Jim Scott: Here we are. This is November 14. This is the beginning of tape number four, side A, and Hazel and I are in her kitchen. It's snowing outside and we're going to begin another segment of the history of Bearmouth. Hazel, why don't you go ahead and introduce the topics for this evening and go ahead and begin.

Hazel Marsh: Well, thinking about it from about 1927. All these people come into mind, people who settled around the periphery of the Lannen property. About a mile up Bear Gulch — the mouth of the gulch, was the Dahlberg family who had moved there from Garnet. They were pioneer people from Garnet who had spent many years up there and whose children were born there. They moved down to the mouth of the gulch. Then they moved on property that the Lannens — we had [previously] taken part of their homestead and their placer claims, including water rights, from their gulch-- and these Dahlbergs moved in and, of course, they had no water rights. But there was a misunderstanding that lasted three years and kept up a lot of attorneys. They felt that because the water came into their land first they should have a right to use it. They didn't seem to recognize that water that had been filed on years before was the factor that determined who was to use it.

JS: So, they were upstream from the Lannen property?

HM: Yes, up Bear Gulch. It had been originally owned by the father of Emil Lehsou of the Western Montana Bank.

JS: Okay, and what is the name of that creek that comes down from Bear Gulch?
HM: Bear Creek. I can't understand why Mr. Lehsou did not file on some rights to the water.

JS: Oh, that is Bear Creek.

HM: And at that time there was a lot of water that came across the surface, but then years later, at just about the time that they were in some of these court sessions, the water went underground and followed some of the old placer diggings and came out just under the dredge tailings then went into the river. So no one was able to use it!

JS: Let me ask you about some of these disagreements over the use of water. First of all, explain to me how was this water used in the mining of gold? And if somebody uses it upstream, why is it not still available when it just goes downstream. What happens to it? The waters of Bear Creek were used for years before the gold dredge operated for the placer mining that was done in the gulch. By placer mining I mean that the water was diverted into long flumes that were fitted with slots in which mercury was placed to separate the gold from the sand and gravel. The gold is much heavier and was attracted to the mercury as it passes over the slots.

HM: Well, it was available. There was a lot of water there, but Dahlbergs would take it all, and that leave would leave this-- about forty acres of real choice land — without any. So they went to court. A lot of bitterness that didn't need to be, really.

JS: Well, was this irrigated?

HM: Used for irrigation, yes.

JS: Oh, I see, I thought this was for somehow processing gold.

HM: No, not for gold mining, not at that time. Later in 1939 the water from the warm spring was used for the dredge pond.

JS: Oh, okay, so once you put it on the field then it's gone.
HM: That's right. It sinks right into the ground.

JS: Well tell me, besides the fact that this went into court, were there any interesting feuds over the fence, or was this all done in a civilized way?

HM: No, there was a lot of argument and a lot of unnecessary bitterness. Through the years I listened to them and realized the Dahlbergs were very good people and it was an unfortunate thing.

JS: Now, was this feud primarily...

HM: Just over water.

JS: And was it pursued by Chris Lannen and — what's Dahlberg's first name?

HM: Gust Dahlberg.

JS: Gust. Did Kate have any part in this?

HM: Oh, yes. She never went to court, he always did, and her brother spoke for them. But it got pretty bitter.

JS: Anything that Hollywood would be interested in?

HM: Oh, no, I don't think so.
JS: Exchange of gunfire?

HM: No gunfire, [laughter] just bitterness.

JS: Where did they go to court?
HM: Phillipsgburg.

JS: Really, so they had to go to the county seat.

HM: They had attorneys from Phillipsgburg and Deer Lodge. But at that time it seemed the only lawyers in Deer Lodge Valley subsisted on water cases. There was general contention on the water rights at that time.

JS: What were the settlements or the disposition of these cases?

HM: Well, they had to show where they had filed on it previous to the other fellow, you see. They reviewed all the water rights and they had adjudicated water rights — that is the court settled it. That's the thing that determines whether you are using water or not.

JS: Well, I have a question here. If this water is coming down from Bear Gulch — it's Bear Creek — and the Dahlberg's are using it upstream? As long as the Lannen operation is on the south side of the river...

HM: No, their operation was on — part of it was on the north side. In fact, a large percentage of it. They owned about forty acres right at the mouth of the gulch and the Dahlbergs were immediately above them.

JS: What were the Lannens doing in that forty acres right at the very draw?

HM: They raised potatoes. In fact, they raised some potatoes that were bought by the Northern Pacific for their big baked potatoes. And then they raised hay for the cattle.

JS: Now, you say this was in court when suddenly the water...
HM: Dried up. And Dahlberg says that there was so much fighting about it that God Almighty took it away from both of them.

JS: Now, it went underground, and at some point came out in the Clark Fork at a different location?

