

Mary Talbott

6/2/02, tape 1, side 1

MT: Mary Anne Svetich...

JT: And Talbott.

MT: And Talbott. S-v-e-t-i-c-h.

JT: And how old are you, Mary?

MT: I will be...what will I be...I don't know, eighty-seven or eighty-eight. I'll be eighty-eight in September.

JT: And you moved to La Grande when?

MT: February of '29.

JT: When you moved to La Grande you moved here from?

MT: Bingham Canyon, Utah. It was a mining community. It had only one street and it went right up the canyon. The houses were built up on the walls of the canyon. We had three mines in the town there, Bingham Canyon. One was called Hunyon Boy Line and the other one was called Apex Line. The last one...these two are underground mines...and the last one was a surface mine called Utah Copper Company. Later Utah Copper was bought out by Kennecott Copper. That's what it is now. We didn't have...we had a good school...we didn't have a high school. We had to go downtown to go to high school. So we had high school here in Griggs. I was disappointed when I came to La Grande and got to the depot in La Grande...this is before they built the new depot...the old depot was dilapidated and old and I thought, "Have we made an improvement from there to here?" You know, this old, old building. Fortunately, shortly after that they built the new depot and I was really proud of that depot. The reason for that was the depot in Utah was magnificent and they had huge murals on the wall depicting the pilgrims and the covered wagons and especially when they hit...nailed the railroad and they hit the last spike. You remember hearing about that in Utah? So that was some of the pictures and I was fascinated by that. Then when I came here to look at this depot there was no such thing. Then when we got to town it was about...the train came in about six o'clock or thereabouts because it was dinnertime and it was dark...still winter...and got in the taxi and I can't remember whether we had to have two taxis or if we all got in one. There was Mom and six kids, step-father, Nick and Kate. Kate came down to meet the train. Nick was with us. He went to Utah to get my Mom. Where do you suppose we'd all fit? In a taxi cab?

JT: Boy, that would have been crowded. [laughter]

MT: Maybe we got on each other's laps or something. I don't remember that.

JT: Your mother married Joe Thomas in Utah, then?

MT: No, she married him here. He had to sign papers in Utah because he wanted to take the family and you couldn't take the kids over the line. So he had to sign a paper that he would take care of the kids and he would be married as soon as possible. So they got married in March right here in the Catholic church.

JT: You had six in your family and then how many were in the Thomas family?

MT: Nine.

JT: Nine. So fifteen kids all together?

MT: Absolutely. Where do you suppose we all fit?

JT: Anyhow, we got in the house...see our house would hold...we had three bedrooms. Here they had four bedrooms. There still wasn't enough room.

MT: Not for fifteen kids.

JT: And there were two...out in the back yard there were two sheds that my step-dad got from when they built the normal school. They had the sheds they kept all their tools and stuff. He got those two sheds from them and put them on his back yard. One of those sheds they put two beds in there for some of the kids to sleep out there. So the boys slept outdoors and we slept indoors. There was one room on the east side of the house. There was a border. My step-dad had a border. After his wife died this fellow just stayed. Then when we came there was no bed for me. I slept on trunk. What do you call those big, big trunks?

JT: Steamer trunks.

MT: Pardon me?

JT: Steamer trunks.

MT: Steamer trunks. But it still wasn't long enough. Part of me would be hanging out. My head was against the wall and it was hard! It wasn't very comfortable.

O: How old were you, Mary, then?

MT: Fourteen or fifteen. Anyway, they decided that I should sleep with the kids on the... daven opened up like a bed...one of those old fashioned one that had a leather seat... we got me, Dave and Ann and Polly in that hide-a-bed. Every time I turned around there'd be a foot in my face. So I decided that didn't work...didn't want to fight with the kids...so I took the chairs...dining room chairs, because that was in the dining room...and put them together and I got some coats and blankets and a pillow and I slept on the chairs. I had to get up before the bachelor got up. He caught me in bed one morning sleeping on the chairs and said, "This will not do. I'm going to leave and she can have my bedroom." I finally got a bedroom. And then when I had to go to school...I was going in the eighth grade the later part of the school year...

JT: You went to Central...the old Central School?

MT: I went from our school in Utah was modern, made of cement and brick...all neat. I couldn't figure out what...Central School. Do you remember Central?

JT: Yes, I went to school there.

MT: You remember the wooden floor. Clunk, clunk, clunk. And I thought, "Holy cow, what kind of town is this!" I still hadn't been downtown. I was afraid to go where we were just one street at home, so I wouldn't get lost, but going downtown here where do I go, how do I get back.

JT: You lived up on Seventh Street above the college?

MT: Yes. 13099. I liked it alright. The other kids...some of them went to grade school at Central, but then they built Ackerman and some of the kids got to go there. I went to Central and graduated from Central and got into high school. Then I felt more at home because the building was a lot more like our schools back there. The reason I think...I was wondering about that...how a dinky little town like Bingham Canyon would have such a nice school...was that the Mormon people had their kids going to school so they had a nice school built. We had to

go up the front door on the lower floor and we had an upper floor, too. You'd think it been like the one like you see country school kids going, but it wasn't like that. It was a modern school they had. They had modern plumbing in there. It had a gymnasium, a stage. As I started saying, one side of the doorway was second grade and the other side of the door, the big doors, was the first grade. The first grade teacher was named Mrs. Watkins. The sixth grade teacher...there was only six grades...was Mr. Watkins. He was the principle. You know that Mrs. Watkins taught me the alphabet. She couldn't say my name, which was Marisa. Teacher would say, "What's your name?" "Marisa" "What is your name, say it slow?" "Marisa" "Okay, you're going to be Mary." That's how I got the name Mary. Because she could not catch on to my name. Mary Anne. After that the school added on four more rooms, duplex like, and it was beautiful. So we went to the eighth grade there. From the eighth grade we would have to go downtown to go to high school. That's where my brother Lou went. He would hike every morning down to school. They didn't have a bus so he would hike down there to go to high school. The rest of us stayed up there in Bingham. Anyway, what was I going to say about coming here? I liked my teachers in La Grande. I like those teachers over there, too. I had a lovely teacher named Ms. Evans. She was Scandinavian or something. She was a big girl and wore a white blouse with a butterfly skirt and black hat and leather pumps. And she'd come to \_\_\_\_\_. And I loved her.

O: Mary, how did you spell the Marisa? How did you spell your name Marisa?

MT: M-a-r-i-s-a. My sister's name was Harisa. She turned out to be Ann. Dorothy, my oldest sister, was Dredisa. Dredisa means deer. So that was our names.

O: And what is this nationality here?

MT: Croat. From Yugoslavia. I was going to tell you. After so many years here Lou and I tutored my mom to get her citizen papers. And she did. She studied and answered every question perfectly. One question that got everybody laughing was he asked her, "Have you ever been in jail?" She says, "Who, me?" [laughter] And they just laughed.

JT: How did she cook for that many in a family?

