that?

LW: Books, tuition; I didn't spend it on silly things but anything I needed it for. If I needed money I'd go to the dean's office.

DA: Did you get the ones from Bunker Hill because your father was related?

LW: Yes and now they call that illegal and they've gotten into trouble for it. They used to give any child of a Bunker Hill worker who wanted and needed money and had potential a scholarship.

DA: Now does it have to be open to everyone?

LW: Now it has to be available, they can only have 50% that go to children of Bunker Hill or the other 50% can go to areas like mining technology. At the time when I got this thing I was given to understand that this was called a grant in aid which meant that if I were ever able to repay it, I should do so and I did and I got a letter saying that I was the only

person who ever repaid the loan.

DA: Were you glad that you did?

LW: Yes, really glad. They've loaned money to a lot of people who are much better off than we are. It was surprising to me that ~~you~~^{they} didn't pay their's back because you got a letter when you got a scholarship. If you are ever able to repay it, we'd appreciate you doing so. I suppose they don't need it because they are a big company but I appreciated the money at the time. I couldn't of gone if it hadn't of been for them.

DA: You worked during the summer, did you work during the school year?

LW: Yes; I was a cook's helper at Hayes Hall, old Hayes Hall and that was fun, that was more fun than work. They had sit down dinners at that time and you'd go in with a house mother and sit down and go through all this formal stuff. It was a lot more fun to be in the kitchen.

DA: I heard about that Hayes Hall.

LW: They were a great group at the time that I was there, highly independent. I never would of made it as a sorority girl because I say what I think and it doesn't matter if somebody disagrees even though they are good friends of mine, I still say what I think and you don't gain a lot of popularity. I have a woman who I am pretty close friends with her and her husband's a lawyer and she said, "I would never do anything like that because it would reflect on my husband." Well my poor husband was just stuck with it reflecting on him. He agrees with me, I don't know what he would do if he didn't agree with me, it might cause some problems.

DA: Have you ever thought about getting political?

LW: Yeah; I mean I believe in general things of the democratic party and we have gone to a few of their conference meetings and that kind of thing.

DA: Do you yourself consider running for an office, do you see that in your future?

LW: I thought of running for city council but then it looks to me like kind

of a big headache and very few rewards and you can't really accomplish what you'd want to accomplish. I would be a definite minority and it would seem to me a waste of time in spinning the wheels. I really think my family is more important right now. I might do something when my family is grown. Right now they are worth more and they can get more benefit out of my time than a lot of people who don't really give a d-a-m in politics or whatever.

DA: These jobs that you've had while your children are growing have they been part time or full time?

LW: No; these have been research for one or two months. Full time at that time like 16 hours a day for two months. You know I could let the housework go because I knew it was going to be over. I wish there were more jobs like that. I'd like to do something part time. Two days a week would be really good. I think I could really contribute to whatever kind of job I'd be doing and I would be really fulfilling my role as a housewife and a mother. This is a very narrow community and I get irritated at some women's lib things but I think that is really one of the area that I would like to see open up for women with children to be allowed to do part time. They won't even hire teachers part time. Women that went with small children that were capable in the same areas; they wouldn't hire two of them to do one job because they are narrow and restrictive.

DA: You mean maybe like one of them just work in the morning and the other during the afternoon?

LW: Yeah

DA: Yeah I can see that as being a good opportunity for the women. Also a good opportunity for the school because you could actually devote more time to the students. I see the same sort of thing in other types of job sharing.

DA: What do you think about women working full time with small children?

and I thought well maybe I missed the phone call that you were going to be late and I sort of got depressed about it so I picked up my book and I started getting into the story and I was almost sorry you came cus I was interested in it. I think you have to keep your own self interested in whatever you are doing and this involves working at it. I really dislike the TV because it's a bad habit that I can come to and sit and watch crummy and crappy shows that have no meaning and when I'm through watching this crummy and crappy show, I feel crummy and crappy.

DA: What tv shows do you watch as a general rule or are there any?

