

Maureen and Mike

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Email: library.archives@umontana.edu

Telephone: (406) 243-2053

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Oral History 98-9, 10

Interviewer: Helen Bresler

Interviewee: Matt Christy

Date: May 13, 1980

Matt Christy: Nearly all of those, nearly all, I turned down. (inaudible) Now there's (inaudible) Belmont Mine. There's hardly any houses. There's a house here and there. I don't know how they stand. I don't know why the Company ... whether they bought them or they couldn't buy them or what. I can't tell you. They bought property then wide there block (?) on East Parker, one whole block. There's a pack sale (?). They just went down there and built those rooms. They didn't care what they did with that. Tear it down and cut the taxes down. They don't need more than that. When I think . . . lost maybe fifty or sixty thousand dollars in taxes there, it just turned out. Buildings that they had no use from and they didn't want to be liable for anything that happens there after they bought them. They bought them for twenty years ahead. They didn't buy them because they wanted them right there and then, but they were thinking that they extend.. .extend their pit. They can't come too close to the property that somebody owns, so they buy that property so it's theirs and they can do what they darn please with it.

Helen Bresler: That's like at Finn Town then right? Is that where...

MC: Yes, that's in Finn Town there right now. There are two saloons there on the corner. There used to be three there, I think. They used . . . that was thickly built, just thickly built. Today, there's, you saw what was there, practically nothing. There's a house here and a house there. It's negligible. There isn't as many houses on the whole east side there ... from Mercury Street, of course, Mercury's two blocks down ... north. I don't think there's as many houses that would be in a half a block. I know that district now.

HB: What happened to all of those people?

MC: Years ago, the mines were deep mines; there was no pit. They had to employ a lot of people, a lot of hand drilling in there. They're using machine drills now or air drills. They use air to get the power, but they used to hand drill. The guy would hold the drill and the other guy gets the bit and starts hammering it down to dig those hole. It might take them an hour to drill, but they can do it now in two minutes.

There were a lot of single men here. Now it's mostly families here. There are very few single men here. They had boarding houses here that Finn people had and Italian people had. When they got married, they moved out of town or jobs got scarce. They looked for jobs elsewhere. Some people didn't want to work in the mines; they run away. That's all there is to it (?). The town, up-town, all these buildings had boarding houses there. They're all vacant now. YMCA

there has a bunch of rooms - about three floors their rooms. There's nobody staying there and you couldn't get a room to save your neck here in town. They moved on the flat or they moved out of town. In fact, the young people that are graduating out of college, they're foolish to stay in Butte. There's nothing here to keep them here, nothing that they can look forward to. I should say all, not all, but majority, say ninety percent, there's no hope. They had to get out and look for jobs elsewhere.

HB: Do you think a lot of them want to come back but just can't?

MC: I do not know... a lot of people leave here. They don't like the winters. A lot of people have jobs that are... their company ... with the corporations that don't have anything to do with Butte so there's no sense in the job ... If they have a job they have to stay there. That's the whole thing. For people that are graduating out of school, not for everything but a majority of things, there's no chance here. There's chance, but what chance? There's ten people want the job that only one can fill. Well you can't...

Now my grandson just graduated here from Bozeman; architect. He stayed the rest of the year. His home is in Florida now. His father works for the navy and they move him around. As you know, they shift him back and forth. He graduated. We practically raised him. Then he had a job, but he didn't want to stay. He wanted to go to California and get a California license. He felt if he goes down, he'd have to stay there for a couple... three years possibly. If he gets a California license ... he can get a job anywhere in the United States if he has a California license. Now if you get a Montana licensee, he has to pass the examination.. not be worried about anything but if he has a California license that's a card that he's fit for the job. That's crazy, but that's the way it is. I think that Montana College.. State College in Bozeman.. I'm confused on these two colleges. One is Montana State University isn't it?

HB: Yeah.

MC: That's Missoula?

HB: No, that's Bozeman. Missoula's University of Montana.

MC: Now, there you are. See those names. This year Missoula was much larger than Bozeman, but now Bozeman is ahead of them. They have engineering degrees there and some sciences or whatever it is. They're ahead of them, I think, in Missoula.

HB: Yeah, that's probably true.

MC: I don't know. I don't write about it; I work.

HB: You started working when you were ten? Is that what you said the other day?

MC: Twelve.

HB: Twelve? Have you always lived here in Butte? You were born here?

MC: No, I was born in Yugoslavia.

HB: You were? Really? Why did your family come here?

MC: They didn't. (laughs)

HB: You just came by yourself?

MC: No, I had an uncle over here who was willing to part (?). They said he was married. He said, "Let's take Matthew home with us." So that's why I have to say I came. (Laughs) So I came. I was here ever since.

HB: Did you come.. .did you start working right when you got here?

MC: Oh no, ten year old kid. I would say a couple of years then I started working. Let's see ... I started work in 1908. I was about thirteen years old.

HB: What did you do?

MC: At a food store.

HB: Did you quit going to school then?

MC: No, I went to school. Went to school; business college.

HB: Did you like that kind of work?

MC: I loved it. I was a hard worker too because not because I'm special. I just loved to work.

HB: Was that how you worked for the lease your...

MC: No, I worked for a lease at Chad's grocery first.

HB: Where was that?

MC: That was right down East Park. There's no such store now. They closed up; went broke. I don't know what happened. I think they went broke. The man didn't know what he was doing. He had a good business, but he didn't know how to run business. Whose fault was it? He got deeper and deeper into debt. People that put money in there with him, they lost it. Then I went to work.. .of course, I went to work for Louis before this happened. At the same time, I went to school. Half day of school or .. .I worked.. .I went to business college. Then after school, I went to work at the store. Men treat me very nicely and eventually got into it myself.

HB: When was that? When did you get your own store?

MC: I can't tell you exactly. I don't remember exactly I would say... by gosh I'm at the mercy of guessing wrong maybe. I could have been about eighteen years old or so.

HB: Gee.

MC: 18 or 19, I don't remember.

HB: Was it hard to start a business back then?

MC: It didn't take too much money. I had to borrow that money. I started with... a friend of mine who was working with me said, "Matt, let's go into business." I said, "Ok." Just like that. Next thing I heard was I got the place. So we got into partnership. I took care of the store. In those days, people used to go. they had customers; they go and call on them to order their merchandise. Then they'd pick it up and take it down to delivery and ordered. After a couple years down there, we moved up town here in this spot there right in the city center. I ran the store. Another fellow that worked at Louie's with us said he'd like to come with us. Being friends, we thought well, ok.

We weren't worried about getting rich. We just run the store. It required a lot of hard work. I loved it. My fellow liked it. My original partner was dabbling in other things besides the store. In a partnership, if any one partner does something wrong, they're all liable for it. I don't know if you know that or not. In a corporation, no, they are liable for what the corporation owns. But if you have a million dollars and your partner in business went . that has collected it some out of the business spent money that he didn't have, you are liable for his debts. As long you can pay this. So we incorporated.

Then few .oh, wasn't later on, two three months on, one partner said, this is too hard for me, I don't believe I want to keep going. Which we did. We took a third man in because he (inaudible). Just as a friend he came in took him. Man asked for a certain pay and I gave him more than he asked for. Then after a couple months, I sold . the partner we took in wanted some of that stock. I said it's alright I'll give you a portion but you can't help it (?). We only had twenty five shares a piece. The corporation could be any number of shares. I said "I'll give you ten." He said, "I want more." I said, "No, I won't give you anymore, but I sold it to you for less than I paid for it."

