This is a recording of a tour of the Bouchard family home likely with the children of Joseph Nicholas and Denise Alice Bouchard. The voices could not be identified accurately. What follows is a partial transcript on that dialogue without speaker differentiation.

Ya, ya, there was. One on each bed.

But there was one when you lived here?

Ya, ya. There was. In our bedroom.

If you have something to say, stand right next to her so it will be picked up.

No, I'll quit talking now (laughs).

There isn't much to say, is there?

Yes, go ahead.

Well, I live here. Well, I was only ten years, eleven years old. I stayed with the Lasell's to finish school when the folks were up to Ronan, why. Oh, ya. That wasn't ours, no. (Last sentence in response to someone in the background.)

This place was rented to the piece workers, you know, the Mexicans.

They had Mexican people living here at one time I know. Several people living here on and off.

Do you remember the color of the living room?

I don't know.

Green?

They repainted it. There's the color of the floor, though, where the board came up, yellow.

(Multiple people speaking at once)
No, I was just going to let him know where it is. I smell skunk.

You do? Those are rats.

Pack rats probably.

This stove that's in the bedroom, that wasn't part of your original stove, was it?

No, we didn't have that stove. But I think that this was the wallpaper that the folks they used to put together. These are the frames off of the window.

Sure are.

There's one in there too.

Is this what you was asking me last night?

No, we didn't have anything like that.

Now she had her first kitchen right in here. Right?

Ya, see there's the stove pipe. She had a stove something like that, but it wasn't as big as that. It was only four holes.

Four holes.

But I think they moved the stove to Ronan when they moved everything.

Now was the ceiling this green color like it is here?

It was paper.

It was paper?

Don't you think?

I don't think they papered their kitchens.

I don't remember now. Bill, do you remember if the kitchen was papered or painted or what color?

It was papered.
Papered, all right. Well, look here, see, it was painted halfway. I don't remember what Mother had over there. They did have gray. They had a lot of colors. This door was painted gray, I remember. See?

There are some little hooks in here, where she hung the cups, I suppose. I'd like to have little hooks. Look.

I wonder how old those are?

Well, they're old. We better leave them here. I remember this paper.

There are some books in here.

This is where Mother kept her dishes. That looks like the same hooks that they hung coats on over there. I wonder if this is some of the paper they had in the living room.

I remember that paper.

Now this looks like an oil cloth.

I wonder if that's an original.

Did you know what they did? They put cheesecloth before the paper, and then they pasted the paper on the cheesecloth.

Or they had the paper over a board. Do you remember that?

I remember.

Do you know if that's what the kitchen...the walls outside were?

No, it wasn't painted like that. But that's probably the original because there's some of her cooking things. I remember she worked in here and fixed this all up so nice.

That's what they did. They put the cheesecloth. You know you don't think of those things when you...

Do you remember where the furniture was in the house? The organ was here, wasn't it?

Ya.

What was over here by the stairway, do you remember?
Mother had a table there with a lamp on it and her album and her curtains, and a bench behind it for us kids.

Where did they keep all their lanterns—all their kerosene lanterns? They keep one there. Where else did they have them in the house? Do you remember?

They had lamps—kerosene lamps.

To go outside they had lanterns. Can you remember when you were small and had to go to the barn or something after dark, where was your lantern? What did you hang your lantern and keep your lantern? Keep your lanterns. You know, you had lanterns after dark to go to the barn. Where did you keep them?

We hung them up outside.

Outside? Did we have a porch, Joe?

We hung them on these nails (laughs).

My mother had a cupboard and doors and little shelves here. And she put some...

But that was a window, Louise.

But when the kitchen was built, the doors were shiny like varnish, do you remember?

Ya, ya.

Did you have a porch on there before the kitchen was built on?

I think we had a little porch.

Where was you wood box?

Oh, here. Wood box. I hauled enough wood to put in it. (laughs)

I don’t think you hauled very much!

Well, I did. You didn’t, but I did. Joe and I did. Didn’t we Joe?

Yup.

Now, was this board green like it is now?
I don't remember that.

It could have been; it could have been.

Is that the color that those boards were when we lived here?

Yup.

And they had paper up above?

Yes.

Looks like they put the paper over the paint.

There was two bedrooms over to the left, and Mother was so glad when she got a pretty big wardrobe.

She got it all to herself.

That's when she moved us upstairs.

This is all tongue and groove. Both this and the floor. You can see it right up here. I think we'll have some problems with that. We'll have to reinforce it. It'll be awfully hard to carry. We'll probably have to take it board by board.

(Multiple people speaking at once)

That can be fixed. Like this one over here, you see.

Ya.

We had several of those, and she had lace curtains. I remember there was a little step in front. Just a little over coating the step by the front door.

We had the woodbox over here, and the stove was...

I don't remember what she had there. She must have had a big chair probably. We had several rocking chairs. Joe said she kept her dishes in there, maybe she did, I don't remember that.

When they built the kitchen on there see, that was all with our medicine, you know and the dishes.

I'm going to have to go upstairs, I've been waiting to go up.

I should turn this off now? (break in audio)

I'm sure it can't be. When we got the new kitchen, we got the new stove.

There's kind of a reservoir on this one too.

On that side?

Ya.

Well, that isn't our stove. Those people that moved in there, I guess.