MT: We had a baby bathtub... a granite bathtub for babies. We didn't have any babies. We'd mix the dough for the bread in that huge pan. Mom baked a branch...a big brown loaf like that. Put it on the bottom of the oven floor in the oven and it would bake. And we could get a heel. All the way around, everybody wanted to get a heel. So there were lots of heels. They cooked mostly sauerkraut. So I got to stop there and tell you about sauerkraut. They buy sauerkraut by the bushel. They buy grapes by the bushel. They buy coal by the ton. We bought flour by the ton. Big flour sacks from...what was the name of the bakery down there at the Salvation Army? [pause] McWilliams. So that's how we cooked. Then my step-dad would buy a little pig...wiener pig...and would raise them all summer 'till fall and butcher them. When they butchered the pigs we made weenies, we made lard, pork chops, ham. We'd put it in a big trough, where the animals drink from, we'd scrub that out...we didn't use it for a trough, we used it to put the meat in there to...we put a lot of salt and kind of cures it. I don't know what they call that, I've forgot. Then he had a smokehouse right out the

backyard. We kids would go out and find old apple trees. Took the branches down and got the limbs and used apple wood to smoke the meat. So we had ham and we had bacon. When we made the wieners we smoked them too. That provided the meat. Also, we had another place, we called it a barn, going up and down what would be Eighth Street. We had two cows in there...we bought two cows...and the boys milked the cows. We had chickens in the other part. Some where or the other the boys would talk about rabbits. Some where or other the boys got rabbits. You know how they multiply. We finally had to get...even though we butchered them for eating we finally had to butcher them and take them down to the market because there were so many of them. So they were starting to get really bad. Including the pigeons we talked about. I worked out for different people. I would clean house or help them cook or something. This one lady lived down on 'S' or 'T' and Fir...what is that street going down there, like going down to the park? Spruce. Down in that area. I worked...I got to tell you that when I got here I had a coat. Its called a rumble sleeved coat. It had a texture like this. But I outgrew it so I had to give the coat to my sister. She had a coat and I had a black and red knit sweater. It was a big knit, it wasn't real close, and man that was cold. I was going to school and I just about freeze. And here I am down here and nothing down here to keep my legs warm. With that sweater I'd get cold and I'd run to school... across that field from where you live... and go to school. \_\_\_ had said, "If you help me for a month, I'll buy you a coat." So everyday after school I went down and helped her and of course Saturday and Sunday, too. I helped her cook. She had three or four borders that she kept and she needed help. I helped her with the cooking, cleaning house, washing the laundry, things like that. She finally got to the end of the month and she did buy me a beautiful blue coat. I was so thrilled with it. It has sleeves in it and they were warm and it had a belt you could tighten. Oh, I was thrilled! When I was waiting to go home that night after I had helped her...the last day mopping the kitchen floor...I headed for home. I decided to go up Fourth Street. I heard sirens, you know, like fire. But I was too carried away with my coat. I got up there by the school and the school was on fire! What in the world is going on? I was so scared that our school was going to burn down...it did a lot. I got home and told the folks the school had burned down and Mom, "Yea, but where'd you get that coat?" I finally got to tell her that the \_\_\_ had got it for me after I worked. She never paid me, but she got me that coat. So that was one of my experiences with the school.

JT: You're step-father used to make wine, didn't he?

MT: Yes, he did. He made wine and whiskey. Later he made beer and that made me mad because I'd have to come home from school and there'd be ton of the beer that had to be bottled. I had to sit on the hose to get it to come out of the big kettle that...you know those copper wash...

JT: Wash tub. Double broiler.

MT: Yea, there you go. It would be in that and I'd really suck on it and then stick it in that bottle and then tighten up on it when it finally got full. One bottle after another. And Lou, my brother, capped them. I can still hear him. I'd fill the bottle and he went 'click'. I'd fill the bottle and he went 'click'. We'd bottle the

beer and then we'd have put it in the basement to cure or age or something. That was that. And as far as the grapes and the flour go, the only one they wanted to take care of that was me. So when they got the cabbage...we'd gone and got some cabbage...we'd cut it on that cabbage cutter, pour it in a big barrel, a great big barrel. I had to sit down and wash my feet and wash and wash with soap and wipe and wipe. Everything had to be absolutely clean. Then I had to get in there and squash down...

JT: With your toes and you feet.

MT: And squeeze down that cabbage until I made juice come out. They liked it flavored so they sprinkled caraway seeds in it every once in a while. And then there'd be another bunch and I'd have two in the whole barrel. And that wasn't just one barrel. That would be maybe two or three barrels of sauerkraut. And they also were in the basement. And then they had some nice new boards that they scrubbed and then put a cloth over the top of the cabbage...sauerkraut...and then they'd put these boards to hold the juice...to squeeze the juice. They put clean rocks on top of the board and that's how the cabbage kept juice...or the sauerkraut did. And the family...with the grapes...I had to smash the grapes. Until finally Nick came back again from the service. See, he had been home...in the service and came home, stayed awhile and then he reenlisted. He decided that he didn't want me to have purple feet so he got those boots you slip on that didn't have ties...slip-ons. That was one of the plain old boots. So he bought some boots...

JT: We used to call them gum boots.

MT: And we had to wash those boots. And then he came in there and he did them.

JT: You said they arrested your step-father Joe one time.

MT: Yes, they did.

JT: That was during Prohibition?

MT: That's before. It was in Prohibition. He went downtown and brought a couple guys home. And of course the guys are supposed to pay for the drink. They were drinking and then they went down and reported him and he got put in jail.

JT: You said your mother...

MT: Yea, we went for a few days like that and wondered when he was coming home. So Mom called me in...and I happen to know Sheriff Breshears and Ruth from school, his daughter...so Mom said, "You go talk to the sheriff and those guys and tell them if they're going to keep him in jail we needed some food." They got to thinking about it. It cost too much to feed him in jail and feed all us kids so they turned him loose. My folks never forgot that. [laughter] They always laughed about it. They thought it was funny. And it was funny. To me it was serious. My folks thought it was funny.

JT: I'm sure it was hard, but it was fun, wasn't it?