That went on for two three months; I don't remember for just how long. I don't remember just how long exactly because I don't keep records of those things; I'm working. I wasn't in charge of it. Then one day, he said to me, "Matt I'm selling out." "Oh," I said, "You are?" So that's kind of funny. Then we got talking back and forth. I didn't know who.... What this deal was or what happened or anything else but he said he's selling out. He wanted to sell out, but I said not here. I don't know what you're doing here. I said, "Everything I've done, I've thought of you first, me second." Because I had the control. I had two thirds. He only had one third. Of course, I gave him ten shares when he (indistinct). Before the night was over, I promised.. I said, "Not

here." I said, "I don't know what's going on in this, but I want to stay here. I'll work for you I don't mind doing it." I said "I'll" .. understanding his... "I'll stay here, certain figure, which was written up no problem, and you run the business I don't care." Then he agreed to that there. He paid me with the money that was my money; not his, but mine.

About two months later or so he called me up. I was down at my wife's house. He said, "Come up. I want to see you." I went up to see him and he said, "Matt, give me my keys. Here's your check. I can't wait. (?)" (Laughing) He said, "You should have gotten two thousand dollars more than you got for your business."

HB: What did you do then?

MC: I had a job right away. Then I.. .let's see.. .I get confused. There was a store in competition there right adjoining me. I ran the store for that man. Boy, I had my partner..we had a partner sweating (?).

HB: I bet.

MC: Eventually, he had trouble with his wife. He didn't know what he wanted to do. I'd take the money out of the register so he wouldn't come in and grab it and get drunk. (laughs) (Inaudible phrase). Of course, I didn't know that goes into the store (indistinct phrase). Nevertheless, he wanted to sell. I said, "I don't think I'm interested in really buying it." He sold to a couple of guys. They didn't last very long. They had to be cut free.

Then..lets skip a long ways for a while..I bought a store up in Granite Street; corner store. I ran it for about twenty years, bought the property and all. My original, the second, partner that was a crook came back and wanted me to buy it. I said "No, I don't think really I'm interested." Then my wife said, "Maybe you should." Back and forth.

I had to go to the bank to borrow the money. I didn't have that much money. The bank gave me all the money I wanted without any questions. That was one nice thing about it. My credit was good. The bank gave me the money. They said, "How much?" I said, "I don't know." They said, "Well, go ahead. Just a fair amount." That many words really. Of course, I knew the banker. He knew me and we were friends. So I went down and bought it. I bought the second partner out. He lost his trust in Butte. They wouldn't sell him anything unless he paid cash for it. He was a crook, really crook. Crooks usually land that way eventually. So I paid him out. paid him off. Then there were some bills due and collected his bills for him. Some of them I didn't collect. I paid for those bills too. They won in the swap (?). That was his trouble, but I just did anyway. I ran that business for about seventeen years. Then I decided to get out of it because it was too much work. Not work so much, but too long hours and no vacations. I retired.

HB: But you really liked the work?

MC: Oh, I loved it. We had a very, very fine clientele. Fine clientele doesn't mean that they're the best customers; they're the toughest customers. We... my competition was higher price d than I was. They didn't... this is like bragging, but it's a fact. I'm not lying to you. I hate to mention it, but it's a fact. We had fancy stuff always. We bought the best of everything. Our produce and fruits were tops; quality was by far better. Of course, others could have had it, but they didn't. I sold them the best stuff there was and sell it for a lesser price than the competition. Then we gave them delivery and credit. If that is something I don't know. Those kind of people are never satisfied really, but they were. We had very years of loss. Of course everybody lives those losses (?). My losses were practically nil compared to the. (inaudible). Then I retired and invested my money that I had. I tripled my income instead of work and I don't have to work.

HB: Well, that's pretty clever.

MC: I know, but there ... just be honest and do the right things and don't try to be a hog. In fact, I always took the licking, but that's something else. I was always accused by my help being damn fool in a sense. They told me, "Are you nuts?" Of course, that's my way of doing things. I wouldn't do any other way. I'm glad I did.

HB: When you had your store, where did you get things from?

MC: We had... we shipped a lot of stuff in; that is fancy things. People in Butte didn't even know what some of those things were. It might sound funny, but it's a fact. I worked... In this first store, I worked in, there were Italians. They carried a very selective line of liqueur... liquor of all kinds: wines, liqueurs, liquor, champagne and all that kind of stuff. They had many imported things; not that imported things are any better, but they are considered something special. I've learned enough of what would sell and what is good that I could buy things and sell my own fancy things.

We had wholesale groceries here. We had about four different... Yes, we had four different wholesale groceries here. You could buy your staple things. Of course, there's like the Armani brand or cheaper grade. The Armani is supposedly as good as you can get, which is not true, but they are high class. They're good, but there's quality above the money. Then there's your packs (?). You can get all these things here locally. Your foods came here and there were three wholesale food houses here. They came in and if I wanted something else, if I wanted something brought in, they'd bring it in for me. I didn't have to ship it (?), but we shipped many things in anyway.

We had the things that people were asking for. They could get it nowhere else, but from us. Some of these stores would advertise they had those things for sale because I had so they would ask them for it. Then they would come to me and buy it from me. When you come to specialties, these specialties ... learn about these things. They'll come to the person that's buying them instead of trying to introduce them to the rest of the town. If they did introduce, they wouldn't have sold any of it. So, there's no sense in doing it. We brought stuff in even from Switzerland.

HB: Oh, you did? What did you get from Switzerland?

MC: Cheese.

HB: Cheese. And you got candies?

MC: Oh yeah, candies. Candies and Swiss.

HB: Was it a big store? Did you have a lot of employees?

MC: Oh, no. It was quite small. There's a ..oh would know anyway. There's a building... there's one grocery store there right now on Park Street: Terminal. Do you...

HB: Yeah, I know where that is.

MC: Then there's a ..next door is a Chinese buffet and the next door is where I was. It wasn't very large, but it was alright in those days. For what I carried, it was perfectly fine. But there's a lot of work. In a smaller store, there's a lot work. For the same margin of business, you may have to put in twice work in a small store as you do a bigger one. That's where I was until I closed up.

HB: There were a lot of little family groceries then. Were most of them little ones like that?

MC: Oh my God. Butte, in its high day here, had approximately at least one-hundred and eighty food outlets, that is, grocery stores. About a hundred and eighty. Today, there might be ten or fifteen. I don't know. If there's fifteen, I'd be exaggerating.

HB: Yeah, there aren't a lot.

MC: But there was that many then. There were no chain stores. Most of the stores, whatever the size, all had deliveries and charge accounts. Today, the wholesale houses here are all closed. There isn't a single one in Butte. Meat packers: there isn't a single one in Butte. Meat wholesalers: there isn't a single one in Butte. They used to have houses here like Swift & Company... some others. There were warehouse here. Stuff was there to be bought ... purchased for wholesalers if you wanted that stuff. We had bakeries galore: fruits, vegetable, bakeries. We had a candy manufacturer here in Butte. Today, of course, there is one on the flat there, but nothing like it used to be. We had cafes uptown that were just loaded. Today, if it weren't for this here . what they call that.the one that just that opened . the four beef company (?).

HB: Oh yeah that Black Angus.

MC: Black Angus, yeah... if it weren't for them, there's not a thing in town that's worth it to go to eat.

HB: Yeah, everything's closed at night except bars....

MC: There's nothing there. There were more people on Park Street, right there, on West Park, at midnight than there is during a holiday here when they have a celebration. That sounds ridiculous, but it's a fact.

HB: Were there people out all times of day and night and everything?

MC: They were out all day long. Mines worked three shifts those days. They had shows. They had several show houses here. They must have had at least five show houses. I remember . Fantasias (?) or the opera house . what did they call it . the Broadway theater. Sonia (?), American, and Nickelodeon; there were so darn many. Empire. I can't even remember the names anymore, but there was everything here that you wanted to get to.. .if you want go (inaudible phrase), there's a place to go.

There was nothing on the flat (?). Hardly anything. Beginning about thirty years ago, people started going down there and building. Today, that's where our town is, downtown. It's down on the flat. Uptown is a bunch of old buildings that were built here during the early part of the century. They were not fancy houses. There are a lot of nice homes. This is the west side over here. There are a lot of homes today, but they're still antiquated now because they're old. They haven't got too much ground for their structure, and some of them are just built right next to each other, smack right next to each other. You'll see that...

