Lois Gates: Well, we had come from Missouri in 1934 in the fall. We thought we were going to get rich out here [laughs], coming from Missouri. My dad worked on a farm at first. We worked up at the Mannheimer Ranch, at Arlee. And then a cousin, Dale Scott, had moved to Garnet already, in 1935. He talked my dad into going up to Garnet. Dad had worked in the oilfields in Wyoming, in the 20's, and so he thought this sounded really great, to go to Garnet. I have a picture over there, too, that you can see of us packed up. Just with a car, that's all we had. We didn't take very much up there. We lived up Dublin Gulch when we got to Garnet. To go and seek our fortune, I guess, was the reason we went up there. Didn't get very rich. [laughs]

VS: What relation was Dale Scott?

LG: He was my dad's first cousin. They were more like brothers than cousins. In fact, when we left Missouri, we left all of our family behind, except these cousins. So, through the years, they really grew to be very close to us. She was like an aunt, and her kids were like my brother and sister. I didn't have any brothers or sisters at the time we moved up there. It was just a close family type thing.
to, but she's in my birthday party picture. She's my neighbor now. She lives out at Three Mile, too. She was about two years older than I was. When she was an eighth grader, we just thought she was the smartest person around. I was a sixth grader and I thought, Oh! If I could just be as smart as Nova. They had a big family, so that was a lot of the kids. Then the Scotts had two. The Miles' didn't have any in school at Garnet. And me. My best friend was Helen Swanson, and she belonged to Art and Sara Swanson. Now, I think he had his own mine, and they were from Philipsburg originally. I used to keep in touch with Helen, the daughter, but after I had kids, and I guess she got married and had kids, we kind of lost track of each other.

VS: So the Morris's didn't have any children?

LG: Not at that time, no. Newlyweds. They had a dog named Wahini! [laughs]

VS: Did the Morris's come there because of Dale Scott, too?

LG: Well, I think the Morris' were already there. But Beulah came and stayed with Lola for a while, and that's how she met Irvin. Because she was the single girl in town!

VS: And Irvin was a long-time miner there?

LG: I think so, yeah.

VS: Now, you said you came up there in 1935. How long were you there?

LG: Well, at first, my mom worked there in the summer of '35, at that cook shack. And then we went back to Missoula, and my dad worked at the sugar beet factory. But that was seasonal, so as soon as it closed, then we went back to Garnet. That's the way it worked then. The next year we—I don't know if it was at Christmas time or just shortly after Christmas—we moved to Garnet. Then we'd go back to Missoula in the fall of the next year, and work in the sugar factory. So we were there until about the spring of '39.

VS: So every season you came down to Missoula between fall and Christmas?

LG: Each fall. Right.

VS: What cook shack did she work at?

LG: It's one that was across from the school, in that area, up by the Nancy Hanks mine. And there was a chauffeur for one of the big bosses up there that I can remember coming to eat at the place. It was just like a kitchen with a table, and that's just about all it was.

VS: Was it for the Nancy Hanks miners?
LG: I think it was. But I'm not sure about that.

VS: Do you know who ran that? I've never heard of it.
LG: No.

VS: What do you know about what your father did with mining?

LG: I know he went down in the mines! [laughs] He wore the little headgear and high, waterproof boots, and...I thought it was a scary thing, but there were some that worked in tunnels. He didn't have any claims. Now, Dale Scott did have some claims up there. But my dad never did take out any claims. And they mined for gold.

DF: So he was working for somebody, then?
LG: Yes.

DF: Do you remember who that was?
LG: Well, Reg Rowan was one. I don't know who he worked for at the Nancy Hanks.

DF: So he was one of the guys on a crew at the Nancy Hanks.
LG: Right. And I don't know now...Fred Tungstill. Was he kind of a boss up at—

DF: Well, I know he had a bunch of claims up there, but I don't know what his place was and all that.

LG: His place is the place where it's blocked off now. And they had two boys in school. Dad got my goat over one of those boys. [laughs] One of them was in my class, and the other one was about two years older, and I just thought he was so dreamy. I had written a note, "I love Gene Tungstill." And my dad found that in a book. And he was one of these that never lets anything go. Tease, tease, tease. [laughs] But I don't think Gene ever knew it.

VS: He wouldn't tease you in front of Gene.
LG: No.

VS: He probably worked at the Nancy Hanks, then. Was that the only mine?
LG: No, it wasn't the only one. And I really don't know the names of any of the others that he worked at. Now, Jack Scott could tell you all the mines that they worked at. But they also cut timber up there, and did some of that kind of thing. My mom was a great huckleberry picker. She canned quarts and quarts of huckleberries, and made lots of pies.
VS: Did you help her much with that?