MT: Yea, it was. Then I went to high school. I told you about that Gladys Hutchison was my best friend. I thought she was my best friend. We used to have fun. I was going to tell you, before we left Utah I had three new dresses and another coat and I put them in one of those little trunks that had a hump on it, a rounded top, and I put them in there. And I put the boys clothes and their overalls and shirts and stuff. When we came to La Grande it wasn't there. They took out the

clothes and Mom had some wine left over from after my dad passed away. So the old man wanted that...put that little barrel in that trunk and stuck pillows and stuff around it. How they got it through the train I don't know. I would think they'd go 'glug, glug, glug' how water does, liquid. Any way, they got that here, but we opened the trunk, "Where's my clothes?" There were no clothes. So I had the dress that I wore with me to go to school in. That was terrible. So Mom had a lawn. It was in the kitchen before we ever came here. Peach colored curtains, but it was pretty dirty. I asked Mom if I could have that curtain. She said, "What are you going to do with it?" "I think I'm going to fix something. You don't need it do you?" She said, "No, we'll get another curtain." So I took that curtain and washed it and I washed it and I washed it and got it to a pretty pink color. I cut it up and made me a blouse. I sewed it all by hand. I made myself a blouse out of that, but I needed a bottom. So there was an old, kind of a storage wall or closet off the end of one of the rooms. I got to sneaking in there and I found a big long skirt that women used to wear, those long skirts that were clear to the ground. This was made out of blue serge, navy blue serge. Remember what serge was like? It was really nice material. So I asked Mom, "Do you think anybody would care if I took this?" And she said, "Why not?" I said, "I don't want anybody to accuse me of anything."

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MT: ...so she got mad at her mother and I got in trouble with the old man. I was having a bad time at home. One day we were gone for a hike and Gladys said, "Let's get Ethel and Irene Zitler and Marie Thompson...I was telling you about the Caroline girl, she married Dave Krogel, I finally thought of it. Her dad was the boxer. Either a boxer or a wrestler. We went to Union and hiked to Union. I to this day cannot remember why we never made it to the fairgrounds...what do they call the fairgrounds over there?

O: Dog show?

MT: Yea. Marie decided to go home. Irene had went home before dark. Irene home went home even before that. Evelyn met Dave, but they went home. We had Gladys and me and Ethel Evans. Its getting dark so Ethel she's going home too. They took off and left us. Gladys knew some boys over there. They told her where she could go to sleep. So we went to this place and slept. I didn't sleep. I had...of course at that time, too, I was rebelling. You know, kids get rebelling. I was wearing a boys shirt and boys pants. But I still had long hair. I was the only girl in school that had long hair. Kids used to make fun of me with the long hair. I always had to braid it up and pin it up and go to school. I still had my braids. I didn't sleep because I didn't trust being in a stranger's house. The next morning I was ready to go home. Gladys said, "No, let's go visit my uncle that lives in Teton, Wyoming."

JT: Long ways.

MT: Can you imagine! "No, I'm going to go home." "Oh, you don't want to go home to all that trouble. You'll catch hell when you get home. And I don't want to go

home to my mother.” Okay, I’ll go along with her. We hitchhiked through Boise. The cops picked us up in Boise. Gave us a room in the jail. Slept in the jail. I haven’t told this to too many people. [laughter] The next morning I got up and I took my hair down and was combing it and getting it cleaned up. Trying to freshen up my clothes because I’d slept in my clothes. One of the fellows, one of the cops, he couldn’t get over...he just thought my hair was beautiful. He’d come and go like that and run it through his fingers. I’d comb it. I could hardly wait to get it braided up and make him quit. I got it braided up and pinned up. So they told us to head for home. Gladys told them we would. So they bought our breakfast and told us we were free to go. We get a little bit out town and she says, “Let’s go this way. We’re not going home.” We went hiking. We hiked through Idaho up to Sugar City. Have you heard of Sugar City?

JT: Yes, I’ve heard of Sugar City.

MT: We were going to go to work there. We got to Sugar City and they weren’t hiring. And then I told her, “Were you going to go see your uncle?” We started out a little ways into Wyoming and this little place called Tetonia. The Teton Mountains, Tetonia. “Well, my uncle doesn’t live here anymore.” See how she cleaned me! And I was so gullible.

O: How old were you, Mary, when all this happened?

MT: About seventeen, I think. I may have been sixteen, I don’t remember. I know I was older than fifteen. She met a man and woman and the woman’s brother and they were going to go someplace up there in Sugar City to look for work. For me to stay at this lady and man’s house. So there again I combed my hair. I was standing there looking in the mirror and I said to myself, “You damn fool, you ought to head for home. You’re not going to get to see your uncle.” She had told me if I didn’t like it I could go to Larky, Utah and my aunt lived in Utah. So I’d have to traverse all the way down to Utah. And I thought, “I don’t want to do that.” So I picked up a magazine. I combed my hair. Cleaned myself up. I looked up the street to see if they were coming, they weren’t coming. I found a piece of paper and a pencil and I told them I was going home. I started hiking back down the same way. Down to Burley, Idaho and Rexburg...anyway, there was a bunch of kids there in Idaho. They picked me up and gave me a ride either from Burley to Rexburg or the other way around, I don’t remember that part. They gave me a ride. They were darn nice kids. The girl had an extra candy bar...she gave me a candy bar which served as my meal for that day. They came to a side road and said, “You keep on going this way.” Because I had told them I was headed for home. “We have to go this way.” So they let me off and I was hiking down this road. I was thumbing, but nobody was stopping. It was getting dark and I was eyeing the ditches alongside the road. I thought, “Well, if it gets dark I’ll crawl down in the ditch and hug this bush. It would at least cover my shoulders and my face. I was thinking about doing that when I little old Ford...what did they used to call those little old Fords? Like a Model T or a Model A or whatever...coming toward me. He said, “Where are you heading?” “I’m heading for home.” “Where’s home?” And I told him. He said, “Okay, come here, get in.” I came over there, but I didn’t get in. He said, “That’s okay. Don’t be worried. I’m a doctor. I’m going over here to a little house to deliver a

baby and I'll take you back down. Do you want to stay out here and wait or do you want to go with me?" So I thought, well, I'll try it. I went with him. He did stop at a little house and he delivered a baby girl. But in the meantime I'm in the car. I went through that car...I had to find out if he was a doctor. I wasn't going to be there when he came out. Anyway, he was a real doctor. He came out and told me about having the baby and he took me to his home. His home...he had beds in there and curtains and he used it for a hospital. He had patients, people in the beds. That was a rude awakening. I didn't think people did that. They didn't have hospitals so that's what he did. He took me to his wife and their housekeeper. The first thing I had to do was have a bath and wash my hair. They didn't want me to bring in germs. Hot water, too, going. I lot hotter than I was used to. I took a bath and washed my hair. Oh man did that feel good! It really felt good. I thought it was just like being in heaven. And it had a...like we have in the window?

O: A window seat kind of thing?