HB: Yeah, really.

MC: Now, we all like a little more breathing space for a home. Like this home here, this is a nice home.

HB: Yeah, it is.

MC: But you see how close they are to the buildings here?

HB: Yeah.

MC: That was considered a very good space. Next door see nothing but (indistinct phrase).

HB: Why do you think they built them so close together?

MC: Things were things. of course, it was mining town. Mines were uptown here and most of the people, the majority of population, here was miners. They were close in to the mines because they didn't have gas in those days and didn't have automobiles those days. This is before your time. There was no automobiles because buggies and wagons . buggies they were called. Hacks (?) are the enclosed ones. That's all there was. Weather was cold, really was cold. They had two snuggers (?) here. There were. consuming so much smoke, in the morning, when it's a cold morning, you could hardly see a person across the street through the smoke.

HB: Really?

MC: Yes.

HB: Did it smell bad?

MC: Yes, sulfur. It was choking. It was very, very bad. It doesn't notice how bad it was. Some of these homes were close to mines because there were streetcars. Nobody had a car; it was mining men here. We put in streetcars here. Going to the mines, the cars didn't reach the mines because they were on top of the hill. Those men had to walk a mile or two, maybe two miles, to get to work. To get there when it was slippery and frozen ground, they had to wear these clomp-ons or whatever they call them. Plant them; put them on the bottom of their feet. They had sharp points on them. They wouldn't slip. It was terrible, really. Those men really earned their money and then some. Then they went in the mines. The mines were warm. They come up in the surface and have ten or twenty below. Maybe (indistinct) ice. It was interesting to go through, to see it.

The businesses... the uptown businesses, the buildings weren't too pretty, but they were pretty good buildings. There were many buildings. Our buildings... half the town's burnt out. We had nothing but fires after fires. I think they were incendiary. They weren't natural fires; somebody set them. Those buildings are all down now. They don't build anymore. I think there's one going up. It's wonderful. That's the only one in town in the last twenty years that I know of. No, Prudential building alone is got a building of us. The only other building that was built.

HB: When downtown was booming then, there was a building on every spot that stayed?

MC: Oh, heaven's yes for clear down to.. .well, twelve blocks from city center....

HB: That one.

MC: It was built. Old homes there just one next to each other. There was no space lost. It was building after building. let's say, home after home after home.

HB: When did they start tearing that down? Do you remember?

MC: That is not a question I can answer correctly, but the government started. they found out that the. there were so many companies here. They all had mining claims and they had mines. In time, the rich ore peters out. So one by one they started folding up or selling to the company. Then the company got them all. They operated their mines for a while; deep mines. They found out that it wasn't. there wasn't much future to it. Then they started to dig a pit there. To dig that pit they had to. I think to begin with they had move over..

(End: Side A OH98-09; Begin: Side B OH98-09)

MC: To get the ore they had to have. they moved three trucks of . the stuff on top before they got.. .to get one truckload of pay ore. That pay ore is ... I understand, they don't get over ten pounds of copper per ton. You can imagine how much stuff they have to move just to get that. Of course, what makes that possible is the fact ... it's the volume. If it weren't for the volume and if

all these companies in Butte were working individually, this town would close up; there wouldn't be Anaconda. It would not have been enough there to make it possible for them to exist under any conditions. Being one company, they moved this stuff in such quantity that they can operate and make it pay. Providing copper's around a dollar a pound, they couldn't even do now. If it's over a dollar a pound, they can make money. If it goes down much lower, they'll fold up I think. To get that production - to get ten pounds of copper - they have to refine it, they have to grind it, and they have to smelt it. They have to refine it and they have to deliver it to the find to sale (?) before they can get that money. Look how many moves there is to produce that copper.

HB: Yeah. Did any of your family ever work in the mines?

MC: My uncle did.

HB: He did?

MC: For a while, yeah. I came back when he did, but he's dead.

HB: This was the uncle that brought you here?

MC: Yeah.

HB: Did he come here especially to come to Butte?

MC: No, no he was worked before.

HB: Did he like that kind of work?

MC: I don't know. There was nothing else. He wasn't educated, didn't know a darn thing about anything except what he was told to do. Of course, he didn't have to. There's your job, what you're doing. Eventually, he got on with it. Then he died.

HB: Did any of the rest of your family come over? Like your parents or brothers and sisters? They all stayed in Yugoslavia? Did you ever go back and see them?

MC: I left. I went there a year ago.

HB: You did?

MC: I got a sister there. She was about two years old when I left. Never saw her until about two years ago. about a year ago.

HB: Gee.

MC: I got a brother here. Of course, (inaudible, noise in background)... I wouldn't have gone if it hadn't been for him because he could speak the language. I could not.

HB: You've forgotten?

MC: I forgot it. I said, "If you go, I'll go." I thought I owed it to my sister because she never saw me and I never saw her. Of course, I saw her when she was an infant. I went back. When I got back there, I found out I had eight families; they were all my nieces and nephews (laughing).

HB: Did you ever miss your family? Like when you first came, was that hard?

MC: No, not necessarily. Of course, I missed them, but I mean I didn't have brains enough to appreciate it (laughs). I didn't even know how they felt, but I think it was a good thing that I did make it. Eventually, I could help a little. They didn't ask for any help or anything, but they eventually it helped. I was back there for about three weeks with my brother. We took his daughter with us too. She had a grand time.

HB: Did you remember Yugoslavia very well?

MC: No, a kid doesn't know. What would anything your old kids around here know?

HB: (laughs) Not much.

MC: That's exactly it you see. Then, of course, there was no transportation. My folks were not farmers exactly, but they had land that they grew their own stuff on and raised their own chickens and pigs. If anybody wanted a cow... if they had enough ground to take care of those things, they practiced such a thing. They didn't have to buy hardly anything except clothes. That's kind of what farming they did. It was a small all handwork, no machinery because the lots back there are cut up into just small spots. They're on the hillside. You can't have a machine go up a hill. What they do: they step up the ground. Little.. level it off here then step it up; just like steps.

HB: What did they grow?

MC: They grow anything almost: fruits, vegetables, tobacco. Anything they can grow here. Temperature there is about the kind that they can grow almost anything. Some like California. There were...im talking about the Adriatic Coast now. You know where Italy is?

HB: Yeah.

MC: There's a sea.. from Italy to the mainland, there's a sea there. That's the Adriatic Sea. Below there, down towards Greece, lower: that's the Mediterranean Sea. The place I was born was Dubrovnik. You maybe heard about it.

HB: Oh yeah.

MC: Ever heard of it?

HB: Yes.

MC: Well, that's it. It's a very beautiful city, but it's an ancient, ancient city that in history past.. in past history have... they've been in competition with Venice for trade. I suppose the ... I don't know what they call those guys . the Church people had to save the ..

HB: The crusaders.

MC: The crusaders, yeah. They went right through there. The city itself is well preserved. It's as well off today.. there are very, very few places that you could see any deterioration of the buildings. They're a walled city. The city is not very large, but it's completely walled up to about eighty feet in height.

HB: Wow!

MC: Everything is stone. I only saw one building that they had to brace a bit with rods to keep it from getting worse. The original buildings. There. beautiful nice temperatures . temperate conditions there. They hardly have any of what you call freeze, real freeze. They might have it for a day or two, but that's all. It's very light. It wouldn't be bad. Of course, when you get inland, you get over the mountains, that's a very mountainous place too.

HB: I know what I want to ask you. After you've been here a while and you didn't miss your family too bad or want to go home. It was just ok here?

MC: No, I stayed here. I got a job. I was working. I was happy. My family was happy to have me here.

HB: Did you have a hard time adjusting at all? Did you think you were young enough it wasn't a big deal?

MC: Oh, what do you expect for a kid? (Laughs) Really, I got along alright. I had a lot of friends. I had a little difficulty learning the language. In fact, today I'm getting to forget what I learned. (Laughs) I deal with less. I had good contacts.

