

Maureen and Mike

Mansfield Library

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

Archives and Special Collections

Mansfield Library, University of Montana

Missoula MT 59812-9936

Email: library.archives@umontana.edu

Telephone: (406) 243-2053

This transcript represents the nearly verbatim record of an unrehearsed interview. Please bear in mind that you are reading the spoken word rather than the written word.

Oral History Number: 027-007

Interviewee: Frances Janes

Interviewer: Lenora Koelbel

Date of Interview: circa 1972

Project: Lenora Koelbel Missoula History Oral History Project

Note: Interviewee refers to the interviewer as "Nori" throughout the interview.

Frances Janes: We think it was right across the street from probably about where Caras' flower shop is—somewhere right along in there. Now there are those...I went along and tried to identify, and there are those that can remember it. I remember vaguely a building like this with the ramp up and that up there, but I can't remember exactly where it was.

Lenora Koelbel: Yes, that's the trouble.

FJ: Now it's got a house number on it. We did—with a magnifying glass—were able to distinguish that, but it didn't help a whole lot because we still didn't know what street it was on. But this is one of the older fire engines, and of course, with the leather apron on and everything we decided that that's what it was—a horseshoe place.

LK: It looks, though, like there's other stuff back there, but now could that be the river going back down there?

FJ: No, I don't think so because you're looking up so it wouldn't be the river. I mean, your angle it's more up than it is...you know. So I don't know if it could be the river. It could be other...that's a building. See, you can see the windows and the windows here, but we couldn't distinguish what building. I asked my mother and dad who have been here—my dad's been here since 1912 and my mother has been here all her life—but they couldn't either one remember what it was either. None of the old firemen could. Of course, these are now some of the other pictures. This is the one...What was it? [unintelligible]. This was a where Larkin furniture is now. This was after the first big fire and the [unintelligible] burned, and then it burned again. This is, of course, when the firemen were killed.

LK: Oh, those are the two right?

FJ: Yes, three. Sailor (?), Albright (?), and Corinne (?).

LK: Now, what fire was that again?

FJ: This is the [unintelligible] on West Main. You know where the new bank building drive-in is?

LK: Yes.

FJ: Well, that's where that is.

LK: I see. What year was that?

FJ: This one was—

LK: [unintelligible] December 30, 1951.

FJ: Now see Jack Rita's (?) the assistant fire chief. This is Jack right here. This is Danny Rice (?). Of course, that's another one of the old Hammond building.

LK: Oh yes. Now, what year did that burn? '32?

FJ: Yes. This one was the Gamble (?) stores. The second Gamble fire. I did a thing on that...They did other things besides fires, and these were all in that.

LK: That a postcard by McKay.

Do you know where we would locate some of those old postcards that he did. I've been down to Haugen's and I've seen everything that they've got, and I got some good postcards. I saw one just by accident of an airplane that was being demonstrated at the Fort in 1911 by a guy by the name of Ely—E-I-y.

FJ: He must have been the barnstormer that I've read about that went around and they called him...I think there's a book out about him, in fact.

LK: Really? You wouldn't by any chance remember a title or anything?

FJ: No, I can't remember a title. In fact, I think there are something down there in the Juvenile Department in the County about something in barnstormers. Now, I'm not quite sure but it did have pictures or maybe it was...No, it was. It was about early airplanes in Montana.

LK: Gee, I'll have to check that out then because you know *The Missoulian*, going on that centennial issue of *The Missoulian*, the more I read the more I find out that it isn't too true.

FJ: No, it isn't too true. You bet it isn't. Now, this is, of course, where the old fire hall used to be. This is across from Dorothy's Tea Cup or whatever you call it over there.

LK: Oh, now, where was that?

FJ: They've got it torn down now. It's a vacant lot. It was also the first city hall.

LK: Yes, yes. Now, where—

FJ: It's on Main Street.

LK: Main Street? West Main.

FJ: The second block. This is the hotel, see here? The Missoula Hotel, and then this was right across the street, and they had their rooms upstairs.

LK: Okay, so the city hall was upstairs. The fire departments downstairs. Is that how it went?

FJ: Yes. This was taken in August of '49. Clara Kern (?) was still there then. This is the first J.C. Penney fire. Now this is...I know that they happen to have several of these down there, and I've got a couple of my own.

LK: Oh, that's a beauty!

FJ: Now, that one I thought was really good.

LK: Oh man! 1909.

FJ: I don't know whether I told you this or not, but they told me to pick out the ones I wanted, which I did for the library files. They said that if they...Of course, I know these guys all of them, you know. Ken Cahoon (?) said that in time he would print them and give them to the library. Well they've got all these, and they have taken prints off like these here. Big ones. So it might be that if you went down there and explained to Ken what you wanted, and that I have used these at your store...or at your class several times and so forth that he might just help you out.

LK: Okay, great. Could I put this with the ones that Anne is in because now this Curtsinbaum (?) at Gateway said I just have to bring anything down that I want copied and he'll do it, of course, for nothing because he's interested in making a buck. I'm interested in putting it on a board.