MT: They made me a bed there. But before they made me a bed they gave me some soup and a sandwich and then told me I could go to sleep. They'd wake me on further in the morning. I was so comfortable I slept like a log. The housekeeper came...she was a big Scandinavian girl...what was her name...Horga...I think they called her Horga. And she got me some...not shredded beef...no she brought me milk and toast for breakfast and I ate like a pig because I was hungry. She brought my clothes to me and they had washed my clothes, my underpants and my top pants and my blouse. Everything was nice and clean. I felt like a whole new person. So he told me, "Now I'll take you down and get you on you're way." He gave me fifty cents. Probably couldn't afford it. And he had a son who was slightly retarded. He was a big boy, but he wasn't all alright. He said, "Now you be careful who you go with. Don't trust anybody." It was getting late in the fall and it was cold so he gave me a jacket, a boy's jacket. He took me down as far as Caldwell and took me to the police station. They took me to...I guess they had these special rooms for people who needed rooms like I did. They took me to this...it looked like a hotel. They said I could take a bath. I didn't want to take a bath in a strange room like that. Anyway, I had a bed and I could walk over to the window and look out. So I did that part of the night and I slept part of the time in the bed. They came in the morning and took me down to have breakfast. It was a whole bunch of old guys that were on the road and bums. So I ate with the bums. [laughter] It was good. So then they got two fellas who were salesmen. They'd sell pots and pans and things like that. They told him where to take me. They weren't going to La Grande, but they were going as far as Baker. I got in with them. We were on that old highway. Every time I go over that way I see that old highway out there that's abandoned. I remember we'd go around a curve and one guy would say, "Bender, Barney, Bender." I was sitting in the back seat. I'd hang on. If Barney went to Bender I didn't want to be bent. Anyway, I hung on and they did, they took me as far as Baker. We out to the Baker Hotel. Wished me luck and asked if I knew which way to get to the highway to go to La Grande. And of course I did, I knew that. So they wished me luck and gave me a candy bar. I got candy. [laughter] I walked out on the



highway and I was almost to Haines, I think it is called, and this little car came on to the road and stopped. And this fella said, "Hi, Mary. What are you doing out here by yourself?" "Who in the world is that?" It was Mr. Hill. He lived down on Fruitdale Road, or whatever it is. He was something to do with the Eagles Lodge. I had seen him there at the Eagles two or three times because I had worked for Mr. and Mrs. Van Winkle and we went to a meeting there at the Eagles Lodge. Mrs. Mason was loosing her eyesight and so we had gotten acquainted. And I told him I was heading for home. He said, "Where have you been?" I said, "I can't tell you. I've been everywhere." "Okay, we'll go on." He took me right to La Grande. See the connection. Brought me to La Grande. He said, "Do you want to take me home?" I said, "You can drop me off here." So he dropped me off on Depot Street and I said I could go up Fourth Street. But instead of going up Fourth Street I went up to the depot. See how that depot has affected me? I went to the depot and I washed my face. They had a nice restroom. I washed my face and my hair and everything. Then I crossed the street over...that would be the south side...there was a little restaurant there...what was her name...Viola...she was a Harrison and she married a...

JT: I believe it was Ma Terry's later.

MT: Styles?

JT: Jess Styles.

MT: She married a Styles. She was the waitress in there. She gave me the menu. She said, "You hungry, Mary?" I said "Yes, I'll have a hot pork sandwich." You know, hot pork and hot beef. It was forty-five cents for that sandwich. So she made it double. She just built that. She made it great. And she said, "You eat fast and don't tell anybody I did this. You go ahead and eat." So I loved her after that. I liked her before, but I loved her after that. So anyway, it got dark and I was scared to go home. I walked up the hill toward home. The closer I got, the scareder I got. I got up there and everybody was...I could see the folks inside, I could see them moving around. I stayed out there in the garden for a long time. They went to bed. Everything was quieted down. Finally sneaked in through the back door through the kitchen to my bedroom and went to bed. The next morning I was still in bed and my mom opened the door because she had to get Anne and Dave off to school...they slept with me...she opened the door and said, "Well, you made it home, did you?" [laughter] That's all she said. I said, "Yea." I didn't go to school right away. I stayed home. I lost half of my junior year. Then at Christmas time or New Year's, whenever the next...after staying home that length of time...believe me there was work. I had to get up and build a fire and stove and cook breakfast for everybody. I had to wash the dishes and wash the clothes. I worked. I was sitting by the heating stove one evening drying my hair after working all day. We had to have a heating stove to get out in the room and all sitting in the back of it. And I thought, "I'm going back to school. I'm going back and I'm going to graduate with my class. I'm not going to mess around anymore." So I did. I went back to school and the only teacher that was nasty was the shorthand teacher. I can't think of her name. I know I her name as well as I know mine. She was nasty. She said, "If you can't keep up with the class

you don't have to stay here." And I thought of that and I thought, "Do I have to take this for \_\_\_." That's when I got in an elders class. I told you about elders.

JT: Yea, there wasn't enough seats so they set you down with Bill, who later you married.

O: Mary, what happened to Gladys?

MT: She stayed up there a couple of years. I don't know what she did or anything. She came back and we were...the family and I had gone to Baker, we were in that park in Baker, and she shows up. She was kind of cool toward me. I asked her how she was and she said fine and blah, blah, blah. I sure liked her. She got a job with Mrs. Buly. She was housekeeper and cook for Mrs. Buly. But Mrs. Buly wanted somebody else so she talked her into hiring me. So I went to work with Gladys and that's another long thing. She was shupping off her share of the work onto me. Mrs. Buly was kind of funny lady. I worked for her going to school and in the summertime I worked right out through steady. I was back...it was kind of confusing because I was working for her and Gladys would get off one Saturday night to go out on a date and I would stay and take care of Joann. The next week it was Gladys's turn to stay in and I could go out. One morning when I got up Mrs. Duly wanted me to scrub the front porch on my hands and knees. Every time we put water on that cement floor it would freeze, but I still had to wash it. It was a lead painted cement floor and I washed that. I caught cold. Coughing and sneezing. It was my turn to go out and I was going with Bill. Because we had been going together and we quit going together because I took off. When I came back Bill took me back. We were supposed to meet that night. Well, Gladys was getting ready to go out and I had just finished my chore...doing what I was doing. She was getting ready to go and I came in the bathroom...we had a room and then a bathroom in the basement that we shared...and I said, "What are you doing?" She said, "I'm going out." "But Gladys, its your turn to stay home." Well, Mrs. Duly said I could go." I said, "No, its not your turn. You were out last week." I wasn't going to stand Bill up and stay home two weeks in a row. I got dressed up even though I had a bad cold. I thought I was going to go. Gladys dressed up and took off. When I got ready I got up, but before I did that...I knew what was going to happen. So I packed that and took it down to by the stairway. I walked up the stairs and Mrs. Duly met me at the top. She said, "You are to stay home, young lady." I said, "No, this is my night to go out. It was Gladys's turn to stay and take care of Joann. Mrs. Duly wanted to go play cards with Millie...

O: Turley?

MT: Millie Harrison? They lived down below the hill.

O: Millie Turley, \_\_\_ Turley's wife?

MT: No, I think it was Millie Harrison. Anyway, she said, "If you leave now, you're fired." I said, "No, I'm not." She said, "Yes, you are." I went down and got my...I said, "I quit ten minutes ago." I went on upstairs and I had a key to the house, we always had a key to get in and out the back door, she said...I started to leave the key and I threw it on the table. Then I met Bill out by where Reynolds used to live on First Street. He asked me what happened and I told him. He said, "That's a dirty trick on Gladys's part." I said, "Yea, I know. I've had enough of her."