LG: Oh yes. We kids got to pick huckleberries that was for sure. There were bears up there. I suppose they were just brown bear. I don't think there were any grizzlies. Beulah Morris used to tell us what we must do if we come to a bear: to roll down the hill, or play dead. One or the other. [laughs] At the time we lived up there, if I had known how close we were to being able to get up and see that valley behind Garnet, I'm sure we all would have gone up there. But it just seemed like you were in a world all by itself, and you never just went out. You stayed right there.

VS: Where would you pick huckleberries then? You didn't go around the area too much?

LG: Now that area that we'd lived in that house right by the main road there, going up—that was a good huckleberry area. We worked south of there. It was just forest right up to the house, at that house.

VS: What do you remember about school then? You said there were 27 kids—

LG: Well, I can remember the first teacher we had—that I had—was Jeannette McDonald. Then we had a teacher named Elizabeth Collins. She lived right in the...As you entered the school, there was a door that led to her little, private room. It was just a room. But I can remember putting on plays. That was one of our favorite things. We put on lots of plays, for every holiday I think we had a play. For Thanksgiving, we went to old Mr. Davey's, to get costumes. He would loan us clothes from his store. He was a crotchety old man. He was...Oh! He was just real cross. But he was so good about loaning any kind of clothing that we wanted to take. I don't know that he had a guarantee that it was going to be returned or what. I don't remember that he gave it to us, but we could wear it in the play. We had a stereoscope that I remember especially being able to see all these pictures of far-away places. And a big sandbox under the windows of the classroom. The classroom had a big stage. It was where the teacher sat. Now maybe it wasn't as big as it seems to me now, that's the way things are, but it seemed like it was really a big floor up there. Our desks were just the regular old classroom desks, but they were nailed down to the floor. Not like modern classes, where you can move things around, and make tables and all that kind of stuff. You were pretty stationary, once you got a seat. My class, you know, June and Jack Scott were both in my class, and Dicky Tungstill was in my class. There was a Robinson girl, and I can't think of her name. There was a boy, I think his name was Lauris. And he was in our class. I remember the school superintendent coming to visit us. And she would give tests to the seventh and eighth graders. I was thinking that was kind of scary, to have somebody other than our teacher going to give us our tests. I always felt more secure with the teacher than I did with the county superintendent.

VS: What grades were you there then?

Lois M. Scalf Gates Interview, OH 379-010, Archives and Special Collections, Mansfield Library, University of Montana-Missoula.
LG: The third, fourth, fifth, for parts of them. Now, I was there for all of the fifth grade. And in the sixth grade, I was there for just part of it.

VS: Because of the sugar season?

LG: Yes. And when we left, we didn't go back. So that probably was at the end of '38 instead of '39. And I was a sixth grader then. We went to Missoula, but we didn't stay long. We just stayed until the end of the year, and then we went to Southern Cross, where my dad worked. He no longer worked in the mines, he was an 'eager'. He raised and lowered the cage. It was kind of a nice feeling, to know he was up on top of the ground

VS: What do you remember about the social scene? What did the adults do?

LG: Lots of card playing. The women, especially, played cards. They would go to each other's houses and take some kind of treats and that was kind of their outing. There was dancing at Ole's, and the ladies would go there. There was limited radio, and I can remember going to my cousin's—we'd go there one week and they'd come to our house another week—for the Fight Night. Also, we listened to The Shadow, I think, was the name of the show. I don't remember that I especially listened to it, but the guys really were into the fights and things. My mom and Lola and Dad and Dale used to play cards. Oh! It just seemed like they played lots of nights.

[Lola] had a vanity that was in her living room—the living room-bedroom, for her. They played at a table, and the men would play it so one of them would be sitting with their back to the mirror. They won lots of games! [laughs] Until Mom and Lola found out. "They just aren't that smart. They can't win all the time." Then they switched places. We had the regular holiday get-togethers of mainly families. In fact, we had families...Lola and Lela and Beulah's mom and dad lived in Missoula, and they would come up to Garnet for Christmas and Thanksgiving and those kinds of holidays.

In the wintertime, we didn't get to go to the town very often, we had to depend on the supplies that Mr. Davey had in his store, and then we'd go and do one big shopping [in the fall]. We'd take home big boxes of crackers, not just [the] little boxes that they came in, [but] cardboard boxes. Cartons, or boxes, of canned goods. We didn't buy just a couple of cans of things. We'd buy, especially like canned milk, you'd buy cases of it, you know. My mom did keep chickens, so we had fresh eggs. In the summertime, we had a man that came and brought fresh produce. So we had bananas and some of that kind of stuff, for salads and so forth in the summertime. Of course, we went to town to Missoula in the summertime, too. But once it got to be snow-bound, we pretty much just stayed in camp. Depended on the mail. We sent mail order for clothing and that type of thing. Christmas came by the mailman. We relied on Mr. Seadin for mail. We'd send away for wallpaper catalogs—we girls would—to decorate our dollhouses. We'd get cardboard boxes and paper them with the wallpaper samples from wallpaper catalogs. [laughs] Now you can't even get that from them! Montgomery Wards or Sears or any
of those places, they don't even have catalogs anymore! I think the guys played horseshoes. Of course, the bars were always busy for the things that the adults did.

