

**Oral History Number: 379-002**

**Interviewee: Mary Jane Adams Morin**

**Interviewers: Darla Bruner and Dick Fichtler**

**Date of Interview: October 4, 1999**

**Project: Garnet Preservation Association Oral History Project**

*Interview conducted in the visitor's center at Garnet, Montana. It was video-taped by Greg Albright (Bureau of Land Management, Billings). (The audio and video tapes are housed at the Bureau of Land Management in Missoula. Completed at Missoula, Montana, June 2000.*

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Darla Bruner: It's October 4, 1999 and we are in Garnet, Montana. Today, we're interviewing Mary Jane Adams Morin and we're in the visitor's center at Garnet. Mary Jane, I'm going to be asking you some questions today about your time living here at Garnet and your memories of childhood here. First of all, I'll ask you the date of your birth.

Mary Jane Morin: It was March 2, 1917.

DB: Where were you born?

MJM: St. Patrick's Hospital in Missoula, Montana.

DB: Where was your family living, at the time of your birth?

MJM: They were living in Garnet.

DB: There were some unusual circumstances about your birth and your older siblings. Do you remember any family stories about your birth in Missoula at the hospital?

MJM: Well, Mother went to town [Missoula] two weeks before so she'd be close to the hospital. And then she went into labor and then she got a little apartment right close to the hospital. She went into labor and she went to the hospital and I was born. I don't remember that there was anything about my ...

DB: You had a brother and sister?

MJM: A brother and a sister that died before me.

DB: Was that why you were born in Missoula or did she have them both in Missoula also?

MJM: She had my brother in Missoula, but my sister was born in the house in Garnet, here.

DB: What were your parents' names?

MJM: Samuel E. Adams and Jennie C. Adams.

DB: What was the "C" for?

MJM: Cecelia. Jennie Cecelia.

DB: What was her maiden name?

MJM: Starr. Jennie Starr.

DB: What did your father do in Garnet, to make a living?

MJM: He had a store in the early 1900s and had the Adams Mercantile.

DB: Do you remember anything about the mercantile?

MJM: No, 'cause he got rid of it, really, before I was born, I think.

DB: What did he do after the Mercantile?

MJM: He did mining and timber work in the tunnels. Made the timbers.

Dick Fichtler: Is that what he made in his carpenter shop?

MJM: Yes. He made the timbers.

DB: Do you remember the names of the mines that he worked in?

MJM: Well, he worked in the Gold Center mine, I'm familiar with that one. And the Mountain View mine and he worked for the Mussigbrod Company. And I don't remember the rest of them that he might've worked for.

DB: When you were living here in Garnet as a child, the Davey store was open - the mercantile. And you told about Mr. Davey in *Garnet Was Their Home*. Can you describe him again?

MJM: Well, he was kind of a gruff man. Kind of short with you and he didn't care for children.

DB: But he was kind to adults?

MJM: Well, yes. He wasn't a real friendly man. But anyway, I had to go the store often, for my mother. And I had to get him to open the store in later years. You know he didn't have it open all day. And I'd have to go to the hotel and get him and he'd go over to the store. And then,

he'd get me so nervous after I got to the store 'cause he'd say, "What do you want? What do you want?" And I'd be just a wreck.

DB: How old were you at that time?

MJM: I was six.

DB: You told a story about having to go get some eggs?

MJM: Oh, yes. To get eggs ... that's right. And that was kind of a cute story. Anyway, how eggs come in a big wooden crate, like, and cardboard between each layer? Well, he was putting them in the sack for me, Mother's eggs. And he dropped two on the floor and they broke. And I thought, well, when's he going to pick them up? So I said to him, "When are you going to pick those up?" "None of your damn business. None of your damn business." And oh, dear. (Laughs) I thought that was ... he scared me again. He was always like ... he was very abrupt somehow.

DB: Do you have any other special memories about being a child at Garnet? Do you remember any Christmases here?

MJM: Oh, I remember every one at my house and how wonderful I thought Christmas was. That's where I learned about Christmas. And of course, I thought there was a Santa Claus for sure. And it was always strange because I wanted to go out and see ... in the morning, to go out and see the tracks of the sleigh and the hoofs, or the marks of the reindeer. And you know they were always gone. And my dad said, "Well, it snowed overnight, Jane."

DB: Did you have a Christmas tree?

MJM: Always my mother and dad... always they'd put up a tree on Christmas Eve for me. My dad would go out and cut the tree down and we had lots of trimmings. And we even trimmed it with candles. And I had one or two of the little things to clip onto the tree, that holds the candle and he put them on the edge. The very edge, so that . . . He'd light two or three of them for me, just to show me because he was so afraid of fire. It was a dangerous thing to do but h would just to show me. And we made popcorn strings, often. I never made cranberry strings, but popcorn.

We used to string popcorn and that was always fun.

DB: Any other kind of ornaments?

MJM: Oh, I had lots of pictures. Picture ornaments and I wish I had them today. They'd be priceless 'cause you don't see them.

DB: Were they store-bought?

MJM: Uh huh. Store bought pictures. And they had tinsel all around them and they'd sparkle with the lights, you know. But anyway, I had all kinds of them. I had Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus that stood about so high, of cardboard. (Gestures) And we had other tinsel that went around the tree. Mother had it really lovely. And I had to go to bed early.

DB: You put the tree up on Christmas Eve?

MJM: They put it up on Christmas Eve and I got a ... 'Cause Mother said I had to go to bed early 'cause Santy wouldn't come. And of course I wanted Santy to come. And so I went to bed early and I went to sleep, I guess, 'cause I didn't know what was going on until I got up in the morning. But I got up early and went out to see if he came and then I would have the whole house up 'cause I was thrilled that Santy came.

DB: The gifts were under the tree?

MJM: Under the tree.

DB: Do you remember any of the gifts?

MJM: Oh, I got a buggy with a doll in it. And there was a little cradle. I still have the little cradle, my little grandchildren have it today but I still have it with the mother doll in the...

DB: It would be neat to get a shot of it - a picture, or to see it.

MJM: Of the cradle? Oh, you could see it. And then I always hung my stocking by the side of the tree. The door went out to the kitchen; I always hung my stocking at one spot. And there was always nuts in the foot of the stocking and then, candy. Christmas candy ... and then two oranges. And so, that was my stocking. And I still have the stocking too.

DB: We have a family tradition where I do that, too -1 put the nuts in the bottom and put an orange in there. And I always wondered why I did that, but my parents did that. What is that? Was that a traditional thing or were an orange and the nuts something you didn't normally get?

MJM: Well we didn't normally have that. That was a Christmas item, all right. Nuts and oranges. And it still is today 'cause I don't keep nuts around the house too much.

DB: While we're on the subject of food at Christmas time, what kind of family celebration did you have?

MJM: Oh, Mother always had turkey. Always turkey. And I still have the roaster that she cooked them in. And I can tell you another event, I don't know if you want it now or later? Now? Mr. Davey wanted to do something nice for all the bachelors in Garnet and so he asked my mother if he bought the turkey, if my mother would cook it for him. And Mother said, sure, she'd try it.

So, Mother cooked the turkey down in the big stove in the kitchen in the hotel and they had the dining room tables - the long tables - all set and white tablecloths on and we had white dishes. And all set up and people would come in. Anybody that would come was local.-

DB: Your mom cooked the community dinner?