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MT: I forget where I ended up with. I doubled up on my subject...

O: You just talked to Bill and you had just left the Buly's and Bill was waiting for you.

MT: Then we came up to Mrs. Riggs that lived down here in a blue house on Fourth Street.

O: The big tall one.

MT: Mrs. Riggs lived there with two sons and three daughters. She was a widow by then. I had met her when they lived up in old town. But then they moved down there. I went over there and told her what had happened to me. I asked her if I could leave my suitcase there for the night. She said, "Yes, and you can stay here with Nellie." Her oldest daughter was named Nellie. So that's how I got in with them. She knew about me because she was working for a lady downtown and used to be a fruit company on Adams...Jefferson...some kind of a fruit company...a man and his wife...she worked for those people, I think. I worked for Mr. and Mrs. Stanley across the street. How I got to work with them that summer I was working in the cherry, you know those big cherries, packing cherries. The kind of cherries in a flat box and we'd make them real pretty. They had a ruffle on it. And then you'd turn it over and you'd curl it. The first two rows were just gorgeous with cherries which they sent to New York. Mrs. Grustoff was in charge of it. She...instead of having us take them out of the box we put it on the belt down there and the belt would move the cherries. I got \_\_\_\_\_. The cherries stopped rolling, I went rolling. I had turned my head...started rolling...darn those cherries... So she took me over to Mr. and Mrs. Stanley across the street. This is \_\_\_\_\_ and she said she knew what that was. She was loosing her eyesight so she wanted to know if I would work for her. I told her I would. That time I met...we got together with Ma Woods and Ma Woods and I...she would go home and I would stay. I worked there I think a couple of months. [tape interrupt] I stayed with Ma Woods and I got a job downtown with a Greek fellow. He had a candy store next door to what was called Stake Theatre. He had a big bar...counter...and a \_\_\_\_\_ of ice cream and milkshakes and things like that. I enjoyed that.

O: Downtown.

MT: And I worked nine o'clock in the morning until nine o'clock at night.

O: It's a long day.

MT: Yes, it was a long day. And that was only five dollars a week.

O: Oh, man!

MT: Five dollars a week.

O: Twelve hours a day.

MT: Every day including Saturday and Sunday.

O: Seven days a week and twelve hours a week. Bill told me...he picked my up at Ma Woods and was going downtown. He said, "Let's get married." I said no. He said, "Yea, let's get married. You don't have to work for anyone." So I asked

Jim if I could have a Sunday off. He said no. I said okay, but I went ahead and had my hair done. I'm trying to think of the lady's name, but I can't remember it now. Anyway, she fixed my hair and I bought a dress for a dollar and a half. It was on a Sunday. We made an appointment. We got married down at the First Christian Church in the back sanctuary.

O: Oh Mary.

MT: I went home, changed my clothes, put on my uniform...because I had to wear a white uniform to work...changed my clothes and went back to work. We got married...never got a day to get married or anything. I didn't say anything to Jim because he wouldn't let me off. So I didn't tell him that I went ahead and got married anyway. Then he found out because Opal Conner was the journalist or whatever...she worked for the Observer...and she put the ad in the paper that we were married. He found that out and then he thought I knew the ropes and it was hand. Anywhere you could touch me he touched it. I happened to be washing the counters off...the glass counter...we had to keep them clean because people get their fingerprints on them when trying to look through the candy bar. He would drive me crazy. I took this pan that had liquid or water and soap in it and I rammed it with him. I said, "That's enough. I don't like that." "You're fired." "I'm through." And I threw the pan at him. I went to the back room and got my purse and left. I left him...we usually stayed to nine at night. I finally got nerve enough to go back and get my money. That same day I went into Mrs. Buly. She was going to the Grande Ronde Meat Market. She said, "Well, Mary, aren't you glad you quit me?" I said, "Hell no, I'm happier than I was before!" That was one of my things. I forgot to tell John when I went to the grade school at Central the kids were kind of awry. They told me, "If you ever get called by Mrs. Mc... the principal...if you ever get called in her office she'll beat you with a hose." She beats the kids with a hose. She's got a hose in her office. They kept telling me that. One day I was called in the office. I didn't know what I had done or didn't do. Of course, "You're going to get it now!" You know how kids are. Scared to death and I went down to Mrs. McD\_\_\_'s office. She asked me to come in and sit down and I sat down. Then she asked me all about Bingham where I lived, what it was like and what was a mining town like. We had a nice, nice visit. She asked me the questions, did men work and all that, and I told her. She said you can go back to class now. She said there wasn't nothing to it. Boy when I got back to class I showed those two fellas. It was really frustrating. But I was surprised about the town. I didn't know the street...I knew one street, which was Sixth Street...see I didn't know about...

O: Because you used Sixth Street to come and down.

MT: So when I'd go to town I always used Sixth Street. It took me quite a while to learn them...where the other streets were. There again Gladys was involved. After she came back she got me to go to a house party down on the north side. I had never been on the north side...where the swimming pool was there by the viaduct. That was about all I knew about the north side. So we went down to the house...to this day I don't know where it was...when we got down there the kids were drinking and raising hell. Of course she got involved because she knew the kids. I didn't know anything about that. I left. I just turned around and left. I

was wandering around the north side and I couldn't find that viaduct. I didn't know where to go. I finally went to a house there and a lady answered the door. I told her I was lost, that I was new to town and my girlfriend brought me down here, but I don't know how to get back to the viaduct. She said, "You're on the right street." That right street right below the viaduct...she said, "Just follow that street up and keep going until you get to the viaduct because its there. Then you know how to cross it?" I said, "Yes, after I get over that I know where I was." Then I could see...we had a college...

O: Perkins?

MT: Perkins, yea. I could see the lights shining from that and I walked up to that and it said Fourth Street. I wasn't sure of it so I went on through until I got to the intersection where you cross the street. After that I decided I'd go in the daytime...go walking...and find out where these streets were so I wouldn't have to just use that one street. In Utah the canyon walls came down like this and then there was a street here. Once in a while they would merge off and go across the draw. People built houses up there, but you couldn't drive to your house, you had to walk. You either walked these steps or down these steps. So you couldn't get lost. Here's all these strange...I didn't know which way to go. Up here I didn't know anything about it until Gladys took me.

O: That's a second Gladys, isn't it?

MT: Yea, Gladys Taylor's house is up here. A big brown house on 'C' Avenue. You come right to it when you turn down Gekeler. That is where Gladys Taylor used to live. She'd pick me up this way on Second Street...I asked her how come this was Second Street and that was Sixth Street and she said there were other streets in between.

O: Mary, when you came here and the Svetichs were combined with the Thomas's what ages...the fifteen kids all together...how much age double over was it?

MT: Nick was their oldest. Kate was next in their family. Then would be my brother Lou. Then Matilda and then me. Matilda was a year older than me. After Matilda was Mike and then my brother Steve. Matilda and Mike and Pete and Frank and Polly and Babe. On our side was Lou and me and Steve and Tony, Ann and Matt. Matt and Babe are almost the same age.