LW: I like; there's one that started while I was nursing [REDACTED] and it started when [REDACTED] was born and so I have gotten into this serial "All my children" and the reason I like it is because it has people that are really crummy and awful and I would like to be crummy and awful and smarty in my comments to some people that have been crude to me and I'm real nice so this serves as kind of an outlet when they have some of these snotty women on that are not nice at all with their dealings with other people. I don't know what you would call it but I really enjoy watching it. The dull nice people I don't enjoy watching so much because they don't hold my interest. At night I'm really big on the news, and Sesame Street and I like Sesame Street and I'll sit and watch it with the kids and we'll sit and talk about what they do.

DA: It's good for them that you watch it and show that you are interested in it, too.

LW: It has a whole level of adult humor that I'm sure the children never see. They don't understand some of the things I laugh at. Then we watch this "Villa Allegre" and they speak spanish and we have spanish neighbors and we speak spanish with them once in awhile. I watch murder mysteries at night, those programs occasionally. If I have a good book I'd much rather read.

DA: Do you watch the today show?

LW: Yeah. I haven't watched it this summer but when my husband's in school we watch it every day at breakfast and so he gets the news and it's kind of a fight with the kids wanting to watch Captain Kangaroo and me wanting to watch the today Show but I win because I'm bigger. Like some of these game shows, it's a waste of electricity.

DA:

LW: All this screaming and all this hyperactivity no wonder the kids are hyperactive.

DA: They must pay people or they tell them to do that sort of thing.

LW: I really think that's true because when I won a scholarship it was on tv and the girls at home said, "gee Laurie, you didn't seem very excited," I had seen my name on the envelope and I knew I won and I couldn't pretend that I didn't know I won it. I can't be false and I could never lie and I could never cheat because people would know because I would look like it. My face reflects my inner feelings.

DA: Is your husband a lot like you in that? '

LW: Yes honest and true and he is a very very loving person. He has many irritating things but he is the most loving person I've ever known ever in my whole life. I'm sure there is never a person so loving, he's not considerate in small practical ways. He's very considerate with my feelings and of the children.

DA: How would you compare him in the amount of time of the quality that he spends with the children?

LW: Whenever he gives his attention, it's high quality but he sits and watches a lot of football.

DA: Have you always wanted children when you were growing up?

LW: Well I didn't think about it because if I thought I was going to be a career person then I didn't think I was going to be an unwed mother. After

we got married, we said we'd wait two years, then after two years he was going to school and we were poverty stricken and it wasn't right. Then I was on the pill and then I quit taking the pill and we came to Kellogg and I didn't get pregnant and I didn't get pregnant and then I really wanted them. When I couldn't get pregnant I almost died to think that I couldn't get pregnant because I wanted them then. We'd been married seven years. And boy [REDACTED] was really wanted child and I had a lot of fun with him as a baby because I wanted him so much. Oh my gosh I wish I had babysat when I was in high school because I didn't know a thing about children really. I'd read it all in the books and stuff but it wasn't like that. He had colic and he had aches and pains and he had conjunctivitus the first week and what really affected me; when we lived in an apartment house in Albuquerque little colored girls baby died at five months which was crib death which I think they suspected real fast pneumonia. I will never in my life forget that horrible scream that sounded like a wild cat or like a cougar and didn't sound human at all when she found her baby dead. I'll never forget that and as a result I was fearful and a month after we had [REDACTED] I had waking nightmares and I was awake and I knew what I was thinking but I couldn't stop. For the first month I'd feel this part of my husband's arm when we were asleep in bed and I'd think that that was [REDACTED] and I'd think he was dead. I'm sure it was because of this thing.

DA: After you had [REDACTED] did you plan when you wanted another baby?

LW:

DA: ~~LW:~~ Are you glad you waited seven years before you had children?