HB: Did you live in a Yugoslavian community here? Or did you just ... ?

MC: No.

HB: Was there one? Was there a place where...

MC: In this town, the community. when you rented a house here, you took a house that was there. Finns were the only ones that really had real congregated... why don't we just say closed places. They lived together (indistinct phrase). Cousin Jacks were English people; they were on Meaderville or they were up in the Queen edition (?) and they were around here in spots. Italians were not exactly together, but they did congregate into one district. The others like. I was an Austrian. That's what I was really... The years... When I came here the Austria -Hungary was controlled by Francis Joseph which was called Austro-Hungarian Empire. They took in

Yugoslavia. They took in Czechoslovakia. They took in Poland. They took Austria and they took some other countries there. Those were called Austrians. When you segregate your provinces or whatever you want.. .they're provinces just like states here ... Then you're one just like the United States really. You're from California. You're from Montana or something. It's just the way it is. When it comes down to particular sections for Austrians, they were all over. I lived on West Side most of my time.

HB: You've lived in this house for fifty years? Is that what you said?

MC: Right here, I think we bought this in 1929.

HB: Was that soon after you got married?

MC: I was married. I had no use for a house until I got married.

HB: Yeah. Until you got married, you lived with your uncle's family then?

MC: No, no, I was on my own.

HB: Oh. Where did you live?

MC: I only lived with my uncle about two years. From there on, I was on my own.

HB: When did you get married?

MC: Oh, I don't know. It was about 50.. .56 years ago.

HB: How did you meet your wife?

MC: In the store.

HB: She came in?

MC: Her family was buying groceries for (indistinct).

HB: What did you used you do for entertainment?

MC: Go to shows. We had wonderful shows here.

HB: Often?

MC: When these big shows came over, my wife and I took them all in. You don't see those shows anymore. They were just outstanding. Then there's movies. They used to have Fantasia show. That was a circuit. They came here, just kept on... every week there's a change, like Charlie Chaplin came here. Who's that funny guy that... I don't know his name. I can't think of names now. I just don't try to remember them. We took in.. .We had plenty of e ntertainment. They used have different things. They used have skating, roller rinks here, hiking, fishing.

There's all of that kind of stuff. That is in season; not always. Now that was... I was usually busy doing something.

HB: Were most of these things cheap? Were the shows fairly inexpensive?

MC: Theaters were around ten cents a movie, but they didn't have no color. They were just small, maybe fifteen minutes. That's all it was in those days. They had shows that were just continuous shows. They come one act and then they just keep on: part this week, part next week, part next week.

HB: No serials? Yeah.

MC: There were serials.... Then they come out with a half an hour show, an hour show, a two hour show. Of course, you're going to see what happens. You can just keep on following them up. So many show here: so many different ones. There's always someplace to go. My main one, were Pantages at the circuit they had. Then they had a family theater here. It was a nice theater. They put on any kind of show. I don't... I can't remember shows. The only thing is if somebody mentions a name and it was one I saw. Like my wife, she remembers them all. I don't. Some of these shows were just out of this world really. They were the same shows they had in New York. This was one of their stops. This was.

Butte here, years ago, was the best dressed. as good of a dressed place as any place in the country. I wouldn't say New York society, but anywhere else. Woman bought good hats. They bought good clothes. They would not be seen in the street unless they were properly dressed. Today, what you see in the street, they would kill them I think. (laughs) Doing so, the men dressed well. The woman without a... if they didn't have a friend, a boy or boyfriend or husband, they'd be out of place entirely. These woman here, they had the styles here. They really had what any other community hopes to have. Of course, there were a lot of rich people here in those days. The mines were doing well. Things were booming here. Boy, when they broke, they were down in dumps. (Laughs)

HB: (laughs) I guess so.

MC: Yeah.

HB: Butte then was kind of like a big city atmosphere?

MC: Not particularly that way, but it was a busy business. People were friendly. Most of them worked. They were trustworthy. If you came in town here and you were broke and you wanted some food, you could always get it. Didn't have enough to pay rent? You could get it. As things progressed and the chains started coming in here, they changed the entire atmosphere. They changed everything. These men come in here and they run these stores for a corporation; then they kick them out of here they bring somebody else in. It was that constant change.

The Butte people are good hearted people. They really are. That is they have been. I don't know what's happened now. I think that they're overdoing themselves now. They used to buy things they had money to pay for, either right there and then or when payday came in. That isn't the case anymore. Everybody wants what the other peoples got, but they can't pay for it. So in other words, when they get. right now, when the man gets married, his wife wants a car, she wants a boat, she wants a scooter, she wants a snowmobile. You buy them so much, down so much a month. By the time you've got two, you're going to have to pay for them. There's a different life than what has been. They're more demanding. They expect more. They'll do less work for more pay. In other words . I don't know if you see that. can you see the point?

HB: Yeah.

MC: Today, they want to say, I can get it. I'll get all I can out of it. Do everything just to show off. I think people here right now . I don't know what their leases are, but when they buy a six hundred thousand dollar home and they got a job drawing maybe five hundred dollars a month maybe six hundred dollars a month ... That's out of the question. They couldn't do it. It can't be done. They're always in debt. In other words, they're in debt till they're dead. I don't know if that is the proper answer to the question but.

HB: Oh yeah, no that is. Do you think it was kind of different here then since people weren't so interested in having so many things? That maybe it wasn't.. it was an un-snobby place?

MC: Alright, now there's a good question. When I was in Yugoslavia, they're all working for the government. They all get paid. They're all in the same boat. They're friendly because one cannot overlord the other one. You see what I mean? They're all in the same spot. Not here. That is not the case here. We've got poverty here. We've well to do. We got the rich. A lot of very rich people in Butte. I don't know if you know that or not, but there are a lot of them. There's the feeling now. I could take for instance, woman particularly: if they see somebody well-off, they crave to be that way. They would like to be in the position to (indistinct). If they can't do it, they don't feel right. But if you're on the same spot, what is there? There should be... there's no sour grapes. They're all in the same spot and they seem to enjoy it. Now that's what I found out in Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia, to be truthful about it, this guy Tito has done a wonderful job. At first when he got in there, they were tough, but from what I have seen, the people.all the people. all my nephews, they each had a car. I didn't think it was possible, but they have a car each one of them. They have their homes. I have property back there of course. I don't mind if they give it to me and pay me for it. I wouldn't give it to them. Same goes for my brother and he's got property galore. Nobody wants to work because it's all government. If you have it, then the government takes away a certain portion of your income or whatever you've got, whether it's saleable or not. It's what's there; you pay taxes on it. But they have good roads. They have good education. They have Medicare for free. Everything is there for them. They got a job. Even if they don't work, he

cannot be canned. The government pays them anyhow. I see that there's...of course, there are a lot of very bright people. They don't like that. But what brought ... their friends were there and they like it. But it isn't what you and I want.

I don't feel any better than anybody else. I don't care who the man is. I feel that I'm just a human being like anybody else. Why should I be any better? If I use better judgment to do things than somebody else that wants to get drunk, go out, and have a good time, and show-off, let them do it. I don't care. Back there, they're practically all in the same spot. To that extent they're happy. Now that's answer for your question. I'm kind of running around there. You understand what I'm trying to bring up?

Here in Butte, you were asking me the other day about... the Miner's Union for instance. When they had a Miner's Union Day, all the town was closed and they all paraded. That was a big day. Fourth of July and Miners Union Day, they were parading. St. Patrick's day likewise, all the Irish in town got together and they parade. They had bands. They have a grand time. They really... There's something about it. Bands, and marches, they perked the people up. They were happy.

