

Stella Reil Oral History Interview Transcript

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

lived, lewiston, married, husband, years, nice, big, farm, mother, sold, oldest, remember, days, girl, work, home, teacher, gave, people, motorcycle

00:01

There we go. Okay. What's your name? Stella? Stella? Right. And your maiden name?

00:11

Stella stone.

00:13

And did you have any nicknames?

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No, I've always been fast.

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And that your current address? Where do you live now?

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Se 420 Hill Street

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and the date of your birth 1900. Place of birth man in

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South Dakota.

00:32

And your telephone number

00:34

334724.

00:37

Came the locale of your first residence in Idaho. Did you live in Idaho? Did you say

00:46

I lived in Idaho years ago, but my folks moved to Carson when I was three years old. Must have been about seven I guess when I moved in last. I lived there until I was married. That's just across the border, isn't it?

01:00

And what was the approximate year of your arrival in Idaho?

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And Idaho? Oh, I'd say maybe 99.

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And how did you come here? How did you travel?

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My folks came on a train

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from South Dakota. I remember something about the rain. But how old were you? Do you remember every year? You remember that?

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Well, I know from I have pictures.

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But in your own memory. Do you have something of that? Well, no,

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not the nearest I can remember when I was about five years old. We lived on where the old fairgrounds used to be my father was a contractor. And that was the reason He came out here his brother on the stone quarry outport Sultan. And he wanted my father to come out and be his partner. So they were in partnership with stone quarry. And they built a constructor and he built a lot of houses. And he built his first stone house down there. And I had my picture taken there now just three years.

02:07

Sometimes I see the pictures when I was small. I think I remember. Maybe I don't

02:12

I don't think I remember the only thing I can remember. I used to run away and go to school with the neighbors. And I went several times and funded the teacher wrote a note to my mother and she says you might just just come to school because she she seems to take an interest and part in school. So from then on, I went to school

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and how old were you? Yeah, that's old enough, isn't it? Yeah. Okay. Who came? How many of you came together? Your you and your father and your mother? Didn't her brothers and sisters? Just between? You have brothers and sisters? I have one sister. No brothers. No. She's still living.

02:54

Yes. Yeah. She's younger than my oldest boy was. Is that right? Yeah, and we are very close. She lives in California. I go down once a year and spend two three weeks with

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we're in California in Santa Barbara.

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Oh, no, no, and Pleasanton. That's right, close. That's about 30 miles from Oakland.

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Yeah. Okay, and now we want to know something about your mother's family. What was your mother's maiden name? Her name was Smith. Smith, and her first name? Ahmad mon Smith. And occupation. Did she have a job? In those days, there wasn't much work. And the date of her birth.

03:45

Well, now that I'd had to pick her up she was she was 82 years old when she passed away and she has to be 68 Now what does that make her?

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Let's see. She had a she passed away in 68. I think

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it was 90 It wasn't a she'd be 97. Now, if you were alive. We can

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figure that out. Yeah. And in what year was she married? You remember that?

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No, I don't. I have it at home but I've forgotten.

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And your father's family. What was your father's name? Charlie. Charlie and Smith would ask for your mother's maiden name

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I was looking at their day. It just slipped my mind. Maybe

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I can come back. Okay. And your father's occupation.

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Smith was her name. Her name was was before she married. Yeah, my never name was stolen that.

04:43

Oh stone. That's right. Okay. Your father's occupation.

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He was the contractor

04:53

for house building houses

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in a kind of stonework. stonework. He did beautiful work and he or he built farms and he carved the animals or whatever he was putting just carbon he was no he's I saw a lion that he carved for a man in Lewiston. They had a kind of a sunken garden and he had water coming out of the side of the hill and my father made this big lion's head and the water was coming out of his mouth is terrific, you know, draining things. And for all this and all sorts of things, he just take his shoes on, and cause

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a natural, unnatural when

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I was a little girl I used to be with him a lot. And he he'd run in, don't make a birdbath, you don't have to stand about so he'd run a wire through that nightstand and turn this around while he chiseled and made it to sign

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in that run.

05:52

Used to be real clever.

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You have some of this talent.

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I have some gardeners that evade that sort of thing I have.

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I mean, do you have some of that talent that artistic? Well,

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I guess you'd say I do all sorts of talent. So

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you must have gotten did your mother have these talents?

06:08

Because she was talented too. She was a great Sower. She did lots of beautiful embroidery knitting supporters doilies that she knit? Yeah, I have one Chanel out of 100 threads. And it's very fine. Very fine. It's almost like a spiderweb.

06:26

She must have had good eye. Nice to have a uniform where you had only one sister and no brothers. No. And your husband's name, bread, bread rice, and his job.

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He we were farmers

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around Lewiston? Yes. And you remember the date of his birth?

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No, I should have had that.

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Well, a rough guess. Well, I know how much older

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8799 89

07:07

is Manchester and the place of his birth,

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Kansas holdings.

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And the date and place that you were married 1900 1900. And where was that? Gloucester in Lewiston? And has your husband passed on? Did you say? Do you have the data that

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he died in? 6769 69.

07:36

And how many children did you have?

