Oral History Number: 200-001, 002
Interviewee: Tenina Pominville Little
Interviewer: Gladys Peterson
Date of Interview: March 10, 1988

Gladys Peterson: This is an interview with Mrs. Tenina Pominville Little. Our main topic will be her life in Missoula, including possibly highlights about the Depression and a few other major events that have taken place since she moved here. Tenina, I think you’ve told me earlier that you moved to Missoula in 1929.

Tenina Little: Right.

GP: Of course, I’ve made many of these oral history tapes for the archives [Mansfield Library’s Archives and Special Collections] and I’m always interested in where you came from. Where did you grow up?

TL: In eastern Montana in a little town by the name of Fairview. It is right on the Dakota line. In fact, Main Street, the west side, was Montana; the east side was North Dakota.

GP: Well, did your family homestead there?

TL: Yes. We came from Frenchtown and we homesteaded in 1904.

GP: You came from Frenchtown and you went east?

TL: Yes.

GP: Well, now that’s a different switch, isn’t it?

TL: Well, there was this, all this land for homesteading, you see, and so quite a few of the Frenchtown people went to the Yellowstone Valley.

GP: The Yellowstone Valley. But would your place have been in the Yellowstone Valley, then, at Fairview?

TL: Well, the river went through and joined the Missouri just a few miles out of town.

GP: Now, let’s back up because I’ve never heard this story before. Where did your family come from before they settled in Frenchtown?

TL: My mother came from Maine and my father came from Montreal.

GP: I see. He was part of the French people—
TL: They were all French.

GP: —out in Frenchtown there.

TL: Lavoie, Deschamps, Bell, Dussault, yes, they were all French out there. Then this land came up for homesteading, so that’s what my folks did, they went back there and homesteaded.

GP: Did they intend when they came out though, to stay in Frenchtown? Did you ever hear them talk about that?

TL: No. No, I didn’t. Our home is still there where I was born.

GP: Is that right? In Frenchtown? Well, how long did they live in Frenchtown?

TL: Oh, Mother came there when she was eight years old. She and her father and mother and I don't know how many sisters and brothers. Grandmother had 15 and two of them stayed in Maine and the others all meandered out here.

GP: I see. Well, do you know about when your mother's family came to the area?

TL: She was born in ’81. Grandfather came before and worked at Bonner and when he had enough money he went back to Maine and brought the family home. Now, I don’t know how many years he was here. He probably came in, oh, I'd say, '85 or something like that.

GP: What was your mother’s maiden name?

TL: Bell.

GP: Bell! Now that is a very simple name if it were French, but maybe she wasn't French. Oh, they were French, too.

TL: On her marriage certificate, the name was "Rebell" and then after, I don't know if it was here or in Fairview, they changed it to Bell.

GP: So now let me see if I understand this. Your mother's family was out there in Frenchtown, then, quite early.

TL: Right. Well, if she was eight years old, which she was, that'd be '89, 1889.

GP: Yes. I imagine they must have come out on the train. Is that correct?

TL: Yes. They came on the train. Grandfather, when he came, I don't think he came all the way
by train.

GP: The train was finished in '83, so if he came before that he probably didn't come—

TL: I don't think he came before that because I think he was here about four years before he went after the family. Did the train come clear down here?

GP: In '83 it was completed. Yes.

TL: I was thinking he didn't get here on the train, but if it was '83, he had to because I know he wasn't gone any longer than four years.

GP: Do you ever remember him talking about working out at Bonner?

TL: No. He died when I was about nine or ten or so.

GP: Was he an old man as you remember him, when he died?

TL: He was in his 80s. I don't just remember how old he was.

GP: That was old for that generation, wasn't it?

TL: Yes, it was. It was. And so my mother stayed until she couldn't stay in her home any more. I have a sister in Billings, and she [mother] came to the rest home there because it was a long distance across the state to be with her, so I'd take the train. You know, I miss that train.

GP: A lot of people do.

TL: I really do because you could hop on that train and I'd be there.

GP: Well, let's talk now about your father's family too.

TL: I don't know much about my father's family. They were from Montreal and this is sad and I'm sorry for it. But we were in Montreal. We took a trip up there to Maine, and we stopped in Montreal and stayed there, went to a few places. There weren't many Pominvilles in the phone book, and all day we'd been out, and my husband said, "Well, ask them how many acres they have there, what they do and do so on." Well, I hadn't spoken French for so long that I couldn't think of some of the words. And I had an awful time trying to make them understand what I was trying to say.

So when we got to the motel, instead of calling some of these Pominvilles, I said, "Dight, if they don't talk English, I can't try to talk anymore." We always planned to go back but we never went back, so I didn't meet any although I did meet one of Dad's brothers in Stillwater,
Minnesota. They had a lovely place. They must have about five boys and two girls. That was years ago. We just had a real good time.

GP: I'd like to talk now about the homestead back in eastern Montana. Your father and your mother went back there and they homesteaded near Fairview?

TL: In Fairview.

GP: In Fairview. I see. And did they have a lot of acreage; was it, what, 160 acres?

TL: One hundred and sixty, I think. We had a real nice place. It was virgin soil and the crops grew like nobody's business.

GP: So you say you were born in Frenchtown, though, and the house is still standing there. Let's see. Do you remember moving back to eastern Montana or were you too young?

TL: No. I was about two and one half years old. I don't remember that.

GP: One other question before I forget. Were you from a large family? Did your mother have a lot of children?

TL: Yes, she had four girls and three boys.

GP: Were you all born in Frenchtown?

TL: Just the first three of us were. I was born, then my brother, then my sister. There was not very much difference in our ages. I think I was two and one half when my sister was born in April.

GP: What did your father do before he moved to eastern Montana? What was he doing in Frenchtown?

TL: He had a saloon and a store in Frenchtown. He didn't like that.

GP: Make a living that way?

TL: Well, my father, really, anything he tried he made a success of it and so he thought he'd try this. Of course he had help. But he had registered horses and pigs and good crops and he had a coal mine; there was a coal mine on the place, and we had men working that, so—

GP: Was the coal mine right at Frenchtown then?

TL: No, at Fairview on the acreage.
GP: I'm still thinking Frenchtown. I guess, he met your mother, though, in Frenchtown and she went to school in Frenchtown, I imagine.

TL: Yes. And at St. Ignatius. She had a sister living in St. Ignatius and so she went and stayed with her sometimes when she went to the Academy there. Dad came to Frenchtown when he was 19 years old. I have another picture—

GP: That's interesting. We can look at the picture. I can see it from here. It must be your mother and your—

TL: This is a tintype. That's her wedding picture there, but this is a little one about like this tintype. Don't see those anymore.