I was studying one day, even burials. They.. They had funeral parlors, but they never had the bodies there. They were always in the home. When they had those funerals, for instance, these Slavs used to have a big band playing dervish music and march through the streets. While they were not home, people visiting the body. the casket was there. They drank and they were happy and had a grand time. That was a big vacation - big day - for them. They would hire the horse and the buggy. Boy, that poor horseman..that poor horse surely paid for it. Poor because they would take the horse and race just like wild men. Eventually, little by little, they started going to the mortuaries and that's what happened there.

HB: So that's all stopped?

MC: Yeah.

HB: Were the Irish a real visible group here?

MC: Oh, they're prominent.

HB: Was that because there were more of them or just because they were louder?

MC: No, there were a lot of Irish. I don't know... Irish Catholics they are. They go to church. They're friendly to each other. Some of them are fine people; others are just (laughs). I wouldn't say Irish. Irish are fine. There's nothing wrong with them. I like them. A lot of my friends are them. There's nothing wrong with them, but they are kind of clannish. So are the English. So are the Swedes. They're quite clannish. But there's good and bad in all of us. I don't care who they are. In Butte here, churches have a whole lot to do with it, too. The Catholic Church is very strong in Butte. They have a large population here. They know each other. There's the funny part about the group is that they know each other. They know each other's business; they know more

about each other than anybody I've ever heard in my life. Nothing wrong with that. That's perfectly alright, but then some of them... .oh, I don't know.. .let's say clannish. That'd be the best word. I don't know exactly just what the percentage of Irish is of the rest. I do not know, but it's a goodly number.

HB: Did you belong to a church?

MC: I was born a Catholic, but I didn't follow it. I go to Presbyterian Church when I go. I'm not a good church goer.

HB: Do you think that a lot of people have quit going to the church, here, in Butte? It doesn't seem like the churches are so strong now.

MC: They're not. They're losing out. They're trying to bring it back. I don't know how they're going to do it. I'm not... I support the church generously. My minister can't tell me anything. (Indistinct phrase) No bragging, but I live a life that ... I'll take the losses. Anything that happens, I'll take the blame or loss. I won't do anything to anybody. Do the right thing. In other words: the Ten Commandments. I follow them pretty good. I don't read them, but I follow the rules there pretty much. Says to go to church, but that's one thing I don't do. I go to listen to the minister. He's not going to tell me an entire thing that I cannot live up to it. I live to principles or rules that... do the right thing by people, mind your own business, don't do any harm to anyone and don't do to anybody what they shouldn't have done to you. What more is to do?

That's just my thing now. Church doesn't mean a thing for me from that point of view, but I do support it. I still believe it is right. It should be there, but there are things in the church I don't believe. Too many things I don't believe. I think people are getting that way. Not only me, but a lot of others. My kids, that is my boy and daughter, were brought up right in the church. Their kids are going, but I don't know how good they are now. My grandson's wife, she's a catholic, but I don't think she's too strong of one. Dave, he was baptized in the Presbyterian Church here. I don't know what he's doing either. My daughter, she's kind of a funny one. She goes (indistinct) ..goes from different churches. She kind of gives me a pain. (Indistinct phrase). But it's her business, if that what she enjoys, it's alright.

There are so many things I can't see. Now see here ... don't take this wrong. I think they say God has this thing for you: if somebody is sick, it was God's will that you're sick for they punish you for something. What is there to be punished for? When a child is born, what is he punished for? If he's born crippled, that child. of course, it gives him a lift to believe in something. Gives him a relief, says well there's better... I don't believe in life after death. I really don't. I don't think we're any different than a leaf. What's dead is dead.

HB: That's what I think too.

MC: What else is there? What proof is there? All these bad things that are happening in the world today ... if there is such a power... I know there's some power. I hear something and it's hard to maybe .so maybe you think I'm nuts. You take our universe, all these heavenly bodies... the Earth is only an infinitesimal fraction of some of the size of other bodies, which, of course, I don't know, but science tells us that they' re thousands of light years away from Earth. Well, my God, if you can figure that out, there's no end to it. It's something that you cannot conceive. You see it all right, but it's so far away that its looks like a nickel. All of these heavenly bodies ... there's billions of them.. .nobody... they'll never know.

How can they know they know? .. Space, this open space. The Earth is round we know that. That's one thing... you're either nuts if you think it's anything different because it revolves in space. What's holding it up? What brought it here? Why is it there are so many weird things? Our sun has been there billions of years; what makes it burn? What is it? The Milky Way just another bunch of bodies on it, just that one group always crowded together. The attraction is there.

What power does it? That's what I call God. There's some power there. I don't know that it's just.. .from where or something, but nevertheless there's something that controls this. Why don't they hit together or something? How do they exist? In all these billions of years.. .who knows? This reminds me, when they say things we don't know what they're talking about. I believe there's some power.. .to me it seems like electric power because electric power is practically in control. Watching TV, they're talking on the other side of the Earth and we hear as fast as the people that are here, right there, listening to it. That's hard to believe isn't it? Magnetism and power; magnetism is a proven fact. We know that there's magnets constantly moving. I call that power. I don't care who. There's some power, and, well that's God.

HB: Although you weren't religious, did you ever celebrate any special holidays related to the church? Do you know anything about this holiday called Masopust?

MC: That's a bit like Saint Patrick's Day here; same things. They have certain... these people ... Masopust . some of these. There are so many provinces in Yugoslavia. There are Turks there. There are Roman Catholics. There are Greek people. There are Montenegrins. Macedonians. Or something or other there's so many. They have different dialects..

(End: Side B OH98-09; End of Tape; Begin: Side A OH98-10)

MC: Not all but they have different dress. They have different dialect. They have different language, in fact. They all have these old customs. They follow them. That's what it is. Muslim persons there (mumbling). They're Catholics, Roman Catholics. They have their customs there and they just follow that so that they can enjoy themselves. They do. They have a good time. I'm really more American than . I shouldn't say. I am really, my beliefs, and my thoughts, and my love for the country. It's here.

HB: In Butte, there were some ethnic holidays but...

MC: Which one?

HB: All the different groups had their own little things they did. Did everybody join in on Saint Patrick's Day? Was that just Irish or did everybody in town...

MC: No, just Irish, but there are people that join them. That go in there as friends. They go there ... (Indistinct phrase). The Patron Saint of Ireland, I think he was a good man. I have nothing against the man. He was alright. Why not? If he can make people feel good, you should feel good. If you can make somebody happy, do so.

HB: Do you think most people here felt that way? Did most of these different people get along pretty well?

MC: No, there was a little feeling, but it was nothing serious. There was times when these people here were prejudiced. They didn't think too much of each other at times. I think that's all over. Because... it is like a club. You have in your order a (inaudible). But now, they have members that are everything: Jews, Protestants, and Catholics. For everybody, it doesn't make a difference. When they get mixed together, they know each other. They know darn well they're all alike. There's a friendly feeling there. If that clan hangs together, that's where the trouble comes in. You may have very... you may have a neighbor that you know nothing about him, perfect guy. When you mix, you know each other and things are smoother. You get along with him.

HB: So that's what happened in Butte: people worked together, lived together, and then they just..

MC: The town was very small. You go to Los Angeles or some place, they don't trust you next door (Laughs). They won't. They can't. You're in a smaller community, it's better. You take European countries, European people, they were mostly farmers or smaller operators. There are a good many of large cities, but not too many; mostly, individual homes, individual neighborhoods. Doesn't matter who it is, they get to know each other there. They're friends. When you try to segregate them, like some clergy do, they tell you this is better than the other and so forth. If you're foolish enough to believe all that, then you grow up that way, and what do you have? The more they mix, the better.

Take your schools. For instance, of course, we have parochial schools here. They are pretty strong here. There's nothing wrong with that; it's perfectly all right. They are happy. It's their own doings and their own free will. If that's the way they like, that's the way they should be let do. If you go across, to the public school, there's every. It doesn't matter who they are, they're there together. They know each other; they like each other. If they keep on like some of these

private schools, they're in trouble. I don't know if you find that in Missoula or not but...
(Laughs) Is there a feeling down there along those lines?