FJ: I think that's great. Well no, I don't know whether you want that one.

LK: No I don't want to go that far.

FJ: That far?

LK: Yes, in history. I just want to stay pretty much before the 1900s...or 1920s really. Wow, that's a goodie.

FJ: This one [unintelligible]. This one is to the annual ball of the Missoula Fire Department, and as I understand it this is the first ball they had. They were preparing...Someplace in the fire department pictures, I found another one that showed all the decorations around and chairs sitting around and everything, and they were preparing for this party. These were just cleaning up afterwards, but you can see the old fold-down beds [Murphy bed]. What did they call them?

LK: They start with an “m”, does it?

FJ: What?

LK: Start with an “m”?

FJ: I don't know. They were, well, like a wardrobe bed. There's one that's got the doors on it, yet apparently they've taken the doors off.

Lk: Yes, and they have it at the same place—the ball the same place—that they had the beds.

FJ: Yes, and look at the funny little old stove.

LK: Yes, that's risqué isn't it? Could I copy this?

FJ: I don't know whether it would copy or not, but you're welcome to try.

LK: Okay, well.

FJ: But I thought that was very interesting.

LK: Yes here's [unintelligible]. Oh, that's beautiful, yes.

FJ: These are early or later fires, of course. This was included in this...That they also...they even washed windows was what the title was that I did the bulletin board on. Then this one was a wreck and the guy had a heart attack they told me, then backed up their... [unintelligible]. This would have been the corner where the...what do you call it...the Bonanza store is now. It was the Nash something or other then. This is the window washer. Of course, this is the early stages of the new fire hall, and this was the Gambles fire—all that was left of it. This as the J.C. Penney fire—all that was left of it.

LK: That's pretty though you know.

FJ: This was where a guy went off the Maclay bridge, and he was still in the car. Now, this one we finally decided it looks much like the Missoula Fire Hall was, but old-timers said that they didn't keep the horses in the back like that.

LK: Well, I was going to say.

FJ: So they decided that it was Anaconda, they thought.

LK: Well, then I better ditch that one. If there is any doubt, I don't want to take it.

FJ: This one was that same car at Maclay bridge. This is the burning of the railroad [unintelligible]. Somebody set it on fire. This is the same [unintelligible]—Gambles fire. This one was the [unintelligible] company, and this was where the firemen got killed. The Moose Hall was in the top and Armitures (?) was in the bottom. During that fire, it was really something because the Moose Hall had a rifle range up there, and they had numerous boxes of shells. My golly, those things were going off, it sounded like a war. Downstairs all the cannons were exploding, and oh man it was really something.

LK: I bet!

FJ: This is Armitures. This is after the wall collapsed. This was before [unintelligible]. This was when he starting to build the new fire hall, and this is the [unintelligible]. This one is the [unintelligible] fire, and this one is one of the first fires. I think there is a bigger original of that here. Isn't this the original?

LK: Yes, yes.

FJ: [unintelligible]

LK: That McKay, boy thank heaven for him. Okay, is it all right if I take this one too?

FJ: Yes.

LK: Hey, there's one thing now, this gives us the date as 1899 and this says 1897. Do you think this might have been the first time they had a party, or do you think that this was just an interior shot of it?

FJ: This might have been an interior shot of it, and I think what happened is it looks like this has been written over. I think and so did the firemen that this had been written on and then pasted in here and it was the wrong date. Now that's what they think because the other pictures were so nearly like this with the other date on it that they figured that it was 1899. I wouldn't know, but it would be either one or the other.

LK: I wonder...That shouldn't be too hard to check if I go back to a *Missoulian*, July 4, 1899, it should say.

FJ: Now, this I'm sure is right. This date is, but the picture, they weren't sure. They think that somebody wasn't sure the date when they were going through these and put 1897 and then it was the wrong date.

LK: But you think that what they're doing here is preparing for their party?

FJ: Either preparing or cleaning up afterwards. You could see something hanging there that looks like party stuff. Then there were several others that were very much like it that had decorations. These are some of the old. That's at the first or the second fire station.

LK: It doesn't give a date. I guess I never realized how important dates are.

FJ: Well, does anybody? I see there's not any dates on these either.

LK: Look at that. That's a [unintelligible] wagon.

FJ: They put the date...the names of the people. Now, at some time or other years back somebody put down the names of the people they remembered and the horses names, but they didn't put any dates in. Yes! 19 what? '11.

LK: '11. McKay really went to town in '11.

FJ: I wonder if there's one in this one. Yes, 1911.

LK: Maybe I can compare wagons there. This one would have to be at a later date.

FJ: Now see, look at this one. This was when they were beginning to get [unintelligible].

LK: This is the same rig here.

FJ: There's no date on this one I can see.

LK: Oh good, I'm glad they got the Eaton (?) prints.

FJ: This is Jim Craney (?). I remember him. [unintelligible]. That been many years. 1911. Now this is 1893.

LK: I wonder if that's Eaton prints too.