GP: I'll be anxious to look at that later. So your father was 19 when he came to Frenchtown and he was a businessman. He didn't come to farm, though, did he? He came to settle but evidently he and your mother...Were they married in Frenchtown too?

TL: Married in that little church there.

GP: I see. I'm wondering if the people from Frenchtown who went to eastern Montana all went about the same time. Did you ever hear them talk about that?

TL: No, when I stop and think about it, I think they were all my relatives. Because there were three uncles, let's see, Mother's brothers, and one sister. And I don't remember anyone else being there.

GP: They probably took the train back?

TL: They did. I heard my mother say that. They took the train back there.

GP: So I'm thinking this could have been around 1910. Is that correct?

TL: That was before, because I was two and a half, I think. I think it was 1904.

GP: 1904. They were homesteading; the Homestead Act.

TL: Right. We had a log house.

GP: Do you remember the house?

TL: Yes. And my father had the first lumber building in Fairview. He had to go across the river to Williston, North Dakota...no, Mondak to—
GP: To get any lumber?

TL: Yes, I wish I had listened to Mother more, but you know how you are when you're a kid.

GP: We all wish that. I wish I'd listened to my grandmother too.

TL: Is that right, yes.

GP: But anyhow, that is really a fascinating story. Now I'm going to jump around a little bit as I think of these things, but I'm wondering if your mother's family stayed there, the uncles and aunts, did they all remain in eastern Montana and have their farms or ranches?

TL: Two brothers moved back to Frenchtown. They were here when we came here in '29.

GP: In '29. Um, let's see now if we can recall some of your memories of growing up there.

TL: In Fairview?

GP: Yes.

TL: Yes, what can I tell you? We couldn't talk English when we started school.

GP: You were speaking French?

TL: Yes. I was nearly eight years old. The school building wasn't built until October and I would have been eight years old in December, that's when I started school. Couldn't speak a word of English and we had quite a time. You know how kids are, they tease you. But I was feisty. My brother was a little lamb—he'd cry. He didn't want to go to school and all this, you know. I'd fight his battles for him. "You just leave my brother alone!"

GP: Do you remember how your teacher taught you English?

TL: I remember her name. But I just don't remember.

GP: Were you the only one when you started school who couldn't speak English?

TL: Oh, my brother and I.

GP: Did you start together?

TL: Yes. See, he was just a year and 14 days younger than I. Of course, my grandmother thought I was the world's best. So one day I came home from school, I don't think I was in
school a week, and Grandmother thought this was so cute: I came home and I—in French—I said, “You know, ma mere”—I called her “ma mere”—“Ma mere, I've nearly forgotten all my French.” [laughs]

GP: Just after a few days.

TL: She thought that was just the best she'd ever heard.

GP: In other words, she moved back there when you did and your grandfather was still alive then, too.

TL: Yes. He had a homestead just west of us about four miles. They counted it four miles; it's up near Sioux Pass.

GP: Well, I'm interested in what you do remember about that school. You just picked up the English right away then? No problem at all.

TL: I don't remember having any problems.

GP: Was this a country school or was it in the town of Fairview?

TL: It was in the town of Fairview.

GP: How did you get there? Or did your farm adjoin your land—

TL: School? Yes; in fact, we gave a certain amount of land, I don't know how much, to the city and now the new high school gym is on what was our land and I went last year for 63rd [reunion]. I graduated in '21. No; it was more than that. That'd be 66th, wouldn't it?

GP: You graduated in '21? Yes, it would.

TL: Coming back to reunion was just like coming to a new town. I was going to show Warre; Warren took me. I was going to show him our place, you know. I was going to take him to the coal mine. That was fenced off and it was all water. I don't know where that water came from. From the mine, do you suppose? There was a creek that came down, but I wasn't there long enough to ask questions, and our farm land was, like I say, the high school gym and houses all over it. I said, "I am lost. I don't know where I am." Of course some of the old places were still up there.

GP: What was the enrollment at that school? I mean, was it a little school or a big school or—

TL: Just one school had all the grades in it.

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GP: In one room?

TL: Yes, there was only one room. But there weren't many people. But I can't remember. There might have been 8 of us that took the same road home. We took the main road and then Henry and I would go into our place. I know one of the boys would carry my brother on his shoulders. The kids—just impossible. They never bothered me but they sure bothered him. Course he was softhearted and of course I talked back to them in French, and they didn't know what I was saying. (laughs)

GP: Do you recall that you learned to speak English before you could read it? Did it all come at once, just a gradual thing?

TL: It must have been because I don't remember any.

GP: Any problem at all?

TL: No problem. But I guess it was interesting. I got along fine.

GP: And you graduated from high school there in 1921. What did you do after you graduated from high school?

TL: I went to Dillon and I taught for five years.

GP: Oh. Were you in Dillon for two years?

TL: No. I just went there in the summer and then I went in Miles City. They had a summer school there. And I got a permit to teach, and I taught in eastern Montana. But I didn't want to do that. I wanted to be a CPA.

GP: Back then you wanted to be a CPA?

TL: Oh, yes. I liked figures you know.

GP: I think you told me that once on the telephone. Now where did you teach?

TL: I taught in little towns of Antelope, Montana, that's near Plentywood, and at Lambert. No. Enid, that's west of Sidney. There were two.

GP: Now, did you by chance know Mary McDorney?

TL: Oh, real well. She was from there.

GP: I know, because I made an oral history tape with her two or three years ago.
TL: She died, didn't she?

GP: Yes, she did. But her mother taught in that area too.

TL: Yes. I knew Mary real well.

GP: What was it about the teaching that you didn't like? Did you have a country school so that you had to teach every grade and all that?

TL: Yes. The first one I taught was. But in this last one were two rooms. I had the upper grades and this girl from Wisconsin had the lower grades. I can't say I didn't like it but I didn't want it. All I could think of was this bookwork I wanted to do.

GP: You had to build the fire and do all those things that I've heard other teachers talk about?

TL: Do your own janitor work and things like that.

GP: Did you have a teacher age to live in?

TL: No, I lived with some people. And you know the funny part of it is, one of my pupils was with the FBI in Butte, and now he has emphysema real bad and they live in Hamilton, and I see him quite often. He was just darling. These people [I lived with] had two boys and they wanted to adopt me because they didn't have a girl.

GP: You probably weren't much older than their boys.

TL: No; not much. Let's see. Well, Mel was in the fifth grade, that'd make him about nine or ten years old, and I was 19, so it wasn't too much.

GP: And you kept in touch with those people all those years.

TL: Yes. They were just wonderful to me.

GP: You say you taught in two or three different places?

TL: Just two different places. And then the year we were married, we lived in Lambert and I did substitute there.

GP: Why did you change schools? Do you remember that?