HM: No, right at the mouth of the gulch. Right now you can see it coming out from up under the tailings from the dredge operation. There's a pond there every spring there where the water comes out then goes into the river.

JS: So was the fight just dropped then?

HM: Oh, yes. It was just dropped. Finally, Dahlberg, I guess the thing that finally settled it was this gold dredging operation came in and got permission and tore it all up and made an unholy mess out of the whole mouth of the gulch. The Dahlbergs had an agreement with the dredging company for so much royalty and so on and so forth.

JS: Well, how does this story end? First of all, does it just make a significant difference in the Lannen operation since they were dry at the bottom of the gulch?

HM: For many years they just used it for pasture... grass that grew up in the spring without any irrigation water. For many, many years and though many people came in and tried to get dredging rights, they never would allow it until finally this company from California called Star Pointer Exploration Company. They came in and through some magic of this man he talked Mrs. Lannen into giving him the right to dredge. Previous to that, I guess, this big Eubaugh [?] Company from California that had a dredge at, I believe, Marysville, I'm not quite sure of that. But they came and also did some testing previous to the Star Pointer, but they abandoned it. There was a disruption in their company and they just let it go. Then Star Pointer came in.

JS: Now, when did Dahlberg just leave the property?
HM: Oh, around the time that they dredged in the, say, thirties. They moved to Drummond. I'm sure they did.

JS: So, he was always a thorn in the Lannens' side?

HM: Kind of a headache for everybody. It wasn't a pleasant thing. Well, going on from Dahlberg, we go across the river. A man by the name of Ben Smith had a little homestead which the Lannens finally bought off which is part of the Lannen ranch now. Years before that (as I just think as I go along), there was a man by the name of Woodlock took up some land west of Bearmouth. That also became part of the Lannen ranch.

JS: Were these homesteaders, also?

HM: Yes.

JS: Do you know where they came from?

HM: I think Woodlock came with the Lannens from Kansas. I don't know where he came from previous to that.

JS: Now, does this suggest, or just simply outright indicate that Lannens were so prosperous that they could start buying up the little operations around there?

HM: Yes. They had the little store, I don't know how profitable that was, but they made money in the old saloon, of course, which they owned. They had a little cattle raising operation. They apparently had prospered enough to buy these other people out.

JS: Did Smith and Woodlock just leave the country quietly?

HM: Woodlock was very much older. He was long, long dead before my time. It must have been in the early nineteen hundreds that he was around. But Smith — I faintly remember him. There
were other people--McNorton was on the southwest side. That eventually became part of the Buchanan ranch. Buchanans came in there--I couldn't tell you when, but I could find out when they came in. It must have been also in the late 1900's or earlier.

JS: Well, go ahead with the Buchanan story.

HM: Well, let's see, I said that the McNortons also had a homestead that became part of the Buchanan ranch. I don't know the exact date when the Buchanans came into the country, but it was later. It was early, but later than the Lannens. During that time, especially a little bit before my time, he was caught stealing cattle, and he spent a little time in Deer Lodge behind the bars. Later on, my brother tells of some of the things he did--a little bit on the shady side concerning our cattle on the ranch.

JS: Like what?

HM: Oh, they disappeared. He used to sell meat around and he wasn't careful about whose meat it was!

JS: This would be discovered when what, you caught the cows?

HM: I can't, you know. I could get sued for this, because it would be hard to prove. But, Ralph would.

JS: In those days, what did it mean, though, to be a cattle thief? Did you just cut wire and take a cow out of someone else's pasture?

HM: That's right. Butcher it.

JS: And if you sell the meat without the hide there's no — can't obviously tell what the brand is?

HM: I don't know what finally put him behind the bars. I don't know the whole story.
JS: While he was in Deer Lodge did he still keep his ranch; was somebody still running the ranch?

HM: Oh, yes, his brothers.

JS: Well, so he's stealing cattle from Lannens. This is serious. What happened, did Chris do anything about it?

HM: No, nobody ever could pin him down on it, but there was always a kind of an enmity between them because we always suspected them of kind of shady dealings.

JS: So, are you saying then that Dahlberg is to the north giving Lannens problems with water, to the west is Buchanan — a m I right on that?

HM: No, that would be the east, southeast of us. Let's see...

JS: Oh, southeast.

HM: No, east.

JS: And on the south side of the river still — the Lannen side of the river.

HM: Yes.

JS: Wait, I know where the Buchanan...

HM: That's where Radke finally wound up as the owner. It first belonged as Hans Kofoed for whom Radke worked.

JS: That's right. And actually, doesn't the Mullen Road at some
point go through there?

HM: Yes, goes right through there. Radke finally came into the place because he had worked for
the man who owned it. Kofoed was his name. He was Danish, and he had come in there. Was
nothing, and had accumulated a lot of land. Radke came from Dakota and started working for
him, and was kind to him and took care of him when he was old. He was a left a big piece of the
property. The other part was left to the Shodair Children's Home in Helena.