FJ: I don't know. [unintelligible]. Then there is the other ones [unintelligible]. They've got all kinds of them [unintelligible].

LK: Yes. [unintelligible].

FJ: No, that's my clock. [unintelligible] time it was. [unintelligible]. My other one makes such a horrible tinny noise that I never keep it running [unintelligible].

LK: Now on that story of the Chinese, so you thought you might be able get ahold of a guy by Monday—on Monday or after Monday.

FJ: Shortly after Monday.

LK: Why don't I see if I can't call you up on that then later on? See, that's another thing that sure would add to this.

FJ: Now, I don't know whether he'll want to say it or not, but I'm going to call him and ask him.

LK: Now, who is this a police chief or a policeman, did you say?

FJ: Well, it is a policeman. I'll find out whether he'll want to say anything or wanted me to tell his name or anything before I say anything about it.

[speaks to dog that's barking]

LK: [unintelligible]

FJ: Even if he doesn't want his name used or anything, why, I'll see what I can find out.

LK: Okay, because you'd think that they would have closed them off.

FJ: As I remember they were.

LK: Yes, yes. Great. What do you call them?

FJ: Well they thought they were joss houses.

LK: Joss? J-o-s-s?

FJ: J-o-s-s. That's where they found...As I remember, Nori, that he said they found...they looked like little cells with a clay or a dirt out of the wall or something—a little bed and maybe a chair or a table or a little stand of some kind. They found evidences of where they had been opium dens.

LK: Now, would he know when these were last used?

FJ: Well no, I don't suppose, because at the time, he said...I don't really remember, but he said that they must have been closed up for years and years and years because he said the gobs of cobwebs and the dust was just thick.

LK: Oh, my god! How did they discover them, do you know?

FJ: Well, yes, I do know, but I'm not going to tell you until I find out if he'll let me.

LK: Oh, okay, okay.

Well, let me change the subject. Let's see, do you know the date of when that bank pool or that pool on Bank Street that first one was built?

FJ: No, I don't know the date, but it's been there ever since I can remember and that's around, say, 45, 40 years ago. It must have been fairly old then because I was going swimming all the time, and I can remember that the roof and everything was pretty well beat up.

LK: It wasn't exposed then to the elements?

FJ: It was exposed to the elements. It was wide open to all the dust and dirt that wanted to fly in.

LK: Well it just had a roof and then—

FJ: Well, the bath house. See, what it had was...like, this was the pool, and it faced the street—that would be Pattee. The deep end was back here, and all along the sides were the boys' dressing rooms and the girls' dressing rooms. All they were was a little wooden door you opened and went in and there was a strip of wood across there to sit on or put your things on and you went out again. You had no way of keeping your things or anything else. Then back there was the high diving board and just a corrugated metal wall around the thing and a corrugated roof that everything came in on, and that's all there was.

LK: Oh, I see. Was it open at this end or just—

FJ: There was extensions at the back here and a fence—the corrugated fence all the way around the thing. This is where you come in the door here. This was a shallow end, and they had a rope across the middle.

LK: I see. I see. Now, this corrugated stuff you get dust and stuff through there, right?

FJ: Well, it's corrugated metal. It just blew dust over the top [unintelligible]. Everybody threw stuff over the fence. It was filthy as I remember. You can't imagine...like I say, you think about pollution and everything now, and all I remember how dirty that pool was.

LK: I don't suppose chlorine or anything like that?

FJ: I don't remember it because my eyes are quite sensitive to chlorine and that sort of thing, and I don't remember that they did. They used to clean it. I wouldn't say every week, but I suppose they had to clean it pretty often. I remember going down and being awfully angry sometimes because the water wasn't up high enough to swim yet.

LK: Would they have some kind of a pump or something that would pump it in?

FJ: Well yes, I suppose...Well, no. There was a pipe on both sides of the deep end where the water came in, and it was ice-cold. It wasn't heated in any way, and there were drains in the bottom because my brother was a stickler for swimming and swimming well and he threw me in before I could really swim. He would make me dive for things, and I would dive down to the drain and come up and things like this. I remember that there was a drain—quite a large drain in the bottom of the deep part—and I suppose they had some way of turning it on or something to get the water out. Then there was a pipe on each side, as I remember, just like what we'd call a sewer pipe or something, where the water came in. Of course, it was good fresh water out of the reservoir.

LK: So time to swim in it was the first day or something?

FJ: Well yes, but we went swimming every day all day. Everybody did. Of course, there was no way to wash your...I don't remember that there were any showers really. Now, there might have been. Come to think about it, I think there was. Cold water naturally. But there were no real hygienic pails to put your feet in. I mean, everybody's just went swimming.

LK: Ick. You mentioned that Woody was with...Now this, see, is something I forgot, that Woody met Plumber (?) at Hell Gate, and they were both going in the same direction?

FJ: Yes. Well, the story is that...that was in that little, you didn't bring the little books back?

LK: What little book?

FJ: My little.

LK: Oh Anne (?) must have that.