DF: Which bars were open?

LG: Mostly Ole's. But I think Kelly's bar was open at part of that time, too. And that's where Ole moved, I think, to Kelly's bar? Oh well, to that other bar. It was, it's not the one that has Kelly's sign on it. It was the little lower one, across the road. Isn't that still there?

DF: The Dahl Saloon and the Dahl Cabin are there. Where they lived, their house, was right across from Kelly's Saloon.

LG: Okay. So did they have their saloon in there for a while?

DF: I believe they did.

LG: Well, that's the only two that I knew about. And Ole was real good. We had a dog that we got from Ole and his wife [Marion]. They'd give him part of a candy bar, you know, just to watch him chew up a caramel bar or something like that. They had the mother, and the Swansons had the father of our puppy. When Mrs. Dahl would go anyplace, she'd stop by our house, there at the south end of Garnet, to see how Acey was doing. That was his name, Acey. He was the cutest dog. They had the mother and the grandmother. The grandmother dog didn't really like for the mother to take care of it; she wanted to do the taking care of. We got to go to Ole's bar to buy candy, you know, you could go in. It wasn't an off-limits place. Then we kids had the old ballroom, or I guess it was a union building.

DF: Union Hall. Just up the draw from the hotel?

LG: Yes, just right on up. It didn't seem like it was very far at all. We roller-skated in there, and we played basketball in there. It was just, the roof was kind of gone, on part of it. The windows weren't good. But it was a place where we could go and play.

VS: Was that still standing when you left?

LG: Yes. I was surprised though when we went back [in '63] because I thought it was as good as the hotel. I guess not!

VS: What do you remember about the Dahl family?

LG: Well, they had the two kids, Marjorie and oh...I can't think of the boy's name right now.

VS: Raymond?
LG: Raymond, yes. And Raymond was...kind of different. Marjorie was just a beautiful, beautiful girl. She went away to school, most of the time that I was up there. I think she went into Philipsburg to go to high school. So that's about all I remember about them. They had kind of a hard life, I think. The Dahls were good, good people, but she had such a drinking problem, you know. You never knew when you went there, if she was going to be able to talk to you or not.

DF: Was Raymond there the whole time?

LG: I think he was there the whole time.

DF: Was he older than...?

LG: I think he was. And I think he helped out his dad, you know. But he just didn't go around with any of the kids or anything. There was another Raymond up there, Raymond Johnson. And he and his sister were in school when I was in school there. They were both older. Virginia was her name. Their mother I guess was dead. They lived just with their dad, Raymond. So Raymond was the dad and Raymond was the son in that family. That was about where the jail is now, I think, where they lived. It seemed like there were so many more places along that road than there are now. And the school didn't set that way. You know, it didn't set at an angle, when I went to school there. Of course, it wasn't that school, either.

VS: They rebuilt it?

LG: Yeah.

VS: When do you think they rebuilt it?

LG: Well, I don't think it was too long after we left, maybe. Jack and June both seem to know quite a bit about it being rebuilt and everything. So I don't know if something happened to it that they had to rebuild it or what.

DF: Was the old school...where was it with respect to the current school? Was it down the draw?

LG: I think it was right about there.

DF: Oh, about the same spot?

LG: Right, but it just didn't set that way. Or else the road went differently. Now maybe that's one reason that I can think of all that space, too, you know.

DF: That road that went up past the school, was that just a public road? Everybody would use that road?
LG: Yes. Right.

DF: And where did that road go?

LG: It went to the Nancy Hanks. And it also went up around the hill, going west and then south. And that's where the Robinsons lived, back in that area.

DF: Did it also go to Coloma? Did it tie in?

LG: You know, it might have. Now, we went to a place called Elk City. That, from where we lived in that house with the balcony, it seemed to me that you went east and down through a valley, to get over to Elk City. I may be turned around, but I think that's where it was. And the O'Reillys lived over in Elk City, at part of the time that I lived in Garnet. We'd walk over to visit with them. They eventually moved up by where Mr...oh. It'll come to me. [Pete Shipler.] Anyway, up past the Dahl's house. There were some other houses up along there and they lived in a cabin up along that road, too.

VS: Did you ever know Frank Fitzgerald?
LG: No.

VS: So how do you think Ole dealt with Marian drinking?
LG: Oh, fine. I think he dealt with it fine.