JS: How did Chris and Kate handle this hostility on two sides? That would seem to be pretty
distressing.

HM: Well, they just didn't do much about the Buchanan thing except kind of watch him. There
was nothing much ever done about it, except we felt that, and other people felt that, too, that...

JS: But, they didn't file suit on him.

HM: No, there was never anything legal done about it. My brother tells the story about a heifer
or steer that belonged to somebody near Drummond that was running with the Buchanan cattle
and he told — he knew the man was looking for him—he told him for, I don't know, $25 or
something he'd round up that animal and bring it home, and he did. He chased the animal right
down through Buchanan's front yard and out and down the road. And $25 was a lot of money at
that time.

JS: Well, let's see, that is the north of you and the east, what about over toward Harvey Creek,
which, I guess is to the west?

HM: Harvey Creek at that time was — I just don't know who owned it. It was this Ketching
house as I remember it. This beautiful, kind of colonial type home about a mile up Harvey
Creek that was built by the big gold company because of the death on the job of this woman's
husband. Then on the lower part, the earliest I know of it was owned — and I don't think this
man built it--but it was owned by George Forsyth, who at the same time was the owner and
operator of the Gregson Hot Springs, which is now known as the Fairmont Hot Springs. And he had to be pulled out of the mud many, many times as he came with his car to spend some time at his retreat on Harvey Greek.

JS: Now, was that all it was, a retreat? Or did they have ranch operations?

HM: Not very many I don't think. He later sold the ranch to Henry Thayer, who raised sheep, and who built all the expensive sheds and places to accommodate these sheep. It was not profitable, and he finally went in debt to the Vermont Loan Company, and it was during the Depression that the Lannens bought it from the Vermont Loan Company for a highly reduced price because they wanted to get rid of it. (For a more complete abstract of owners, the abstract at the UM Library can be consulted.)

JS: So the Lannens then, of course, are expanding to the west. They're going further west to Harvey Creek, and, I suppose, also south up the creek.

HM: Later in my time there was a Warner family who had a nice little home about two and a half miles up Harvey Creek. John Warner finally became interested in politics and the family moved to Philipsburg after he was elected County Clerk and Recorder. That was followed by several owners and it was finally purchased by a Milwaukee engineer who lived in Butte and turned it into a summer residence. I became sort of a caretaker who rode horseback up there now and then to check it out. After his death the Lannens bought from the widow.

JS: As long as we're at this particular period of time, if the Lannens can afford to buy up other ranches that have gone belly up during the Depression, how did the Lannens fare during the Depression? I take it they prospered.

HM: They did not prosper. They ran the little store and post office. They had a few cattle. I remember them selling beautiful steers for three cents a pound — shipping them to Chicago. They never lived like affluent people, even though at times they did have more than the neighboring people, but they always lived very simply. It was the first Lannens that built the
home that was kind of the showplace. Later on, Mrs. Lannen, of course, was from Irish stock that came here during the Irish panic. She lived very simply. They didn't have very much really during the Depression. If I hadn't — I had been going — I was going to high school at that time. If I hadn't finished the year that I did, I wouldn't have gotten to got back the next year, because there wouldn't have been money. That was in 1933. I graduated in 1932.

JS: Was there any animosity over the exchange of property on Harvey Creek?

HM: No, I don't think so. Later, it was leased out. Before Lannens bought it one of the Weaver boys lived there for a while with his family — rented it. It was pretty run down by the time the Lannens bought it.

JS: Well, what about the Weavers? This takes us north and west, is that right?

HM: No, west and south. Weavers were west of Bearmouth.

JS: Yeah, but wouldn't west and south be Harvey Creek? Don't we want to go north across the river?

HM: Well, they were north of the river. North and west, you're right.

JS: Well, what about the Weavers? When did they come and..?

HM: I think they came in about the turn of the century. I'd have to check on that and find exactly when they did come. Also, the people previous to this George Forsyth, I can't remember their names, but they... no, I guess it was Thayer that had quite an extensive strawberry business. They shipped them into Butte - crates of strawberries - and raised the nursery stock. That was all up on that plateau up from my house.

JS: Well, go back to Weavers. You say came around the turn of the century.
HM: Yes. They were originally, I believe, from England.

JS: Oh, really?

HM: They had settled in Phillipsburg and then they came down to Bearmouth — I believe around 1900.

JS: Still homesteading or by this time did the people have to buy land?

HM: I think they were homesteading, I'm not sure. I could find that out, too.

JS: Let me ask you this now, before I go on with the Weavers. You can maybe explain this at some point earlier. What were the conditions of homesteading? Obviously, you couldn't snatch up as much land as you want. What were the limitations?

HM: I think 160 acres, I'm not sure. I'd have to find that out, too. Later by the Enlarged Homestead Act they were allowed an entire section.