MJM: She cooked the dinner. Mashed potatoes and all the trimmings.

DB: Do you remember when that was? What year that would've been or how old you were?

MJM: Well, I was either ... I must've been seven or eight. Seven say. I'd say seven.

DB: How many people?

MJM: Oh, I don't remember how many came but there was ... all the old bachelors came.

DB: Did any of the families come or was it just for the bachelors?

MJM: Just for bachelors. I don't know there wasn't any of the families that came. Oh, the Heards, maybe. They had the two girls. But that was the nice thing Mr. Davey did for the people of Garnet.

DB: It was just that one year?

MJM: Just that one year. But Mother always had one at home, always had a turkey and a few things.

DB: Where did the turkeys come from?

MJM: They were shipped in on the train. And Davey would pick them up in Bearmouth and bring them up to Garnet.

DB: Did anyone who lived up here have poultry?

MJM: My mother raised her own chickens and Mr. Davey raised his own chickens. He sold chicken, fresh chicken. And sold eggs.

DB: While we're on the subject of celebrations, birthdays?

MJM: I always had my birthday. She [Mother] always had a birthday party for me and always made a cake for me. And one year... And we had no ice cream at Christmas time. And there was no ice cream but I don't know why because of the cold weather you could have ice. But anyway, we always had the ice cream on the Fourth of July. But so, for my birthday, she made tapioca

pudding. The round tapioca ...the larger ones that you soaked overnight. And then she made a pudding and that was in place of ice cream. And she always made a cake, usually chocolate 'cause I'm very fond of chocolate.

DB: At the time you were here, the ingredients she needed were pretty available?

MJM: Oh, yes. 'Course she made her cakes from scratch, you know. Didn't have any packaged cake mixes in those days. I thought that was the only way you made cake for years. I've kind of gotten away from it lately.

DB: Did you have any kind of a special meal on your birthday or any kind of a special celebration?

MJM: Mother always had the children that lived in Garnet come down, to the house. And had cake.

DB: Who would that be?

MJM: Well, the Heard girls and the Hensall boys and the Terry boys. Our teacher's name was Terry. Mrs. Terry had the two boys. She'd have those come out.

DB: This was the teacher?

MJM: The teacher was Mrs. Terry. My first grade teacher was Mrs. Terry.

DB: You mentioned ice cream on the Fourth of July ... how was it made?

MJM: Oh, yes. It was all made, homemade ice cream. Oh, it's in the great big round mixer. I wish I had it here, to show you. And then, she made a custard, my mother did. And parfait in that. And my dad would go out and go in the tunnels and get the ice and bring it home on his back. In the tunnels. On the floor. In the mine tunnels and get the ice.

DB: They would store it there, in the winter? Is that how it got there?

MJM: Well, it would freeze. Maybe drip into the tunnels. And then dad would go and get it. He always got it from a tunnel. Went out and rode home with a sack. On the Fourth of July.

DB: So you had a hand-cranked ice cream maker?

MJM: A hand crank that made the best ice cream I ever tasted.

DB: Oh, Fourth of July ... were there fireworks, a parade? Were there picnics? Did you go on a picnic on the Fourth?

MJM: Picnics. We'd go to Warren's Park for a picnic and that was always fun 'cause there were swings and things to do over there. So that was fun, to walk over.

DF: Was Mr. Warren still there then?

MJM: And he was there.

DB: Did he join you?

MJM: Oh, yes. He came down. Uh huh, sure. He always joined in. I don't remember exactly too much about what the food was, you know. As a kid you don't remember those kind of things. But anyway, he always had ... everybody would come. And we didn't have fireworks. I never saw any fireworks until I came to Missoula.

DB: And in Missoula, what kind of fireworks did they have there?

MJM: Well, we could buy fireworks, you know. And Mother never did spend very much money for fireworks. That was wasted money.

DB: Who sold the fireworks? Did they have stands, like they do today?

MJM: In Missoula? Oh, different places. I think they had stands, if I remember. Some of them were stands.

DB: And there was a Fourth of July parade in Missoula? Did you go to that?

MJM: In Missoula?" No, I didn't.

DB: I've seen pictures of it.

MJM: I have, too.

DB: While we're talking about Missoula, while you were living here at Garnet, your mom took you to Missoula?

MJM: Oh, yes. We went to Missoula every Memorial Day, for Memorial Day. We made it a regular thing to go to Missoula to decorate my sister and brother's graves.

DB: Where was that?

MJM: In Missoula? St. Mary's Cemetery ... St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery. And we used to have to walk from the hotel to there.

DB: Where did you stay?

MJM: At the Missoula Hotel, which is still in Missoula. It's on the corner of... Well, it's Main Street and what would that be? Ryman? Where the courthouse is on one side.

DB: So that would be the Palace?

MJM: Yes. The Palace. But no, the Palace Hotel was there but the Missoula Hotel was a block farther south. It's still there. And it was run by the Smith sisters and they knew my father from the early days. We always stayed at the same hotel.

DB: Did you go just that one time of year or did you make other trips?

MJM: Just that one time of year.

DB: While you were there, did you do anything else?

MJM: Oh, Mother usually took me to the dentist and had my teeth taken care of. Had to go to the dentist and everything like that.

DB: There was no dentist in Garnet?

MJM: No, there was no dentist. My father, I think, must've been the dentist 'cause he had a set of... what did they call those, they pulled teeth? I've still got some of them, in the trunk. If the men had to have their teeth out, I guess they'd come to my father and he'd yank them out for them.

DB: What happened if you had an emergency?

MJM: Well, if you had a real emergency you had to go to town.

DB: And how long did it take to get to town, to Missoula?

MJM: I don't remember what time in the morning we'd leave here. It'd be early. You know we'd go down ... we'd usually come down to the store here and load up and then take off in the wagon and go down. He had two teams of horses. There were two different teams. One was Baldy and Eagle. And then one was Barney and Duke. [It] depended on whichever ones they wanted to take.

DB: Two at a time?

MJM: Two at a time. But they'd alternate.

DB: And the pairs went together all the time?

MJM: Yes.

DB: And you said "he" had the wagon?

MJM: Billy Liberty. He was the stage driver and he was the blacksmith. But sometimes, Mr. Davey would drive and they'd alternate sometimes. And Mother never wanted to go with Mr. Davey. No, she said he drove those horses too fast down those switchbacks. And she liked Billy to take her down.

DB: How was it in winter?

MJM: They went on sleigh.

DB: Pretty cold?

MJM: Real cold. Of course, we never went on a sleigh ride but that was how they'd go down. He had a big buffalo robe he wore and then he had a buffalo blanket - or robe - that he put over their knees. And he heated the bricks on the stove in Davey's store. He had a big barrel stove and on top, it had kind of a flat surface where they put the bricks.

DB: Was the stage covered?

MJM: No. No cover. Rain and snow and wet with the weather, no way to cover.

DB: You took the stage from Garnet down to Bear Gulch?

MJM: Bearmouth. Where the depot was. And they'd always get there in time for the train. We never were late.

DB: How many times a day did the stage travel?

MJM: Once a day. Once down and once up.