O: Almost the same age, right?

MT: Tony was between Pete and Frank. Oh, there was Johnny, the one that got killed in the service. So that would be...

O: Now that was a Thomas?

MT: That was a Thomas. Ann was the same age as Frank. They all...we were pretty close to the same ages. Except for Nick being the oldest. And now, in both families, there was Kate and Dave and Pete...

O: Of the Thomas's.

MT: And in my...in the Svetich family was Steve and me...I'm the older...then Steve and then Matt. So there's three in that family. When you'd go into town...they had...let's see, Vershal, Vernon, Jeff, Bill, June, Rusty and \_\_\_\_ and Ferrin. And there's three left in there family.

O: Oh, for heaven's sakes!

MT: So there's three in each...

O: Of the three families. How interesting!

MT: For me, to see all these trees...when we lived in the Rocky Mountains...the community where we lived was called the Uintah Mountains and they...oh, I forgot to tell you. This town where I was born in Utah is no longer in existence. It was incorporated, but...Kennecott Company took it over and they went...they stripped big down...you can go up and look down and you can't...

JT: Was it tailings from the mining?

MT: Yes. And there were some other things. The underground mines...I went into one of them...and they always had water in them. The seepage. My dad worked in a mine...underground mine...and he...but what he did was he \_\_\_\_ for the blasts. And you had to know how much ammunition or TNT they put in it so it wouldn't make a big disaster. My dad... that was his job. Sometimes they had unavoidable cave-ins and people were stranded in there. My dad at that time wasn't working for Iron Boy, he was working for the Apex line down below. They got into one of those. His brother died because they had to stay several days under there. And they had to...what do call them...carbides. Finally went out and\_\_\_\_. They finally got them out, but there was two guys and one of the guys was my dad's brother that died. My dad never was right after that. He would...his health was bad.

O: He didn't die in the mine, though, you're dad didn't?

MT: No, he died in the hospital.

O: As a result too, of cave-ins. Lack of air as the carbides went out and into the oxygen...because he didn't have enough oxygen.

MT: And then they could hear that "drip, drip, drip." Wouldn't that be awful!

O: That would be the most awful way to make a living I think I know of.

MT: My cousin married a young man that came from Illinois and he wanted to work in an underground mine. And I never could...his name was Baugh...and he wanted to work...and he died as a result of working in the mine. He worked over in Lance, Utah.

JT: What's the most happy memories you have going to high school?

MT: Something happy in school...that is a hard one. I did have one occasion that made me happy. There was a teacher in school after I came back from my sojourn. I was taking shorthand...not shorthand, but typing. Mrs. Haisley...and Mrs. Williams, Isabel Williams, was the typing teacher and I loved her. She knew I had missed that half a year, but she come to me and stand on my chair and repeat, you know, the letters and I got so I could type the letters. She was so good to me that ... And I liked Mrs. Sneider, I liked her in grade school, and Mrs. Mc\_\_\_\_. But mostly I liked...

O: What Sneider? Not Effie?

MT: Effie.

O: Was it Effie?

MT: I liked her. She was a big lady, but I liked her.

O: She was nice, yea, she was.

MT: I didn't like Ms. Mahafee. I still don't like her. And I didn't...the girls were always so crazy about David Mick and he was a teacher, I don't know what grade...but the girls were always making...and I never cared about male teachers.

I didn't even care about them. He flunked me in...general science in grade school. He came to me when we moved in the house here, "Would you ever forgive me for that, Mary?" And I said, "I never have and I don't think I ever will." And he died knowing that. Because I answered my question after a fashion, but I wouldn't do it when he was hounding me. I didn't like him. I mean I liked him as a person, but not as a teacher.

O: Did you get to know Bill at school, or how did you get to know Bill?

MT: He played with all the Thomas kids. And that's another thing. The first year we were here I met Irene [pause], I don't remember...she was a blond little girl...and she came up for Easter, the first Easter...that would have been in '49. She came up and asked me to go...if I could come with her or go down to her house. Her mom had to work and we could play games. So I went with her down there. While I was gone down to Irene's...this was down Fifth Street behind Dr. Pettit's office...we were coloring eggs and having fun. Mr. and Mrs. Talbott and Bill all went down to town and they were all down there and I didn't. So one day he came down and he was out in the yard and Kate called me, "Billy Talbott's out there. Do you want to go talk to him?" But I went to the window and looked. I saw that little kid there. [laughter] After a while, I don't know how, we got to playing football...and I played touch football... and I got to know him. And we went...supposed to be steady in grade school. We quit. I didn't like him and he didn't like me. [laughter] I didn't go with anybody, really. I was friends with a lot of kids in school, but not anybody to date. One day he came and wanted to know if I was going to the dance down at the Eagles. "Yea." "Okay, so I'll see you down there." He didn't say he'd take me down there. I was going to go down there and he was. And then he didn't know how to dance. And that was a ...teach him to dance. So, I did. I learned how to dance and got in and Sheriff Breshear's basement and they had a phonograph that was round disks...records ...squeaky sounds, but it was music. So Ruth and Ruth's big sister...I can't think of her name...she had a younger sister named Anna and I think the older one was named Beth, but I'm not sure...Betsy... taught me how to dance. I don't think \_\_\_ was there. Gladys was there and Ethel was there and Irene Sitler...I think bringing her name up, but she died before we got...but she went with us an awful lot. We played the music and "step, slide step. Step, slide, step." [laughter] I finally learned it. When Bill wanted me to teach him to dance I taught him "step, slide, step." After that by then for Saturday night ten cents to get in the Eagles.

O: Was that when the Eagles was in the old Eagles hall there...

MT: Next to the Elks.

JT: The old commercial...

MT: The steps would "clunk, clunk, clunk" and the floor did too, but it was fun.

O: What did they use for music? What made their music at those dances? Did they have a band or piano or...

MT: I think some of these guys just volunteered their music. I'm trying to think of that fello's name that played the...

JT: Violin?

MT: Yes. He was an older fello. Billster? Maybe one of the tall...guy. You know I met Bill's first wife the other day?

JT: Opal?

MT: Opal. I had known her for years. I met her at the Blind Shorty candy store. She worked there...

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MT: Here we go...losing my train of thought.

JT: He was groundskeeper for the college, wasn't he?