LW: Well there are good points and bad points about it because there is not a whole bunch of women who are as old as I who have children this age and so that's a little bit; I think I would have had a lot more common with other women if our ages were about the same. I'm glad we got to see the world the way we did; we really lived it up. We went on vaca-

tions and saw all the archeological wonders in New Mexico every weekend we went somewhere and we really had a good time. I wouldn't want to give that up. If we had it to do over again I'd do it over again.

DA: Do you take the boys many places on the weekends now?

LW: If we go to Coeur d'Alene we go swimming at the beach and we take the boys, a lot of things.

DA: Is it the same type of things as you do before, like every weekend?

LW: After this lead thing, then we decided to get out of here every weekend because of the lead. That happened last August. That was just one year ago that they discovered this high lead. We left every weekend. We went to Expo '74 almost every weekend, we had season tickets and the kids would say, "Is Expo over?" They really enjoyed it. We took them to the babysitter that they had on the Expo grounds a few times and they enjoyed that. A lot of times we took them with us, we had [REDACTED] in a stroller and sometimes he'd fall asleep and we'd just keep going but we can't afford to go really neat places. Once the diapers are over with.

DA: What does your husband teach?

LW: Geography; he's really lucky to be able to teach what he graduated in because I graduated in Home Ec and I taught science.

DA: Was there any problem with certification and that sort of thing?

LW: No they just had four Home Ec teachers who got into Home Ec before I got in there so I was way down the line.

DA: But you had enough background for Home Ec to teach science.

LW: You have to get a minor because I had so much science it was a natural just a few more credits and I had a biological science minor. Because of your background and your husband's background do you think you're giving your children a lot of knowledge? Are you pretty well prepared to answer a lot of the questions that they have?

LW: Yes except they don't want that complicated of an answer. If I give them

some big answer they don't care about it. But I answer every question that they ask. Anything about sex or about boys and girls. I can remember [REDACTED] I thought the first lesson about sex that any child has to learn is there are boys and there are girls and it's so funny when they are going through this stage and they say, "well you don't have a penis, momma and I do and how come, what's wrong?" This kind of thing. I suppose they are going to naturally have a bigger vocabulary. I'm sure I have a much master vocabulary than my parents did and they won't have to learn a lot of scientific terminology.

DA: It'll be a natural thing?

LW: Yeah because like we go out and we take nature walks and we identify the trees and we've got books, you know these little paperback books. We have mushroom books, tree books and this kind of thing.

DA: Do you go mushroom hunting?

LW: My husband gets them in the woods, he brings home a bucketfull of huckleberries, ^{whatever.} What I'd like to do is make a mountain trail and identify everything because I don't know the names of all the bushes that grow on the hills and I played hours and hours on those hills. I'd like to know even the correct common name for every ^{little} green thing up there. I know Oregon grape is up there and I know [REDACTED] is up there, quite a few.

DA: How did you learn about childbirth and childraising?

LW: My mother certainly never told me anything. I'm sure ^{I have with} my reaction with my own children ^{is a very natural thing, I learned} from my father and mother and how to discipline and this kind of thing, ^{I threw the book out long ago.} I read child care books because they are uplifting. They allow me, in the depressed time when I have yelled at my kids and I am mad at myself for yelling at my kids, ^{to} but there is hope and there is a better way ~~of~~ dealing with things. Actual childbirth, when I became pregnant I read everything that they had about it and I asked my doctor 49 million questions and [REDACTED] was my doctor and I asked him if he would

allow my husband and I to go through the delivery room and the labor room and see all that ^{before I went up} and I was really glad because I was scared when it came right down to it. Because I've heard a lot of old wives tales about not allowing the baby to be born when it was ready so the doctor would get his money and the nurse couldn't do it and I heard terrible stories and I was really scared. I was glad that I studied so much and tried to find out all about it beforehand.

DA: Did your husband want to go in on his own?

LW: He didn't want to go in with me, this was beforehand we went up to see where it was.

DA: Did you encourage him to do that?