No doubt, a lot of people in and out of here.

I wonder why they'd break things like that? To burn?

Oh, no, no. There probably could have been a bird's nest in there or something and...

Isn't it awful, this riking (?) that they put up here?

That looks terrible.

I don't know if they're going to tear the logs down. I suppose. Look at the old...

If mother was alive she could tell you. She had her postcards right here.

Are there three of you children or four?

Five. One of them is buried here in Frenchtown Cemetery. He died when he was...some say 22, we say eighteen months. Then our older brother, he's buried in Missoula. So...

When they move it, they'll have to tear all these down, won't they?

I don't know.

Then they save, they take the rods down and move it in sections.

You mean the plaster? Oh, no, it will break all up. Look, it's all cracked.

No, it won't break. That's tougher than the dickens.

I know, Louise, but...
Think of my mother moving here as a bride, 17 years old, 18. Papa had Uncle Joe, Uncle Charlie, Uncle Peter, Uncle Sam, and there was a couple old bachelors all living here. She was washing on the board for them, and they wore those heavy wool underwear, you know. On the board, no machine. When she used to tell us.

But this was a nice house wasn't it?

At one time.

I mean it's well built. It's amazing. It's amazing how much less people used to deal with.

When we were quite big, they built the new kitchen...you can see the red. Its bunkhouse over there. I was going to go over and stop over there, and see if it was painted inside or plastered or what.

But that is still standing too? I didn't realize that.

When my daddy moved, he tore down all the...There was a blacksmith shop in Frenchtown, and he built us a nice, big swing. A slide. Over there was our garden. We had currants and blueberries, and then we had our garden right there. Yup, those days are gone.

Did you go upstairs? We had two rooms up there. I thought this was a deeper cooler than that, Joe. Was it still? You know, this is where they kept their potatoes and winter tarter (?) and their carrots. As I remember, there was a bench there where we could put our canned stuff. In those days Mother didn't do a lot of canning. But if we wanted to keep anything for the winter, you know. But my gosh, I thought it was deeper than that because I used to go down those steps.

Well, it seems a lot deeper when you start looking. I imagine it's filled in quite a bit because there's junk down there, so they've used it as a fill area as they cleaned out and did things. Looks to me like that was deeper.

Do you live in Frenchtown?

(Break in audio)

You know they used to work with horses. I don't know how many they had on the binder or what was it. We had a wagon with a box on it, and Joe and I hid in the box. We were little fellows you know, and the horses...They brought the horses over to drink. There was a great big trough there where the pump is, and the horses were drinking and Joe and I jumped up and we said, "Boo!" The horses all started running. They broke the harnesses. We each got a licking! (laughs)
(Break in audio)

It's tongue and groove, and the floor is tongue and groove. They'll ruin it trying to tear it apart. All this stuff is tongue and groove. There's no supports on them.

What do you mean?

I mean, like, not like a regular wratch (?) and roof. There's no two by fours running crosswise every 15 inches. There's no two by fours.

(Multiple people speaking at once)

She said she hung her great big stocking up for Christmas, and all she got was an orange and an apple.

There's no support system. The ceiling is starting to sag a little bit.

Do you suppose that's where they had the telephone? That's a laugh.

Mama had her wash basin here. I'm looking back here, and there was a rope and a wash basin with a big bowl and a pitcher and all and a bucket with a dipper. That goes here. I remember that. I wasn't very old when I left here.

As you go up the top of the stairs on your right, there's a hole looks like it had hinges. Was there a little cupboard there, right at the top of the stairs on your right hand next to the window?

Do you suppose they had one of those things to put the lamp in that swings?

I don't remember.

I don't know what would be in there but there was a door. Do you remember, Joe?

A lot of work ahead of you.

The kitchen was right there, and then we had a nice porch all along the house, do you remember?

Yup, along the kitchen.

Then the pump was right there. Then the barn, a very big barn, and the milk house was over here where the ditch is. No, not that far.
We didn't have the water ditch. No, it wasn't here.

Where did you get your water then?

Right over here. It was a different pump though.

By the time we brought that hitch down, it took about an hour.

My father was trying for it, but he sold out before it reached it. It was a good start, though. He was very...

Wasn’t there a fence there, Lou?

Oh, ya, ya.

Because that’s where we had blueberries and currants and all that stuff along that fence, and our garden was there.

He'd sing for 24 hours just so he could be the first one through. Then he died.

That’s a good lesson, people. Don’t work that hard.

Well, that's about all, but you think it over, will ya? I'm sure we can remember. If it's the easiest thing for you.

(Break in audio)

I missed out on that good story. I had the tape recorder off.

(Break in audio)

Do you still think that’s original though?

You bet your life.

No, I don’t think so, Joe. I’m going to disagree with you.

I think they are original.

They wouldn’t last that long.

Ya, they would. The rest of the house is standing.
See, that's a new roof. It doesn't look new.

A hundred years old, a hundred years.

No, can't be. I've seen ones in Missoula that look worse than that from 15 years.

You could tell by the nails, couldn't you? A person who knew could tell by the nails.

I don't know.

I'll stand here if you want to go over there.

(unintelligible)

I'll leave the recorder over here with them and come back and help ya.

Nancy [Cranston]?...

[End of Interview]