07:45

We have three.

07:47

And what are their names?

07:50

Probably just I just lost one of my boys two weeks ago is that we got a heart attack in Spokane. I'm eldest boy. He was 59. And then we lost one boy when he was a baby. And then my youngest boy is in Santa Barbara. Three boys. No girls, I wasn't lucky enough to have a girl. Well,

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that's true. You weren't lucky enough. I wasn't lucky enough to have either boys or girls. Oh. What were their names?

08:20

Donald was the youngest one. And Alvin is the oldest

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one Eldon

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Elburn. El Dia.

08:30

And the in between one

08:32

No, he's this is the one that just died. The album is the one that was 59 passed away.

08:38

He's not the oldest.

08:39

No, he's the oldest. And then the baby is a baby was about two weeks had passed away.

08:45

That was done. No don't still very much alive. Oh Dominic's a second on and the baby died and what was the baby's name?

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for it? We call it Fred.

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And what was Alvin's occupation?

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He's he worked in an electric company up there and Spokane

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electricians and the date and place of his birth,

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nose. Night King 2020.

09:18

And Donald

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Donald is he was born in 68 and 58. He's 44 to 43. Was 15. Born when was Donald born 6860 By the way, he's 42 whatnot.

09:45

He's 42 So he was born in 38. Yeah. 1938 And what was your profession?

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He's worked for red foam. Electric engineer We

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took engineer and Fred died when he was a baby. When was he born?

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He was born in 2002.

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You had quite a few years between the

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just about 17 years. 16 years.

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Let's see. Then. Fred is the middle one. Yeah. You had what? 1921 22. And then you had 16 years. That's rather a long time. pretty surprised. Yeah. You didn't plan that one? No. And that's the choice. Wanna bet? Oh, yeah.

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I don't know what to do with that.

10:50

Yeah, especially now since the oldest one has passed. Yeah.

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He came up to date a week with me when my oldest boy so it's just you and he now that I have a sister. Whatever. Your parents of course. Personal information, education, how much education need

11:16

to get high school.

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No college or business training,

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Business College, but I just went about nine months and I got sick. And then I got a job to go to work. So I saw a good opportunity. What kind of photographer I work for photography with? Well, I worked for him for good many years after I was married.

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Was that fine? Did he train you on the job? You had no experience as a photographer?

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Well, he taught me He taught me everything I knew. He taught me how to read cut out okay. And I would just print or I get

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in the darkroom, worked in the darkroom. Did you like that? I loved it. That's an art, really is to know how long to leave them in the developing. My mother used to do that in the kitchen as well. We

12:06

used to fade our prints and I did spot retouching. You know, they took care of the face and the main lines and there was hair out of place or an extra fat bald or something. I cut them off in the dark room. I didn't take them to the That's clever. I worked for him for a number of years. He was very unhappy. When I got married. He wanted to open up another studio and put me in the in charge of it if I'd stay with him. And I said no, I'm just going to be a farmer's wife. But I did go down about three months every winter and work for years. And through the Christmas rush.

12:47

Well, that was nice. Did you appreciate getting away from the farm for a while.

12:52

My husband had small siblings younger girls in the family and they always came and stayed with him while I was

13:00

your husband had children before he married

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his sister Yes. District

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and occupation photographer. And your Do you have any other interests and hobbies and talent? Of course you have.

13:23

Oh, I get all kinds of?

13:24

Yeah. Do you want to list some of the?

13:27

Well, one thing I taught for a long time down here at the center was flower making. And I make all sorts of flowers out of all sorts of materials.

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Did you ever do any stone cutting like your father? stone cutting like your father? No, that's really our job isn't?

13:48

Yeah. No, I never did any cutting but I always turned the wheel so he could. Uh huh. And do you do embroidery work? Last night. drawers of embroidery work. We used to do so much

14:03

CROCHET CROCHETING, knitting tattooing, tattooing, too. I never learned that.

14:09

I tatted up Okay, your flowers last winter. And they're really pretty. I had them done here for a while. And people never heard of such a thing as a tattered flower. And they're just she's pretty easy for me.

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What kind of thread What are you saying they're

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heavy thread 20 It has to be heavy enough so that'll stand up when you're when you're at

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different colors did you ever take any of your things to affair or did you ever win any honors awards?

14:45

We used to go to spoke at the fair every year and we always do a lot of things to the parent. We practically paid all our expenses with our prize money. Is that right? And then, since I've been here at the center We used to take things up to the callbacks or the fair. And we used to win a lot of first prizes.

15:06

That's interesting. I did that when I was in the four H club. After two weeks to I want pride darn again.

15:14

It's nice, isn't it? Yeah. And clubs and groups and societies do you have belong to or belong to too many can imagine. I know you're saying, Did you go into the church choir?

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Well, we don't sing anymore. You don't know. We've quit? We haven't. Since the girls left us, we just can't find anybody that will stay with us. So we might I don't know whether we'll started up this fall. We might start it up again this fall. And then correct. Ruby Kirk and dog was our director in the kitchen ban. She was the main backbone of that. And she passed away. Oh, she's

15:49

the one that passed away. Yeah.