HB: Oh, maybe a little.

MC: There isn't very much here either, but there is some.

HB: Yeah, of course. I think Butte's really a lot different than Missoula because I think the University and all the students really make a big difference in what the town is like.

MC: You got different people there, different.. .from every class of working... nationalism, even ideas I suppose. All those things help: mixing. The United States is a mixing pot for the world. It's where they are, really are ... You go to France, you go to England, you go to Italy, they're pretty much Italians, or Slavs, or Germans, or.. .That's what they are; they can't help it. If the united states of Europe get together and understand each other and help each other just as we do in the United States, they'd be better off too. There's that jealousy there that they just can't get over for some reason. They're taught different. They're brought up different. When you think about Europe, there's been wars and wars and wars for what purpose? ... They would just accept to kill people and maim people. They have these kings or Tsars or emperors. They control it: their own say and their own feelings and the others have to like it, whether they want to or not. Place like this here, you can go any place here no trouble. That's the way it should be all over.

HB: You were telling me the other day about how Butte used to be a real safe place?

MC: Butte, years ago, before the automobiles came, a lady could go in this town, from one end to the other. Any way she wanted to go, she was just as safe as a man.

HB: You don't think that's true now?

MC: I don't. I do not. In fact, it isn't that place. It's getting to be bad just like the Bay. You take this case of Iran. They're breaking all the imagined laws that ever were. They hold hostages: for what reason? If they did their thing right, those guys should have been kicked out of the country instead of cooped up as they are now. That same thing happens. that guy was complaining about Shah killing those people there. I do not know what he killed, but I do know that Shah was doing the... was educating those people and they don't want them educated. They were killing those guys by dozens.. .of course, that's kind of debated (?) now. I don't know if they're killing anyone now. If you remember, this Khomeini came in there and somebody was shot every day. He blamed one guy for doing it, but ... he's a man of God, you might say. He's head of the Islam religion. I don't know if he's exempt, but at least he practices that. He's doing the very thing that (indistinct phrase). So ... I guess that doesn't answer your question too much.

HB: Just about Butte being safe.

MC: Oh yeah, if any lady ... if anybody, was ever seen annoying a woman, here in town, those days ... now, it's no longer true. Boy, that guy would be in trouble. He wouldn't be... he might as well.

HB: Why do you think it's gotten different here?

MC: Morals are shot to hell. Morals... there are no morals left. What's happened now ... Morals are necessary. Of course, the church comes in there and they are really not observed. They're not followed. Family life is not right here either. You take Europe there. I think if you look around, you'll find the European family is more... is pretty much together. They're brought up right. The more freedom they give them, the worse they get. Even in your schools: look how many teachers are mishandled here in the United States. Teachers ... all these teachers... my God, that wouldn't happen in Europe. Maybe they're doing it now, but I don't think they are. There's no respect.

HB: Do you think then that children have been different back then too? Were children better behaved?

MC: Oh, definitely. When I was brought, when I was born and brought up, if an elderly person came into a place ... if I sat in a chair and a lady was standing up, I give up that chair to this lady. Here they go: hell with the lady, I'll keep the chair. That's right. They're brought up to be honest. You think a woman (Noise) ... My God, they're having babies in colleges, living together in colleges. That'd be a mark on those women in Europe - that has been. I don't know what it is now. I can't tell you because I'm not there. If a girl went wrong, she was looked upon as nothing. They always behaved themselves as ladies instead of trying to be street-walkers or whatever you want to call them.

Here, you can see all this happening. Look at the TV. Right now they talk about just this morning this fellow some guy's program in the morning talk . They were talking about the black market. There were girls that were up for rent. Just playing on TV. That was taboo here years ago. Today, it's floundered around as though it's just nothing. They're glorifying sex. That's part of life, we all admit. Nevertheless, there's a place for everything. Did you ever notice on TV how things are going? Take some of these kids, the young kids that are just coming up: they see all of this glorifying something and they're daring. What do you expect? That's where the Catholic Church comes in. Boy, they're good. They're not so damn good either when it comes down to that part there, but they're condemning. So is every other church, but they can't stop it.

HB: Do you think it was better than when there were two kinds of women? There were ladies and the ones in the red light district and that was all.

MC: Probably .

HB: Back in the old days, then, it was better when there were two kinds of woman: there were ladies and then were the girls on the line. That's how it used to be in Butte.

MC: Oh yeah, oh my God. There was a whole square block of girls at the . They were mostly French girls. Mostly French girls I think. I used to work in store that was right close to them. I was on Park Street and just two blocks away was this district. They... there must have been three or four hundred girls there.

HB: Really? Hmm and...

MC: There were a lot of single men here, too, at that time. That might have something to do with it. I don't know. Those girls came into the store. They were just the same as you and I, talking to you. They never mentioned anything; they minded their own business. In fact, when I had the store on West Park, they came there some of them because they closed that district up entirely. That was when the trouble began, I think. This morning they were talking about it. If they had a district of that kind, control it, then it would be better than the way it is.

When those girls came in, they were nice. That is . actually, they were nice. Even with all the facts (?). We had one woman who came in. She lived down here on Quartz Street (?). Quartz Street is a couple of streets from Main this way. There's a duplex there. I'd lived over ... there on one side and there were red light girls right in the next apartment. One woman was bringing up two daughters and her income was from the red light district. They were sent to Catholic school. Tramp brings up two daughters. Woman in those days wasn't able to make any money to support anything. They could maybe make fifty or sixty dollars a month. She was going through that to bring up those two girls. You've got to admire her for that. I do, at least.

HB: You think that happened to a lot of women? That they couldn't find any other work?

MC: No, I don't think so. I think the French girls . French girls are .they're French (laughs). I don't know how to express it, but that's exactly. They were mostly French girls.

HB: Did the same girls stay here all the time or did they kind of move around?

MC: I do not know.

HB: Were they a very visible part of the community then? Or did they mostly stay over there?

MC: They were by themselves. I do not know where they lived. I can't tell you that, but they were pretty much. they knew each other. I don't know where they lived.. Their place of business was one spot. They were down there. The minute they closed up the place, they go all over town. Then you don't know whether it's a good girl or a bad girl or what when you're on the street. You never know. That's a bad feature.

There was a woman here, a madam. She had a bunch of girls in one house down here. She was a good hearted, wonderful woman. That is, a good heart. One day she said to me, "Matt, I'm out of

the business." But I said, "I can't help with that business." "I didn't make it ahead in my life, but somebody's got to control these girls." She was in business; she was a madam. If it came down to some kind of charity, she was just wonderful. If anybody needed some help, by golly, she was right there to help them.

She had a good heart, but she was brought up in that kind of atmosphere. It's nothing to them. It's really nothing. When they get into it ... it isn't as bad as it looks. A crook is a crook, but he doesn't realize because he's in it for so long. It doesn't make a difference. But that's right. Those girls, I know, used to come into the store there and they were just as nice as could be. But they would never start to talk with you. They wouldn't do a thing, until you spoke to them. They kept their place. I really felt sorry for some of these.. .I feel sorry for women as a whole anyway.

HB: Why?

MC: I think they... you take a man, if he wants to go with a girl and get married, he's the guy that picks. There's a girl who hasn't got a prince out there and she wants to get married. How does she feel? She has troubles. Women, they're like to be looked upon as women. Many might say favored or petted or whatever you want to call it. If they don't get that and the rest of the others do, it makes them feel as though they're poked. Some of them get married to rich people. Some get married to damn bums they end up shooting. You can see they're beaten up; they don't have food enough; they don't have clothes; they have nothing. Men have a choice where woman don't. Women are lucky sometimes to (indistinct phrase,) but when you come right down to it, men have the advantage. You take your sex part (?). They come out here and they get nothing. They have a baby. The guy goes. Who's suffering? One probably would be on my mind now.