LW: He wanted to do everything except he didn't really want to go in when the child was born and I'm glad he didn't with [REDACTED] because it was very difficult. The nurse was not too smart and she thought she was feeling his head and she was feeling his rear end and so when [REDACTED] came he said, "that baby's going to be breach" and it was too late to turn him around. He was born seat first, well now that's a whole bunch of kid to get out of a small opening so they do a little kind of a cut kind of thing and it makes it a lot easier and they put me under just at the last and I can remember them kind of awakening me and they were saying push and I did and he was born but I didn't feel him being born but I felt [REDACTED] being born and I was really glad to have gone through that and I wish that my husband had been there because [REDACTED] was so easy. You don't know if it's going to be easy until after it's over with. I don't think my husband really wanted to see the whole thing. If he would've of, he would of pursued it.

DA: What are some the advantages and disadvantages of living in a rural area that you haven't already mentioned?

LW: If my kids go out in the street and take their pants down some other

mother will come out and say, "get your pants up [REDACTED] or you know, whatever. And when they are down here and I'll yell out "ok everybody out of the street." In this neighborhood we seem to have a good thing going where all the mothers kind of care for the kids and they run up and down and play at everybody's house. All the mother's in this area don't work and it's a good neighborhood for little kids. We're going to teach them that we don't like cigarettes and we don't like drugs and things like this and I don't think they will be approached in a way they would be in a big city. I think Kellogg is a small town, I don't feel it's rural. It's not rural in the sense of it being a farming community because we have a lot of neighbors close. I like small towns and I'm glad we are raising our children in a small town. I think they have more room to meet their potential for leadership and individual self worth in a small town.

DA: How does their childhood differ from yours or does it?

LW: Everybody was a great deal poorer then and I know that's true. We raised rabbits and we raised chickens. ^{Now I don't think} They are allowed in the city limits now. I remember when I was about five and my father cut the head off on the chopping block, he cut the head off the chicken and the chicken ran around and ran around and I can remember wondering why this chicken was running around flapping his wings and stuff and it never bothered me to eat chicken or rabbit. I'm sure it would bother my children to think of a cuddly little rabbit and eating it. It didn't bother us, we ate rabbits and chickens and we had a huge garden.

DA: Did you work in the garden?

LW: Oh yeah under threat of I don't know what. We had to weed and everything else. Going out into the garden and picking a nice fresh carrot and washing it off and eating it. Now the Dept. of Health and Welfare says don't eat anything grown in a Kellogg garden because it's got high lead. We

tried to raise something but nothing would hardly grow anyway. Our neighbor over there has a huge garden and it's just beautiful. He brings in a lot of manure and outside soil and stuff.

DA: Did you want to have a garden?

LW: We tried one two years ago and it just the beans got about that high and they stayed that high with all the tender loving care I could give them. The soil just isn't very good unless you bring a lot of top soil and put a lot of stuff into it. We couldn't afford to do and now this whole lead thing came up and so now we don't want to do it. I made mudpies when I was little that was a really big pasttime and I think my kids don't do it. Things are more paved over when I was little and we've got sand in the sand box and grass over the rest of the stuff.

DA: What about family recreation?

LW: We have a lot more time for recreation than my parents did. My father was a mechanic and when he came home. Like he put an entire basement and a foundation under a home and my brothers helped and they built a two car garage; that kind of work was our recreation. I grew up with a much stronger feeling of if I take a job I must earn the money that whoever is paying me to give to me. A lot of people now, for example, with some of the teachers that my husband works with if they could get away with taking a half day off or going on the time they are supposed to be planning in getting their hair cut or digging around, they would do it but I have a very strong work ^{ethic} ~~ethic~~ that I think my parents instilled in me because they worked all the time.

DA: You said the work was recreation?

LW: Yes

DA: Is that because the work was something you enjoyed?

LW: Yeah and we got the benefits of it when they built all this new stuff, more room everybody got their own room and you got a benefit from it.

DA: Were you ever taught that work was hard or that it wasn't enjoyable?