15:51

So we have just dropped that.

15:55

One, what have you could direct it since you've been working in?

15:59

Well, I'm retired now. I only work two to three days a week. And I travel a lot now and go places and just enjoy. So I'm going to teach a quilting class here, oh, letter.

16:14

Be sure and advertise that because I know people who are interested in?

16:17

Well, I think they will, they're going to put it in their program for winter. I brought a lot of patterns on samples down to Murnane today. And we've done lots of quilting down here. We have a sewing machine. This year, I'm going to start with some of the new shortcuts and quilting.

16:45

Okay. Let's go way back and start with your childhood. The things you remember your earliest memory, for instance.

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Well, one thing I can remember what my first time was when I was five years old, my dad used to take us to school in a sleigh. And we didn't have too much and I would love some clocks. And so whenever that happened, that was really a treat. He had the sleigh bells and on the horse. The whole neighborhood would pile on the sled.

17:14

I remember that back in Minnesota sleigh bell. Thanks. Yeah. And so he looked forward to having snow. Yeah. You were five years old when you started school. And so you must have been about 12 When you finished the eighth grade and then you went to high school? Was the high school there in Lewiston?

17:40

Yeah, and I played basketball, just about everything baseball and I was very athletic when I used to work on the trapeze. Really, a girlfriend and I had crappy is when we were learning you know, in those days used to have so much in your theater. And we'd see something new. So while we were learning we had a trapeze in their barn in the hayloft. So we felt we learned it on a soft spot. But when we get to be experts, we went down in my father's basement, which it was a cement floor, and we didn't therefore know. But we used to spend hours learning the different things that we'd see on the show. Nobody ever got hurt. Well, no, no no don't look for hurt on a motorcycle.

18:32

Do you ride a motorcycle? Do you drag yourself? No ALL RIGHTY my

18:37

friend had a motorcycle and we used to go encourage load days a woman didn't work but no so I was had to write scientists saying to see if somebody gave me a writing skirt when the old person remember so I wore that and Crusader strike and it balanced the motorcycle different and when we came out of the garage and had to go with this turn to get and when we made that second turn he lost balance and the motorcycle fell over on my leg. Now it's been two weeks over that broken no just badly bruised. But I got up and then he got a sidecar. So from then on there was four of us we just went everywhere in that motorcycle pack a picnic lunch and away we go

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remember those sidecar? What was your favorite subject in school?

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No projects.

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What didn't you like? Well, I like reading and I always like my wrist and things like that. Of course I was interested in sports. I took part in all sports. And that's

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you remember any teachers especially for special reasons. I remember

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one teacher It was about this. He was the principal of the High School. He was cross I really cross side just met. I was always sort of a timid person in school. But we teased this girl that sat in front of me a lot. And you couldn't tell when that teacher was looking at you when he was looking at somebody else, you know? And why? I don't know. But I reached over this way. And I went under her arm. She jumped up off of her chair and let her yell out of her. Oh, boy, I could have went through that teacher, he looked at me and I didn't know he was looking at me. And he was looking right at me. He just stumbled, stumbled on few and said, where are you? I had never done anything like that. I was never gonna do it again that,

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though. But do you like him? Was he a good teacher?

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He was. Right. It was so funny. Because you never knew what he was looking at. You couldn't tell? It's very difficult to do. He was a good teacher.

21:00

Did you have mostly bad teachers or women teachers? Or? Did you have any preference? Men? No, not really. Good students have good teachers. And good teachers

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have good students. In fact, there's very few people that I don't like most everybody Yes.

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That's the only way to be because if you don't you just make a lot of trouble miserable. And then you went to high school? That was in Lewiston tube. Was that right? In the same general area? How many students were in your class? Whichever, because

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I don't remember what they were. They were? Oh, I'd say 30. Maybe big classes.

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Most people went on to school. When you were more advanced here than we were in Minnesota. I went to high school, but not everybody did at that time, in my plan is to participate. Dean and that was quite an area. So maybe you lived in a bigger town that makes a difference? Yeah. Okay, did you look forward to getting through with school and getting married? Or did you look forward to getting a job and working

22:23

I just took the days as they came, I was happy and I had a nice home life was happy there. And I just enjoyed every day. So when it comes time, I want to crush you know, kids, or you want to go away to

school. And my folks wouldn't stand for that. So I didn't want to go to school down there. So a friend of mine was working for this photographer and she was going to get married and she says why don't you go down there and apply for that job. Mother said, Well, if I wanted to work, what she'd accept that. So I did, I went down, put my application in and I liked it. We just stayed there. Got married. It was a wonderful film. I had a nice boss. Just got along Wonderful.

23:14

So before you were married, we're living in town. So when you got married, went to the farm, that was your first really farm experience. Was that difficult to adjust? No. How far out of town was it? Oh, mile and a half. Oh, that was really almost right in town.

23:30

We lived in union town the first two years. First floor but for 10 years. We live there on a farm and then we come up here to Pomona we farmed quite a few years and then we live three years out here Rama we bought a 42 acres. We raised some wheat on that. We had a couple of cows on a couple pigs and some chickens and a big garden. We just loved it.