VS: Was he a drinker, too?
LG: Not that, I don't think as much that he showed it or anything, no. I don't think so.

DF: One of the later families remarked about how they were always making their own wine. Do you remember?

LG: No, I don't. [laughs] I remember her as having these beautiful hats. She was a pretty woman, too. And oh, when she dressed up, she just looked like a million. And I don't remember ever seeing Ole dressed up, you know. He just was a regular old person in town.

VS: What do you remember about how the bar looked like on the inside? He sold candy there, too?
LG: Probably I didn't take too much of a look. I just remember the bar, you know, was there. We didn't get to go very often, because you didn't have nickels or pennies to spend that often.

DF: Do you think there were tables scattered through the room?
LG: There must have been, because I know they played blackjack there. They gambled in there. So I'm sure there was a table or two, yeah. But there was room that they could dance in there. I don't know that many of the women went to dance, but Lola did. She loved to dance. She would go there and dance.

DF: Did they have their big generator running then? Do you remember that?

LG: I don't remember that they did then. But I know when we went to visit in '63, I know there was a generator then. When we went there in '63, things were beginning to be kind of run down. The Scott house was still enough that you could recognize it. The roof was there. My dad stood with a lantern that he found outside the door, because he wanted to send to Dale—who had moved to Wichita, Kansas—a picture of [Dad] in [Dale's] house. Dale never got to go back. He died before they ever came back to Montana. We kids would dig tunnels back in there. In fact, Jack and June and I dug a tunnel west of Dale and Lola's house, and it caved in on us. One was outside, and two of us were inside, and so they went, ran and got the family. Of course, it wasn't very much of a tunnel. But the Fourth of July was a great time for us, because we would get firecrackers and we would blast. We knew that we were kind of miners [laughs] and that was our dynamite. [All we kids] could just go anywhere we wanted. I said, when we went up to Garnet, I would not let my kids out of my sight up there. I'd be afraid they'd fall into some shaft or something. But we went everywhere. We gathered crystal rocks, and oh, we'd find those little square—we thought we'd found gold—iron pyrite. For a long time, we kept all of that stuff. When we'd move, we'd move it with us. Then somehow it got left behind sometime, and I thought, oh, I would love to have some of those crystals now, because we had some beautiful ones. Just couldn't ask for any nicer crystals than we had.

Another thing at school, at the end of school, we had a picnic with all the kids. I think parents came along, and Elizabeth Collins was our teacher. She went with a...he seemed like an old man, but he probably wasn't. He had a beard, and I think he was gray-haired. But he had a team and a wagon, and so he'd take all of us kids in that wagon for our picnic at the end of school, which was kind of a neat day, for all of us.

VS: Who was that, that had the horses?

LG: Grover...Oh! Cleveland I was going to say! [Puts hand to head in mock disgust.] Grover...it was something like that.

VS: Was it Smart?

LG: Smart! Now that's not anything like Cleveland, is it? [laughs]

VS: Well, we have a famous Grover Cleveland! It sounds like there was such a, such a community there, so many different people that took interest in the kids—
LG: Oh, yes. You know, I think that was true of all mining towns. I don't know that they had a union at the time we lived up at Garnet, but when we moved to Southern Cross, they had a union there that was really quite a big one. And they provided the school with library books, and they always gave us our Christmas presents from Santa Claus. It was [great]. They really did donate a lot to the schools.

VS: I've never heard this name Reg Rollins before. Who was he?

LG: Rowan. I think. I think it's just R-O-W-A-N. But now I'm not real sure. Reggie Rowan, I'm sure is.

VS: And who was he?

LG: Well, he was a boss-type of person, and he ran the cyanide tanks. And that's where my dad worked one season when we were up there.

VS: Was that the same when he was an eager?

LG: No, that was at Southern Cross.

VS: Oh, okay. And that was at the Nancy Hanks?

LG: Yeah. It seemed like...well, of course, it was in back of the Tungstills. It just seems like there was a big, open field back in there. It's grown up now so much in timber that it's kind of hard to recognize some of these places.

VS: We interviewed Lauris, and Lester, and LeRoy Robinson—

LG: Oh, did you!

VS: And Lauris talked about a boy's club. Do you remember anything like that?

LG: I don't. But now see, they were pretty long-time members up there. When I taught school at Stevensville, one of our teacher's husbands also was at Garnet. Their name was Myllymaki. And so you know, there are a lot of people that came and went, I think, during the 30's. That was kind of an unstable time. It was hard to find work and hard to make a living.