LW: I never did feel that; I think my mother taught me that reading was therapeutic and that working for the ground was good for the soul or something like this. I didn't feel that way when I was young but I do now. I just picked up that feeling and I'm sure it was the taught thing. You can teach kids that its crummy and awful and they'll pick up on it.

DA: Did your mother have to iron?

LW: Well I don't know but I do know that ironing is a lot different; I don't think she expressed anything one way or the other. She did it because it had to be done. I don't dislike ironing that much but I do it also because it has to be done but I would never send it out just to have somebody else do it because that would be spending money in a frivolous way. If I spend money frivolously, I want to do it in my choice of ways and that wouldn't be my choice of way. Sometimes when I've been really busy and had a lot going and like when I worked for the two months I had housekeeping help and you know a lot of people would never do that with their money but I felt like I needed that. I had a certain level of organization and so it was a frivolous kind of thing but I did it because I needed it. There are some people that teach full time and they have children and they never hire a housekeeper. My mother had housekeeping help but we were poor and help was cheap at that time, too. My father respected my mother highly and didn't want her overworked with five little children. Several of my brothers and sisters have had help from their wives.

DA: You were the youngest one in your family?

LW: Yeah

DA: You're quite a bit younger than the next sister aren't you?

LW: Five years and then nine years.

DA: Did that have any affect on you?

LW: Well I'm a lot closer to them as an adult than I was as a child because they were kind of my babysitter and reprimander when I was little and now we are equal and our family was very close and I'm in charge in getting together a 50th year anniversary for my parents. We'll have a really big Shindig with that, that ought to be a lot of fun. It would have to be pretty special for my family to come over and

DA: Are you closer to your sisters than to your brothers?

LW: Yes; I just feel like, I think that I get an impression of being very moralistic sometimes and a lot of women are easy with that and yet my sisters know all the mysteries I'm capable of perpetrating.

DA: What do you mean by misteries?

LW: Although I'm a very honest person I can do a lot of mischievous things and have done things in the past. You know like at the UOI in the Home Management House there were nine of us living there at the time and we would get beer, not because we liked beer, but because there was a rule to be broken and we'd carry it up the fire escape of the Home Management House and we'd have parties and feel so pleased with ourselves that we had gotten away with this deed for which we all could've been kicked out but we figured they'd never kick out a whole class in the Home Ec School.

DA: Did you think that it was kind of a minor rule that was there so you didn't mind breaking it?

LW: Yeah but sometimes I say, "laws are made and if you don't like the law, change the law" but other times I say, "well what the heck, you don't like the law, we'll break the law anyway"

DA: How do you feel about the houses of prostitution that are in Wallace?

LW: I don't care. I think that's the thing in having grown up here.

DA: Do you think it affects the community in any way?

LW: Well I suppose they do because if men feel that they have this need I really think that it's better that they be partaking in Wallace and paying for it than breaking up some home or involving some young girl who doesn't know what she's doing. I could never do that kind of thing myself because sex is very special to me. I'm a one man woman or something but I think if somebody else wants to make a living ^{and they don't} ~~think it~~ think it is wrong moralistically under the laws of God that's their business and they may see the light someday.

DA: Do you actively work on one side or do you just kind of stay out of it?

LW: No, I think it's fine that those houses are there and as I say I think it's a result of having grown up here. If I had grown up somewhere else I probably would be on the band wagon but I really don't care. That's just fine because I guess they do have a community value. When I was little there used to be houses where the highway is now so the highway took them out when the hiway was built.

DA: Do your boys play with dolls?

LW: Yeah

DA: Do they like to change their clothes?

LW: Oh they don't really like to play with dolls, they play with them but once in awhile they'll take their clothes off but they don't ever put them back on.

DA: Do you like to do canning and stuff?

LW: Oh yeah, I really enjoy it. I didn't really get into it until after the kids were born then we had food given to us and I didn't want to have it spoil so I started canning. We don't have a freezer and I froze some cauliflower and we had a really small space then. I never have gone into in a big way. If my husband would of bought me a freezer then I would freeze but it is a luxury and I have other higher priorities for our money.