23:55

But it was mostly wheat farming. Not a lot of dairy. No. Did you take care of the chickens?

24:05

I love the chickens.

24:07

Chickens. What were your special What was your special role on the farm? what point did you you took care of the chickens and the housework.

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Yes, I did lots of canning and curse when we lived on the big farm why I had lots of labs Amanda cook for

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which one was the big farm

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but five miles out of town.

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And was that wants to tweet too.

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We had about 60 Edit cattle out there some sloppy error there. And I wish I had a lot of people to cook for a long time. I wish that a lot of man.

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He didn't have threshing. Did you do the threshing to on your farm? So we could further threshers

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while he got so in those days, we had our own machines. We didn't have so many And Don, when we was at Union Town you had the cookout that cooked for dispatchers

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that went right with the thrashing.

25:07

But later years you had your own. My husband and I were both great young people. And we always had a bunch of kids around. I don't think we were ever, ever a year that we didn't have young people. And, of course, our son was 16 years old when we lived out there. And he had his friends and my sister lived with me. And my father had passed away in the meantime. So he was living with me. And she'd have her friends. And lots of times, we'd have eight, nine young people. My husband and the boys would go out and do the chores and milk the cows and the girls. And I'd do the baking and house painting. And if there was a dancer in the country, we took that bunch of kids in a way where

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you had a big family. Yeah, yeah, it was good for your children.

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And my, my brother in law lived with us. I think that two years before my sister and me were married. And this was last summer I was down there. And Lauren says, anytime you want to come and live with us, you come to juvie gave me a home when I didn't. That's nice. And he says I'll never forget it. And it says you're welcome here to stay as long as do one. That's what that was pretty nice.

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Very nice. And it gives you a good feeling. It gives you moral support, even though you may never have to take them up on it. You know, there's

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really one. I would say that's one thing I'd never do that was imposed on my kids.

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I don't think I'd ever go and live with them, especially if I was ill. Because I know what it is. I took care of my mother for a number of years.

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You you miss a lot. You know, you have to give up a lot when you take care of a sick person. I was wouldn't do it any other way that I know what it is. Yes. And I wouldn't put that on my kid.

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How long did you have to take care of?

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Well, I had her there for tenure. Is that right? When she was good he or she got a little worse in the last two or three years she I had to watch her she got forgetful. She'd get me

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all the way she went to a nice evening. Well, I was just going to say before your life seems to be so simple and so happy. You haven't had any tragedies but you have had taken care of your mother for those years. That's not easy. And your boy died when he was a baby.

27:44

Boy, my father, my mother, and the week that my son died, I lost a man. And I'd have two nephews. And the last day for yesterday there was a funeral for one. So I've had a lot of deaths in my family, a lot of sadness. But my husband and I had a wonderful life. We really did a good time. So I saw hardships and lots of good times. Of course, we went through the Depression.

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Tell me about the depression.

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That was rough. You couldn't borrow any money in the bank. You didn't get anything for your wheat. This one particular year we didn't even get enough money to pay the taxes or the interest on our loan for the place. We did that for two three years and finally we just had because we just couldn't make it and then you'd have to sell like we couldn't we find with horses in those days beginning and we had to sell all our good horses did it for the old you couldn't sell it on horses. So if we had to keep the over sell. We always had to eat because I had a basement full of everything that

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was fortunate because in the cities is where they really suffer. Yes.

28:59

Oh, you never went hungry.

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That's very unfortunate. Your children always had enough to eat.

29:08

Yeah, no, I had a very happy life really. And I worked here for the Center for ever since 71 year ago and I enjoy that too.

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Nice to be active, isn't it?

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I drove the bus, the first two years without a bus. And then finally we just decided or wish it dropped was a hard job. You had to get out love people help them out. Every time they might have got on it I'd get out and help them out. And that was really a maxed out but I did it two years. It was great for them

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what yours would you say that the depression cover for you?

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After after the First World War,

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the early 20s by an antibody because it had different phases in different parts of the country, it seems. So when the early 20s were

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way down, I think we were only getting 21 cents or 22 cents for the week when I moved to town, so my plates up there, so my week for \$3.

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A week, or yet

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and so the depression really went right on until the war came didn't. It did where I was, I know you did everywhere. I was born in 1917. And I never do anything about depression.

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No, no, it's all really well,

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either, but no, I was born in 17. So by the time I can remember, we were already in depression. So I couldn't remember anything that wasn't depression until the war came. So that's that's why I always tell people I didn't know the difference between depression and non depression, because it was only

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Well, it was after I got married, there was one because my first two babies were born. I didn't work. But then it gets so tough, you know. And that year when we only got 22 cents, and every year about September, Mr. angstrom would call me when Nope, I wouldn't come down

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22 cents. Would you be down

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so my husband and I talked you know,

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so you didn't have enough money to pay the taxes.

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So when he called me this time, I heard and I talked it over and the waiter said he offered me. Well, he gave me just big wages, and he paid on my transportation down, he boarded. He rented an apartment, furnished everything.