TL: I guess I just wanted to change 'cause I was there. One place I was there three years and then the other place two years and then I got married.
GP: I see. Was it hard to get a job at that time?

TL: I don't remember. I was surprised because all I had was a permit. I didn't have a degree then at all. And I had to go back to school every summer.

GP: Eventually did you get a certificate?

TL: I got married. But I had to take state exams.

GP: Each year. I see. So where was the first school that you taught in now?

TL: Antelope.

GP: Antelope. And the second one was?

TL: Enid.

GP: Enid, which must be near Lambert.

TL: Yes, just, maybe, seven miles. And Mary lived out on a farm out of Lambert.

GP: Mary McDorney. She had quite a story to tell.

TL: I bet she did.

GP: Well, you say you taught for five years then and where did you meet your husband?

TL: It was in the town of Lambert. He was farming in North Dakota and it was when things were real bad.

GP: They had a drought in the 20's, didn't they?

TL: After the war. He decided to go and try this farming. Well, things were so bad and he was so much in debt. One year he had a fairly good crop, and he figured that by selling everything—horses and everything—that he would have enough. And somebody talked him into taking barbering. So he sold everything and went to barber college in Minneapolis. There, in Minnesota, you had to have an apprentice time. In Montana you didn't. There was a man who was with the elevator company in Williston, North Dakota, that was back there, because that's where it came from originally and he said, "Dight, why don't you come: I see there's a barbershop for sale at Lambert." He said, "I'll take you there." So he [Dight] bought the barber shop.
GP: So that's how he came into Montana was by buying a barbershop.

TL: Well, the first reason he came was that he had asthma real bad and so he came to Montana. Back in Minnesota, that's his home, he'd start wheezing right away.

GP: Had he lived in North Dakota a long time?

TL: No. It was after the war and—

GP: He went out to farm?

TL: Yes, he was originally from Minnesota.

GP: Had he homesteaded there in North Dakota?

TL: No, I think he must have rented that place.

GP: I see. So you were a teacher, then, in Lambert, and he was the barber?

TL: Right. But that didn't last long because that fall, they had a bumper crop there, and then they got some rain so the laborers didn't work when it rained so they all came in for shaves and haircuts, and he said, "Mother, they were so dirty," he said, "They just dull my razors and my clippers and scissors and everything. That wasn't for me." And so after we were married we went to Glendive.

GP: What year were you married?


GP: '26. Before we leave Lambert now, I'd like to ask you...I know they were tough times for the farmers. Do you remember anything of what are called the "flapper" days? Do you remember anything at all about those? Were you exposed to anything like that?

TL: Yes. I remember doing all those dances and having those funny dresses.

GP: What are they called now, chemises or something like that?

TL: Yes.

GP: Did you have one of those boyish bobs that they used to? Did you have your hair bobbed short?

TL: My hair was a mess. I mean I had long hair and it was very nice because I could comb it in
the morning and go to a dance that night and it was still every hair in place. And so then I went to visit my sister in Salt Lake and she talked me into getting a permanent. You never saw such a... They burned my hair—and I had a lot of hair. It stuck out like this, you know [holding her hands out]. I was the worst looking kid, and he was my boyfriend then, he didn't like it. He said, "Oh, I like the long hair better."

GP: Was that the man you married or a different person?

TL: Yes. [The one she married].

[End of Tape 1, Side A]
[Tape 1, Side B]

GP: Who held the dances? Were they community dances or church dances?

TL: Community dances.

GP: Now you say you came from a large family. There were three born over here and how many over in eastern Montana? Four?

TL: Four.

GP: You say your sister was in Salt Lake City. What about the rest of them? Did they stay in eastern Montana?

TL: No. My oldest brother went to California and my other brother worked here [Missoula] for the Forest Service, and then he finally went back there and married and had a farm. My other brother worked at the hotel in Glendive. He was a clerk there. Then he came here and worked at the Missoula Hotel. Then when my sister married, they lived in Salt Lake. Is that all? My two younger sisters graduated from the Academy there [in Salt Lake City] and one went to Salt Lake because my sister was there, and got her nurse's degree at Holy Cross, and then the other one went to Minneapolis and took up X-raying and lab work, and worked here at the hospital till she married. They live in Billings. The rest of my family is...just the two of us, the youngest and the oldest; the rest of them are all gone.

GP: Now, I guess what I'm trying to find out is whether or not your family had a hard time farming back there and if they kept their land and their property.

TL: Yes, they kept their land. Like I told you, my father made a success of this farming and diversification, I guess, because he had cattle and horses.

GP: So many of them didn't make it. I know Mary McDorney's father had a terrible time.

TL: Yes, a lot of those people lost their places.

GP: But your family didn't. But did your parents stay back there then, a long time?

TL: After my father was gone, my mother worked there and then she went to Glendive, and she worked for the Northern Pacific, then in Forsyth for the Northern Pacific in diners and restaurants. And then when she retired, she went back to Fairview. Over there they didn't have a hospital or anything and the doctor got after her and said, "Mrs. Pominville," he said, "We need a place for these sick people." She was alone in her house so doctors would bring her patients. So that's what she did.
GP: So she did that in Fairview. Before I forget, I want to ask you, if that land stayed in your family. Is it still in your family?

TL: No. She sold it. It's all gone now.

GP: And are there no relatives back there of yours now at all in the Fairview area?

TL: I have a sister-in-law there, but my brother is dead and she remarried again. I have some cousins out at Lambert and Sidney.

GP: I guess what I was trying to find out was whether or not your family stayed in farming or if they moved away from there. Evidently some of them stayed and then they died there too.

TL: Yes. These cousins of mine, they stayed on their parents' farms.

GP: And so your mother, then, she kind of kept a home for ailing people in Fairview there, and then did she do the same thing in Glendive or what did she do?

TL: No, no. She was cooking for the NP (Northern Pacific) and also at the hotel there, at the Jordan Hotel.

GP: The NP had a big establishment.

TL: Yes, they did at that time.

GP: Yes, I remember that. I spent 5 or 6 months in Glendive in the early 50's, when my husband was working over there, and I remember that big hospital they had there at the time.

TL: Yes, a big hospital. Did you know the Zahns?

GP: I don't think so.

TL: He taught at the high school there in Glendive until they came here and he died.

GP: No; I didn't know them. Well, that's quite a story. But you married then and you and your husband wanted to leave Lambert. Where did you go?

TL: We went to Roundup. No, we went to Glendive from Lambert and then we went to Roundup.

GP: Was he a barber in Glendive?

TL: No. He quit barbering. He didn't like that. He sold washing machines. Maytags (that was at
the beginning of the Depression) in Glendive, and then we had a friend there whose stepdad had a grocery store and wanted to sell it. "We'll try that," we said and we bought this Italian grocery store. And we were only there a year.