DB: The passengers who were coming in would come up [to Garnet] at the same time.

MJM: Yes. And that would bring up the freight for Davey's store.

DB: Do you remember it taking a long time to get down to Bearmouth?

MJM: It seemed like it took a while, yes.

DB: And then the train?

MJM: And then the train went on to Missoula. And that was the best. I just loved that. I was telling Dick, I loved to go through the tunnels. The black tunnel, it was fun.

DB: What were the trains like? What kind of seats did you sit on?

MJM: Well, they were upholstered seats and they were soft upholstery. It wasn't leather.

DB: Were there usually a lot of people traveling on the train?

MJM: Uh huh. Seemed to be quite a few. The conductors, I remember them. That was something I hadn't seen, you know.

DB: Did you ever eat any meals on the train or did you take your food with you?

MJM: Mother usually had a little lunch. A little sack lunch for us and then we'd eat when we got into Missoula.

DB: So that was a big event for you?

MJM: Oh that was the biggest thing ... I thought I was really going someplace, when I went to Missoula. Because it was so different than here and that was all I knew, so it was marvelous.

DB: You mentioned in *Garnet Was Their Home* that you sometimes went with your father up to the mines at Copper Cliff and Gold Center?

MJM: Oh, yes. That was when I was two years old, I know that we went. The only time I remember, I don't really remember it. I remember hearing about it, I have pictures. I was very young. I have a picture of myself by this log cabin at Copper Cliff. And I have a picture of them, when they went over when there wasn't any children in the family. And of course, my dad had a couple of horses but I don't know what their names were. I can't remember that. 'Course, it wasn't when I was . . . I remember the other ones so distinctly.

DB: And your mother went? Did she go, too?

MJM: Yes, Mother went. See, my father did the representing then, in the summertime.

DB: And what did that entail?

MJM: Well, he had to work on each mine a little bit. Do so much work on each mine.

DB: To keep the claim going?

MJM: Yes.

DF: A hundred dollars worth of work every year. It hasn't changed in a hundred years.

MJM: Yeah, he had to do so much every ... uh huh. But I got sick when I was there. I was two and I ate the thimbleberries. They were just luscious big, red berries and I just thought that'd be great to eat. So I just picked 'em and ate 'em and thought nothing of it. And they were full of worms. And I got the worms in my tummy. I was a sick girl.

DB: What did your mother do?

MJM: Oh, she had to bring me right to Missoula. Oh, yes, to the doctor. She was afraid she was going to lose me. Of course, she told me never to touch one of those berries again so I always looked down at them.

DB: How did the doctor cure you?

MJM: I don't remember what he gave me. I don't remember.

DB: The thimbleberries are the ones that look kind of like raspberries. Big, flat leaves? Ok, I've eaten them.

MJM: Have you? You be careful. Examine them and see if they have any tiny worms in them.

DB: I tried them once because I thought they were raspberries.

MJM: Uh huh. They look like a raspberry.

DB: When you were a child, do you remember exploring any of the cabins around Garnet?

MJM: Oh, I went and visited all of them. I went peeking in all of them. Any empty cabins, I'd peek in.

DB: Were they furnished in any way?

MJM: Oh, they had a bed and a table and a stove and a chair. And that's about it.

DB: So mostly, people left those kinds of items behind?

MJM: They didn't take them with them. And one cabin that was behind our house, I went to look in that one morning and my goodness. In the center of the bed, there was an old ...they left the mattresses, too. There was an old mattress on the bed and in the center was a big rat. A

rat's nest... and the rat sitting there looking at me when I peeked in. And I can remember that because I'm scared to death of a rat. I remember that. I went for home. I thought it would follow me. (Laughs)

DB: Were they pack rats or were they regular rats?

MJM: Gosh, you got me. Pack rats, I think. Pack rats.

DB: Long, furry tails on them?

MJM: Mmm hmm. They had one ... you know, between the roofs. There was layers of roofing on our house. And one got in between the layers in there and we could hear it, you know, in the house. So my dad set a trap. And so it would come out and go right in the trap. And he caught it. Yeah, a big old rat trap.

DB: What kind of bait?

MJM: I don't remember what he put on it.

DB: I'm always looking for a good one.

MJM: You got rats?

DB: Actually, yes, I do. I have pet rats. My daughter does, but I'm not trying to trap them. (laughs)

DB: Let's talk about your own home, where you lived with your parents. Where was it, here in Garnet? Can you describe it in relationship to this building?

MJM: Well, it's just up the hill from the ... between the hotel and the store. It's a yellow house. It was yellow then. It's pretty faded yellow, now. A little yellow left. But it was right up there; it wasn't far.

DB: How many rooms?

MJM: There was a living room and a bedroom and a kitchen. Three rooms. The kitchen is gone now. It went down with the snow. The kitchen's not on there. It was kind of built later, you know. It wasn't one of the original two rooms.

DB: When did they add on the kitchen?

MJM: It must've been in the 1800s. Oh, yes. It was long before I was born. And before my sister was born. So it was before my mother was even married because they were married in 1904.

DB: Were they married here?

MJM: No, they were married in Pennsylvania ... 'cause he went to Pennsylvania to get his bride.

DB: He was courting her before he came here?

MJM: Yes, 'cause he was from Pennsylvania, also.

DB: So they must have traveled by train from Pennsylvania?

MJM: They traveled by train. But he didn't, he really ... the families knew each other. And he had seen her, you know. And he didn't really go with her, when he was in Pennsylvania. But he had seen her and when he got back up here to Garnet, he thought about her. And he thought he just had to have her. So he went back.

DB: Did they write letters? I always wondered how court ships were carried on. Now, that's a long-distance relationship!

MJM: That I don't know. I don't know that. But he remembered her and he had some pictures of her. And 'cause of our families were all close together, the Adams family and Piper family and the Starr family and all those different families.

DB: What town in Pennsylvania?

MJM: It was in Harrisburg, they were married.

DB: He had built the house already?

MJM: The house was already built here. I don't know who built it. It was already built.

DB: How was your house heated?

MJM: Oh, it had a big airtight heater, if you know what those are. A big wood stove.

DB: Square?

MJM: No, it was round.

DB: And it burned wood or coal?

MJM: Oh, wood. No coal. Never had any coal 'til we moved to Missoula.

DF: How'd they get the wood in?

MJM: Oh, they'd bring that in every fall. Billy Liberty would take a couple of his teams and ... one team, two horses, and "snake" in the wood. They'd put chains around [the wood] and I don't know how they'd do it. But they'd bring it in and they'd take it up, back of the house and pile it up until they'd got enough logs. And the big steam engine would come, with a big saw on it. And that's how they'd saw it up into logs.

DB: They hauled a whole, big log in?

MJM: A steam engine would come and the men would come and help and they'd have a great day, when they cut the wood for the winter.

DB: What time of the year did they do that?

MJM: Fall. In the fall of the year. Every fall, and then Mother would cook a big dinner for them, after they got the wood all sawed. Somebody'd be putting it in the wood shed and some would be sawing so there was somebody doing something so everything got done, practically at the same time.

DB: What about splitting the wood? Your father did that?

MJM: My father. He did that.

DB: Just as you needed it?

MJM: Yes. And the wood shed was full and it lasted through the winter for the two stoves.