31:59

So let's get these places. You were he asked you to work in Lewiston. Yeah, that's awesome. Yeah. And where were you living at the time union? Oh, I see farm there. The first two, three years we were married. And he offered to pay your transportation,

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transportation and my living while I was working down there. And so we decided that that would be a good thing for a separate Titus over the winter. I started working, and I worked for years.

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Every lucky.

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And then first, but then a year, you know, it's given me the season, I could say he always give me a big bonus, which I'd go and I'd work and I put all my time in there. Maybe I'd worked 18 hours a day, or something like that. And he appreciated that. And if you remember when the flu was so bad, before my memory was, well, he took it to him. And it was just about four or five days before Christmas. Or we had always developing to do and everything. So I go over to his place every morning. And he'd give me instructions. And then I go back I was developing was one thing that he always did himself. He wouldn't trust anybody would use the bathroom. But he couldn't do it. So I did everything I did all about the inputs. We have lots of help, that I took the lead around the studio for 10 days. And he really appreciated I can imagine. And the first the last night of the 24th 23rd I worked right streets never stopped. It was I am the man was at Bethel. And the two of us we were right straight through, never stopped.

33:44

There were no unions in those days, you could work 18 hours a day. Nobody ever questioned that right. Now people have to work that long. They think they're being killed.

33:57

Oh, yeah. Well used to you. Oh, I haven't had my picture just certain time and so forth. And he promised him he wanted them out at that time. So we did our best to get everything out for him. We did.

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So that at least gave you some cash during the Depression.

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Yes, I've had this overlap.

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How did the war affect you? World War

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Two. One up to protect us.

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Did you send him to go to one?

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No. He he had factsheet Oh, how fortunate and well he didn't think so. No, all his friends went to Colfax, you know, for their first physical. They turned him down in crowded sweat feet. While he was an expert with all kinds of machinery. And he couldn't see any reason why he couldn't grab a craft or a cracker Right? Or something just as well as anybody but he called the mark. So then two weeks later, they sent him up to Spokane, and they turned him down. So he came home a minute disappointed by But aren't you happy? Yes, no doubt in my heart. I was glad that he didn't have to go. Yes. But of course if he had to, I'm here to talk to you with recipes. Frank and I went and made it bad.

35:13

Yes, I remember those days

35:18

that we were farmer, he could end up being a farmer, he probably wouldn't have had to go anywhere. Except that he wanted to go with the rest of his friends.

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Well, so the war really didn't affect you. You're very lucky.

35:40

Yeah. Yeah. Well, we have everything that we needed right there on the break down me.

35:50

The parade. Fourth of July? Yes, they're practicing for tomorrow. Oh.

36:08

Yeah.

36:09

Oh, I'm going to close this door to be cut back.

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On this big guy playing, yeah. Ah, let's see. We haven't touched the the role of the church in your family. Did that make the church did you belong to a church at that Methodist. And that had a regular part of your family life? You're married in the Methodist Church and multipath many children at

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home, I've lost them.

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About what year did you start getting the new kinds of farm machinery?

37:12

Well, we never did. We always find was cautious out there. And it was tough. When our lease was up out there. It cost us about \$50,000 To make the switch at that time. And we just couldn't see that are getting our age to go in debt that much for new machinery. So that's how we can we bought was 42 acres. We sold we sold all our cattle except we had six cows that we kept in two horses and we had 67 they had a farm. Get them out there and I have 200 chickens. We figured we'd make our living off from that. But we soon found out that our livestock was eating up more than the profit. So my husband says, well, the horses I gotta go. So we sold and we kept two cows with like six. But finally we just sold the car. And then we kept the pigs required number of years. And we did pretty good with them. Then we put records. That was another thing. Oh brother. My brother in law was dating once and he's a natural born salesman. So he grew up with a college and he'd sell sausage. And then we butcher every week and make the sausage. Then a week, three week. If you think that wasn't something we butcher Sunday, then cut them off on Monday. Tuesday we make the sausage on Wednesday they deliver it and we used to buy it to be false yet but you'd make off each other and make that all into sausage and then Wednesday and Thursday delivered that Friday and Saturday I'd render all that lard and get that large and you just couldn't sell large it was getting to the place where a person whether you're ready to go and all that sort of thing. So it's abandoned we sold it at the restaurant so we just practically gave it away just to get rid of it. Well we did that we had when we first bought that place out that we had was pickup and we had to make payments on the pickup payments on the place we couldn't see any other thing we had to do something so we sold a saucer you can meet

39:24

you was that you remember oh golly.

39:25

I can't remember maybe 30 or 40 Somewhere along in there. So we did pretty good at that but

39:38

all that was a big job wasn't Oh, I'm so

39:40

sick of that. We had a nice place record button place except for

39:45

like a factory. There's like a sausage factory. And all the meat went into the whole thing the whole character liver cells age. Oh yeah. Do you make blood sausage and cheese? pickled pig's feet? Yes, although Whole thing.

40:01

Never want to think we didn't couldn't catch a squid or so we had washed. Yeah.

40:08

Did you call it black washed? What is the only fry sausage I guess? Yeah, yeah. And blood sausage. Mm hmm.