GP: You said the beginning of the Depression. Late '20s, now, or '27, '28, something like that?

TL: Yes. We went there in '28 because we came here in '29, so we had this Italian grocery in Roundup. In Glendive he sold cars and then finally Maytag washing machines. He didn't care too much for that but it was a living. Then we went to this grocery store and we were there a year. During this time the Midwest Oil Company office was in Billings, and he always wanted to get in the oil business. So he went in and had an interview. And they said, "Yes, we have a place for you in Missoula." They said, "The station isn't built yet but it will be." So we sold the store and came to Missoula. That station was not built till about a year after we came here and that was the one across from the high school at Brooks and Higgins.

GP: There are some stores there and a parking lot.

TL: Right. It's in back of that University Apartments. So the company was really good. They gave him 75 dollars a month.

GP: Seventy-five a month. Did you have children by then?

TL: No. So finally the wholesale part came up for sale. So he took that on. He was only working 4 hours a day at the service station, waiting for this other one to open up. It wasn't built yet. But then he had the wholesale part of the business.

GP: Where was the one he was working at?

TL: I don't know.

GP: Was that Midwest Oil?

TL: (Unintelligible). You go across the bridge; thee is that big building...I don't know.

GP: You mean on Higgins?

TL: I don't know what is there now.

GP: The Wilma building.

TL: No, no. It's across the river.

GP: South
TL: I don’t know. It used to be a drugstore when we were there or first came here. Then it was a furniture store. At the end of the Block was the service station, then it was a grocery store. I don’t know what it is now.

GP: It was south of the bridge on Higgins.

TL: Yes, the first block, and there was that ice cream parlor.

GP: Hanson’s.

TL: Hanson’s was about in the middle of the block. And there was a bakery there.

GP: Was it on the same side of the street as Hanson’s?

TL: Right on that corner. There’s a big building there now. And Karkanin, they had a grocery store there after that. A decent one. I don’t know if they built it. Then Coskers had a radio.

GP: I remember that. When we moved here that was still here in 1965.

TL: I think they did repair work, didn’t they?

GP: Well, that was kind of a tough time coming into Missoula in the early 30's and it's interesting that they would be building gas stations with the Depression—

TL: That was already built when we came. Oh, you mean the one across from the high school?

GP: Yes.

TL: Well, they finally did and then they got rid of that and built the one where the Four B’s East is now.

GP: It’s interesting that they were building during the early part of the Depression, isn’t it?

TL: Yes.

GP: But your husband, then, had the distributorship?

TL: Right. He worked three months before he got a check for 100 dollars. He had to pay his truck expense out of that. It was really tough.

GP: You say he bought the distributorship; where was the plant?
TL: That was interesting too. It was about where the Missoulian is now on the Milwaukee tracks. Right in back of the Milwaukee freight depot. And then finally they moved it over on East Broadway and then by that time it was Standard Oil. Now, when they changed to Standard Oil, I don't know.

GP: In other words, you're talking about storage tanks.

TL: Right. And he had trucks, first one truck, and he worked alone. The thing that got us on our feet was the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) camps. He got the contract and that really put us on our feet.

GP: Because that was very big out here at that time, wasn't it? And I'm so glad that you explained that because I have some questions about people buying gas that early in the Depression. Did people have cars or were they operating cars?

TL: Yes. Of course, gas wasn't a dollar a gallon either. I don't remember what the price was but it was reasonable.

GP: But now just from what you remember at that time, were there people who couldn't afford cars; they were getting along without them too?

TL: I don't know. But when we first came here, this is something I forgot to tell you, we had streetcars.

GP: And so people used the streetcars. Did you use the streetcar?

TL: Oh, I rode once or twice, you know, just to do something. Or if my husband had the car or something.

GP: But you could drive it.

TL: Oh, yes. I still drive, but my eyesight isn't too good and I don't like to drive at night. I had a Cadillac until last year (unintelligible).

GP: Well, I'd like to ask you now, what you remember about the Depression in those years. It took you awhile to get on your feet, but apparently your husband was a good businessman, and he was able to manage during the Depression. How do you remember Missoula at that time?

TL: Everybody was poor. And my husband was a veteran. We had veterans of the American Legion, and we'd just get together and sit on the lawn and drink lemonade or beer or whatever they could get. It was home-brewed then. We had a guy next door who made beer.
GP: You were not living on Evans?

TL: No, that was on Third Street. First we lived in the apartments over what is the Western Federal and Loan Building downtown, but then when I got pregnant, Doctor didn't want me to climb those stairs so we got a little house on Phillips Street and then we moved over on Third Street. One interesting thing I remember. We had two bedrooms, a bath, a living room, a dining room, a kitchen, screened-in back porch and a nice yard—20 dollars a month. So our landlord was so sweet. He said, "I know it isn't easy for you kids." He said, "Would you like a two dollar reduction?" That helped pay the telephone bill. (laughs) So we stayed there till we bought. We bought a little house on Kent at Evans and then we came here.

GP: You say everybody was poor.

TL: No one had any money.

GP: Even though your husband was in business, did you regard yourself as poor?

TL: Yes, because they had to build up the business, like I told you. Three months before his check came to 100 dollars, and he had to pay the truck expense out of that. So it's a good thing we had a little money when we came.

GP: How did he manage to get the distributorship? Did he have to buy that or did they just hand it to him or—

TL: No, they handed it to him.

GP: He didn't have to invest anything in it?

TL: No. He had to get his truck but he got a second-hand truck. Let's see, before he got it [the distributorship] he went to Spokane and got a job with Continental Baking selling cakes, bread and stuff like that. And he got a little old truck at that time and he'd spend the weekend repairing it to make it hold together. (laughs)

GP: Was he working then in Spokane and you were here, or—

TL: No, no. They sent his stuff to him. I don't even remember where he picked it up, to tell you the truth. It was after that he got the agency for Standard Oil. He had a real good business when he finished up. He retired when he was 57, I think, and he went to ranching. He said, "You can take the farm away from the boy but you can't take the boy..." How does that go?

GP: "You can take the boy out of the country but you can't take the country out of the boy." Something like that. Well, we'll get to that ranching part a little bit later if you don't mind
because I wonder if you could remember anything more about the Depression in Missoula. Were other businesses making it? Were you acquainted with any businesspeople since your husband was a businessman?

TL: We were just getting acquainted. When we first came here, we paid cash for everything. And the time came when we had to have some money and we had no credit rating at all, although before he was rated in Dunn & Bradstreet. So anyway, we'd go in and pay cash for what we wanted and nobody really knew us until it really got down to business. He knew the bakeries and things like that when he sold bread and doughnuts and things like that, but after he got into [the oil] business, well, we knew everybody in town. He was elected to the state legislature two terms.