JS: One hundred and sixty acres?

HM: Yes and that had to be proven up on. That is it, they had to operate some kind of a farming operation there for I don't know how many years. I'd have to find the details of that, too.

JS: One hundred and sixty acres per family?

HM: Per person, yes. Per family, I guess.

JS: But, if you had grown sons, then could they get their one hundred sixty acres, too?

HM: I think so.
JS: Does that mean that Lannens originally started with one hundred sixty acres way back?

HM: They could take up mining claims and in that area there's the Bearmouth placer, which was at the mouth of Bear gulch and consisted in the property that was dredged out. Then the Birmingham placer — that took in the old stage station — property on that stage station. Gee, so much of that is kind of vague, but that was in 1893 that the Birmingham placer was taken up. The post office used to be in that old stage station on the Mullan Trail and then the railroad went in and I don't know if the post office was moved or whether the people who ran the post office there came over [and] got the mail from the trains and took it back there. I believe they did until later on the Lannens took over the post office.

JS: So, getting back to the Weavers, this means that they would have homesteaded about one hundred sixty acres, then — if they homesteaded.

HM: Yes, along the river.

JS: Yes. What did they do, start sheep or cattle operations right away?

HM: Sheep and cattle and dairy.

JS: What kind of neighbors were they for the Lannens in those days?

HM: Well, they seemed to be very compatible. I mean, Mrs. Weaver used to come driving her horse up to the post office to get her mail.

JS: How did she cross the river?

HM: There was a bridge at that time. At Blakely there was no road on the north side of the river at that time. A bridge had been put in. I don't know what year that old red bridge was put in. I think if I do some reading up at the library I might find those things.
JS: Down at the base of where Bear Creek and Bear Gulch come in? I mean, that far east she had to go before she could cross.

HM: No she came up on the south side of the river on the Mullan Road.

JS: Were there ethnic tensions? What about these Englishmen and Irishmen?

HM: Well, a little bit of tension. You could feel it. They always explained that they were the English, you know.

JS: And looked down over the Irish?

HM: There was a little bit of tension there.

JS: Obviously they spoke the same language.

HM: I remember Mrs. Lannen telling about Mrs. Weaver driving this horse, and she'd say, "Get up, Lee, that's me 'orse!"

JS: She'd say what?

HM: "Get up, Lee, that's me 'orse!" [laughter]

JS: Were there other ethnic groups there? Were there non-English speaking...?

HM: In later years there were Japanese, even, and Italians.

JS: I guess I was thinking of the homesteaders rather than the railroaders and the miners.

HM: No, not that I know of. But, previous to that, I have faint, faint memories of hearing about people who had farmed little places between Drummond and Deer Lodge. There must have been
some kind of a trail down that narrow — you know — opening between the cliffs there. I remember Mrs. Lannen speaking of the Baldries (?) who were very good friends who used to come and visit them, and they were from up there. But other than that, I can't remember. But there were people who were friends of the Lannens that drove their horse and buggy down that narrow road. Yes and I can faintly remember the original highway crossing the old red bridge. It made its way north for a short distance then east on the property line of the forty acre field mentioned elsewhere. I seem to remember that the road at that time followed the Mullan Trail pretty much from Missoula. It crossed to the south side of the river at what was then called Nimrod— twelve miles west, a flag stop and mail pick up — over an old bridge which is long gone. It then kinda squeezed its way through Bearmouth right by the steps of the big white house. The railroad then crossed again to the north side of the river now called the Clark Fork of the Columbia. It then made its way north at the mouth of the gulch, then turned abruptly east on the property line of that forty acres mentioned elsewhere. In those early days of the engineers of whom Mullan was the first chose to place the roads high up on the hillsides rather than risking the danger of being washed out by the river. Later came the highway built with convict labor that changed the road to the north side of the river. I remember the highway engineers negotiating with the Lannens for land on which to build the new road. It was then that it cut through the forty acres and between the rock cliffs. By the time room was made to accommodate the river, plus two railroads and now the highway, a lot of beautiful limestone cliffs had to be blasted away.

JS: Well, did Weavers build up something of a big ranch?

HM: Oh, they have since recently, very recently. From the time I left 'til I came back they seemed to have bought up a lot of property — hillside property. They bought what used to be the Moore place. There used to be — remember that old house right down below us--below where I lived up on the hill and then you went down the road and to the right there was this big old farm house in a state of disarray since has been demolished.

JS: Yeah, sure.

HM: Well, that was the people by the name of Moore, and they had some nice little pieces of land in there and Weavers bought that up. Then, below them was what they call the Tyler place.
JS: Okay, now wait. Below whom?

HM: Below the Moore place. Mrs. Moore was a mother of the Tylers, I believe... mother of Mrs. Tyler. Mrs. Moore was the grandmother of Mrs. Ralph Simons, the mortician's wife.