40:16

So then my husband decided he had to go to work. He was going to work. So he went down to Pullman green growth, and then the feed plant toilet. And he came here.

40:30

And that was in about in the late 30s or early 40s. And so then he just because the farm just wouldn't pay or it was just too much trouble. But during while he was

40:39

getting up the age where he needed to retire when he was 65, and retired. Then I worked up at the college for 10 years, wanting to do and I was a housekeeper

40:52

for one of the houses. Would you like that

40:54

head housekeeper. The wages were just going up when I quit. I hated to quit when I was 65. But he said, No, you're gonna quit. And I didn't want him but he insisted on so we did. And I was really glad because we really have some nicer, traveled all over. Just had a great time.

41:18

So you saw on the farm then when you retire, I sold it after he passed away after he passed away and you rented it out until then or what they did.

41:25

I rented the land and I lived on the house but we had a great big house and big yard lots of work in the yard, if not some flowers. It was always ambitious to grow our own fruit and berries my garden we tend to put the girl we had apples and plums and cherries and all suck if we didn't have peaches.

41:48

Just growing, rubbers, raspberries

41:50

loganberries and everything you can. And then we bought a big freezer. Everything in the freezer. doesn't do much after that.

42:02

So which one? Do you remember about what year you started getting new appliances in your home like a refrigerator?

42:11

When we first bought that place? We had just one

42:16

which places is now near Pullman? Yes, it's about three miles out of Pomona here.

42:20

They had one goal or one light fixture hanging right down the middle. There was no water in the house. And they had a sink behind the kitchen door with a pipe going out on the ground and the water went out there whatever you put through the sink. And of course

42:36

the little outhouse. What kind of saint was it didn't have a faucet and spigot no

42:41

pump no one got a pump on the torque. So well that was the first thing we did. We had to drill a well so big really well put in a water system. The whole house rewired had modernized plugins and so forth

42:57

again what year was it I'm gonna

42:59

keep this all 3040 before that we had a lovely trace

43:14

Did you have a well outside? Did you have a sister did you have a sister in

43:17

law we had a we had a search for one we moved there. But we've got rid of that in a hurry. So water is just not good.

43:26

We used to use a cistern water for washing and then the whale outside for drink but

43:30

we had a wild dog and we have lots of water good old clear water. People from town used to come out and get water to drink. Just such good care.

43:45

So then did you get your wire the house and did you get plumbing in the house?

43:51

Oh yes. We build on the bathroom

43:57

and refrigeration and stove got all that oil. Little by little other appliances and that was in the late 30s. Okay. What happened we talked about Oh, tell me how you met your husband.

44:19

Well, I'm telling you he was a wonderful man. Well, isn't it wonderful that you met him? Yeah, it was. No, we really have like I said before, we had a very happy life.

44:30

You remember the first time you saw him?

44:34

Yes. It was. We used to go to dances on Saturday my little son and I met a fella and I went to a dance with him. He said his friend was was coming down with him and but I had one of my girlfriend's be his baby, the next following Saturday. So I said fine. So that planned out just On. Well, that was the night I met my husband. He was the extra man.

45:04

Isn't that switch partners?

45:07

Well, I had this next Saturday you believe it. I had a date with Fred. And this fellow that I went with the first time is now one of my brothers. Is that right? Yeah. He married your sister, your nervous system. All

45:19

right, my husband and I see America.

45:23

And the four of us jumped around for years. And we were they were great dancers. And so were we, we used to go when we went to Lewiston, there were 16 of us used to go together. And we used to go to all the dances down the list and we had a group you know, fire on. Fourth of July, we'd go to Walmart or something and camp all night and go up the roundups are the Fourth of July celebration.

45:50

How long did you know before you got married?

45:51

Oh, absolutely. Almost a year.

45:56

But you knew right away that you're going oh, that's so nice. And you never gave me any trouble? No, you never had any women's rights problems. You just we always were decision making and all that. Yeah, we always

46:13

talk things over. We never kept things from one another. And I'm happily married

46:20

for sitting. Oh, it's so nice to hear that. Why don't they make marriages like that?

46:26

I don't understand whether people expect too much now

46:29

I think so. We're spoiled.

46:34

Now if ever there was a business deal or anything, we always talked it over. decided between us what we should do.

46:43

And we had a big church wedding.

46:45

No, oh, we had a wedding and my pops.

46:48

Or you got married in

46:51

my mother wanted.

46:56

And did you have the children in a hospital or do you have a midwife?

47:01

I had a midwife for Donnie, but the other two were born in Lewiston and a half St Kilda hospital.

47:08

Do you feel more comfortable in the hospital to feel more secure?

47:11

Oh, I don't know. I don't think it made much.

47:15

He didn't have too much trouble. No.

47:19

I had Donnie up here and Mrs. Ryan Did you know her epi Brian. She was a wonderful nurse. She was and I haven't done it up there and night. She was so good to them babies, just like gamekeeper you know her. She was born at the same time. And her mother was Mrs. Ryan sister and she died. So she took care of two babies. And whenever she'd feed each one and she'd rock them, you know, I'm in all this. She was a

47:48

real treatment.

47:50

She was wonderful. That's a talent.