DB: You had two stoves in your house? One in the kitchen?

MJM: The kitchen range and then the one in the living room. The bedroom didn't have heat. You'd leave the door open. And it stayed warm. It was real warm. I never felt cold.

DB: It was just one bedroom?

MJM: One bedroom. Yes.

DB: Did you have your own bed? Were there two beds?

MJM: There was one bed.

DB: Did you sleep with your parents?

MJM: I slept with my mother and my father slept in the living room. And we had a ... they called it a "sanitary cot." And you'd make it up into, like a davenport in the daytime and then at night you'd open it up and it'd be a bed. And my father slept there.

DB: Did that change when you moved to Missoula? Once you moved to Missoula, did you have your own room and your own bed?

MJM: Well, we lived in an apartment, in this apartment where there was a little daybed of cot or something. And it was in the kitchen. And I slept in the kitchen. And they had the bed because we had two rooms. Almost like Garnet. The house is still standing; it's on Spruce Street.

DB: Oh, it is? What's the address?

MJM: 404 East Spruce. We had the downstairs apartment and I used to walk to school. I went to school at St. Francis School. It was St. Joseph's but now it belongs to the hospital.

DB: Right. And that building was torn down?

MJM: No. They haven't torn that down yet.

DB: That isn't the Sacred Heart Academy.

MJM: No, it was different. It was St. Francis grade school. And the Academy was the high school.

DB: Let's go back to Garnet. Did you have any chores?

MJM: I had to bring water up the hill from the hotel, to help with some of the water for the house.

DB: You didn't have water piped into your house?

MJM: Not when I was a little girl, they didn't. It was there but I don't know. There was something happened to it and it wasn't working. And we always had a great, big barrel in the kitchen in the corner, where we stored all the water. She caught all the rainwater and all the snow water. And then there was a pump house, just across from the house. The building's not there. And we could use that water for washing.

DB: But it wasn't fit to drink?

MJM: No. Mother wouldn't drink it.

DB: How did she do the wash?

MJM: Oh, she boiled the clothes on the stove. Every Monday morning was wash day. Monday was wash day and the boiler came out and all the white things went in the boiler. She put those on the stove and put a big fire in and boiled the clothes. And they were white! She had nice, white clothes.

DB: But she put soap in?

MJM: Oh, yes. Then she boiled them.

DB: Did she make her own soap?

MJM: No, she didn't. My mother-in-law made her own soap, but not my mother.

DB: So she bought the soap?

MJM: That P & G soap. Fels Naptha soap. That's the soaps I remember. They came in bars. There was never any powdered soap that I remember.

DB: Did they scrape the soap off with a knife or a grater or something?

MJM: Uh huh, kind of scraped the soap off and then that makes the suds and then she set up the tubs. She had one tub with just clear water and then another with bluing water and then the wringer in between.

DB: And the wringer was hand-operated?

MJM: Oh, yes. Hand operated.

DB: Did you ever help with the wash?

MJM: Oh, I must've get in the way maybe, sometimes. I was in the way; she could do better alone. Oh she had the line; she had a pulley line. From the end of our porch there was a big post, it's next to the house that was across the way. Well, there's no house there anymore. I can't show you. But in one of the pictures, I think it shows. Uh huh. I think so. Well, she'd hang her clothes with the clothespins.

DF: What was the bluing?

MJM: The bluing? Oh, that whitened things ...a bluing bleach. It's blue.

DB: Very concentrated. In fact, a lot of times in the schools, they used it in place of ink.

MJM: Yeah, you could.

DB: In fact, I know that at the Grant Creek schoolhouse [north of Missoula], they did that. It's so concentrated. But if you add just a little to your wash water, it'll whiten your whites.

MJM: Yes that's right. It whitens. And then in summertime, she'd lay out the dishtowels on the grass and the sun would whiten them, too. Dry them and whiten them.

DB: There was no such thing as chlorine bleach?

MJM: No, never heard of it until I moved to Missoula.

DB: But it was available when you were in Missoula?

MJM: Well, I can't remember for certain. You know I can't remember when that came into use. I really can't.

DB: You carried water. Did you have any other chores?

MJM: Oh, I was supposed to dust, do the dusting. Oh, Mother let me iron the handkerchiefs and the napkins. And we had to put the irons on the kitchen range. Heat the irons and all that. I've gone through the whole process. (Laughs)

DB: They call those irons "sad irons." No one knows why they call them that. Do they make you sad because they're so heavy or...?

MJM: Oh, they were heavy.

DB: They're usually cast iron, aren't they?

MJM: Yes, and I don't have a one to show you. And some have a handle on them. There's some that in the middle, the iron part is about that thick (gestures with thumb and forefinger) and then it had the handle. You'd have to use a potholder or something, 'cause it would get hot. 'Cause it was attached. But the others had the handle you put in.

DB: Did you help with preparation of meals?

MJM: Not too much. She did it herself.

DB: She sounds like a capable lady.

MJM: Oh, yes. She was. She could just do anything. She kept boarders, after she went to Missoula. See my father was sick and he passed away. And then, she opened up a boarding

house. She had a few roomers. Not too many, 'cause the house wasn't that large. But she served meals. And she cooked and didn't have an electric range either. She didn't have an electric range until she moved to my house, three years before she passed away. She cooked over a hot stove, all the time. And she made the most wonderful fried chicken you ever ate. Oh, and made her own bread, all the time. The bachelors bought her bread. Mmm hmm. All the bachelors came on ... I think it was Wednesday, bake day. And Tuesday was ironing day. We had certain things that was done.

DB: Do you remember how much she sold the loaves of bread for?

MJM: Seems to me it was a dollar. A dollar a loaf.

DB: What kind of flour did she use? Did she make white bread?

MJM: Yes, she made white bread. I'm partial to white bread, myself. I grew up with it, I guess. And [she] made rolls, you know. [She] made lovely dinner rolls. She even made bread after she moved to Missoula. But then she gave it up. It was just too much.

DB: She baked on Wednesdays?

MJM: Uh huh.

DB: What did she do on Thursday?

MJM: Oh, you'd usually clean the house. That would be Thursday and Friday.

DB: And then Saturday?

MJM: Well, it was just a day. Sewing day. She had to sew. She made all my clothes, you know. Yes, made 'em all.

DB: Did she teach you how to do those things?

MJM: She taught me a little bit about sewing. Yes. She always had the sewing machine in front of that window that you still see at the house, in the living room part? Faces that way.

DB: So she could look out the window while she was doing her sewing?

MJM: Uh huh. Uh huh.

DB: Did the window look down on town?

MJM: No, it looked out there [to the west]. Singer sewing machine.

DB: A Singer treadle sewing machine.

MJM: That you worked with your feet. Uh huh. I sewed my finger one day. I put my finger under there and turned the wheel and down it [the needle] went through my finger. My mother wasn't too happy with me that day. But she carefully made it go up, you know, so I could pull my finger out. And it didn't break the needle or anything. Oh, I was afraid there'd be a little piece of the needle in there. It's this one. (Points to index finger) Mmm hmm. My index finger.

DB: Let's talk about wintertime up here.

MJM: Lots of snow. Deep, deep snow.

DF: How deep was it?