VS: How do you think the mining helped your family make a living? You said you didn't make much, but. [laughs]

LG: We didn't have to. You know, we survived all right. I mean, I really think it was one of the happiest times of my life. When my brother was born, it was just a community affair. Everybody
was...they were really close, it seemed like. They look out for each other. The Halls lived in the house up there at the south end of Garnet. The Halls were just up a little ways, right toward the corner, where the corner was, that you turn in to Garnet. They had new houses, you know. So people were making money up there. I think people had made it a life career, but we didn't really give a chance, coming and going like we did. It depended on what the market was for gold when they sent their ore into town. If it was good, well, you made pretty good on your load, but sometimes...Of course, it depended on how valuable the ore was that you sent, too. Bill Miles—I don't know if he was up there—but when they moved to Southern Cross, he was the assayer. So I don't know if that's what he did at Garnet or not. I don't think he ever went down in the mines, though.

VS: Who were the Halls?

LG: They were pretty well-known people up there, and you know, the one Hall, she became a mail earner. Do you have that newspaper that tells about her delivering mail up at Garnet?

VS: Oh, the Hawes!

LG: Hawes? Maybe one is Halls and one is Hawes. Yeah, that's probably right. I'm probably wrong.

VS: So how long do you remember the Seadins carrying the mail and when do you think the Hawes took over?

[Interviewer’s note: After the interview, Mrs. Gates showed me the article and it was about Aggie McMahon, not Edith Hawe, who were sisters. There was also a Hall family.]

LG: Now, I don't remember that Mr. Seadin carried the mail, you know. I just remember that he was in the post office, when I was up there. So, did he go and get the mail before he delivered it? I don't know.

VS: I don't know either.

LG: He was the postmaster.

VS: What do you remember about Davey's store?

LG: That it just had everything in it! [laughs] It was like going in, and of course, you know, a lot of things that were in there weren't for sale. They were just antiques. But he had most kinds of staples that you might need. Some, anyway. Of course people in those days [baked]. My mom, I don't know that she ever bought bread, but I think he, you know, occasionally, had bread brought in and things like that. But for canned goods. And pricewise, I wouldn't have any idea what anything cost at that time, you know. He was just such a scary old man, that you didn't want to go around. In back of his place, there was a place where they kept wagons, and you
could see through the cracks. You could see the wagons inside there. Leather seats, and I'd heard that they belonged to him, I don't know if that's right or not. They were just in back of Davey's store. I can't remember...I know that they had tobacco. My dad smoked, so I know that he had a place that he could...and I suppose you could buy them at Ole's too, I don't know that. But that was the only kind of tobacco we ever...Nobody else smoked in the family. I don't think even the other relatives, I don't think any of them smoked. My dad was the only one.

VS: Can you remember, like walking in and seeing where things were put? Where things were placed?

LG: Not really. It just seemed like there were dresses and shoes and shirts, and they just kind of lined a wall. I remember going in when we were looking for clothes to have for our play. Going and looking, and there was more people than just me. There were several of us who would go and look. Maybe the teacher was even there, when we went to get our costumes.

VS: You would dress up like the turn of the century then?

LG: Like the pilgrims.

VS: Oh, the pilgrims.

LG: That's especially one that I remember. That was the year that we stayed and didn't go back to the sugar factory. I was a fifth grader. And we'd have long, long dialogues, and really had big programs. It was a community thing. All the families came to watch the plays. Lots of time devoted to rehearsing, and all those fun things. And Ms. Collins played the piano, so she took care of the music for us. I think in that day and age, it was almost part of teaching that you had to be able to play the piano.

VS: Do you think Frank Davey came to watch them, too?

LG: I kind of doubt it. [laughs] I don't remember seeing him out and about, ever.

VS: Do you remember where he lived in then?

LG: It seemed like he lived at the store. But I don't know that either. Like I say, he was a scary old man. In back of Ole Dahl's bar, there was a ridge up halfway above it, and we found lady slippers growing there. I had told one of my granddaughters—I went to Garnet with her class for a field trip—about finding these lady slippers. After we got out of the bus and walked along, we found a whole patch of lady slippers. I had never seen so many. One of the men that was in the group, one of the fathers, said that where he was from, I think Minnesota or Wisconsin, that they grow there, much bigger than they grew in this patch. We took pictures of them. But we really thought it was something, to find the lady slippers. Tigers lily, and oh, just all kinds of wildflowers grew at Garnet. It was really kind of a pretty town. Unique, but pretty. Wild
rhubarb grew along the road. You wondered if some of the people that lived there at the turn of the century planted rhubarb, or if it is a wild plant, actually.

VS: Did you ever cook with that? Rhubarb pies?