GP: I see. That must have been an interesting thing.

TL: It was rather interesting. The first year he'd come home weekends when he could, you know, and the second year, the kid was in school in St. Paul so we got an apartment in Helena. That was fun.

GP: You had one son?

TL: One son.

GP: Was he in high school or college back there?

TL: Yes. It was two years at St. Thomas' Military Academy, then he finished up here and went to law school, graduated '54, I think.

GP: Then he went into the FBI, you say. Well, I'm learning all sorts of interesting things.

TL: We had an interesting life, really.

GP: What were the years when your husband was in the legislature? Approximately, was it in the ‘40s or ‘50s?

TL: 1943 and ’45.

GP: What made him run for the legislature?

TL: Well, he thought he could change something; what it was, I don't know. But he thought he could offer something for the good of the state and he was on the...on several committees. I'd have to look it up. He enjoyed it.

GP: Had he been active in politics in Missoula?
TL: No, never. He was always a very good community-spirited man but he was never active. And so many of his friends got after him and said, "We got to have you." And Standard Oil wasn't too crazy to have him go.

GP: They didn't want him mixing business with politics?

TL: That's right. Because they're supposed to be neutral. But he took the two years [terms] and then he said, "I don't like it."

GP: He was reelected once, though.

TL: Yes. He never even went electioneering. Everybody knew him and liked him and he just sailed through. They'd just vote; then he went in.

GP: Now this was '43; the war wasn't over yet, was it? Were there some things that were particularly important to him that you remember, certain issues?

TL: I don't remember, Gladys. I really don't.

GP: But you said that you went to Helena with him; what do you remember about the legislature?

TL: Just a lot of fun; a lot of parties, teas, lots of meetings and I met such lovely people; just like a great big family. People were so nice. Most of the men had their wives with them. You'd meet different people and we danced and we just had a lot of fun.

GP: Are any people who were in the legislature who stand out in your mind at that time? Who were some of the big shots?

TL: I can see them but I can't remember their names [laughs].

GP: Do you remember who the governor was? That was before we lived here, so I don't remember.

TL: I remember a Mr. Aronson.

GP: Hugo Aronson?

TL: Hugo Aronson. He was in the legislature with my husband and then he became governor. Who was the governor before him?

GP: Well, that I don't know. But you remember Hugo Aronson?
TL: Oh, real well. He and Dighton were real good friends. Because they were both farmers, you know. They had a lot in common and Anderson, Forrest Anderson.

GP: He must have been in the legislature. He wasn't governor until after we moved here, but he was in the legislature.

TL: Yes, he was in the legislature and Dighton sat next to him. I wonder if you know her. Peterson...What was her first name?

GP: I didn't know here. I didn't know any Petersons.

TL: They lived right over here. She had a blind husband. Is it Peterson Drug? That must have been her.

GP: I knew of them and I knew the daughter. Didn't she marry?

TL: Two years ago. Wayne went to school with her.

GP: She married a man from the mill, didn't she, the daughter? And she was connected with Wide World of Travel?

TL: Yes.

GP: Mary Alice or Mary something. Not quite right. She married a man with an Irish name. Well, anyhow. He was in the legislature. He was blind.

TL: Margaret was her name—Margaret Peterson. And Hugo Aronson, right. That describes him perfectly. He was a great guy.

GP: From what I've read about Hugo Aronson, he was what you would call “a diamond in the rough.” Did you have any idea when you knew him that he was going to become governor?

TL: No. Or Forrest Anderson either.

GP: One thing I'd like to ask you now. You said your husband sat next to Forrest Anderson and you know Aronson well, now Anderson was a Democrat and Aronson was a Republican, isn't that right?

TL: My husband went in on the Democratic ticket. Of course, he more or less went with the man...Independent, but he went in as a Democrat.

GP: So that's why he was sitting by Anderson.
TL: Did you hear of, I'm sure you heard of him, Shorty Kessler? Forrest Kessler.

GP: Yes. He was a doctor and he owned the lumber mill out here.

TL: Right. And he and my husband were real good friends. In fact, they were in partnership in the ranch down at Frechtown, and she was a staunch Republican and so when Hugo was going to run for Governor, Shorty (Kessler) came and said, "How'd you like to help your friend out?"

And Dight said, "Why?"

"Hugo."

"Oh, sure," he (said. So then he gave him a donation. Shorty thought that was so funny. He was a Democrat, you know, and gave a Republican donation. So he had a duplicate of the check made and framed in his office.

GP: Kessler did?

TL: Yes. [laughs]

GP: Well, anyhow, your husband, then, your husband was in the legislature for two terms. Was Winfield Page in the legislature then?

TL: Yes, he was in there then. Did I see a picture of him in there? Yes! But I couldn't put a name to it. That was Winfield.

GP: I've spent quite a bit of time interviewing him and his wife.

TL: Oh, I imagine that was very interesting.

GP: Well, he has a remarkable memory and they have scrapbook after scrapbook of all that history.

[End of Tape 1, Side B]
[Tape 2, Side A]

GP: Do you remember Winfield Paige and Ellis being in Helena when you were?

TL: Yes.

GP: Did you have, of course he was a Republican, wasn’t he?

TL: Yes.

GP: Did that make any difference? Not at all.

TL: No. It’s a man.

GP: It’s a man. That’s right.

TL: It was always thought that way. Somebody asked me one day, “What are you?” I said, “Well, I’m registered as a Democrat,” but I said “I’m just as independent as they can be.” I don’t care. I said, “If the man was a socialist and I thought he was good, I’d vote for him.” (Laughs) They thought that was kind of odd.

GP: Well, I think that’s gotten to be the way it is a lot in the West. I know we’re the same way. We look for the man.

TL: This is true, you know? They’ve got good and bad people in every walk of life. Just because he belongs to your church or is saying...I don’t think it makes a bit of difference who’s going to do the job.

GP: That’s right. Well then, we’ll get back to your husband’s career, and then I want to ask you some questions about your own interesting life. But your husband then stayed with his distributorship, then until he retired from that, and did you say that was in 1957 or 1967? I’m not sure what you said there about that.

TL: ’56, I believe.

GP: 1956?

TL: Yes, because in ’57 we went to Maine, and he got to retire on his birthday, which was the 29th of August, but he worked until the first of September. The next September, we went to Maine, and that was ’57.

GP: Now, that was when you attempted to look up your family, right? And didn’t have a great deal of success, no?
TL: With Dad’s people, but I met a whole bunch of cousins, and, let’s see, an aunt that lived there that had her daughter. Then the brother—mother’s brother—had quite a huge family and one of them was living in Portland, Maine, and another in Lewiston, Maine, and they took us out. It was in the fall of the year. The foliage, that fall foliage, and that Eastern seaboard; we had something to look at. They took us all over. We had a wonderful time.