FJ: Oh, does she?

LK: Oh, wait that one?

FJ: Yes, this one. Now, it says in here I think. Did you read these?

LK: Yes. That's why I'm surprised.

FJ: Or maybe it wasn't in this one. Anyhow, Woody is said to have... [pauses] Anyhow, he was said to have been...He was the bookkeeper out there, and Plumber came to the door and he asked for food. He and this other friend of Plumber's asked for food, and so Woody offered them food and lodging for the night. Since he was going that way the next day, Plumber—

LK: This is towards Deer Lodge?

FJ: Yes. Plumber and his friend accompanied him, and they even stayed out overnight and Woody felt that he was quite a gentleman. The words were "pleasant to talk to and very gentlemanly."

LK: I'll be darned. Something you said...you said something about Granville Stuart. It couldn't have come out of his memoirs or anything could it?

FJ: That's possible, yes.

LK: But now he wasn't with them? It was Woody and Plumber and his friend.

FJ: No, there was somebody with Woody too.

LK: Yes.

FJ: Wait a minute, maybe it's in here. I mentioned who the other party was I think.

LK: It seems to me you did too.

FJ: Let's see. It would have been right at the beginning. Someday I'm going to go over all of these and [unintelligible]. [long pause]

LK: Well, here you talk about the robber's roost game.

FJ: Yes. Yes, there it is. [unintelligible]. [pause] Here it is. Yes, it's Granville Stuart.

LK: I'll be darned.

FJ: So it could have been in Granville Stuart's.

LK: Okay. [pauses] To Gold Creek is where they went?

FJ: Yes.

LK: Okay. I'll be darned.

FJ: Woody said Plumber was an [unintelligible].

LK: I wonder if it would be then in Granville Stuart's book?

FJ: It could be.

LK: Because this is one thing I'm going to have to go through.

FJ: You know when I was looking for things for the kids, why, any time I saw anything that I thought would be interesting I wrote it down just because it was interesting and then it ended up in this.

LK: Yes, right. Right. Let's see. You were talking about the interior of the Greenough Mansion. What was the Greenough Mansion like inside before it was changed?

FJ: Oh, it was beautiful. Now, this goes back to when I was really small too. Grade school because I had still...Well, I had my pony many years afterwards, but I was riding around that time then. We used to pasture Babe and Beauty up at Walters (?) who was Mrs. Greenough daughter, and they lived in the place right above the park. As a result, why, we knew Walters (?) and the Greenoughs pretty well, and Mrs. Greenough would see me often coming down from the [unintelligible] farm. I always turned the pony loose because it would be late, and she would run all the way home through the park and up over by the Walters' place and up over the hill and down what they called the pony path for years and years because they'd always see the little black pony running down [unintelligible]. Mrs. Greenough often asked me into the house to have tea with her or turn the pony loose or have apples or whatever.

But the house was gorgeous. Well, the big windows that you see up there now—I haven't ever been in since they moved it—but that was the big entry hall, and those windows were at the landing going up stairs. It was like something you'd see in a...To me when I was a kid something you'd see a big [unintelligible] or something, but the great high ceiling and this great huge fireplace in the entry. Then she had to big davenport like this and that stairs went up this way to those great big tall windows. You can imagine how tall it was.

That entry, as I remember, was papered in burlap with a hand-printed...hand-painted dark green with, as I remember, a lavender and gold or light cream...What would you call it? Geometrically design sort of on this whole thing. Then the dining room. You went down the hall this way to the dining room, which was to the left, and Mr. Greenough's bedroom was to the right and the bath and so forth. Then the music room was here with big mirrors and the sitting room, which they had in one room it was gilt, French Provincial-like and then the music room had a huge grand piano in it and these great big mirrors and the big windows and everything. It was just fascinating to a little kid you can imagine.

The dining room was the thing that was really fascinating to me. In later years when they opened the Greenough mansion for people to go see it before it was moved...In fact, they were going to tear it down first. I went back and went through it again in that dining room was everything I'd ever remember.

LK: Really?

FJ: Yes. It was done in burlap too, and it had been painted so that when you looked in that dining room all you saw was sun and newly leaved-out trees. It just looked like you the sun was coming through the trees—the leafy trees—and it looked just like you were in a grove of trees. I never have been in any place that looks so real. Then—

LK: Did they have a sunroof or something to let the sun in?

FJ: No, no, no. It was the ceiling and everything was painted. It had windows on that side and that was all. On this side was a big buffet. They had a butler's pantry. Of course, the time I went back when it was open, they had all the gold services out on the table. It was gold, I mean gold. Oh, it was gorgeous. It was just beautiful, and it had a huge kitchen. All I can remember, as I remember, it had like black and white tile—linoleum. Then of course, the bedrooms upstairs, I remember one of them was a beautiful dove gray and lavender, I think, and it was very, very austere. That was one of the girl's. One of the bathrooms had these old-fashioned bathtubs in it and the sink had forget-me-nots painted on it.