LG: Oh yes. My mom loved rhubarb, and that was really a find for her, to find rhubarb growing along the [road]. It seemed like in the summertime, it was never really, really hot at Garnet, and it never got really, really cold in the winter, it didn't seem like. The snow got deep. Just almost even with the eaves, in certain cabins, you know. And then the road got real icy and hard to travel. But we would ski on that road, and I used to, we'd ski to school, ski at recess time, or at noontime. I used to go up over that hill, by the post office, and down across. Now I would never go that way because it's all tree-covered, but to school, that was my route. I didn't go down on the regular road. We skied down through that area to the school. Of course we had snowball fights. In that day and age, you didn't have nice snowsuits, you just had woolen snowsuits. So when you came in from recess, you were covered with snow, and all the coats and snow pants and so forth got hung along by the wall and the stove in the school, so they would dry out before we went out at noon.

I can remember Ms. Collins cooking on the stove in the schoolroom. Putting on soup or something, and making sure that everybody that didn't have a lunch did have something to eat. They took care of all of us. We had jump rope contests and playing marbles. I taught at Corvallis, where they had marble tournaments. But they'd shoot the marbles at Corvallis. At Garnet, we played what we called 'nine holes'. You made these nine holes in the dirt and then you had a pot in the center. Everybody in the spring—girls and boys—went around with their bags of marbles and that was one of the best recess games there was to play. Nine holes with somebody. Hopefully you'd win the pot, and get a whole bunch of marbles. I've never heard any kids in these later years talk about playing nine holes.

VS: I've never heard of that.

LG: Went out with we kids. [laughs]

VS: What do you think was it about there that made it such a happy place for you?

LG: I think just kind of feeling equal with everybody, and it didn't make any difference whose house you went to, you always were welcome. And like the girls, when we'd play together. We liked to play Monopoly. We liked to play paper dolls, our paper dolls came from the catalogs. So we'd have extra issues of the catalog. My very favorite Christmas was I think about that first Christmas that we spend up there. My dad made for me a sled, a sleigh, for my doll. My mom bought the doll, but she made all the clothes. She had a little white furry jacket, and she cut that up and made my doll a snowsuit out of it. It's always been a treasure to think, my mom and dad did this for me. After my brother was born, it was just fun being able to take him for walks along the road [in his stroller]. The road was really a nice road. (I go into a lane at my house
that's so full of mud ruts right now; I wish I had a nice road like that.) The road was so full of gravel and sand, that it was smooth, you know. It was easy to take him in a stroller and go for a walk—

[End of Side A]
[Side B]

LG: [about Lois’ dad teaching her how to pole vault] This was early spring, and so he put up the frame for the pole vault and he got a pole and he took all the bark off of it. In the living room of our house, that house that we lived in, had a big, long living room. Wooden floors. He took the pole and ran with it, and gave a jump, and he fell. That pole slipped on the floor. [The pole] was green, and it just slid all the way. And that was the last of his teaching me how to pole vault. But I did get to pole vault in the track meet. The teacher did that kind of thing, too. I don't think there were any outside officials at all, you just did what you could do. She didn't train you to do anything. I don't remember her ever really going out to recess or anything like teachers do now. But of course, maybe she was having class while we were having recess, too, with the older kids. It was [grades] one through eight. But that was a fun thing, to have track meets, and have a dad that was interested enough in it that he was willing to show me and he got me my pole. [laughs] Probably leaves a lot to be desired with people’s kids now that go out for the sport.

VS: Did your dad work for wages then, instead of a percentage of whatever gold was recovered?

LG: I think for wages. But I think those wages depended on how much the person made from his load of ore, or however many loads of ore he sent out. So I guess that would be a percentage, then. [laughs]

VS: Did he have weekends off, then?

LG: Yes. They didn't work weekends. And as I remember, there was no church at Garnet, when we were up there that knew about anyway. Now there may have been families that had services, but I didn't go to church, and my cousins didn't, and they were more religious than I am, so I don't think there was. But...weekends in the summertime were for going fishing. We went back at Bearmouth, a creek that was back in there, to go fishing. We had a picnic. I said I never fished in my life, and these girls, she and her sister, [indicates her granddaughter] they go with their dad every chance they get. I didn't like to go fishing. It was a have-to every Sunday. And I didn't like to have-to! [laughs] I would have liked to have done something else once in a while. With the outside world, you know, we had no newspapers in our family. Maybe it was delivered to some people, but we had none. We did listen to the radio, but there was limited time to listen to it. You heard the news, and once in a while, you could listen to some music on the radio, but not very often.

VS: You said that there was probably dancing at Ole's. What kind of music do you think they were dancing to?

LG: Now, I don't know this for sure, but Dale played the guitar. So I think there were other people that played, I think there was a piano maybe there. I'm sure there was a piano up there. So just good old country music, I guess.
VS: Did you ever get to sit in on those dancing nights?

LG: No.

VS: Kids weren't allowed?