47:51

Yeah. Did you ever plan or did you have any idea of how many children you wanted? Or did you just leave for you wanted for?

48:04

I want to two girls and two boys. That was an ideal.

48:07

Right? But you got three boys? Three.

48:12

But I said I had my sister. She just like a daughter. Yes. My father died when they were kids were in the seventh grade. And then my mother came up here and she cooked at the college and my sister lived with me. So she really more like my daughter than she is a sister and being so young to

48:37

me, so you never got your four children. Now. Did you feel you do miss it a lot? Or did you just take it as a matter of course

48:47

while I just took it as a talent. I was always just always Wonder Girl because I like to Seoul. And we had a heart man that had several children. We had two sets of buildings on our farm out here in the country

and they had a little girl and she was the cutest thing I you ever saw. She had beautiful curly hair, you know, and her mother was sick a lot. I used to solve for the server. I take her home and I made a neat cute little frilly dresses. You know,

49:19

you had the fun of having a daughter. Yeah.

49:23

And she was real sick and I took her at the hospital and I didn't think I didn't I wasn't sure when they're kids. So she had the paper signed that if anything happened to her that I got her daughter and I was triggered that fight and

49:41

then you had all these young people with you all the time that helped to fill the empty spaces didn't

49:47

Yeah, why we were so busy

49:55

so we have another one I like that we raised lives in Oregon. My husband and I went down to see him a year before my husband passed away. And he has five children of his. They had a family reunion his brothers and sisters and all came and treated us just like their parents. And this young man, well, he's father of five children. He just cried when he saw us. And he was just so happy to see us touch. His kids had never seen this before. We've had quite a talk with them. And they were so glad they met us because they'd always heard friends tell our friends don't it's not we know yet. He always said that we were the only parents that he ever knew. So, with a lot of satisfaction, you know, we know that we have done some good,

50:53

right. Lots of children in the world, and they belong to all of us. And we all have to do our part in giving them a good word. Yeah. So really, nobody is trying to Yeah. So when you got the the modern equipment did this make a difference? Big difference in your amount of work that you would have won free or any free time? Well, yeah. Or did it make more work for you? Sometimes

51:26

we had different things fit in to say like after we had all these kinds of cattle. That was a big job taking care of that many cattle and we milked about 10 Cows sold according

51:36

did you build them by hand? Never got milking machines?

51:39

No. But my husband and the boys did the milking

51:43

and he brought the cream to the creamery.

51:44

Butter. Yeah.

51:47

How much was cream? At that time?

51:49

I don't remember really. The cream money which our grocery money and tip us to go dancing, extensions like

51:59

that. We do sell eggs and have no chickens to selling.

52:03

Not very many. I sold eggs once in a while but not too many. We raised mostly fryers and I chose aggressive fryers. That was a good match the hard part of the game but we always seem to have fun doing it.

52:23

It's attitude is tell me about the groups and societies and social groups

52:32

that you belong to well I belong to Rebecca and I belong to them or struggle clubs in her work with World War One person you belong

52:46

to any club that had political issues is there no escape

53:00

Yeah, I always sit and hope for the best Yeah, that was I'd say to I hope the best man wins

53:06

right and trying to do the best that I'm not much better carrier and

53:11

my husband was a good Republican but I never

53:17

did politics enter into your discussions ever. Did you consider yourself a Republican or

53:23

was he was that I'm I don't belong to any party. I just I let the best man whoever I thought was the best man that was who I'd want

53:30

to not the contrary. But he was Republican. He was

53:41

what kind of church groups did you belong to? Ladies aid and things like

53:45

Yeah, I used to bomb to them and I used while we lived there last July was very strong in the church. Sunday School teacher was until eight so far.

53:58

Do you like teaching Sunday school? Yes. I talked a little once. Of course. Their minds are so open what would you say is the nicest memory you have to choose?

54:14

Oh, I don't know. I have so many in my hate to pick one out. I just don't really know. I don't

54:20

know. And also the most difficult is that hard to wear? Your son may be a baby.

54:27

Or the hardest thing I've had of course was that's the hardest role. Yes.

54:32

I've heard it wouldn't say you can use a daughter a son but it's

54:36

not like no, it's just part of it. Yeah,

54:40

exactly. happening with

54:44

my husband love that place out there. So I thought well, I'm gonna stay here and I'm going to keep it up but I couldn't. We had such a big yard and he loved flowers and we had was a showplace down everybody tell me he had I think all right. half an acre of iris, the most beautiful Iris that you ever saw. And he worked out there all day long in our gardens and in his garden. Roses get the most beautiful rose, if you ever saw. He just spent his time out there. And also I thought, well, I'm going to try it see if I can keep it up. But you know, I'd get up three or four o'clock in the morning and I walk in I'm work and I was and then I got Ed Bell was working here and he's just gonna you're not gonna stay out there on it. You're gonna come in here and work. Oh, why did I can't do that kind of work? You just come on. I'm

not gonna take no for an answer here. It was coming. You come in Monday morning. So I did. I came in and he helped me get started and then I'd go home at night night work make it till 10 o'clock at night out there in the ER. So finally I just decided to either my house or the home which is the most important. So I decided I sold the house on eight acres and then dropped the slope on the hill where I live now.