It was just really a fabulous place. You went on the...Upstairs you could go through...I don't remember exactly the location of the rooms on this side, I know there was a beautiful bedroom and a bath and then several other bedrooms, but on this side...No, now I'll take that back. It was downstairs that was. The entry hall, the music room, the living room or the sitting room, and Mr. Greenough's. The dining room, back of the entry hall, the kitchen. Then back over here you ran into a library, and then another little room and another little room. These were studies or served various purposes. They were a

[End of Side A]

[Side B]

FJ: —a private swimming pool heated with a bathhouse.

LK: Oh brother, that would beat the Bank Street pool.

FJ: Very much so. Beautiful grounds. A great big huge carriage house and barn. I can remember going in the carriage house and looking around in the barn. They had horses and dogs and all this sort of [unintelligible].

LK: Well now Greenough must have had...Didn't he have a ranch up where Greenough is now?

FJ: Yes.

LK: How big would you say that ranch was?

FJ: Oh, it's huge. It's one of the Lindberg (?) boys.

LK: Has the whole thing?

FJ: Yes.

LK: I see. You wouldn't know how many acres it would be?

FJ: No, I don't remember. I remember when it was put up for sale, but I don't remember how much the acreage is but it covers a good deal of ground up there.

LK: Now is that the only...Did he just cattle ranch with that, or did he log out of there or what?

FJ: I don't really know. I don't really know how he made his money or anything else.

LK: There is a whole article in that centennial audition of *The Missoulian*. That's the only thing I have to go on on what Greenough actually did, and like I say, I hate to use it because I'm just so leery—

FJ: Well, now my dad might know, Nori, what he did because you know they...Like I said, they pastored our ponies for us, and he was in and out. He would remember probably more what Greenough was. Now, I don't remember him at all. All I remember is Mrs. Greenough, and she is so often, you would see her standing up there in those windows. She always wore a high white collar like these old style and the long black full skirt, and as I remember, her hair was kind of up like this—the way they used to wear it in sort of...I don't know whether it was a knot

or just up. Swept up. The sleeves were long, and she was, as I remember, a very pleasant, I think maybe, lonely type person.

LK: She doesn't sound too exciting really. Seemed like she came from something like North Carolina or some other place.

FJ: I don't have any idea. But he built that big house for her. Of course, one girl, you know now I can remember [unintelligible]. She's the one that married the Count or whatever he was. You know, he drove the real old-style car around for years. That was before old cars were a thing, and everybody thought it was so strange. She also ran...They owned and ran the Double Arrow Dude Ranch for a long time. I went on a [unintelligible] party up there one time. They had rented dude ranch for the day, and that was when she had...Now, you probably shouldn't use this, but she did have a mentally deficient child and they turned him loose. I mean he came and ate, they put him in a highchair. It was quite...For kids of that age, young University kids at that time, it was wasn't understood. It was quite nerve-wracking to watch that child eat, but he did die. It's been a long time ago, but he did die.

LK: Well, I wouldn't use anything like that anyway.

FJ: But one of your children asked me if there was a child that was—

LK: Really?

FJ: Yes. They wanted to know if he was in a mental institution or something like that. I can't remember the question was, and I said, no, I didn't believe so that there was a child that was mentally not quite right or with a mental deficiency, but he wasn't insane. What he asked me was, "Did they have an insane child?" He wasn't. Just—

LK: Mentally retarded, right?

FJ: Yes, a retarded child. They just didn't know how to handle them like they do now.

LK: Did you ever see the interior of the Spotswood Mansion in its heyday?

FJ: Oh, long, long years ago, and I don't really remember too much about that except that there was a lot of fancy carvings.

LK: Oh, really? Wood-like carving? Figures or in the like banister type?

FJ: Yes, the stairs and around the...It seems to me around the ceiling. I don't remember for sure. I think there is a lot of paneling. Now, one of the churches or the University chapel...Is there a chapel out there?

LK: At the University?

FJ: Yes.

LK: Not that I am aware of.

FJ: Now there's something that the Spotswood...All of that fancy carving and fancy paneling went someplace. Now, you might be able to find out from...John Toole might know, and he would be the one to ask about the interior, because he was one of the upper crust and they would have been invited to the different...Now there is a story about the Spotswoods too that my mother could tell. I don't remember. I wouldn't even begin to say, but there is something to do with one of the Spotswoods being killed or badly injured or something way back. I suppose you've heard me talk about the [unintelligible] Hospital which was the old memorial hospital.

LK: No, where's that?

FJ: Well you know where the old Memorial Community Hospital is?

KL: Oh, yes.

FJ: Well that was originally Thornton (?), and my sister, my older sister Janie, was the first Thornton baby in Missoula. My mother, when she was going to school, she used to stay...Because they live quite a ways out from town at Stevensville, so she used to stay with the Thorntons there. When she was about to have Lois, why, she went to Stevensville and stayed with the Thorntons and with their last load down. That night my sister was almost born in the outhouse. [laughs] My aunt went out and rounded her up out of them outhouse, and my mother said, well, she just had a stomachache. So my aunt hauled her into the house and sent somebody down to call Dr. Will (?) and Dr. Will go there just in time.