JS: Hazel, were all these people either first or second generation Americans? In other words, I guess what I'm saying is, would there be any reason why you would have people, say, from New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, who had been, say, in the United States for a century, and then for some reason or another wanted to come west, or were these all immigrants of, again, first or second generation?

HM: Well, I think I would say that there was some of each. I knew the Weavers came from England originally, though.

JS: And, of course, the Lannens first settled in Kansas after coming to New York directly from the Old Sod.

HM: They came from Ireland.

JS: But I wondered, in the days of homesteading if there were, you know, people who as I said, had roots in the United States since. . .

HM: Yes, I think that Smith and McNaughton and even Buchanan's.

End side one

Side two

JS: I was asking Hazel if there are homesteaders in Bearmouth who are not necessarily immigrants themselves or first generation of immigrants, but if there were people who were well established in the Midwest and in the East, and when this land was available came west. And...
HM: Yes, I think so. There was a Ryan family — George Ryan, who lived on the Tyler place. Gee, I've almost forgotten all about those people. It's hard to remember and place them.

JS: Were all of these people, all the ones that you mentioned, I've got a big long list here starting from Dahlbergs to Smiths, Woodlocks, Buchanans and so on, right down to Moores and Tylers— were these people all pretty much raising livestock — animal husbandry?

HM: Yes, pretty much.

JS: Did they have anything to do with, you know, the big gold mining operations that were just up the hill?

HM: No, I think that the gold mining upon the hillside above the old bridge was carried on by the Lannens and their Chinese friends from Helena who were hired by them. The stage station was operating at that time. I don't know if they were the original owners but people by the name of Burmingham are the only ones that I have heard mentioned as the occupants. Possibly they were the original owners. I know they took up land there very early, possibly near the time of the Lannens. The Burmingham Placer claim is dated 1893 when Harrison was president. I think that further and perhaps more accurate information may be found in the abstracts that I donated to the Mansfield Library. That placer claim was Antelope Creek and extended over the hill connecting with Bearmouth Placer taken up by the Lannens. The stage station and post office was operated for many years previous to 1908 when the Lannens bought it. It served as the post office for the entire area including the Bearmouth and gulch area. It came to the Lannens with all of the household furnishings which must have been quite grand for that time. There was a beautiful old square grand piano, fine old oak bedroom furniture and a lovely carpet in shades of red and beige - red roses on a beige background. By the time the Lannens took over, Mr. Burmingham had died and his widow had remarried a man by the name of Fitzgerald who originated the Old Beartown. The carpet and the lovely old furniture was placed in the Lannen parlor where mass was celebrated for fifty consecutive years, the old square piano serving as an altar. In 1933 Father Patrick Casey, the priest from Drummond who served that area, marked the Golden Jubilee of
mass being celebrated in the same room of the same house for over fifty years. Bishop Hayes said the mass and it was attended by Mike and Maureen Mansfield and others from the area around — Missoula and Drummond.

JS: Did any of these families come to Saturday mass at the white house at Bearmouth?

HM: Mass was on one Saturday of the month because the priest from Drummond who served us also celebrated the Sunday masses at Drummond, Gold Creek and Avon. Yes, Weavers made it in first. They were Church of England — very much! There was a family of Irish—very Irish — people on what is now the [property] owned by Gene Tripp. The first people that I remember on that place were — their names were Guinane and they were directly from the old sod. They had about four boys, and Mrs. Guinane used to come to mass driving her horse and buggy wearing the dress that she had been married in with a high collar and a tight waist, and a watch chain across into her pocket, waist trimming, and so on and so forth. That was her going-to-mass-dress.

JS: You say mass was only once a month?

HM: Yes. She always came, but none of her family ever did. She never could get any of her family to come. There were always a few of the railroad people in my time who came to mass who were Catholic.

JS: So, this then is pretty much the settlers on the periphery of Bearmouth?

HM: Yes, there's so much more to say about the old stage station and those people on the old Mullan Road. That's kind of a historic place.

JS: That, obviously, was not a part of the Lannen ranch at this time.

HM: No, at the beginning it wasn't. I don't know who took that up. Some of the papers would be on record. If I could pry into this seriously enough I could look at the records and find out who were the original owners of that place. I know Birmingham took up the placer claim, but I don't
know if Birmingham built that house (the old stage station) or whether it had been there before him. But those are things I could ferret out by reading in the library.

JS: Should we reserve space, then for the history on the Birmingham stage station?

HM: Yes.

JS: I'll make a note on that. You said something a little earlier when the tape was off that I wanted you to go back and comment now that we had a good look at Bearmouth itself and then all the surrounding people. You said that, in fact, this was in the context of Buchanan, but you made the remark that, even though Buchanan apparently was a scoundrel as long as he was in one way or another opposed to the Lannens people supported him because, apparently, there was an anti-Lannen sentiment. What do you mean by that?