GP: But you say then, that afterwards your husband bought a ranch and where was that?

TL: In Frenchtown.

GP: At Frenchtown.

TL: Well, what is the Stone Corporation now? That was his ranch. First he had a ranch up Farviews, way at the end. Then he traded that in on this Frenchtown ranch. (Unintelligible) this side of Frenchtown.

GP: The Big Flat or something like that, they call it?

TL: So then (unintelligible) wanted to go in with me. They saw that and bought one on the other side of Frenchtown.

GP: Beyond Stone Container?

TL: Yes.

GP: Did they sell their property then to Stone or to Horner Waldorf or whatever it was called at that time?

TL: At first it was Horner Waldorf. Then it was Stone wasn’t it? After that?

GP: Yes.

TL: Yes. Then between Frenchtown and Huson, they had a lot of cattle. They had cattle, and they had a lot of cattle. My husband had the whole sale. Then you couldn’t get help and he was getting along in years. He said, “I can’t do this work all the time,” he said, “I don’t mind helping out, but I’m not going to work like this.” He said, “I can’t get help, decent help.” So he said, “Will you buy me out?” So Sherdy bought him out. And don’t ask me on that one, because I can’t remember.

GP: How he was in that operation for some period of years, anyhow. Wasn’t he?

TL: Yes.
GP: Until, by this time he was probably ready to retire, too, right?

TL: That’s right, that’s right. So I got that somewhere in the books.

GP: Well, that’s all right. We really don’t need dates. It’s information, mainly. And again, after he retired, was he completely out of any business then? He just totally retired?

TL: Yes, yes: totally retired. He kept himself busy here.

GP: Building this house—

TL: Well, yes. No, when they were building this house, he was on the ranch. But, there were fences to fix and we had horses. We used to ride horseback a lot. He just kept busy around here.

GP: And he lived to be a fairly elderly person?

TL: Yes, 88.

GP: Eighty-eight.

TL: He was 88 in August and he died in October.

GP: Well, that’s a pretty good age to live to.

TL: Yes, it is. We had a good life together.

GP: I’d like to back up now Tenina, and ask you some questions about your life. I know that you were very interested in duplicate bridge. But let’s back up now, not totally. I don’t want to make this longer than necessary, or wear you out. But you talked about during the Depression, you and your husband went to the American Legion and you drank beer or lemonade—

TL: Not me. Not me for beer, I don’t like it.

GP: Okay, but that was you social life. What else did you do? Did you—

TL: Well, probably once a month we danced. We would go to a dance.

GP: Who held the dances? Were they public dances?

TL: Public dances.
GP: Did you get out in the country at all?

TL: No, not really. We had the baby, you see. And they usually came to our house because we didn’t have babysitting. We were busy because I canned. I had a cook stove and a boiler and all the things. I had a friend that lived back at the University, a German lady. We knew them in Roundup. They had a big garden, and it was just the two of them, so she’d give me vegetables. I’d bring them home and I’d can. I canned and I canned. Of course Digit helped me when he was home. Then, when he delivered gas, I didn’t know what he was coming home with. People couldn’t pay him, they’d give him some wood or give him a sack of feed or something. A lot of bartering.

GP: Now, where was he delivering this? To individuals?

TL: Right. He was all over. And when he finished, he had a truck going up the Blackfoot, and another one going up Frenchtown, another one up the Bitterroot, another one up the...What’s that, Evaro. Up that one.

GP: Oh, the mission.

TL: Flathead, the—

GP: Yes. So was he selling the gasoline then to stations and they were doing this bartering from the stations?

TL: Not the stations.

GP: No?

TL: But, farmers.

GP: Farmers, I see. Well, what did you do with all of the produce and things he brought home?

TL: Well, I canned all that I could, you know. And—

GP: Did you ever have too much that you couldn’t use?

TL: Yes. Yes I did.

GP: Did you give it to your family, relatives, and—

TL: Well, anybody that needed it. I don’t think I had any relatives there that...Well, I had my two sisters but they were going to the academy. Good friends that could, you know, use them.
GP: Did you have a radio?

TL: Yes, finally. We got a radio in Roundup and brought it out here. I wish I still had it; it was an old fashioned radio.

GP: Oh, sort of dome shaped at the top?

TL: Right! Right! Yes, we had a radio.

GP: Was that important to you? During the Depression? Did you use it much?

TL: I don’t remember that it was.

GP: You didn’t have any favorite programs?

TL: No. When we first got television, it was just KGBL and they had this same program all the time. I used to like Lawrence Welk, and so did my husband. Oh, we got so tired of Lawrence Welk. He wouldn’t even listen to him. Because that was on about three times a week. So when we moved here, Dighton said, “If we don’t get cable,” he says, “Where am I going to have a television?” He says, “There’s not any programs we’re listening to.” So we had, well the cable is still up. We had to buy our own cable. Now, of course it comes up here, and we get good programs now.

GP: Did you go to the movies in those days?

TL: Yes, but not too many. We went to more than we do now, I can say that. But not too many, because we just didn’t have the money. When we came here, Dighton was working at the oil business and I raised chickens and sold eggs.

GP: You did?

TL: I raised puppies. I worked in the garden, and we had an orchard then. It’s pretty well shot now. But I used to can all that food. I don’t know, I’ve been a very busy person.

GP: It certainly sounds like it. Now, I’m going to ask you a question, I hope you’ll enjoy this one. When did you learn to play bridge?

TL: Of course, I’ve played cards all my life. We played what we called No Reach and Twist. And that is just like no trump in bridge. That was the beginning. I played that up in Plentywood or in Mantilow when I was teaching. I played a lot of cards because there wasn’t anything else to do, really. How did I get started? There was a lady on Fifth, just off of Higgins Avenue that was teaching it. So I thought well, I think I’ll learn how to play that game. So then we had little parties about every two weeks or something, go from one house to another, you know. Well
then, when my child started school, I quit that. I said, “I want to be home when my child gets home.” I said, “I can’t play anymore.” Of course, some of those women were playing duplicate shortly afterwards. Tenina, why don’t you play duplicate? Everybody was after me. So I bought myself a book and I start studying it, and I don’t know. I went to tournaments all over and—

GP: In the state, or beyond the state?

TL: Well, I went to Victoria and I went to Seattle and Spokane, and then in the state. But I think those are the only outside places I went. I finally got my master’s degree, and then I don’t know. Well, Dighton got sick. Then I thought my place is at home with him. I’ve never really been back to study. I used to play Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday I think. Sometimes on Sunday because Dighton was out at the ranch, you know?