MT: Yea, that's what I was going to say. Lou and Nick were involved when they were building Eighth Street. When we came the normal school was already built. And I always admired the people that came out of the building that all would look like tall people with black clothes on. They'd dress in suits and the girls would dress in nice dresses. There my dad and step-dad...he planted the flowers, the shrubbery, the trees...there's still some trees there that he planted. When they built \_\_\_ he did that. He planted the lawn, all of the lawns. And then...I'm trying to...then when they built Ackerman then the boys worked on Ackerman. \_\_\_ was a little kid. We used to go over and gets some scraps of wood and bring them home to Mom. We used...we didn't have electric. We used coal and wood. That's another thing. I had to get up every morning and build a fire in the cook stove and get the coffee on. Stir up a batch of hotcakes from scratch. We didn't get a package. One of those from scratch. And then you'd build a fire in the heating stove in the front room with those big chunks of wood and start it out with kindling. Get it nice and warm before everybody... Then once a week you had to take the ashes out. The family had quite a bit to do with the college...the boys did. They put \_\_\_ he always... he had a thing about the college, it was part his because he was working for them.

JT: I remember when he used to live over the ground and plant it there. There was kind of a creek that run through the college in those early times there. And I remember he leveled that ground in there.

MT: Yea, he did. I think Bill told you this story. That creek...Bill used to fish in that creek day in and day out. Him and Mike and the kids would fish and they'd catch \_\_\_. A bit early they were. And then they'd take potatoes and dig a whole and build a fire and bake the potatoes out there and eat potatoes without salt or anything. [laughter] They played cowboys and Indians out there. I can't remember who it was that said one time, "You ever get to around those Thomas's you better not try anything. There's a whole gob of them. They'll kill ya." [laughter] It looked like a whole gob, didn't it?

O: Mary, where did the Talbotts live? Where was the Talbott house?

MT: They lived in a big house down the street here.

JT: We used to call the Green house.

O: Oh, where the Green family is.

MT: And then they lived in wheat fielder house over here.

JT: This \_\_\_ house later?

MT: Yea. And then they lived on Second Street and 'A'. Up there.



JT: Bill said they lived one time on the brow of the hill on this house that sits directly behind our house.

MT: Yea, they did.

JT: He said there was a wooden sidewalk that went down the hill.

MT: Yes, that's right.

O: So they always kind of...

JT: In old town.

O: Some of the Talbotts live up on 'A' now, don't they?

MT: Rita.

O: Rita does, yea.

MT: Rita... a nursing home... not a nursing home, a retirement home.

O: Oh, is she. I didn't know where she was.

MT: Her daughter Deanna is living in her...

O: Oh, okay, yea.

JT: Mary, in those times there were a lot of vacant lots between here and downtown. A definite division between old town and new town.

MT: You know, I was thinking about it the other day coming up Fourth Street. There was \_\_ vacant spots down by where the Moons is. That was a vacant, all vacant. There wasn't nothing there. The Johnson built a house on the corner. Then Moon built that next house next to them. That was Harry's house. Elmer always lived up... over on the other part of town. Then Ed built this blue house on the corner. And Eugene did the one on Fourth across from our old place. And then Eugene... I don't know whether he started it or how they did it, but what's his name bought... Harry moved into it... Harry and Annette. Eugene moved out in the country where he built that beautiful big house.

JT: Blackhawk Trail.

MT: Yea, I don't know who lives there now.

JT: The last... Neering, the dentist, lived there the last I knew.

MT: Who?

JT: Neering, the dentist.

MT: Oh, the dentist.

JT: I don't know if he still does or not.

MT: I don't know, but it still...

JT: It was right over on Sixth Street there was a little old lady that had a house that kind of set into Sixth Street there. Then all that up here on 'E' and 'F' and that was all vacant.

MT: Yes.

O: When we first moved into town in '45 and lived in that house down on Sixth Street where... I don't know what's there now...

JT: The No Name Theatre is there now, across from the clinic.

O: And you could see all the way. Clear across... beyond Fourth Street. There wasn't anything. It was just a big open field.

JT: That was before Bill Wilkins built those houses on Fourth Street when the Lutheran Church... right at the end of World War II.

O: It doesn't even begin to look the same.

MT: We used to run out here...like you said, it was open...we'd go out there bird hunting.

JT: Yea.

MT: Then two...where the fields are...where they play football and stuff out here...there was a regular field and we used to go out there and shod hay. Cut that hay down and shosh it. We could haul it to the barn because they had the cows. We went to town to \_\_ up there. And we lived in Frank...the milkman...over there by the grade...high school...

JT: Tyler?

MT: Yea. They lived over there in a house. I'm trying to think...then they lived around Lynn...up on the hill over there. And they lived in the house for a short time and they moved out where they're digging all that work their building now. There was a house Kate and ... its right next ... they took it out. I think they tore it down. They lived in several places. So did Bill and I. We lived in a cute little house up there ... two rooms...it didn't have lights or water or nothing, just two rooms. In the bedroom you could fit a bed in the bedroom if you put it...a long one here and a long one here and there was the bed right there.

JT: That was the one by the creek?

MT: No, that was the one up there...901 Cedar. Its across from...the Knight girl married...

JT: Jenkins, Lee Jenkins.

MT: Yea, across from Jenkins.

JT: Where the old courthouse was up there.

MT: That's funny because I was thinking about that the other day. Bill took me up the first day of every fishing season to Morgan Lake. The Morgans still live...

JT: Still live up there at Wolf Lake.

MT: We were living in this little house and had a kerosene lamp. I'd a burnt kerosene lamp. I wish I would have kept it. It was really pretty. I had bought a ... I thought that was your paper going...I had bought a cook stove...the second hand store that was down there on the crossing...

JT: Lani...or was that Rodgers?

MT: I don't remember, but it was right there on the crossing. Anyway, they delivered the stove. It was an old black one and it didn't have any legs. You put it on the floor in this little house. So that was our stove. Cook stove, heating stove, everything. We didn't have any wood so I scavenged around for old tires. I bet the neighbors loved it! [laughter] Burning old tires! It was interesting. To make...didn't have little cabinets...but you could buy...go down town and get oranges and they had these orange crates...

JT: Division in the center.

MT: You get two of those and stand them up like so and then put a board across and you got a counter. That's what Bill did. So I had that for the kitchen. I went down to the...it wasn't called the WPA, it was called something else...they gave us some material and I made a curtain. Put it on a piece of wire and nailed it on this side and nailed it one this side and in the middle and then I put this curtain on there so it covered the cupboard. You could put you...

O: And you had your shelves.

MT: We got two more and put two of those in the bedroom and put a board across it. Put a mirror over it and I had a dressing table. That made it perfect. I got enough material from the ladies down there and I made curtains for those things and a curtain for the clothes closet...which Bill built up there on practically the same thing...and for the window and for the door to the bedroom. All out of the same material. I used that for a long, long time. I even had it here for while until I got so tired of it. When I was pregnant with Virginia nobody gave me a shower. I didn't get a shower when I got married and I didn't get a shower when I had Virginia. So I had to have some diapers and certain things.

JT: Clothes.

MT: Vermilla ... Mabel Ricks was working down at the Sacagawea Hotel and there were several other known ladies...I can't recall their names. She told me to go down there, especially when she was gone...who ever was the leader there, "Come on in," she said, "And we'll give you something." I watched. She told me when to come down and when to...as soon as this lady left and was out of sight I went in there. Boy they gave me a couple of dozen of diapers, nice, big, heavy diapers that were hemmed by hand. Little dresses they had made. They had put a little bit of embroidery on the collar, you know, right here, a little bit of embroidery. And nightgowns, long nightgowns for the baby. And billy...