LK: I'll be darned. [unintelligible].

FJ: Their son...Bertha, the daughter, married Dr. Rudy Worth (?), and you, of course, know who he is.

LK: Now he is the Worth that has the school house?

FJ: Right. They had Sherry (?), one daughter, and when Dr. Will died they had had the same aunt come back and be his nurse until he died. He had bone cancer. She lived right there in the hospital house with them, and they had complete furniture for Sherry there at the hospital house. So, when Dr. Will died, of course, Mrs. Thornton moved, and she gave all of the baby furniture to me for my boy. It's been handed down through all my cousins, and even David's

children, and my sister's children. Their son was killed. Now, I could call Mother and ask her if he was killed in a wreck with the Spotswood boy, but it's got something to do with the two of them. It was quite a terrible scandal at the time.

LK: Oh really! I will have to remember to ask some of these other old timers.

FJ: You can ask if they know how the Thornton boy was killed. I can call my mother right now and ask her for you if you want me to, or I'll ask her later and write it down.

LK: Yes, yes, because I still have a few more things and not too much time on the tape.

I got such a terrible memory...Well, it's not that my memory is so bad it's just that when I go down to putting it down on paper I want to make sure that that's exactly what it is, because, oh boy, the worst thing that I fear is inaccuracy in this thing. I don't care if people criticize my style or anything. I want those facts to be right.

FJ: Yes, and like I told you, Nori, I don't care how many sources you get, you're still going find a conflict.

LK: I know it.

FJ: Everybody that writes one, they've heard...The things that I have heard from my mother and father or from my grandparents could be slightly biased, and therefore it's not quite right, and so on and so forth. It's very, very difficult to get the really true things.

LK: I know it. I know it, and certainly *The Missoulian* doesn't help at all.

FJ: I've been trying to compile about our own family. My mother was telling me the other day about what happened to my great-grandfather Kenny, but then yesterday she told me now Ollie Buck (?) who is a half-sister to my grandmother had told my aunt, my oldest aunt, that this story was absolutely untrue. That my great-grandfather had done something entirely different. Well, who is Ollie to say? I mean she's biased because she didn't like my great-grandfather, and who is she to say that what my grandmother said wasn't true? So Mother was rather upset about it, and I said. "Well, I don't think that's right. What your grandmother told you is the way I will put it in my records that my grandmother told my mother and then quote." That's the only way you can do because you can't go by what somebody, a resentful old lady, said.

LK: No. Is this down in the Bitterroot? Yes, I know the Buck family is...In fact, I met Mr. and Mrs. Buck that worked on that Montana Genesis the other night. They're a nice couple.

FJ: Well see Ollie Buck was a Nichol (?). Her father was Cash Nichols (?), and Cash Nichols, Jr, is...you know...Well her father and young Cash Nichols' father was Cash Nichols who was my

grandmother's half-brother. My great-grandmother Kenny was married to a Nickels first, and we have the records, the old Bible, that says where they were married and who by and everything. Well, then what we were trying to find out was where he died, how he died, and when my great-grandfather Kenny came in. My grandmother Stewart (?) was born in Alder Gulch, so we know that she got that far and apparently she married this Kenny someplace in between and we're just real curious about it. We can't find anything about it, and apparently the Bucks and all those they're just not very talkative about it, so we're real curious.

LK: Yes.

Do you know when the pest house was started, or when it was closed down? I got pretty much all the information I need about what happened when it was running, but when it was started or when it was closed down, I'd be curious...How it got started.

FJ: Now, this I don't know for sure, but I might be able to find out for you. I think it got started when they had the smallpox and everything.

LK: Yes, I know it was for people that had smallpox. They sent them up there, but now what year would this be do you know?

FJ: Well wasn't that smallpox epidemic so terrible in nineteen...Now, my mother would know, Nori.

LK: Okay. Let's see, what other question are you going ask her?

FJ: Well, you better let me write some of these things down here because...Here, I'll just put it right on my folder.

LK: Okay, here do you want to use this pen?

FJ: My ex-sister-in-law owned that pest house, and they were living in it when it was torn down for the highway. You know where out here at East Missoula where the highway goes across through East Missoula and across that first bridge?

LK: Yes.

FJ: Well that pest house was right underneath where that bridge crosses.

LK: I'll be darned.

FJ: Burt (?) and his family lived there for many years, so I can find out there too. Let's see, when was the pest house...

LK: How did they happen to pick that house? Was it vacant at the time, did it belong to the county, or what was the deal behind it?

[long pause]

FJ: Well, I know I remember somebody told me that they put it out there because there was no one in the general area.

LK: Yes. You mean they build a special house for it or—

FJ: No, I don't know if it was a special house or not. There was a very, very old house, and you could even see in the windows where there was bars at one time.

LK: Oh they had bars in the windows too to keep these people in?