MJM: Oh, heavens. (Laughs) It was deep.

DF: About four or five feet?

MJM: Yeah. It was deep snow. And my father always had to clean the roof off, every winter. 'Cause it would cave in.

DB: How did he do that?

MJM: With a shovel.

DB: Climb right up onto the roof with a shovel?

MJM: Put a ladder up and climb up and shovel it off. And he shoveled it into the front yard. And you couldn't see out the windows then, in the living room or the bedroom. There was a window in each of those rooms. 'Cause it was up clear to the roof. It would be up to the roof.

DB: And I suppose you had to shovel pathways down to the hotel and to Davey's?

MJM: Oh, yes. Shovel it, if you wanted to. Or walk on top of the snow. And I had to walk to school with that snow. I was the only one, too. The only little one in Garnet.

DB: You walked?

MJM: Oh, there was no other way to get there.

DB: That was one of the questions I was going to ask you, if anyone up here had homemade skis or used snowshoes to get around?

MJM: Oh, my father had snowshoes. That's how he got to the mines.

DB: But around town?

MJM: No.

DB: Did he make the snowshoes himself?

MJM: No. I never saw him making any.

DB: You talked about going sledding in the wintertime?

MJM: Mmm hmm. That was what I was just telling Dick [Fichtler] today. That hill doesn't look quite the same; it's got so much trees growing and things on it. But it was just down from our house, right down to the road. That would be my sled spot. And I'd get my sled and get my kitty. And had the kitty on the back and I would sit and we'd go down to the road. And then I had to walk all the way back up. That was the worst part of it. (Laughs)

DB: And the cat made it down the hill?

MJM: Well, the snow was heavy enough that she wouldn't fall through. But if there wasn't crust on it, she would.

DB: What was your sled like?

MJM: Oh, it was jtyst a regular sled. And then, one of the bachelors, he was real nice to me. He came to Missoula and he bought me a big, long sled. And then I had lots of room.

DB: It was a wooden sled?

MJM: Wooden sled.

[End of Side A]

[Side B]

DB: Who gave you the sled?

MJM: Gus Wisner. And he was from Pioneer. And he was an old prospector and he had a cabin there, right back of the blacksmith shop. I think Dick told me it was gone. He lived in that. As I was telling Dick, we had lots of good times in there. We used to have taffy pulls with the old bachelor. And he'd buy anything we needed to make taffy and we boiled it up and I don't know how we did it, really, back in those days. But it was fun. And then we'd pull it and just have more fun. And I haven't done it since I left Garnet.

DB: I remember doing that several times when I was a child, at my grandmother's house.

MJM: See, my grandmothers were all in Pennsylvania so I never knew my grandparents.

DB: But this bachelor would buy all the ingredients to make the taffy?

MJM: Mmm hmm. Anything we needed.

DB: Who would go up to make the taffy, just the kids?

MJM: Just the Heard girls and myself. And we'd boil it on his stove, whatever we had to do. Made the syrup. I don't even know how today, how to do it. I wouldn't know how to go about it.

DB: Soft ball stage.

MJM: Yes. You had to test it in water, see if it was a hard ball or soft ball.

DF: How old were you when this was going on?

MJM: About eight or nine. We came to Missoula, you know, when I was ten.

DB: The taffy pulls, those kind of things happened during the wintertime, not in the summer?

MJM: No, it was in the wintertime.

DB: When we talked about the stage, in the wintertime, it still operated once a day?

MJM: Once a day.

DB: Would they take the wheels off?

MJM: No, they had sleighs.

DB: Oh, so they had a separate...

MJM: A separate vehicle. There was always two seats on them: one seat in the front and one in the back. Mother and I always sat in the back. And then the driver, and there'd be room for another person if they needed it. There was never anybody else went down with us.

DB: Mr. Liberty or Mr. Davey would go down once a day, regardless of whether there were passengers for the train or not?

MJM: Because of freight and mail. They brought the mail.

DB: Do you remember any activities in the summertime? You talked in the book, about picking huckleberries.

MJM: Oh, huckleberries. Yes, I went with my father and mother, always. And we went down Elk Creek or anywheres around. My father would know where they were and we'd go there.

DB: They weren't always in the same place every year?

MJM: We seemed to go different places, but I know we went down Elk Creek. And went up by the Mountain View Mine. And oh, I can't remember. Somewheres up here, too, we went.

DB: Did you ever see any bears?

MJM: Oh, we heard one. And my mother thought it was the Kellys. She thought the Kellys went out to pick huckleberries, too, 'cause they had picked in about the same spot. And here, come to find out, it wasn't the Kellys at all. It was a really big bear. And here, my mother was hollering at them. And the next day...

DB: Did you see the bear?

MJM: No, we didn't see him. But we could sure hear him, going through the brush. And the next day, when we went back, why, we had left our bags from our sandwiches. And the bear had chewed it all up and my dad said right away, "Oh, that was a bear that was here instead of the Kellys." 'Cause I guess he talked to the Kellys, too, afterwards and they said no, they weren't there that day. That would've been terrible, if we'd encountered the bear.

DB: What other kinds of animals were around here?

MJM: Deer. I never saw any other things.

DB: I know down in Elk Creek, down in the lower areas, I think there are moose down there. You never saw any?

MJM: No moose. No. Summer times, the sheep would come through, but no.

DB: Mountain sheep?

MJM: No. Domestic sheep with the shepherd. And [he] had a big herd of sheep. We hated to see them coming through. But they did bring them through.

DB: They were just taking them to a different pasture and they'd bring them through town?

MJM: Mmm hhm. It was horrible. Horrible.

DF: Because of the snow?

MJM: No, all the mess. Yes, that was worse.

DB: There must've been a lot of them?

MJM: Uh huh. Big herd.

DB: One of the things you talked about was going to visit Mr. Warren in the summer times. He's mentioned quite a few times; he seems to have been a very much-loved member of the community.

MJM: He was.

DB: Do you have any memories about him?

MJM: No. Just that he wrote a book of poems. I didn't know he was a writer until he moved away. He went to California, from Garnet. And then he wrote a book of poems. It's called *Hassayampar*. Did you see that, in the book?

DB: Where is the book of poems?

MJM: At my house. I have it. And Mr. Warren gave it to me, on my tenth birthday.

DB: And that was the first time that you knew he was a writer?

MJM: A writer ... that's right. And he's written in it, on my tenth birthday. And he used to write me and he used to send me seashells, from California.

DB: So you kept in touch with him?

MJM: Yes, and then all the sudden, we never heard from him. Oh, I don't know. I suppose he passed away.

DF: He was a Civil War veteran. Do you remember him ever mentioning the war?

MJM: No, I don't. And I don't remember how his clothes looked. I don't remember that. I think that question was in there somewhere?

DB: It was. I was going to ask that. I think I asked that about Davey.

MJM: Well, Davey, he dressed more like a businessman.

DB: A suit?

MJM: Just the pants. Suit fits, you know. Not the overalls or anything like the miners wore. And he wore dress shirts and they usually, they were long sleeved, you know. Turned back. I remember how he had them turned back. And the collars. I think they must've had another collar that fit onto this kind of thing that was around the neck. I see them there; they're coming back in style. The men have them. But anyway, that's what he wore.