HM: There seemed to be an anti-Lannen sentiment mostly because I think that coming there so early he was able to grab up some of the choice pieces of land.

JS: John Lannen, you're talking about.

HM: Yes.

JS: And so is it just envy? Is it that simple?

HM: As far as I know. I don't know of anything else.

JS: How did this translate to you and your brother? Already you felt somewhat alienated?

HM: Yes. In school, we could feel a tension.

JS: Of course, since you weren't part of the Lannens maybe this was to your favor, or wasn't it?
HM: No, not exactly. There was a funny feeling there.

JS: You mean, like the Weaver kids the...

HM: Weaver kids were long before us in school at Bearmouth. I think one of the Lannen girls taught school there with a Weaver in its school. But they did have a school of their own later. They called it Blakely School. It was down right about across on the south side of the river and west of the Weaver ranch. I think both of them went to school there.

JS: Well, let's see. If we're going to move, sort of, from 1927...how has all of this changed, say up to 1927, before you go away to school? In other words, what you've told us about Dahlberg and Buchanan and the Harvey Creek area and so, by 1927 did this whole landscape pretty much change?

HM: Well, I'm trying to shift it around. The thing that's very personal that when my mother died and my father was left with nine children, my father left one of his daughters who was probably six or seven with Buchanans. He left one with Weavers, and then my brother and me with Lannens. The thing that I never could quite understand was why at Christmas time or no time were we ever brought together. We were raised just estranged from each other, and eventually, this old original Buchanan lady, who had charge of the affairs there, she was so mean to my sister, that the neighbors got together and took her away from her. Eventually, my sister ran away from the Weavers.

JS: The other sister?

HM: She wanted to go to school. Yes, another sister. She ran away and worked her way through high school. Finally went to stay with an uncle in Wenatchee, Washington [and] graduated from high school with apple blossom honors and was apple blossom princess. [laughter]
JS: So, I asked about tension a little earlier. I'm sure that this doesn't help them to have the Weaver family and the Buchanan family having part of your family and there's not any unity here.

HM: Yes, that's right.

JS: Now, Hazel, do you think this was just part of an old-fashioned psychology where somebody said, "Well, since the family isn't together, it would only make more hardship if they brought them together on the holidays." Or...

HM: Well, I don't know. I suppose so. I don't know what the feeling was, but we never got together. Ever.

JS: Were there more political undertones here?

HM: I just don't know. We just heard from the neighbors that my sister had been taken away from the Buchanans. I know that when my older sister left Weavers, she had gotten through the eighth grade and she wanted to go to high school.

JS: Did she go to Blakely School?

HM: Yes. They didn't want her to go to school, I guess, and she ran away. Mrs. Weaver came into town, into Missoula here, and got the, I guess the probation officer or the lady who took care of errant children, and she wouldn't do a thing about it. She said to let that girl go. She wants to educate herself. Why should she go back to that farm and work as a lackey?

JS: What's her name, this sister?

HM: My sister?

JS: Yeah.
HM: Florence.

JS: What became of the one at Buchanans'? You said she was taken away from the Buchanans.

HM: She was taken away and put with a lady in Hamilton who ran some kind of a Southern dining place. When she was twelve, she had [a] ruptured appendix and died.

JS: Oh, what's her name?

HM: Marjorie.

JS: Were you and your brother close enough to talk about this kind of division in the family? And segregation?

HM: No, things were that way. We didn't know how different it all could have been. But, that was our lot, I guess, in life. Until now, until later years, we started talking about it and realizing much.

JS: But you and Ralph had no plans of sneaking over to the Weaver house and visiting with those...

HM: No, never. That's one of my oldest, earliest memories was crying my eyes out when Florence was — she was with us at Lannens for a few days after Mother died and then her going away, having to go to the Weavers and leaving us, and I remember just crying my eyes out. That was part of the first hurts I had, I guess. I couldn't remember my mother dying, but I clung to her, Florence. She took care of me.

JS: I guess that means that Florence must not have been raised Catholic if she was in the Weaver household?
HM: No.

JS: What about Marjorie up at the Buchanans?

HM: No religion whatever. I don't think that they were at all religious. They'd be really anti-religious, if anything. Ralph and I stuck to that religion. We had a pretty good introduction to it through mass being said right in the house and all. Priests coming in all the time. Ralph is a man with a very great faith.

JS: Do you want to say more about him before you depart for school in 1927? I don't think we've...

HM: Talked about Ralph, yet?

JS: Well, you do. We talked about Ralph quite a bit, but I'm not sure right up to this point. You say he graduated from the Bearmouth Elementary School?

HM: Yes. We had to take state examinations and he did...

JS: What does that mean — state examinations?