FJ: Well that's the only thing we could figure out that they were because it's...I mean that we figured there were bars. Don't quote me on that. I'll find out.

LK: Okay, bars in the window.

FJ: I have a vinegar cruet that came...two of them that came from out there when we toured the old [unintelligible]. We found a beautiful...It's right there in the first window, milk glass one and then another one that's got to be [unintelligible]. Those were second and third ones in my collection.

LK: Oh fantastic!

FJ: Then you want to know about what did Greenough do.

LK: Yes, and if you can find out what happened to that Spotswood boy too.

FJ: All right. I'm sure it was mixed up somehow, but I don't really remember so I'll ask my mother.

LK: On that pest house, when they last used it as a pest house.

FJ: Yes.

[pause]

LK: Because I've never heard of anything like that before. Not [unintelligible]

FJ: Of the pest house? That was quite common in those days.

LK: I suppose it would be. Did they just stick people that had smallpox up there?

FJ: I don't know. I don't know, but they used to have...Well, you read in different things about how they didn't come pest houses, but places where they put these people. Something was wrong with them or they wanted to get rid of them or something. I don't know if this was exactly...I know it was started or it was used for the smallpox epidemic.

LK: I'll be darned. Well, right along that line, when did they stop using that poor farm up in the Rattlesnake?

FJ: Well, that hasn't been too terribly long ago. [unintelligible] still a poor farm.

LK: Oh really? What would you say about—

FJ: Well they might know that or his mother would because she lives right up there, so I'll ask her.

LK: Okay. Then they had a grave right by...or a cemetery right by there, didn't they, for the poor people, that up there?

FJ: I don't know if that was what it was for.

LK: There was a cemetery up there?

FJ: There was a cemetery up there, and the children up at the Rattlesnake School were telling me that they found gravestones and things right there where they were trying to make the park up there at the Rattlesnake School. Now, that's where they thought that this Chinese cemetery was, and it's possible that it was there. Apparently, this was more or less of a Chinese community up there many, many years ago. Of course, the railroad was going through. Maybe that's where they camped at that time or something. I did talk to my dad about the compound over there. I told you about where the...I had never brought this up before, but about where they kept the strike breakers.

LK: Oh, during the railroad strike that they had back in '94 or is this another one?

FJ: No, this would have been in 1914, '15, '13, something like that. They had the [unintelligible] and it must have covered maybe two blocks. Do you do you know where the Roundhouse is now?

LK: Yes, yes.

FJ: See my folks, the hospital is here, and my folks lived in this block and this is 2nd Street. Then there was another block here, and then A Street. The Roundhouse used to come clear around to here. You can still see the rest it, where the foundation is. Now over in this area, this would be the 200 block here on 1st Street in this big warehouse here, the old coal dock used to be right in here and the sand house, the depot over here. This area, this would be the Roundhouse and the turntable. This area all here was fenced. Wait a minute now. Yes, this is the warehouse. This had a great high board red fence around it, and even yet...it hasn't been too terribly long ago, about the time they throw down the coal dock and the sand house, there were like bunk houses in there. This was where they kept the strike breakers, and my dad told me one time about the rifles that they would shoot. People would shoot over the board fence—climb up on it and shoot over the board fence—and they would throw rocks and beat these people and stuff.

LK: At those people in there?

FJ: Well, they were breaking the strike breakers.

LK: I'll be darned. Gee!

FJ: Well, it was quite a bad thing. You read things about how bad these strikes were at the time like in Butte and so forth.

LK: Yes, but I didn't they got too vicious around here.

FJ: Yes it got pretty bad I guess.

LK: Well the other thing that I was wondering about was, now going back to that Radcliffe (?) place, was there a story behind that that made people think that that was haunted? Was somebody killed or something?

FJ: Yes. My dad, when I asked him about ...I vaguely remembered this place and [unintelligible] and when I started this business I was looking for other things. So I talked to my mother and my dad, and Mother said, "Oh yes, there was, but it wasn't really all that much."

My dad says, "Yes, there was." He says, "It was haunted. Somebody hung himself in there." Well, Mother said she didn't remember that, and why didn't I called Bill Clapwick (?) or John Clapwick (?) to find out. Well, I got ahold of one of them—I don't remember which it was—and they told me about some of it. He said that he remembered when he was a youngster playing there, and that one of the people who lived in it in later years had told him they firmly believed it was haunted because they saw this ghost many times coming through the wall with a knife

sticking out of her chest. Supposedly one of the earlier, not Radcliffe, but one of the earlier owners of the place after him had killed his wife because she was messing around with another guy. This was supposed to be...he killed her with a knife according to Clapwick, and this was supposed to be the wraith-like figure that was floating through the wall. So everybody firmly believed it was haunted. Like I said, when I took the horses back that night...all there was then was just about the lower part of the tower with a sort of a lean-to behind it and this old guy living there. John or Bill, whichever it was, said that was right. The interior had burned at one time. My dad could remember that, and he remembers going up there and the stairway was still partly there and messing around in it. Clapwick said that it had burned, and as people bought it and they tore down parts of it and remodeled and used parts of it. The last was the bottom part of the tower and this old guy living in there, and then they tore that down too.