DF: Did he have anything besides a shirt on? A jacket?

MJM: Oh, no. Oh, a vest... sometimes he wore a vest. But I never saw him with a jacket.

DF: How about shoes or boots?

MJM: Don't remember.

DB: Pat Hickey is another local. Do you remember any stories about him?

MJM: That man I didn't know. My sister knew him. Well, I remember how good he was to the children. I heard my mother talk about it. But as for myself, I never knew him.

DB: I guess he's buried in the Missoula cemetery?

MJM: I didn't know that until I read it.

DB: I guess I'll ask you about school in Garnet. Did you just go one year in Garnet?

MJM: No, I went four years. Four years. First grade through fourth. I was in Missoula, in the fifth grade.

DB: When you started school, how old were you?

MJM: Six. I was the only first grader.

DB: And there was no kindergarten.

MJM: No kindergarten. And there were the eighth graders. The teachers gave them special care because of having to pass the state board tests, or something that we heard about. And I was the only first grader so she didn't bother too much with me. So I really took first grade over, in second grade. Mrs. Prader was my teacher. And she was wonderful. She lived down at the Mussigbrod mine.

DB: Where was that?

MJM: On the way up.

DF: Up the China Grade.

MJM: And [there's] just a little bit of the mill. Today I noticed there's not much left of it.

DB: She walked to the schoolhouse and back, every day? She didn't live right there?

MJM: No.

DB: Did any of the teachers ever live near the school?

MJM: No, and then for my first grade, I can't just remember where Mrs. Terry ... I think she lived up Dublin Gulch. I think she lived up Dublin Gulch. And my last teacher -- Mrs. Cleary, her name was. She lived in this house right here. [The one] that's right there that you're putting a roof on? (Gestures) It's not the Hanifan house, is it?

DF: Yes. It's the Hanifan house.

MJM: Is that the Hanifan house? Oh. I used to play cards with a girl that went there on her honeymoon. She spent her honeymoon there in that Hanifan house, she told me.

DB: What was the name of the teacher that lived in Dublin Gulch?

MJM: Terry. Mrs. Terry., T-e-r-r-y. I have her picture. But Mrs. Prader, I don't. Mrs. Prader was my second and third grader teacher/And Mrs. Cleary, I have a picture of her. And she was my fourth grade teacher.

DB: I saw a picture of you in *Garnet Was Their Home* with two other girls. Those were the Heard girls.

MJM: Edith and Annie Heard. Edith is passed away but Annie is still living. She lives in Helena. She's Mrs. Mayer. M-a-y-e-r. We were interviewed in Kelly's Saloon.

DF: That was at the centennial celebration.

DB: How many pupils were in the entire school?

MJM: You know, I can't just remember. In fact, I think it's nine. There were nine of us.

DB: That was probably the most that were ever there?

MJM: Uh huh. When I went to school, but there was lots more in the early days 'cause there was lots more children. There was more children.

DB: How many grades were taught there?

MJM: Well, there were the eighth grade and the first grade and let's see...it must've been the fifth or the sixth.

DB: So you didn't go from first grade to second grade to third grade...

MJM: There was na second grade. Until I was in second grade, the next year.

DB: And then there was a second grade?

MJM: Mmm hmm. Whatever it was.

DB: Just whoever was there and whatever grade they were in?

MJM: Mmm hmm.

DB: Did you have to pass a test at the end of the school year to go on to the next or was it just up to the teacher whether you moved up or stayed behind?

MJM: Mmm hmm. And I always passed. I always passed. And I was passed right here and when I got to Missoula, I didn't have to repeat anything.

DB: The school year: when was that?

MJM: Oh, the first year, we had nine months. After that, it varied. And the last year, we only had three months.

DB: Why was that?

MJM: There was no money. No money to pay the teacher.

DB: But the teacher still stayed here?

MJM: She stayed here but she didn't teach.

DB: It didn't have anything to do with the weather?

MJM: No.

DB: I thought it was possibly because of the snow in the wintertime?

MJM: Just didn't have any money.

DB: Now, the school district was...

MJM: Granite County, I think. Granite County.

DB: We talked a little while ago about medical care. Were there any doctors here at all?

MJM: Well, there was Dr. Mitchell down at Mussigbrod-Mitchell mine, but that's all I know.

DB: Someone who was on the archeological tour mentioned that Dr. Mitchell went on to found Warm Springs, is that true? And that started out as a ... place for tuberculosis patients?

DF: [It] actually started out as a home for the insane.

DB: Oh, I must be thinking of Galen. Galen was the tuberculosis place.

MJM: Yes. There was no doctor here. Everybody had to go to town.

DB: Do you have any memories of being sick as a child?

MJM: Well, I remember being sick, having a sore throat or cold, like that.

DB: How did your mom treat you for stuff like that? What did she give you?

MJM: She had lots of castor oil. (Laughs) Yes, I had to take it. It was horrid stuff.

DB: I thought castor oil was for digestive problems? It was a general, all purpose tonic?

MJM: I don't know. I think it was general. And Castoria. Do you remember that?

DB: Any other home remedies that you remember, besides castor oil? Were there any plants that your mom gathered?

MJM: Oh, mustard plaster. Mustard plasters.

DB: And what was that used for?

MJM: Oh that's to break up a cold. My father got a cold and I remember she almost burned him. (Laughs) 'Cause it gets pretty hot. You've got to be careful.

DB: Do you remember anyone getting seriously ill up here and having to go to Missoula? I know you mentioned you had to go to Missoula when you were a baby and ate the thimbleberries.

MJM: When I was two. Well, Charlie Meyers had Rocky Mountain Fever, tick fever. He was bitten by a tick and they didn't find it until he was in the hospital in St. Pat's. And it was on his head, in his hair. He had black hair. And it was ... the tick was there.

DB: Did he recover from that? I know a lot of people didn't recover from that.

MJM: Yeah, he recovered. But he did. Mmm hmm.

DB: Now, that isn't what they used to call Mountain Fever? I've heard references to Mountain Fever before.

MJM: Tick fever. Tick fever is caused by a tick.

DB: I know that for a lot of years, they didn't know what it was and it's something that's specific to just this area.

MJM: Mmm hmm. They didn't know what was wrong. He'd have been dead in his cabin and he had to ... take him to Missoula. But he recovered. He was one of the boarders. He made his home with my mother, at my mother's house. And Pete Lobdell made his home with my mother there and whenever he needed to come to Missoula, he always stayed with my mother. And Tommy Kearns.

DB: These were all Garnet residents?

MJM: All Garnet residents.

DB: And when they came to Missoula, they stayed there?

MJM: Mmm hmm. And Mr. Fred Heard. And he stayed there. He was sick an awful lot but I remember he stayed there. His dad stayed once.

DB: Did most of the miners stay the wintertime [at Garnet]?

MJM: Mmm hmm.

DB: Were they able to work in the wintertime?

MJM: Not all of them. But it usually seemed my dad used to work. He'd go to work in the dark and he'd come home in the dark. With a lantern.

DB: What about the unions here? Did most of the miners belong to the union?

MJM: I think my father was a member of the union. I don't really know about that. I know about the Union Hall, I know about it. The Miner's Union Hall. Mother used to fix the altar there for the priests when they'd come from Drummond.