56:01

You have a house of your own. You live alone. How big a house and

56:06

it's just right for me. It's a two bedroom house.

56:12

You clean it yourself. We have a little yard.

56:15

I have a lovely garden. I'm still a farmer. So yeah, Hill Street Street. I'm coming over to see 20 Hill Street.

56:26

I never made in lane. Oh.

56:31

Oh, my neighbors are new since I've been there getting really bored.

56:36

I'm not from home. And I've been here about one year. Oh,

56:40

it's a smile. Well, I'd guess you'd say it's a small house. It's it's pretty big for me. I have a nice laundry and it's all one thing. I want it all on one floor. Now, which I get because when I get older, I'm gonna need that. But I have a nice yard. And I work out there for five hours most if I'm home, I've worked out their yard every day for really, I get a lot of work up and I got a big garden. But I just went over yesterday I didn't work today it didn't work. Of course I won't work tomorrow and Sunday. But next week I'll start getting in and go over my yard. I get lots of flowers in

57:23

the wintertime you risk unit knit the winter.

57:27

I'm knitting an African right now, of course, and I'm making the samples for the quilts to work. So I work back in the evening.

57:38

Watch television.

57:40

Yeah, not sure. But I'm busy do

57:45

you do reading? Not much reading.

57:47

I never wasn't reader and I think perhaps goes back to when I was a kid I used to like to read and my mother wouldn't let me read for some reason. Well, you're burning electricity. You turn that light off now they don't think oh, you know what

58:09

they're trying to get them to read now because you just want to watch television. People don't know how to read anymore.

58:16

But I never saw I never did

58:20

read it has to be the habit has to be gotten when you're small.

58:26

I've read the papers and of course I take my art magazines and I'd read them from cover to cover that's where I get a lot of I get that take that I can crack and I just latch on my ideas

58:40

good. You have a lot of books at the library to

58:45

learn I got a book the other day with patterns so I thought well maybe I'm well

58:56

isn't it nice to have all these interests? never bored or you know,

59:02

I've always got too many projects ahead.

59:06

Your eyes are in good condition

59:12

very lucky. I've been quite healthy emotional.

59:18

Well, being athletic. I think that helps. I think people who are sick perhaps don't move enough. I always I try to walk fast. I think if I walked fast sickness would catch up. But I think it keeps your body active keeps the glands working.

59:35

When I lived down there all summer long we went swimming in the river every night. We girls would work because he used to be a streetcar. And we will cuz we work until five and each one of us will take some food of some kind we go to Clarkson because they had the best feed and we'd swim and a lot nine o'clock and then we build a fire and groceries or corn or bacon and roll Have

1:00:01

you always had good air?

1:00:04

Yeah

1:00:07

let's see back before the appliances came in how did you do your washing?

1:00:14

Did you answer when we first lived there? I often think of that and I wonder how in the world I ever did I read a post on the board

1:00:20

did you ever make your own so

1:00:22

yes I made my own soap I made just about everything

1:00:28

self sufficient

1:00:31

and so some while I had my oldest boy was a baby but he was only two months old and the second baby was born. I had always heard three moms man I did all their washing and all our rub those clothes on the mower and what I just started at six o'clock in the morning and rub until noon and then rob at number one on the word I ever did it you Baxter and so just some telephone Milan and he wanted to demonstrate a double tip detector if you ever hear that double double cup, Dexter. No, they were too cute just like to work machine. And you're watching you've worked on both of them or one and I wash the first batch and warm water and then the second one isn't real. But you know, we used to have to heat our water on the stove, you know there and carry it and so when I heard that you walk in the house or on time No, I'm a forward chef. This fellow said he'd be there in the week. So believe me, I had gathered up everything I can find

1:01:35

to do the whole watching

1:01:37

but that working out so quick. I couldn't believe it. And you got a week off of our routine had a motor on it. So you remember the motor?

1:01:45

The love the neighbors by one two?

1:01:47

I don't remember really

1:01:54

made an awful noise didn't ya? Oh yes. Oh two running total. Yeah. That wasn't how did they have a ring around them? Oh, yeah. Everybody hung them on the line and then you iron

1:02:09

I had I had an oil stove a three burner stove and I put my old flat irons on the last don't put a skillet over him and then I put my ironing board right in front of the stove. So I had a pretty soft I could just reach over there and get my iron

1:02:25

and the iron didn't cool off fence. No, no. It was pretty hard on you though, wasn't it? Yeah. In the summertime. Now nobody owns anything anymore.

1:02:35

No, no, I often say no. Here I am. I'm living alone. I don't have no one to watch for about myself. You get worse I bought new washing machine and do everything when I come to town. Don't have to hire very seldom once in a while to press a tablecloth or some Hank shows that even some of the handkerchief you don't have to iron anymore. Just unbelievable.

1:02:58

When you compare this now with the way it used to be. It's almost like living in a different world.

1:03:02

And my oldest boy was so protective already. You wear white shirts. You go to school, for the white shirt, come home. Take off that shirt.