LG: I don't know that they were or not. (Back in Missouri, I can remember going to dances back there. They had open-air floors, and we kids would get up and dance on the floor, too.) But I was really little then. I was about four or five. But I never went to Ole's when they were dancing, no.

VS: What do you remember about the hotel building back then?

LG: Well, it seems like there were a few people that lived in the hotel. But there were lots of vacant houses. It just seemed like you could, if you wanted to live in your own house, you could live there. You could get a cabin easy, so I don't think anybody, remember any bachelors there at all. I don't.

VS: Did you ever go inside the hotel? Do you remember what it looks like?

LG: No. [laughs]

VS: Okay. What do you remember about all the work your mom did?

LG: They did the most of anybody. Most of the time, she carried the water from the spring to do the washing. Had to heat it on the stove. I guess that's one reason they have a certain day that they did their washing, so it didn't get piled up. They could just keep it pretty much down to a normal size. In the summertime, she canned. She went huckleberry picking. She took care of the chickens that we would take up there. We only took, oh, maybe six. Not very many. She made clothes. She did sewing on a treadle machine. Then after my brother was born, carrying water for a newborn, and keeping him bathed, and the washing done, was quite a chore. I think sometimes maybe my dad did haul some cans of water up in the car. But you just couldn't use the car for...use up gasoline for that. There was no place to buy gasoline up at Garnet, so you had to make sure that you had enough gasoline to get back to the nearest gas station.

VS: Where was the nearest gas station?

LG: I think at Bearmouth, there was a gas station there. There used to be one, along the old highway, going into Missoula. There used to be a gas station along the road there. But long gone.

VS: How much did you help your mother then?
LG: Probably not enough! [laughs] I can remember wanting to peel vegetables. I thought that looked like the greatest fun, to peel potatoes, or peel carrots, or do something like that. And then of course, after my brother was born, I took care of him quite a bit. Took him for outings, and that kind of thing. I helped her with the dishes. Of course, I had to take care of my own bed. While we were at Garnet, I had the only earache I've ever had in my life. It lasted for two weeks. It was the summer that my brother was born. Mom was due for my brother's first checkup, and they didn't want to go to Missoula any oftener than you had to, and so they asked different ones in the community, you know, what to do for an earache. They told them to put a hot coal on sugar and put a funnel up to my ear, you know, to put heat in there. To put oil in it. To blow smoke in my ear. Those are the ones that I can remember. And after about two weeks, it ruptured. Then of course, there was no more pain, and it drained. And then we went in for this checkup, and the doctor in Missoula said that it was a good thing that it had ruptured, but that it had become infected, and that if they had let it go any longer, it probably would have been a mastoid surgery. That was a scare, and using home remedies for things that didn't really help.

VS: Did they try all those remedies?

LG: They did.

VS: Blowing smoke in your ear?

LG: Yes, they did.

VS: Do you remember any other sicknesses there?

LG: I have a picture over there: I had, well, we had whooping cough. It was an epidemic of it. I look like a scarecrow. So sick. And it lasts, you know, for weeks and weeks. I think it lasted six or eight weeks, something like that. You just cough and cough and cough and there was nothing to do about it. I don't know that there is anything you can do for it much. Now of course you have the vaccinations, so you don't have it. But, if you get whooping cough...I guess they do have help now, because there was a case of whooping cough down at Lolo School this fall, which I thought was oh! [gasps] Can't think of anything much worse than to get something like that started. I guess a few people don't believe in the shots. But other than that, I had measles when I got older, I had chicken pox when I got older, and I never did have the mumps.

VS: And those were all at Garnet?

LG: No. I don't know if they were or not, but whooping cough was. I know it was. I don't remember ever having a bad cold up there or anything like that. I don't think there was bad air up there. It's just such a clean place. My mom often remarked about that. We eventually moved to Anaconda, and she talked about people tracking in the mud, and at Garnet, if you
tracked in, it wasn't mud. It was just gritty, and it just seemed like you could sweep it up so easily. Just wasn't hard to keep clean. And there really wasn't very much dust. We always felt like it was a very clean place to live. Whether the water was or not...it always looked clean. That was quite a stream, it seems to me, that went through there. The spring was always oh! So cold. Such good water. And in the summertime, if you bought a watermelon, you put it in the little creek that ran by it, you know. Anything you wanted to keep for a while, wanted to keep cool, you could take down to the creek and store it there.

VS: You mentioned there was a guy that would come and bring produce during the summer? How often or how did he bring it up there?

LG: You know, I think he came every two weeks. And he had fresh vegetables, and bananas. That's the thing that I remember: my mom would always buy bananas from him. And he would just drive along and stop. And maybe they knew, the day he was going to come. I don't remember that I...you know, I don't remember that it had a special day. But when they'd see his little pick-up with the rack in the back, they'd go down and start buying from him. And when they were finished, he'd drive on a ways, and stop again.