HM: Well, in order to get your eighth grade diploma you had to go to some designated place in the county. We had to go to Drummond.

JS: Oh, really.

HM: We were given stiff state examinations.

JS: Who administered them?
HM: The school teacher at Drummond, I guess. Unless you could pass them, you didn't get your diploma. My brother passed with a breeze, and so did I.

JS: This was eighth grade diploma?

HM: Yes.

JS: What kind of things did they examine you on?

HM: Oh, geography, and history and everything we were supposed to study. Really, we did study them, and I can still remember some of the things that I was taught—geography and history. I think in many ways in high school I found history just a breeze because I was interested in it [and] I remembered the grade school history that I had been taught.

JS: Was he one year ahead of you in school?

HM: Yes.

JS: I'm just curious. Now Drummond, of course, is just a ten minutes down the highway on the interstate. In those days, how did you get to Drummond in 1926, I suppose you're talking about?

HM: Well, you just didn't. If you went to high school you had to go board some place.

JS: Yeah, but I mean for the exams.

HM: I don't remember. I think we got on a train.

JS: Really. I mean, you'd actually get on a train just to go to Drummond.

HM: Yes, sure. There was no other way of getting there.
JS: Was the highway in yet by 1927? The highway that goes along the river rather than the Mullan Trail.

HM: I think so. I'd better find out.

JS: In fact, that's right, because we talked about using the convicts for labor.

HM: That's something I have to find out is whether there was a road up the river before the convicts came in — yes there was a wagon road.

JS: Okay, well, I guess, then, we're saying in 1926 he must have gotten his diploma if he was a year ahead of you. Then tell me about his decision to do whatever he did after he was finished with eighth grade.

HM: Well, I think he would have liked to have gone to high school mostly because he enjoyed sports, and he was good in them. But that wasn't the purpose for which they'd raised us — to send us to school. It was the work that they could get out of us that was the reason they took us. The very purpose of them doing this unheard of thing was taking two strange kids and raising them. It certainly wasn't to send them off to school and have them become something on their own.

JS: So, Ralph would be young enough where he really didn't have the autonomy to go off to school.

HM: No, he didn't realize what it was all about. He was very interested in horses and raising the cattle and he wanted to get out on the ranch. He loved to do that sort of thing. He loved the outdoors.

JS: So, after he got his diploma, he returned to the ranch?
HM: Yes. Well, he didn't go away, he just went in to the examinations and maybe three weeks or a month [later] and then we found out if we passed or not--got our grades.

JS: Who graded them? The teacher?

HM: I don't know. I think they went into the county superintendent and she graded them.

JS: Were you given some kind of certificate?

HM: Yes. I don't think I have it, now, but I did for years.

JS: Well, if you don't mind, why don't you go to 1927, and tell us about your examination. Did you take the train into Drummond?

HM: I remember us going together. I don't know whether we graduated the same year. I know I skipped a grade. Ralph and I went and took those examinations together. Maybe we graduated the same year. There were quite a few kids there, about twenty or thirty in all the grades, you know, and rather than having one kid in the fifth grade, they put me ahead in the sixth grade and said I was doing eighth grade reading. And I remember the Buchanans were mad about that. [laughter]

JS: Why? Because you leaped over some of their students or their children?

HM: Yeah, that's right. I remember one of them getting kind of nasty about it.

JS: Oh, you mean the Buchanan kids.

HM: Right. I remember one time, the teacher came to see the Lannens about us and she explained that we were very good students and very well behaved.

JS: This was said to whom?
HM: Mrs. Lannen, which made her feel good.

JS: Let's see, I was going to ask you something else here. Was there any graduation party or any ceremony?

HM: Heavens, no! [laughter] That was just another day.

JS: Once again, kind of moving in toward your decision or situation where you went on to school. What about all these other kids who graduated? Was it quite unusual to go beyond eighth grade at that point? What was happening to these other kids?

HM: Gee, I don't remember. I think probably their parents — the railroad people, mostly, and they moved someplace where high school was available. I think that was the story.

JS: Well, can we start talking about the Lannen decision for you to go on?

HM: Well, do you want to know just exactly how it came about?

JS: Yes, of course.

HM: All right, there wasn't any chance of going to school the next year. I was supposed to raise chickens and I had set all these old hens in a big old chicken house up on the face of the hill. I had little chickens all over the place. They hatched out. It was very successful, and suddenly they all started to die. I was scared to death that I would get blamed for it and it was my fault, so as the little chickens died I'd take them away and hide them and bury them. Finally, I owned up to what was happening. The fact is, that there was a disease got in the little chickens, and they practically all died. I was heartbroken. But, I would have gone along. I was a good girl and I would have done as I was told. There was a man staying there, boarding there, who was working on the highway. He was a highway maintenance man. He told Mrs. Lannen that people were talking about her keeping me home and making me work and not sending me to school. So, she
got to thinking about it, and thought, "Well, maybe that is wrong. Maybe she should go to school." So, the next year, after the harvest was over, after the threshing was over, when the school year was about a quarter into the school year, I was sent into Sacred Heart Academy in Missoula — started late with the class that already been in session.