DA: Have you ever dried anything?

LW: Berries because they kind of turn out like raisins. Remember when that raisin shortage happened? They didn't turn out to good.

DA: What are service berries?

LW: They grow on the hills all around here?

They look similar to blueberries.

DA: Did your parents ever talk much about the depression?

LW: My father told a story of a man who came and wouldn't eat lunch with the rest of them and he wondered why, so he went out to see him one day, because all the men were wondering why he didn't eat lunch and the man had a lunch pail and he was eating potato peelings. He felt so bad about it that he didn't eat with the rest of the men because he was embarrassed. My father worked as an employee and he didn't get paid sometimes for a month or two but he eventually got paid and he always had a job and sometimes he only worked like two or three days a week. But this area was not as hard hit by the depression because it has always been a real steady economy except during strikes but I mean the potential is always here and I've heard that there is more ore in the ground that you just wouldn't believe it.

DA: So your parents never did talk about living in the depression?

LW: Oh yeah, I mean not that we should have and I'm glad that we didn't but we never had it as rough as some people.

DA: Idaho must not have been hit quite as severely as a lot of places.

LW: No; number one this is such a natural resource area and you could garden. Like we lived in Albuquerque, New Mexico and practically 90% of the income in Albuquerque was generated by government business. Here it's generated from the natural; I mean you've got something real that you can get a commodity from the earth. Where as in Albuquerque it's all services and you can never get your hand on it and here you can see it,

feel it and touch it. With one cousin he's such a cheapskate, he's got his back yard full of wood, he's got an oil stove and furnace but he's going to burn wood this winter because last year he cut his heating bill down to six dollars a month and we've got the resources and they are burning wood in the woods to get rid of it so it's not a fire hazard. So we have that, there are a lot of people that have fireplaces or stoves and we would make it.

DA: How dependent could you be of a lot of the modern services?

LW: We have running water

DA: What were you saying about not having any running water?

LW: This was before the flood, between the sunshine fire and the flood. At Xmas time there was no snow hardly and they had relied on snow all these years to protect the ground so it wouldn't freeze. Without this snow protection it would freeze way under and broke the pipes, froze the pipes to our main water system so we had not water and our house had no water for about 48 hours and [REDACTED] was a baby with diarrhea and I was making formula. I was nursing him but I'd give him a little bit of water and juice and formula and you know, you have to have water for that. When you are nursing you have to wash your breasts and these necessary things. Our landlord had water in town so my husband went up and got water for us, it was really amazing how quickly

We used paper plates and we went to these fake diapers or whatever they call them and that kind of thing and we got along with very little but boy water is really a necessity and you find out how important it is and then we only had like a little trickle. The laundromats didn't even have water. Then we started getting a trickle, some people in this town were without hot water for about a week but we had water. When we had the flood our water was running mud. I strained it, boiled it and then chlorinated it. The electricity goes off at odd times around here. We

lived in Albuquerque and I told my husband, "gee the electricity never goes off, the water works all the time and everything" There is a place better in the world. When we came back to Kellogg I found out that it wasn't time and technology that improved things in the world. Our water is really crummy here. I have to change the screens sometimes on our washer inlet. It runs a full load, then I have to change it before it rinses and so we put up with a lot of things but it would be very hard to give up modern conveniences. But if I had to I could do it. I wouldn't want to and given the choice I wouldn't want to.

DA: Now you said you were environmentally concerned. Did using paper plates and using disposable diapers concern you?