I'm about to show you there are things that we have to face. We have to be decent and respectable of those ..no matter what I want, but what's fair. What's right: that should be right. I think, in farming communities ... it might be different then I'm thinking, but, you take the place that I was born. They were purer people. They were married. They were pure. As you know yourself, maybe you hear people talk. If some girl goes wrong, look how fast it goes around. They all look upon her as something to trash, don't they? There you are. That girl gets in trouble and she's suffering with the goddamn devil she's got. You know I really feel it. I don't think woman should want any more privileges than they have because they got everything they need. This equal rights is cuckoo. It's absolutely cuckoo because . a woman has got all the rights right now and if she wants equal rights, she can go and join the army . a woman goes in the army and gets shot. Look what happens.

(HB says something indistinct)

MC: No, but you see there's such a thing as going too far with some of these things. Some of these suffragettes, they get big ideas and I don't know. I'm not.... I'm talking plain now, I'm not ... But you see the point. If you have a society that looks upon the women and the woman are not as strong as men. They're no use picking up stuff. Some of them are, but as a whole, they

can't help pick as much. They have their troubles men don't have. When they have to ... like in the grocery store, the woman wasn't allowed to lift over twenty pounds or thirty pounds. I forget what it was now because they were never asked to do it. But you see. the equal rights. There's a hundred pound sack of potatoes and flour. Go and get that sack: how could she do it? You want equal rights, equal pay, I know that, but they have to have somebody to do their work for them so they get the equal pay. That's only a small matter, but I'm showing you that there are things that ... there are women's jobs and there are things that are men's jobs. You see too what I'm trying to tell you? (Laughs)

HB: (agrees)

MC: Then you take a man. respects . I think men do respect her. Women respect the men, at least some. Some of these women are at the point ... they do things they don't want to do. Because of life they say, "Hell with it." They do things that they shouldn't. That I do know. I've seen that.

HB: Have you always had a happy marriage? Was everything ok?

MC: Fine. Of course, I'm living my life so I expect my family to...my family...as far as I'm concerned, I'm not in it for myself. I don't care about that right now. I'm living for them and my grandchildren. They're my life, really. That's why I live. I don't know how most people are, but that's my life. My brother's the same way.

HB: That's good. I think that too many people now aren't very family orientated.

MC: They have no respect for anybody. Secondly, they're greedy, many. They don't care what the other person's feelings are so long as they carry out theirs. I see too damn many of them. I see the ... I know. Of course, that seems un-right, but I'm telling the truth. It's what I feel. I'm happy with it. I'm really happy because I'm getting by. I'm alright. That's bragging, but it's the truth. People know me. They respect me, maybe more so than my family does sometimes. To that extent I know that.... I'm happy knowing that because I know what I'm doing. They know that I'm doing the right thing, so what more do I want?

HB: So you've always been happy?

MC: I have.

HB: Have you ever thought of leaving Butte, ever?

MC: Not particularly. We traveled quite a bit. I talk about Hawaii; everybody wants to go to Hawaii. Do you?

HB: I don't know. Sometimes I do and sometimes I don't.

MC: There's nothing there really. There are those islands there. You got to Honolulu. You go to Waikiki beach. You land there. They take you over to Honolulu. It's another big city. When you're first there, it strikes you. It's beautiful: flowers all over. Then the city: it's a rat race just like it is in San Francisco, San Diego, or Los Angeles. Same darn thing.

You go to the other islands and it's different I'll say. There are no volcanoes. You can't see them; they're just ground like a ditch here. There have been volcanoes there. There may be a lava field there, where they're still oozing, with smoke. Sometimes there is a break and it comes up. It's all volcanic rock. You go from one island to the other and there's some place . excuse me . some places that are really wonderful because of the moisture and the heat. It grows things and they're always nice and fresh. Four islands there. Another thing, you'll see a lot of pineapple and a lot of sugarcane. Doesn't matter where you go, there's sugarcane and pineapple.

The trip is alright. You got a voyage there if you go on a ship. It's better than a plane. We went on a plane. We were there two weeks. I took my daughter, my son, my wife, and myself. The four of us went. My daughter, this is my (indistinct). She rented a car. We get up in the morning and "whoosh" this way, that way. All of a sudden, same thing all over again. Nothing very pretty just a trip. She wanted to see it from one end to another.

Then there are two islands: a place called Maui, there's Hawaii, and Kauai. There's one island called Kauai, and the main island, Hawaii. Now those two islands, the last two, I did like. They were more like a place in Missoula: nice homes, nice grass, and trees, that thing. Easy going. The big place, I don't care for. A lot of waste.

Same with the Caribbean. Caribbean was a lovely trip because we were on a boat for fifteen days. First class boat. First class, tops. Luxury boat. You got your food there. You got your bed there. Your room. The rooms weren't very good unless you paid very big money for a special room. Just a room like that could cost you a thousand dollars. Let's see now what hand is it? (Laughter) The room we had is just kind of a little room with two beds and a third bed that flops out from the top. It's just a cubby hole is all it is, but it's clean and everything's fine. They keep it clean. You walk out of there and guys back of you seeing everything's in order. If you soil a towel, they put a new one there. Of course, that cost you: a dollar and half per person per day. That was just the tip. The tips run about two or three hundred just for that damn trip. That's how it is.

Then I went to Yugoslavia... (noise). I don't think they'd like it. In fact, my wife couldn't stand it because she can't walk. She had trouble with her legs. It's as scary as can be. I'm sorry that she didn't see the country because it really was nice, but I could not.. .she wouldn't have liked being there knowing that I'm on to what she wants here. But things have changed there since I was there and now they are different there entirely. Just the same as here. Same darn thing. They got electric power. They got water systems. They have good schools. They have good roads. They

have cars. They can get anything they want, if they have the money. When I came back, I thought I might go, but I don't know.

The ocean trips are wonderful. If you can afford it and want to go someplace, I would suggest the Caribbean trip. You go and when you get there what do you see? The whole thing is your voyage. You enjoy that thing. You take your time. They entertain. Your food's served to you, all good food. Practically every night is different, as much as you want. You can enjoy yourself. They have shows, movies, and, well, anything. You can play. You can... crab shoot there, or practically everything. They have card games. You can do what you darn please. The ship is yours. You can go all over the ship and they don't stop you. That's alright; that's fine. It does get tiresome too, but nevertheless, it is enjoyable and stressful. If you travel going by plane, then you have to hop and from one place to the other. You have to take your luggage out. That's a job. It takes all the fun out of it.

When you get to those islands, what do you see? You see the natives there. You see the movies and see the same darn thing. In fact, it may be better there. Nevertheless, you see a lot of poverty. You see how other people live. When people talk about this, you know what they're talking about. It's about the only thing you get out of it. I enjoyed the trip immensely because it's wonderful. When it comes right down to it..

(End: Side A OH98-10; Begin: Side B OH98-10)

MC: I went to go see the Glacier and that was a great big bay up there. There's a glacier there. I saw it there and maybe the width of it was a couple... three hundred feet wide. There's a river running out of it that keeps on melting. I saw a glacier. What is it? You saw it ... you see a snow bank here; just imagine it's a glacier. There's no water. You cannot see the water coming out of it, but it's coming out the bottom, gets into a little stream, and creates a little river.

It was a nice trip and I'm not that sorry I saw it, but it was quite expensive trip, more so than the one in Caribbean. In two weeks, it was (indistinct) and not as good. You go to those Caribbean islands, down there. For instance, you come to one ... I don't how much I saw, but there wasn't too much to see. We went to eight of them. There was places. There were different people: Dutch people, German and Dutch, or American, Hawaiian. There's different islands. When you come to the Maltese Island, which you get off.. ..go up here to Flathead Lake, there's an island there. You go on that island; there you're on an island. There really wasn't much to prove that. People get to talk about ... I don't know what they... of course, maybe I'm nuts. They talk about something I can't see the beauty to it. I think there's more beauty in Montana here than when you get there, much more.

HB: I agree with that I think Montana's...