JT: Bands.

MT: Billy bands. So that was neat. A couple of receiving blankets made out of flannel. That was great.

JT: People helped people, didn't they.

MT: Yes. I found that people were kind and generous. Most generally the poor people knew other poor people and they helped each other. They were good. I found them to be very sensitive and very helpful. I still keep some people that I knew and meet and always... Sylvia asked me one day...I think I was eight months along then...she asked me if I wanted to go to town with her. She had to go to the grocery store. I said sure. She made me...of course I couldn't made my dress like I used to because if I put the dress on it would be up here and down here. [laughter] So I cut the top off of the dress and made a skirt, but I didn't have a top. So she made me two of those tops like painters wear...what do they call them?

O: Smocks.

MT: Smocks, two smocks to wear while I had my pregnancy. I dressed up and went downtown and we went to the grocery store that was underneath China Mary.

JT: Safeway was down there.

MT: That's where Sidney Cross was working.

JT: Sweet worked there.

MT: Another guy...blond...

JT: Whitie O'Neil?

MT: Yea. I was with Sylvia and she knew the guys in there. There was the...\_\_\_\_\_ there. I said, "That looks like something a cat left." And they laughed. They thought that was real funny. Just as I stepped out doors a little...something...a piece of paper somebody had squashed. I couldn't bend down to get it. I kind of scooted down and held it in my hand. Sylvia said, "What do you got." I said, "I

don't know." She said, "Come on, let's go to the car." I picked it up and it was a ten dollar bill.

JT: And that was when ten dollars was worth ten dollars.

MT: Absolutely. You know Aunt...Bill was smoking at that time. He still did. She was a wise oak tree. She said, "Come on, I'll tell you what we're going to do. We're going to get something. You're not going to give this to Bill." Billy, she called him. "You're not going to give this to Billy. He would smoke it up in the air. You don't want to do that." I said, "No. Gee, that was a lot of money." We went to Montgomery Boards and ordered a layette. She had me order a layette.

O: Oh, Mary, how fun!

MT: That was wonderful. It had a cap and more diapers and two more blankets...they was from Blankets Up...and those little t-shirts that babies wear, and socks. And I still have that. And a little comb and two clothes pins...safety pins. Which was wonderful as far as I was concerned. It provided what I needed for the baby. Of course I couldn't go to the hospital so I had her at home. Right next door. We were living in that...where Gos...what's his name...Goddard.

O: Up on \_\_\_?

MT: 'C' Avenue. Goddard.

O: Horace Goddard lives there.

MT: Francis Corn's daughter married to him. That was only two rooms. Only they were larger rooms than the other. It had lights in it, but the water was out on the back porch. Bill had to pipe the water in. I told him to put it in. All you would have to do is just turn the coupling...the U-joint...and put it in the... So I had hot water...I had water in the house. And the heating stove in the kitchen. But it had a ...

JT: Coil, water coil?

MT: Yea, so I could put water in there and it would heat the water. It worked out fine. I could...I then the oven door was on this side and a door on that side. I could bake in it and it kept us warm. And we had hot water to use. We didn't have cabinets in there. Hardy had lived here and I guess he didn't need that stuff. Then Harvey moved up in the mountains and so that house was for rent. One night in wintertime...one day, actually, in the wintertime...I think I had gone down to visit Mom. Eugene and I went down to Mom's house. Then I come home and the water was frozen. The pipe was out in the open underneath. I thought I had to thaw that out. I built a fire in the stove to get the house warm. Put Janine in her bed. Mr. Talbott got a clothes basket...that you carry clothes out...that to put her into. It was on a stand. He painted it blue. Anyway, I had to thaw that water out. So I got a piece of pitch...I went out to the woodshed...where Jeff had his wood...and I found a piece of pitch. I lit it and crawled underneath the house. I was thawing that water. There was all these cob webs...pretty soon they "shwish." Atlantic Ocean! Here I am going to burn the house down! I threw the thing down and grabbed a handful...threw it up there and scooped up some snow and finally got it out. I never did thaw it out. Bill had to thaw it out for me. [laughter] I almost burned the house down.

JT: Those who's things were tough.

MT: For sure. But I was surprised by the town. I loved the mountains when I first saw them. I thought they were the most beautiful. Back home they didn't have green trees like...they had...it's a berry and its real bitter...

O: Juniper?

MT: No. [pause] Choke cherries. What did they call that stuff that cowboys wear there chaps...Champerell. I knew... So they didn't...I didn't see trees like this. I thought they were just gorgeous. Green trees. Bill...I think I mentioned the other day about the mountains. He liked the mountains and the trees. And he still...as a matter of fact, Bill likes to go exploring. I'm getting so I'm so scared of these mountain roads, winding roads. He said, "What's the matter with you? You never used to be scared of them." I said, "It must be because I'm older." It does, it scared the heck out of me. You know, Bill is a good driver, but I never know when he might miss-steer.

JT: You used to take your trailer and go up to Elk Mountain and all around.

MT: Yea. All those mountains and never think anything of it. But I do anymore. He wants to go up...up that hill and go on Mt. Emily...

JT: Fox Hill.

MT: Fox Hill. He wants to go up there to that look out thing.

JT: Up there to Crystal Springs.

MT: I don't let him go in the other way. But coming in this way and you look down this way and...

JT: All the way down.

MT: Yes. The old road used to go up the face of the mountain.

JT: That's what he said. Never did...I don't think I ever went on that one. I remember going in.

O: It certainly must have gone back and forth.

JT: It did. There were lots of switchbacks.

O: Mary, I think as we get older we get more upset over things like that. You've lived long enough and can see all these things that could happen. When you're young you don't think anything can happen.

MT: You never even think of it.

O: Right, but as you get older you know those things can happen. I know I'm a lot more nervous about stuff like that now than I used to be. We may have more sense than we used to have.

MT: At home...I told you we had a nice brick building...I used to climb on top of the school...two stories...and I'd climb over the barbwire to get on top of the roof and then I could look down on the street. Do you think I'd have dirk to do that now? I still have...see where I got hooked on...right there...that barbwire. It used to be more prominent. I got hung up on the barbwire and I couldn't get it loose so I just pulled it. Oh man! That used to be tender, it still is. There's nerve exposed there. Arthritis has taken over now. You think with \_\_\_ like that you wouldn't get arthritis, but you do.

O: Sure you do, Mary, we're old. Chunks of arthritis come along. Probably we couldn't stop ourselves from falling. That's probably why we get fear. We're not as fast as we were. We don't move as fast. Kind of mortal...

JT: Several times you and Bill left La Grande, but you always came back. This was always home?

MT: Yea, always. Yea, we went to... [end tape]