LK: I'll be darned. Well, you never did find out if anybody was actually hung there then?

FJ: No I don't believe there was anyone hung. I really think that maybe John or Bill was right that it was a stabbing of some kind. Now, I don't know whether you could trace back and find it or not. Now, this part came out after I found this...ran across this issue and got this out of it. I wrote to Dean because I had called him and asked him if he knew anything about this trying to find out. Well, then I ran across this so I sent him a copy of this, and what I found out and who from and this is what resulted, where he got...Oh, Bob Tubbs (?) had sent him this. Bob, now, his father, well, he ran Tubbs Carry Grocery (?) for many years on Woody Street. Bob is a descendent of Mr. Tubbs, and they were far back.

Now, another interesting thing that you probably shouldn't use, but it's quite interesting. You can get it out of any paper I suppose, but it shows you how interwoven everything is. The woman that...In the paper not very long ago, it was telling about the hangings in Missoula, and the woman who was killed and shot over on 1st Street on the north side and they caught the man and hung him. It was the time before the Coleman (?). Well, the Negro was one of the last ones. The one before that was this man.

LK: What year was that? Do you remember?

FJ: Well, I don't remember. I could find out, but she was my aunt's by marriage sister, and she had been visiting my mother. She started back to her home, and he shot her there on the corner what was Crane Grocery Store (?).

LK: Now, what did he do that for?

FJ: Mom said that nobody seemed to know. That he just shot her right there. Well, he took off, and Dean Jones said that they caught him. I can't remember where he said they caught him, but Mother said that they caught him in the saddle going up over Jumbo. He'd gone up the Rattlesnake, and they caught him up in there. Then I was mixed up in the Coleman (?) business.

LK: Oh really?

FJ: Yes. That happened now...We lived in the house right...well in fact...Sorensens (?) were real good friend of the family, and Mrs. Sorenson was a sister...Mr. Sorenson was a brother to the sister...a brother of the gal that got killed out here at Alberton that Coleman killed. We went we went out there that day, and some of the kids flagged us down and said that...I was pregnant with my boy...and said that the little children were lost. So Rawley (?) dropped me off at the house, and he went over to help find the children. Well, when he came back, he told us what was going on. Well we lived up the Blackfoot then, and a couple of days later after all this, why, the boy across the river from me came to pick me up to take me down to doctor. He said, "Gee, look at what I found on the highway last night."

He held it up, and I said, "Boy, that belongs to the fellow out there. It was his fishing pole." So we knew that those guys had come up at least as far as our house with the car and lost that fishing pole off of it. Then they apparently went back because they caught them elsewhere. Then—

LK: Goodnight! I mean you could have been killed if you were there.

FJ: We rented the house then that Esther Sorensen lived in, and when she moved to Bozeman...Ollie died. He had a heart attack and died partly over all this because he had sent these guys out there to see his brother-in-law [unintelligible]. When she was in Bozeman we...Of course, the family was all real concerned about her, and she got the notice. The telegram came to my house that her son Jack had been killed...Ray in the service. So I called my aunt, the daughter was living with my aunt and her three daughters going to school, and so I called my aunt and said, "What should I do about it?"

She said, "You keep that guy there until we can get going and get hold of Esther before that news comes." Well they got there. When they drove up Esther knew what it was, and she just went completely out of her mind. Tore down the alley screaming that she was going to go see Ollie and all this. It was a long time before she ever got all right. Then she came back to Missoula and lived next door to me and she saved my boy's life. It's real odd how people can be so mixed up in all these things.

LK: The other thing...Oh, did Lindbergh (?) buy the ranch directly from the Greenough estate, or was there other owners in between?

FJ: No, no. Someone...I can't remember the name of the people that was in between. Now, there's a story about that too that I don't really remember, but I could probably find that out for you too. Now I think one of the teachers up there told me that, but she said something about...That was the first I knew that the Greenough children were up there. She was going

bring them down to the [unintelligible]...or the Lindbergh children. She had come in and asked me for all the books on Lindberg that I could find. They had never read anything about their grandfather and grandmother.

LK: No kidding!

FJ: She came in, and I rounded up every book I could find on Lindbergh and sent it out.

LK: Why wouldn't they have that in their house?

FJ: I don't know. They're odd people. The people up there never know except that the children are slightly excited that their grandfather and grandmother are coming. One time this teacher told me that different ones had started calling up there and wanting to get a hold of Charles Lindbergh. Government people wanting him to speak in town or something. I don't remember exactly what it was for, but when he got there he informed everyone—all newspapers, the government in Helena, state, local, everyone—not to bug his kids. He would never come back to this state again if they did. The teacher told me that they never knew, except that the children got slightly excited, and then they started watching and they would see him on the fields or something, but they were just very common. In fact when they came to Story Hour, I had no way of knowing which ones that...She asked me particularly not to make a point of it, and I kept trying to be—

[End of Interview]