DB: How often?

MJM: Oh, not real often. Not yearly, but most of the years, once or twice.

DB: You grew up Catholic, right?

MJM: Oh, yes. But I went to Missoula and made my First Communion. And I was confirmed at St. Francis.

DB: But up here, it just wasn't possible to go to church every Sunday? Did you do any kind of a family service on Sundays?

MJM: Mother usually prayed. We read the prayer book.

DB: Do you remember any babies being born up here?

MJM: No. Not that I remember.

DB: Here's a big one: some Chinese lived in Garnet...

MJM: I remember one old China man. He was the one that did the laundry at the hotel. And I used to go down there and I used to see him doing the laundry.

DB: The same way your mother did the laundry?

MJM: With the boil? I didn't see that. He just had a washing machine. And it was ... didn't seem to work with a ... It worked some way, but I don't remember how. I don't remember that part. But he was a little, old China man.

DF: Did he have a long pigtail?

MJM: Mmm hmm. Yes. He was quite an attraction because he was the only one here. The only one that I can remember. There might've been lots of them when I was a little baby.

DF: Do you remember where he lived?

MJM: No, I don't remember where he stayed. Whether he stayed at the hotel, maybe he stayed there. 'Cause I remember him.

DF: Did you become friends with him?

MJM: Oh, yes. I remember I'd go down and talk with him so he gave me my first firecrackers and I still have them. Yes. I can't believe that. (Laughs)

DB: Do you remember what happened to him? Was he still here when you left Garnet?

MJM: No. He wasn't here but I don't know. Mr. Dalberg used to bring the vegetables up with a horse and wagon, in the summertime, from his garden. They used to live here, they used to live up ...I called it "uptown," near the school, you know. I always said, that was uptown. We were downtown.

DB: And Mr. Dalberg lived up by there?

MJM: They used to, in the early days.

DB: And they had a garden?

MJM: But they moved to Bearmouth. We didn't find out today, which place.

DF: Underneath the dredge piles, there.

MJM: Mmm hmm. Dredges, somewheres. And they had a big garden spot and then he'd grow all his own vegetables and they'd bring them up in a wagon. And he'd sell them.

DB: What kind of vegetables?

MJM: Oh, corn and green onions and carrots, potatoes, onions. Mmm hmm.

DB: Tomatoes? Do you ever remember tomatoes?

MJM: I don't remember tomatoes.

DB: Lettuce? Those are things we kind of take for granted today.

MJM: My mother had a little, tiny garden and she grew some lettuce.

DB: Did she? Did you ever have trouble with the deer getting in the garden, do you remember?

MJM: No. Never knew it like people in town have so much trouble. The deer would always be hanging in the woodshed.

DB: That was one of the things they talked about in the archeological talk I went to; they said that they found bones from beef. They never mentioned finding any wild animal bones. Do you remember eating deer and elk?

MJM: Oh, yes. I was raised on it. Deer and elk. But deer, mostly.

DB: And your father went out and hunted for it?

MJM: Mmm hmm. So we always had one in the wintertime, hanging in the woodshed. So whenever Mother needed a roast or whatever she needed, he'd go out and cut it off.

DB: So they didn't just package it all, like we do today?

MJM: Oh, no. It was left on the animal and he'd go out and cut it off. With a saw.

DB: So it was frozen.

MJM: Oh, yeah. Frozen solid.

DB: What about any birds; did you ever eat grouse?

MJM: Oh, pheasant. Mmm hmm. Mother loved to make fried pheasants. It was just like her fried chicken; it was delicious.

DB: The location of the post office?

MJM: Well, the early-day post office was in my Mother's living room in the house. And I have the table at home, where she used to sort her mail. Then they had the boxes.

DB: She had the boxes, too, and people would come by your house to pick up the mail?

MJM: Uhhuh.

DB: So I bet there were a lot of comings and goings then?

MJM: Yes, there was when I was little.

DF: It wasn't always in your house?

MJM: No. From there, it went to Davey's store. He had it for a while. Then it went to Mrs. Hanifan that lived down from where the schoolhouse was. She had it, 'cause they used to have to walk there and ... I got all the mail for all the bachelors. I had a special mail sack that my mother made for me.

DB: So that was one of your chores?

MJM: That was one of my chores. I forgot it. I had chores around the house, but I did do that. I'd wait for the mail to come. Sit on ... in the summertime sit on Davey's porch there, at the store.

DB: We talked a little bit about Billy Liberty. I read about how you used to go up to the blacksmith shop, when he was working?

MJM: I always stayed and I spent lots and lots of hours, watching Billy Liberty shoe the horses.

DB: They took the horses right into the blacksmith shop?

MJM: Mmm hmm. They had their special place [where] they tied them up. I think they're still there. The rings are still there. But Billy was always so afraid I would get kicked. He'd always keep telling me, "Go on back. Go back."

DB: Your parents didn't mind your going down there?

MJM: No.

DB: You never had any close calls?

MJM: Hmm mmm. I never had any.

DB: What about Billy? Did he ever get kicked?

MJM: I don't remember anything like that.

DB: Was he a big man?

MJM: No, he was a little Frenchman. Oh, yes.

DB: Was Billy Liberty his real name?

MJM: Billy Liberty. He was French. And he ... in the early, early days, I guess he lived in Butte. He lived in Butte. He came from Canada to Butte, I guess. Mmm hmm. And his ... I met his brother and his wife and their son came to see him when he lived with Mother. And they couldn't spend a word of English. After we moved to Missoula, mother had ... It was on First Street, the house on First Street. And they came and Mother cooked a lovely fried chicken dinner for them and they couldn't speak a word of English. She couldn't talk to them. Mother didn't know any French. Billy, he'd kind of forgotten it. He knew it when he came to the United States; he knew it. But he never spoke it so he just forgot it. So it was a little hard for him to talk to his brother. He was wonderful. A wonderful man.

DF: You told me a story, a while back, about the events surrounding the death of your father and your move to Missoula. Could you tell us that?

MJM: When my father died, the day he died?

DF: Well, just that whole period of time there. He got sick and ...

MJM: He got sick here, up in Garnet here. And we had to take him out and put him in the hospital in Missoula at St. Pat's. He was there for three months. He had a heart condition. So then they had Mother and I come down. So we went to Missoula, we didn't stay there while Dad was in the hospital. They called us to come back. And so we came back and we stayed at the hotel, Missoula Hotel, for a few days and then, they said that the hospital they weren't real busy. We could have the room right next for the same as we were paying at the hotel.

DF: Did you have a chance to grab all your possessions and everything when you went?

MJM: No. We had to come back then, the next... well, that was in the fall. It was the month of August, when he got sick. And so then he came back up. Well, we came first and got what we needed and ... Mother and I, before I went to school. See I'd missed a whole month of school 'cause I was late and we had to come back up and pick up. And that's when I had to leave my kitty. I left my kitty behind. I had ... Mother said I couldn't take her. And so we packed up what clothes we needed. Oh, we didn't take anything else except clothes and left everything else.

DF: Did you leave on the stage?

MJM: Left on the stage, uh huh. And the stage came up to the house and picked Mother and I up. We had a boardwalk, you know, in front of our house. A big gate and boardwalk and I thought it was pretty nice.