LW: We just had to. I'm not that concerned. I wouldn't be an environmentalist anywhere else. It's just that I've read the scientific studies and people just don't take time to read them. I heard the doctors testimony that they didn't print in the paper and I don't know why they didn't print it in the paper because it was damaging. I'm worried about my children and the illiterate, ignorant people who can't be concerned for themselves or who aren't concerned for themselves. I do have a feeling that the people who are really smart have moved out of here and the rest are the poor people. I think it's a class thing in a way because Kellogg has low rent because it's not as a desirable place to live. I guess that Smelter is really a heck of a place to work, the zinc plant also. Mother's are so glad when their sons can get on there so they can give their work through college for the summer because it can give such terrific motivation because they know they don't want to do that all their lives. (end of tape 20 side 1)

DA: But even working every summer doesn't that have an effect on their ~~health?~~ ^{health?}

LW: I wouldn't think so, I would think it would be like say smoking and the effects of smoking can be reversed and I think that it would be similar

to SO2, I don't know. I support scientific research and a lot of people have no idea what scientific research is all about. They are doing a study on the lead situation and they came around last August and took blood out of all the children one out of three homes. This friend of mine down the street, one of her children didn't want to have blood taken because it was a traumatic experience. Well that's a bunch of hooey. If you know anything about scientific research you know it's got to continue to find out if the blood level went down and what the effects are over a long term basis or the results are not.

DA: Did they check your children?

LW: Yes; [REDACTED] was 42 micrograms of lead per 100 millimeters of blood which is above normal and in any other place the doctors would be hospitalizing him and all that kind of stuff. But they didn't here because it was real low in the neighborhood. Then they checked it again in Feb. and it was down to 18 and they attributed that to partly my renewed housekeeping effort and the fact that we have a lot more snow and rain to keep the lead from the dust and stuff down and covered up and they have it reducing in the air. [REDACTED] was only 25 but we had spent some summers in Moscow when he was little and at the hand-mouth kind of age. Neither of them sucked their thumbs, thank God, because I don't know what you could do about it because if a child sucks his thumb he sucks his thumb but that would contribute to higher lead levels.

DA: Do you think you've take a lot more precautions than a lot of other mothers?

LW: The only observation; I think all women are concerned about their children they want to have clean houses and stuff and they are trying but I know I take more precautions about my kids having clean hands before they eat. A college educated woman doesn't really pay that much attention. She'll give her kids a snack and she won't go say, "go wash your hands" and I say go wash your hands everytime, and then I have them come out and I

smell their hands, you can smell dirt and you can smell whether they put the soap on or not. They handed out scrub brushes for under the nails because they figured that was a good place for lead to start from. I am more careful about that particular aspect, washing of hands before eating, before any snack, before anything. The kids come down here and my gosh their hands and faces are just piggy like and I just take them in the bathroom and before we do anything we wash our hands. All of them, all the neighbor kids. I think other mothers try to be careful but it's so hard to remember every day. We were taught to wash our hands before meals when I was growing up, we did a lot before but I pay a lot more attention to it now, really strictly. We were taught to brush our teeth after every meal but you don't always do it and the kids forget. You don't always do what you know is right. I'm much more happy about my housekeeping now after both of their lead levels went down in February. There were a lot of us that were on a nervous collapse about housekeeping in Sept. and Oct. We were really worried and the horrible worry is not knowing what the effect is going to be. One expert was saying it was harmful and another expert was saying that it won't hurt you at all and another expert was saying well I'm not sure. All these brilliant doctor degreed people not agreeing and here we are trying to make a basis on narrow facts and that's why I want this research to really go.

DA: Have you ever had you blood level taken?

LW: Yes, mine was 20 the same as the governor's. Maybe I'm real clean or maybe there's an immunity kind of reaction, I don't know, my husband was 36. A normal city dweller is 15 and a rural average blood level person is supposed to be 12 and 40 is the danger ^{point} ~~thought~~ they have thought. I don't know whether it's a bunch of bs or not but now they say that 40 isn't so bad. None of the children were really harmed in the studies so far but I'd like to see the study continued so that they can really say, 'yes now we know'

exactly what it does to you' Because if kids eat lead paint they can have mental retardation and who wants that as a potential thing for your children.

DA: Do you expect your children to go on to college?

LW: I want them to because I think you learn a lot of things that you don't really know you are going to learn and I think it's a broadening experience but I don't think it's necessary for success in life.