VS: Did he just stop once in the main street, and everyone would come to him?

LG: I think he stopped more than once. I think he kind of went through the community.

VS: The ice cream man of the day.

LG: Yes! The ice cream man of the day. And I don't remember anyone having a telephone up there.

VS: No electricity.

LG: No electricity. We were really like old-timers. We did have one gas lamp that we burned, oh, if you wanted to read something at night. That was another favorite thing of everybody's, was reading. I think some of them even went to the school and took library books from the school. But if some woman bought a book and brought it home, it passed all through the community to read. And same for men, if they brought home something they enjoyed reading, they passed it along.

VS: So how many people do you think lived there at the time, if you could guess a number?

LG: Two hundred, maybe. I would say that would be maybe a little high. Because most of the families were bigger, you know. They wouldn't just have one or two kids. Ours was an exception. And then, Bill and Lela Miles, their little boy was tiny. He was just three or four years old.
VS: So your brother Jim was born in Garnet?

LG: Well, he was born in Missoula, but we lived in Garnet.

VS: Do you remember anything about how your mom dealt with pregnancy there?

LG: I remember when it was about time for Jim to be born, and they took her into Missoula and it was kind of a false alarm. And that was a bad thing, to have to go back home. And my dad took Mom out for a drive on the Blackfoot Road. At that time, it wasn't a paved road. And he didn't come back home until she went into labor and had Jim. It was only a day or so.

VS: So they were probably in Missoula a few days or something?

LG: Well, Mom was in Missoula at that time, they kept them eleven days, I think. She was there two weeks. And Dad came home, and took care of the things at the house. And when we went back, I had all these catalogs that had beautiful baby pictures in them, all the infant clothes, and I thought I was going to have a beautiful brother. He didn't quite look like I thought he should! [laughs] She thought he was beautiful. He looked like a baby.

VS: A little younger than you were expecting?

LG: Yeah, that's right. Didn't have all those fat little arms, and no hair.

VS: Well, all things considered, what do you think about your family making a living there during the Great Depression?

LG: I think that it was as good as we would probably have done anyplace. The sugar factory was kind of a place where Dad could work, and somehow they saved a little money, you know, if they needed it, at Garnet. But other than that, when we first came to Montana, my dad worked up Ninemile, Nine Pipes, logging. And that just about was the only kind of work that you could find, was if somebody needed some kind of labor like that. So then, in the spring of '35, when this ranch needed somebody to come work on their ranch, my dad went up there. But I don't think...he wasn't cut out for farming. I don't think he was very happy up there. I wasn't in school. A terrible thing to say, my mom and dad wouldn't let me go to Arlee to school, because it was full of Indians. Coming from Missouri, they thought that Indians were really after the white people. That was one of the first questions that any of our relatives that ever came out to visit us: Did you meet any Indians? Do they like to fight?

VS: Wow.

LG: They weren't very well educated back in those days. [laughs] You think of all the things that might have happened, you know, if I had gone to school up there. It might have been a place that my folks liked better. It just has so many possibilities. But that was the way it was.
VS: Do you remember any fun Fourth of July's?

LG: Well, like I say, I just think that the Fourth of July was just really a...it was a family time, and we just had lots of fun. We just got all the blasting we could do. And I don't remember nighttime fireworks, nothing like that.

VS: Well, I think that's all my questions. [To Dick:] Can you think of anything?

DF: Yeah. You pretty well covered it. [To Lois:] Do you by any chance remember how the cabin looked when you first moved into it? Had it been abandoned, was there still a stove in place, or did you have to bring the stove?

LG: No. And I don't think we brought beds, either. I think pretty much, tables, chairs, that kind of thing, was just left or abandoned. Or you could find it in some other cabin. And in the picture I have there, it's just an old car with, just looks like it's heaped full of bedding, and our clothing and that kind of stuff. A cat. We had a cat that went to Garnet with us. But all the cabins, you know, the playhouse that we had, and the one next to it, the building next to it, they had beds and tables and stoves in them. We girls cooked a dinner one time and invited one of my cousins and one of June's cousins to come and have lunch at our place. We fried potatoes for them. [laughs] Such fun. Those were the things that were fun to do.

VS: Playing house.

LG: Yes. It just seemed like you never knew what you were going to find. Like the flowers, or the crystals, or the big boulders. All these things just were something you don't often see. It just was really a great place. And if they'd had the kind of road into it, like they have now, that probably would have made it even better for us.

VS: Well, I guess I'll just finish up by asking if there's anything else you think I missed?

LG: Oh, I don't think so. I hope I gave you some things that work.

VS: Oh, absolutely. Thank you so much again.

[End of Interview]