DB: And how old were you?

MJM: Ten.

DB: So you didn't come back to Garnet after that?

MJM: I didn't. Mother never came back. I came back but Mother never did. My mother said it was too heartbreaking and she couldn't come back. So she never did.

DB: When did you come back?

MJM: Well, I came back in the forties. I'd come up.

DB: What was that like, after being away for so long?

MJM: Well, it didn't seem the same at all. Of course, lots of things had disappeared around the house and it wasn't the same. It wasn't like the day I saw it when I left, when Mother and I left.

DF: You left so much stuff behind. What happened to all that stuff?

MJM: Father ... as sick as he was, he kind of got better and he knew somebody who had a truck. So they took him up in June, the month of June. See this had all happened in the fall, when Daddy was sick. And then they ... he packed up all the stuff and brought everything down, with the truck as full as they could get it, with everything.

DF: They didn't leave anything behind, in the house?

MJM: Hmm mmm.

DF: What happened to your dad's business interests?

MJM: Oh, his partner took all those away when he died.

DB: How did he do that?

MJM: Just advertised my mother out. He sent her a bill for eight hundred dollars. And my father was in the hospital for three months. And she had no money to pay it.

DB: The bill was for what?

MJM: For the representing. On the Mountain View and the Copper Cliff and the Gold Center mine. That's the one I remember so well [the Gold Center].

DB: What does it mean to "advertise it out"?

MJM: Well, it was in the paper that my mother couldn't pay this bill. It was a terrible thing to do because my father would give the shirt off his back to Pete. Pete Shipler was his name. And they'd been partners from the time they were young boys. They traveled the West. A terrible shock to my Mother. Took everything away from us. Lost whatever interest he had in any mines.

DF: Did you ever get anything out of your house? Did he ever pay you for the house?

MJM: He lived in the house, yes. Mmm hmm. He lived in it for awhile and then the Seadins, I understand, lived in it, too.

DF: Was anybody living in the house when you came up in the [nineteen] forties?

MJM: Oh, in the forties? Let's see, I forgot. No, I don't think there was anybody living in it.

DF: Do you remember Frank Davey? Was he living here then?

MJM: Frank Davey? Oh, yeah. He was here.

DF: And Frank Fitzgerald?

MJM: No, he wasn't here. Unless he was uptown, or up to Dublin [Gulch], up to his house. I didn't see him here. I didn't know Frank.

DB: The store was still open in the 1940s? And the saloon? I assume the saloon was open?

MJM: Oh, yes. Well, I don't remember that [the saloon].

DB: You came up in the 1940s; was it early or late in the forties, do you remember?

MJM: Well, it was the summer months. It would be the summer, in the forties.

DB: Do you remember if it was before the war or after World War II?

MJM: I think it was. It was before, when I was up here. A little bit before World War II.

DB: We went to war in 1941.

MJM: Forty-one? Yeah. Might've been mid-forties.

DB: Do you remember how many people were living in the town?

MJM: There weren't very many in town.

DB: Had some of the buildings disappeared by that time?

MJM: Billy Liberty's cabin burned to the ground. Almost lost the blacksmith shop, too, but they didn't. They got it out, so it didn't burn too much. I think it shows a little blackened.

DB: I guess his cabin burned three times, is that right?

MJM: You know, they lived together. And then there was one other bed and Charley Meyers, he'd come to town and forget to go back home and he'd stay there. Johnny Stuart would come from Bearmouth; that's Mrs. Lanham's brother. They had the Lanham Hotel. And Johnny Stuart would come and he'd stay there. And it was always ... there was an extra bed there for anybody that came. After that he had to stay at the hotel. And Billy Liberty moved to Missoula. And lived with my mother.

DB: When was that? Do you know what year?

MJM: It was the thirties. Oh, I don't know. I want to say thirty-five, I can't remember. It might've been thirty-three or in the early [nineteen] thirties.

DB: This is our last question: I know you're one of the charter members of the Garnet Preservation Association. When did the Association begin and why? It's kind of obvious [why] but I want to get it down, so we have a record of it. It's the last time I'll ask you for a date ... unless you want to go out for ice cream. (Laughs)

MJM: Oh, boy. I think I've told you everything and now I can't remember too much.

DB: Names of persons who were active? I know Helen Hammond...

MJM: Helen Hammond got me into it. She said, "Well, you might as well be in the Garnet... be on the board." So I've been on the board ever since. Yes, forever. (Laughs)

DB: You've been president of the association?

MJM: No. Just a board member. I'm the membership, chairman right now but that's the only position, I think.

DF: Are any of the other charter members still around?

MJM: I don't think so. I think they're all gone. Let's see ...

DF: Ike Bingham. Yeah, he was the first president.

MJM: He's gone.

DF: Yeah. He died. Were Russ Matthews and Jean Lawrence active at first?

MJM: They weren't... well, I don't remember them at first but he was president.

DF: Yeah, he was president when I first came up here.

MJM: When you used to pick me up to take ... when we met on East Broadway. That was years ago. (Laughs) But I think I'm the only one...

DB: How many members are there today?

MJM: Oh, about two hundred and fifty. Yes, we have a big membership.

DB: It's been the Preservation Association that's been hosting the ball? Is it in the fall or summer?

MJM: Summer. Mmm hmm. GPA [Garnet Preservation Association] did that.

DB: You've been doing that for a lot of years.

MJM: Must've been about four? Was it about four years?

DF: Well, you know even when I was a caretaker, back in the early eighties, we were doing it on Memorial Day weekend. And I always wondered whether the snow would be off the ground or not.

MJM: Well, I guess I didn't come then. On Memorial Day I always went to the cemetery. I had all my family there. My mother and my father and two ... brother and sister.

DF: (unintelligible)

DB: Yes, it was, and I'm just very close to being out of tape, so we might...well, just about 90 minutes on this.

MJM: We did. Didn't seem like long.

DF: That was excellent.

DB: Now what you need to do is film some of those items that she's talking about and then you can edit them into this and show those items. (laughs). The table—the post office table. The sewing machine.

MJM: You'll have to come over to my house and take a picture of the table. That's where it is. What else was it you wanted a picture of?

DF: The firecrackers.

DB: Right. The firecrackers.

MJM: That, I think, is in the basement in my trunk.

DF: That must be the world's biggest trunk. I think everything I ever heard about Garnet is in that trunk.

MJM: (laughs) That's right. I have a large nugget. It's about that big [gestures with hands].

DB: Of gold?

MJM: Gold nugget. Pete (unintelligible) gave it to me. He thought he'd give it to me, and then he thought, oh, I'm going to take that and have a chain put on it and you can wear it around your neck. I never wore it. I was always afraid somebody'd grab it and take it from me.

DB: I wonder how much it would be worth.

MJM: I have no idea.

DF: (unintelligible)

DB: That's right. Of course, it has a sentimental value too, so that makes it even more valuable.

DB: Thank you very much, Mary Jane.

MJM: Well, you're welcome. I hope I helped you. I suppose I could tell you more but I can't think.

DB: Well, I live in Missoula, too. So maybe we could get together again.

MJM: Oh, well. You could come and see me and talk to me. That would be fine. Why don't you do that?

DB: I will. I'll do that.

[End of Interview]