DA: Is there anything else you want to say?

Is there any advice you would give to a woman that was moving to a small town from the city?

LW: Well I think anytime you move anywhere you'd have to be prepared to make adjustments. You have to be prepared to deal with uncertainties, new things that you can't prepare yourself for beforehand. You have to be flexible and you have to have a positive attitude. If somebody decided to come here and get the most out of what a small community has to offer, knowing the things; I mean we just don't have cultural things. If you to Moscow in the summer they have so many plays and so many cultural things available rather than in a small town. We really enjoyed Expo because they had so many cultural things. Seeing things and the live music and; I have to be independent because there's a lot of people that don't think like I do at all. If it weren't for the fact that I've been born and raised here and I have contributed volunteer work in many ways for the community, more people would be calling me a communist or something in wanting to get the air cleaned up. They know me and they know my family, well I suppose there are some people who think I'm just crazy and there are other people who just think I'm a mother who is very concerned and misguided or something. I don't know I just have learned that wherever we are we like to find a special friendship and get the most out of it because we don't always have close friends. I would rather

sit and read than be with somebody who is boring. I'd rather not do something with somebody just to be doing it with somebody. A lot of the teachers drink a lot; my husband enjoys a beer, but some of them really go to extreme and use foul language and stuff and I don't happen to like it. Some of the men are really dirty minded and I'd rather not be around that. We have a good time at the party but whenever there's dirty jokes I just don't laugh unless they are funny. But if it's a dirty joke at somebody's expense, women's in general, I don't like it.

DA: You mentioned that there were some things about women's lib that you don't like, could you briefly tell me what those are?

LW: If you need a bra you should wear one. I've seen some girls go flopping around and it isn't attractive to me for someone who is very very big bosomed.

LW: I don't feel like I should have to go to work. I feel like I'm meeting my potential at home right now and enjoying it and I don't think that I should be made to feel that I'm lazy or not creative as I might out on a job.

DA: Is that how you feel about the women's liberation movement, that they are trying to put down the women who are trying to raise children?

LW: Yeah I've gotten that message. I feel very liberated because I can choose, I've got an education and I have chosen to stay home and economics is the only thing that is going to get me out of this house.

DA: At the women's center we talk about that sort of thing and most of the women I talked to were interested in women were able to do what they want to do. They feel if they are capable of doing these things then they should go ahead and do it and not be put down. Then we hear that some women love doing housework, the garden and staying at home and baking bread and doing these things and I say fine then I should go talk to her and tell her that I want her to go to work which I don't, I like to bake bread,

too.

LW: When I worked for the welfare department in Albuquerque I would have been a supervisor if I'd of been a man. I'm a very capable person but when it came to handing out the job promotions a black man came first and then a black woman because they had to meet a quota. I can understand making up for all the lost time with the minorities but when it came down to a personal basis because you didn't get the job because you weren't black or not a man. If you are a black woman, you've really got it made and that's not fair either.

DA: There should be some balance in making that up and to compensate but not to over compensate to turn people off.

LW: Wouldn't it really be wonderful if my husband could really feel free to stay home with the children and I could go out and work for a few years. But things don't work like that. You have seniority and you have; in this valley they'd just have a fit, 'the lazy bum is staying home and put his wife to work' There are many freedoms to be gained for everyone. I think until the battle is mine about women's lib I'm just going to keep my mouth shut but as soon as it affects me, as soon as I don't get what I want because I'm a woman or something then I will speak up.

DA: I think the people who are really active want all women to work and there's a put down. I think a lot of us don't feel that way, it's just that they are pushing so hard to be paid equally.

LW: There's a woman out at the forest service and she's a crew chief and she's paid more than my husband's crew chief. He's been there longer than she has, you know, they both should be paid the same and my husband's crew chief is paid the same as crew workers that are under him. He has the responsibility of driving some truck, turning around on the top of some hairpin mountain.

(END OF INTERVIEW SIDE 2)