GP: He stayed out there during the week?

TL: No, he commuted. But he wasn’t home for meals. He ate out there. Then he was tired when he got home. He’d go to bed at eight or nine o’clock and I’d sit here like a dummy. So he said “Why don’t you go play bridge.” So I got to play and then this manager secretary job came up and I was elected to do it. I was in it for 25 years with (unintelligible).

GP: Yes. That was quite a job. I don’t want to belabor this, but I’m interested in that duplicate bridge group. Is there one such group in Missoula: duplicate bridge club or what?

TL: Oh, there’s Monday afternoon, Tuesday night, Thursday night, Friday afternoon. Although, I think the Friday afternoon was given up. That’s was my Ada’s club. I think I heard that she gave it up.

GP: Are these all lady’s clubs or are they mixed clubs?

TL: Oh mixed, mixed. Anybody can play. You don’t have to belong.

GP: Roughly how many people would you say are in all of these?

TL: Clubs?

GP: Yes. 100—

TL: Well, we all belonged to the unit, and you’d play in all the different clubs. Some could play one time and can’t another so we have different groups. But now when Ada and I were running it, we had 15 or 16 tables. That was a big one. Now, they have anywhere from three to six. I don’t know what happened.

GP: You’re talking about per afternoon, or per evening, or something like that?
TL: Yes. Five and a half on Thursday night, and we had 15, 16 tables every week.

GP: Where did you usually meet with all those tables?

TL: Well let’s see. Where did we meet first? We played all over. We played at that eating place there, across from one of the dorms at the university. Up at that Chimney Corner.

GP: Oh yes.

TL: We played there, we played on Third Street at—

GP: Orchard Homes?

TL: No, not that far out. At the TV place, just across the tracks about a half a block.

GP: Oh, where the cable is now?

TL: Right.

GP: Yes.

TL: Yes, in that same building. We’ve played at the Carousel. We’ve played at Four B’ East (?).

GP: In the basement.

TL: Yes, and now we’re playing Tuesday and Thursday nights are playing at the Elk’s. It seems to really (unintelligible).

GP: Well that gives me an idea. Do you suppose that maybe the attendance has dropped off because so many women are working now?

TL: Well, there’s still women that are working that are playing. I don’t think that has anything to do with it. Well, I think before on the other club, there was a lady by the name of Ruth Beach that started it. She came from Butte and they were already playing in Butte. She started it and she would call. If you would call up and say “I’d like to play bridge tonight, can you get me a partner?” Well she would work until she found you a partner. She called different players, you know? And Ada and I did put in a lot of time calling people and I think that made a difference. Now, they say “Can you call for a partner?” “Well I can’t get you one. Call your own.” Well, you know that isn’t right.

GP: People don’t have the time anymore. If they are working and raising a family and things like that, times have changed.
TL: Yes, time has changed, and I don’t know. I think people have found other recreations. In the summer time, it’s kind of bad because so many go to the lake, and have summer homes down there.

GP: So this has been an important interest in your life. It has brought you lots of pleasure, hasn’t it?

TL: It has, it really has. You know, my husband wasn’t home and I got through work. The way we started, my sister came from Oregon and she said to my sister-in-law and I, “I can’t understand, you girls like to play bridge so well. And you don’t play duplicate.” So my sister-in-law was a registered nurse, and I was working at the plant. So she came home one day, there was only one night game, and that was Tuesday night. She said, “Why don’t we go try that duplicate bridge?”

I said, “Okay.”

She said, “We come home, we work all day, then we come home and we work. Let’s take one night off a week.” So we said, okay. We went, and there was about 19 or 20 tables. Oh, I know one, where we used to play mostly was in the basement of the Florence Hotel. I knew there was another place. So, you know we came in second? We didn’t know anything about it, only we knew we were used to playing bridge together and we knew how we played. Well, I don’t know if you’ve ever seen it, but they have a board with four hands in it, and if you’re sitting there, and I’m sitting there that’s not necessarily—

GP: Yes, yes I know how to play that, sure.

TL: You know how to play, all right. So then if you win the trick you put it like this. If you lose it, this is in front of you. If you lose the trick, you put it like this, and then you can kind of change it whether you made it or not. You don’t reach over and play the dummy, you tell them what you want your dummy what to play. We didn’t know anything about that. We’d reach over or we’d try to put our cards all in the middle of the table, like you do when you play bridge, you know? Oh, it was an experience, really. But we came in second, that Davis...I don’t know, the go ahead. We’d better play.

GP: Well that’s very interesting.

TL: So we enjoyed it.

GP: Well, I think I’m just going to ask you a few more questions and maybe we can wind this up. As you look back over your life, before I forget this now, you said you were working at the plant. Did you get to use your math? Were you doing the bookkeeping down there?
TL: That’s what I was doing.

GP: I see. This was after your son was raised?

TL: Yes.

GP: Did you continue to do that then, as long as your husband had the plant?

TL: Yes. In fact, when it was small, I used to do it at home.

GP: I see. So you always kept his books, in addition to the canning and chickens and orchard?

TL: Well the chickens, that was over here. I was working at the plant then. It’s been a very interesting life.

GP: Well, you didn’t get the CPA, but you certainly kept busy, didn’t you?

TL: Yes, and now I’m working on my income taxes.

GP: Are you?

TL: Get that done this week.

GP: If you had to do it over again, what would you change?

TL: What would I change? I really don’t know. Well, I didn’t have the money though. I had to borrow the money to go to summer school because Mother said, “I’ll see you kids through high school, but with seven kids I can’t do any better.” So we had to do our own. When I was doing the book keeping for the bridge club, one of the players was teaching out at the vocational and he had charge of computers. Why (unintelligible) computer. I fell in love with that and thought it was just so fascinating. Believe me, if I were younger I’d be going out here and taking computer work. Just fascinating. Somehow or other, you probably know historically, dates and stuff like that. I don’t remember that stuff. I’m not interested in it. But with that, I like every bit of it.

GP: So you have had a little exposure to the computer, too.

TL: Yes, a little. But I never carried it through. But I really liked it.

GP: Do you think that it’s easier to live now in Missoula than it was when you arrived here? Are times easier?

TL: Well, it’s easier for us because we didn’t have any money. Now we have enough to take
GP: I look at young people, and I hear in Missoula that they can’t survive on minimum wage, and the wages that they get for their part time jobs, and I wonder if this doesn’t compare somewhat with the way it was during the Depression.

TL: Well, I think at that time there was a different group of people that probably came from...a lot of them from poor families and adjusted for it; just took it in their stride. I don’t know, but I know that I think my son would starve to death if we had to live in those days. And Stell is ambitious, but I don’t know. But it must be hard, and things are more expensive for them. If they have work, they have to dress accordingly, and clothes are high. So I don’t know if I can answer that or not.