JS Okay, so what year are we talking about?

HM: 1928. I must have graduated in 1926 with my brother.

JS: Okay, then the year of the chickens was 1927. When did you start, then, in 1928--after harvest?

HM: In the fall of 1928.

JS: So, you went in there somewhat behind?

HM: Yes, very much behind. And I took French.

JS: Well, wait, you don't mean a whole year behind, you mean you just started..

HM: I was a whole year at home raising chickens, and then the next fall it was almost the end of the first semester before I got to go to school.

JS: Because of harvest?

HM: Yes, and there was work to do for me at home. I was put in that school that these people that had been in all these classes — and I think I cried myself to sleep about every night because I thought Mrs. Lannen was wasting her money. She had sent me reluctantly and I thought, "Here I am, I'm not living up to my — you know, I have a chance and I'm not taking advantage of it." I didn't realize that I was almost asked to do a superhuman thing—to take up algebra and French in...
a class that was already way deep into it. It was almost enough to make a person, you know, just quit.

JS: Back up a little bit here. When Kate decided that you should go to school, was she pretty much making this decision? What did Chris have to say about all of this?

HM: I don't think he thought it was a very good idea. He just couldn't see any necessity for it. He never said very much. He never expressed himself to me, but I felt that that was one of the reasons for her reluctance to send me.

JS: But does this mean that, in these kinds of matters, Kate could prevail over Chris?

HM: Oh, yes, that's what I'm saying, if she wanted to. But, she didn't many times. She gave in to what he wanted. That was, you know, a relationship.

JS: So, this must have been fairly exciting. What did you do? Tell me [about] that very first day. You had to go in on the train and register?

HM: I was told that I could go to school after the work was all done that fall. So, I started making myself things that were in their brochure. You had to have so many of this and so many of that.

JS: Uniforms?

HM: Well, nightgowns and things like that. So, I started making myself things. I had a lot of them. I signed up for a sewing class. I told the sister that taught [the class] that I had made all these things, and she said, "Well, let's see them." She said, "That'll do for your first quarter of sewing."

JS Did you go in on the train with Kate when you registered?
HM: Oh, yes. She took me there, and I know that I cried and cried when she left me there.

JS: Well, in fact, I meant to ask you this for some time. Were you going into Missoula often enough, or was this the first time you were in the big city or what was the scene?

HM: Oh, I had been there before but the Academy seemed huge. I know there was a statue right in the front hall. There was an aquarium where they had goldfish swimming around, and I had never seen anything like that before. In back of this aquarium, they had a huge statue of Saint Michael crushing the dragon and the snake curling up. I was so full of awe! When they took me into the recreation room where all the girls were. I was just snowed with awe. I didn't know how to mix and mingle with them, and I was very unhappy the first year. Until finally, there were some nice girls with whom I became friends and taught me how to adjust.

JS: But, still, regarding that initial visit. Did you go back home then and then return again or were you..?

HM: No, she left me there after taking me to the Missoula Mercantile to get the necessary school clothes including the navy blue and white uniform.

JS: Really! It must have been quite a shock.

HM: Yes! A great change in my life.

JS: Did you come in on the Milwaukee Road or the Northern Pacific?

HM: Any one that happened to be handy. Mostly Northern Pacific—they called the Butte Stub—they used to come to Missoula from Butte in the morning and then return in the evening.

JS: Do you remember if you took the Northern Pacific and got out at the depot in Missoula did you just walk the three or four blocks to the Academy?
HM: I walked to the Academy and carried my big old suitcases that I had down there I'm giving it to the bargain corner now.

JS: Okay, this is late fall 1928 and how old were you?

HM: I probably was fourteen. A few years before that Mrs. Lannen had sent Ralph and me to the Sisters School in Missoula to receive instructions and make our first communion and be confirmed. When I later went in to attend high school, I was a year behind the class I was in at that time because I had missed the year.

JS: What about your leaving Bearmouth itself? Was that very sad?

HM: No, it was a big adventure. You know, even though I was scared to death.

JS: I just mean that first trip when you and Mrs. Lannen went in.

HM: I was kind of scared easily. I didn't know what was in store for me or if I could make it or not, you know.

JS: What did Ralph think? This was the first time you were separated for...

HM: Well, poor Ralph. I think he was kind of sad. He came in to see me once, I think, and brought me a pretty fountain pen.

JS: [laughter] Well, I think this is a good place to stop.

HM: Yes, I do, too.

JS: Because we're right at the point where we can start talking about school.

HM: And I'm about ready to cry.
JS: Well, let's stop here.

End side two