MC: It is. You can't get anything better. I'm not kidding you. Of course, eastern part of Montana's different. When you go to those places and take . they say, now here this was a

great... cone here. Look there's the (indistinct) on the ground. They said it was there but how do you know? You can't see the cone. You can't see the crater. There was one there, only one. I just saw some smoke come out of it. How do you know? There's quite a bit of space there. Of course, you see the lava flow. It's solid now. It's lava rock now. You see laterally. They brag about their beaches, they haven't got any beaches. They got a beach, but what is it? Were you ever in San Diego?

HB: No.

MC: Were you on the Pacific Coast?

HB: Yeah.

MC: Around Oregon?

HB: Yeah, I've been to Oregon.

MC: They've got some nice beaches there. I've been on some of them. In San Diego, they're just not as full (?). You can go out a hundred and fifty feet and you're still above the water.

HB: Wow.

MC: There, the hotels are all around one beach because there's no beaches (Laughs). They're all in that one spot. I guess ... no I have that picture. I got it here. Hotels are all in one spot. They're all trying to be close to the beach because that's all there is is the beach. The reason for that is that's a volcanic island and as it comes out, the ocean comes up. There's sharp drops there. There might be twenty-five, thirty feet, or forty feet of beach, but just that much. Maybe just a little bit. Maybe as much from here to that ball there of spots. Then, there's volcanic rocks sticking out.

The real beach, I think, in Kauai, is the only one I've seen there. It was kind of more level. They could have made some beach out of that.. Honolulu there really isn't. Of course, the people call it a beach. They call one Black Beach. You can't even dig up a spoonful of (noise, phrase indistinct). I think it is just a bunch of that lava rock, the one that's porous, kind of a bunch of holes in it. I think it's ground up and just put on there. They can't keep it there because when the waves come in, they get up and it goes down. In Honolulu, the beaches there come up and they come so high. There's a drop by that much from the edge. The beach in San Diego there starts right at the very end. It comes right out there and builds up very slowly, just perfect. That's what I call (noise).... Of course, a lot of people think it's a good beach; I don't. Leave that too.

HB: You've done really well for yourself to have come here and started your own business and be able to do all this. You must feel kind of proud of yourself.

MC: I'm not proud. I'm doing alright. I'm not complaining. Now, I did better investing than I did in business. My business was the cause of it though.

HB: Do you think a lot of the people who came to Butte made good the way you did?

MC: No. It's a (noise). It's the person. I don't care where you were, it's the same thing. You don't do good because you're in Butte or Missoula, or in... If you invest your money ... let's say you're in Missoula here twenty-five, thirty years ago and you bought some of that property up.(coughs) up toward Lolo there. What do you call that country there?

HB: In the Bitterroot.

MC: Bitterroot Valley. You could make money. But if you didn't and you just stayed in Missoula, I don't know how you can make it. You got to have money to make money.

HB: Yup, no matter where you are.

MC: My wife bought one thing once a few years back: put in thirteen hundred dollars; worth eight thousand.

HB: Wow. (Laughs)

MC: We were happy we got it, but without selling it's no good to us.... (Inaudible). That's luck. That wasn't smart... well; it was smart, good sense, not smartness. We bought oil, oil in Canada. It didn't pay anything, but we were looking to the future. We could afford to lose what we put into it. That's what you call when you buy something; you can buy it for income. You forget about it, just forget it was there. We kept it about eighteen years and, all of a sudden, there's big oil wells up there, a lot of property. They're interested in gold mine and gold mine is interested in the oil company; can't be better. Alright, oil is getting short. Future for oil ... if you have oil, it's better.. .is best you can own. For some of those kind of deals (indistinct).

HB: Well.

MC: Now, we don't.. .you said about success, now there's success, just common sense. We could afford to do it. First of all, don't buy on credit. If you want something, put away the money for it, forget that you got it and keep on adding to it until you build up enough to buy it. Then, buy it. It's yours. But if you buy it, you're working, and you lose your job, what's going to happen to your purchase?

HB: You won't be able to pay for it.

MC: That'll be a tip. Start right now. If you're making any money or if you have any money or you're working, put a small portion away and make it a point - a religious point - that you're not going to use that and keep on adding to it. If you make a hundred dollars, try to put away two, three, four, five, or ten dollars and forget that you got it. Let that thing . . . put that in your savings account. Put that money and let it build up by itself. Keep on adding small ... not enough to hurt you; don't go without things, but use common sense. That egg builds up. As you put a little more in there, you build that up. It brings in more interest. Now, more interest ... two and two

combines and it just keeps on escalating. It's like... algebra or... it just builds up. You won't have to worry when you're old about retirement.

I told one man. He wrote for me. I said . I'll tell you; he was just spending his money, I said, "I want you to buy some liberty points." He was living and getting money. He was spending when it started out there. This guy thought I was nuts. He was always arguing. Of course, he was out needling me purposely. Anyway, when I closed up, he had quite a few bonds that he bought - that he would have spent, if it hadn't been for buying the bonds so to keep them. Opportunity came up and he had money enough to buy into a business. He's worth about two hundred thousand dollars right now in the last twenty years.

HB: My God.

MC: It was just that idea that he followed out. He's got money galore. Now he doesn't want. He's a single man, pretty near to retirement, but he wouldn't have had a damn thing if he didn't do what I told him. But he followed it. It was as small start. I got him started and it just kept on growing and growing. He was nobody and now he's got all kinds of money and a business besides. That's the secret.

When I was in the store, I paid all the bills. My business was good, but we were not making the money that the other fellows were charging because I didn't believe in making large profit or anything. Small percentage above my expense is all I want, as you can tell by that. If you have an investment there, you were supposed to get enough on that investment to take care of that. Otherwise, you'd lose your investment. I get my wife a hundred dollars a month to spend for own herself. It's her own business; I don't care what she... she still gets it. I bought the store up here in West Granite. There was a duplex there that I fixed up. There was a store there: a duplex, an apartment, and a store. I gave her the store. It's hers. I don't want it. Eventually, I said, "I don't want you in business. Sell it." Keep the money and I said, "Put it in the bank."

Then we started buying securities. Securities . that income from rents plus the securities that we have. we buy securities that were good - nothing flashy, but just some that surely were good securities like American telephone sale, government bonds. I don't care what it is, buy good stuff. Don't try to get rich in a hurry, unless you can afford to lose it. We invested in this thing here because we can afford that. Might take a chance and it worked. Now, that there comes in.

Suppose you're putting away two hundred dollars a month. At the end of the year, you have two thousand dollars. Then, put that away. That two thousand plus that two hundred keeps on coming in: interest upon interest. It gets to the point that you got more than you want. That's a matter of saving. But don't ever try to buy something.

Of course, you may at some time want a home, but I don't know who can own a home these days. You just can't. Homes were quite reasonable here a few years back. Home is one thing for a person that gets married. A man is entitled. a woman is entitled to have a home. Buy a car if

you can afford it. If you can't, buy an older one and you get a used to buy. Don't try to buy one every year there. I've seen people buy one every year. They're always in debt the minute they get a job. They have a job; they lose everything. By using that little system ... buy what you need when you need it, but don't try to buy it just because somebody else has got it.

HB: It worked for you.

MC: It works for anybody.

HB: I think it would.

MC: It does because if you have a system that you just put so much away out of your earnings... if you can afford it, of course. I don't mean to say that you should deny yourself. Of course, your health is one of the first things in the world that you have to keep up. If your health is worth more than all the money in the world. If you can keep your health up.... don't drink too much or take too much sugar. Too much of anything is bad. Too much of anything is too bad. But by doing that then you get someplace. If you have a system that you put so much away every month ... it doesn't matter if it's two dollars; do it. Then forget that you got it. Don't touch it under any conditions. You'll come out alright. I know it works. I know the people. I've spoken too much.

HB: Well.

(End: Side B OH98-10; End: OH98-10; End of Interview)