GP: Do you think that the Depression changed your life at all? Make you a different person?

TL: Well, yes in a way I do because I really think if made you appreciative of what you did have. There were a lot worse people than we were and we learned to get along and were happy in doing it. We worked together and then when we had that kid, that ornery little kid, that made it, because we were married four years before he was born. We thought we’d never have any. We talked about adopting, and so then when we lost our second one, our doctor said, “It’s possible but not probable.” Dighton wanted to go out and adopt one. Why am I telling you that?

GP: Well that’s all right. Yes, sure, that’s history too.

TL: Well I said, “Oh Dighton, it’s possible. Why don’t we wait?” Yes. Possible but not probable.

GP: You lost two before he was born?

TL: Just one. After he was born. So I told him that the other day, I wish I had six, just like you.

GP: I’m sure you must be very proud of him.

TL: He is so good; he is good to everybody.

GP: Does he have children?

TL: He has a boy and a girl. The boy is in California, the girl is in New York. Neither one are married. Well, the boy was married, but he’s divorced.

GP: If it wouldn’t trouble you too much, Tenina, one subject that I really glossed over was World War Two. Did that affect you and your husband in any way? That was about the time he was in the legislature.
TL: Yes. No, not really. We had, what do they call them? Not food stamps, but coupons where you could only get so much butter—

GP: Ration books.

TL: Ration or ration

GP: Whatever.

TL: Books, yes whatever. We were on Evans and we had this place. My husband had a bunch of eggs that we could get, and probably a beef or two. There weren’t any chickens then. Oh, and there’s the cow. We had a cow, and I used to churn butter. Then after we moved here, I got a milk pasteurizer, and I pasteurized all the milk and the cream. Then I took the cream down to the creamery, and I just left it there. Then I’d get my butter and cheese and whatever else—

[End of Tape 2, Side A]
GP: During the war, too?

TL: Yes, very much so.

GP: Are there any other things you’d like to add?

TL: I don’t know. I really don’t. You know, I can’t think. After you’re gone, I’d probably think of it. Or if I looked at some pictures, I might.

GP: Well, that’s not necessary, you’ve given a lot of information. I just thought maybe there were a few things that I hadn’t thought of that you had.

TL: When we first came up here, the election was held at this school.

GP: Yes, Lincoln School.

TL: Lincoln School here. There were five of us that took care of it. We didn’t have, I don’t think not over 100 voters. We’d go 7:30 in the morning, we’d get through about 6 o’clock in the morning, counting the votes.

GP: Yes, paper ballot?

TL: We stopped to eat at supper time, and at dinner time. There’s nothing but problems up here. Just a very few houses right across the street, there’s a pasture. You’ve probably heard of Evan Reely?

GP: I think so.

TL: Yes, you probably have. He lived down at the bottom of that block and then his horses lived right across the street.

GP: Was he connected with one of the moving companies?

TL: Moving. Right.

GP: Yes, I remember the name. It was all country out here.

TL: All country, all country.

GP: But you’ve managed to keep the acreage that you had, 25 acres?
TL: We had 50. We bought that hill too, it was all together. But it was so steep, the horses would get up there and we couldn’t gallop them. So we sold half of it. What is that man’s name? Van...He teaches at the U.

GP: Van. I don’t know. I know a Von. I don’t know a Van. Van Wettering I knew because his wife teaches here now.

TL: But that’s probably his first name, I mean his last name: Van.

GP: I know but I —

TL: Not Van Horton or something like that?

GP: Van Horn used to teach there.

TL: I wonder if it’s that one.

GP: I don’t think so. They lived in the other direction.

TL: Oh. So the man that built this place, he came from Lewiston, North Dakota. We got acquainted with him, and of course that’s just across the river from Bearwood. He was a builder, so he built this house. We got him to build this house, well then he wanted to live up here. He wanted to build a house here. So it’s not the one on the hill but right below it. We sold him half of it; sold him 25 acres. He’s gone, but his wife still lives there. They sold where they lived. They build one, yes just the one house. The people that they sold it to (unintelligible) up on the hill.

GP: So you’ve seen a lot of changes out here, anyhow.

TL: A lot, a lot. Nowadays, you’re going to have more changes. This man who was supposed to buy this house or school, talks about having a convenience store there and a —

GP: Oh that’s right, kind of like a little indoor mall. Yes.

TL: Yes.

GP: That’ll change things, won’t it?

TL: Change things. They asked me what I thought about it and I said, “Well, it’s progress.” And I said, “And they value my land more.” One of these days, (unintelligible) put up some condos or something. And it is a delightful place to live.

GP: Yes, it certainly is. It’s a beautiful location.
TL: We don’t get the smog that they get further down, and its cooler in the summer time, but it’s a little colder in the winter time also.

GP: You’re out of the city, here, aren’t you?

TL: Yes.

GP: Well, I think maybe I’ve kept you at this long enough, Tenina.

TL: I’ve enjoyed it. I really have. It’s kind of worked up my mind a little bit to think about these things. And I haven’t thought of it.

GP: Well, I have a lot of nostalgia about the past, so I’m going to thank you because—

[Telephone rings]

GP: There’s your telephone.

[Break in the audio]

GP: Now, you were just mentioning, Tenina, that Mike and Maureen Mansfield were good friends of yours, and I think that’s worth knowing about, since this tape is going to go into their library. What do you remember about them?

TL: Well, the one thing; he and Dighton of course, corresponded with the American Legion, and they were both very big fans of it, and what I remember mostly about Maureen was, I was president of the American Legion Auxiliary, and she was my legislative chairman, and she was a dandy. Oh, she was good. We used to meet at the Legion. And I was trying to remember, and I can’t for sure, when their daughter was born. I can’t remember or—

GP: Was she born in Missoula?

TL: I’m sure she was. Yes, she was. But I can’t remember just the occasions. They lived...I think it was on Bridge Street at the time.

GP: Was he teaching at the University then?

TL: Yes, he was teaching at the University. Oh, they were delightful people. Just delightful.

GP: Did you say that they lived out this way too?

TL: Yes, at one time they lived...I think it was what is where Commings lives now. It used to
be...She’s from Butte. They had a few acres there.

GP: Did Maureen work?

TL: No, I don’t remember her working. She was usually home. But that’s where we came in contact with them, was through the American Legion. The boys worked together and we worked together, and all I remember is that she was such a wonderful chairman. And of course, you know, in the legislature, (unintelligible) that would be up her...

GP: Sure, right up her alley, wasn’t it?

TL: Up her alley. She was a wonderful chairman.

GP: Well, thank you for those remembrances also.

[End of Interview]