

Maureen and Mike

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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: 149-006a**  
**Interviewee: Gladys Young**  
**Interviewer: Ernest Kraft**  
**Date of Interview: circa 1965**  
**Project: National Bison Range Oral History Project**

Ernest Kraft: Where are you born?

Gladys Young: Minneapolis.

EK: Where?

GY: [unintelligible] Actually, it was St. Paul I guess. I was born in St. Paul.

EK: When?

GY: 1908.

EK: 1908. Your parents' name?

GY: Eugene Gillis, and Ida.

EK: Ida Gillis?

GY: Ida Poyer (?).

EK: Poyer. Do you know any of their grandparents?

GY: No.

EK: Your grandparents?

Clarence "Cy" Young: Grandma Poyer.

GY: Oh yeah, I knew them.

EK: What was their name before they were Poyers? I mean, the other side of the family?

GY: I can't remember.

EK: You have any brothers and sisters?

GY: Yes.

EK: How many?

CY: Tell him.

GY: [laughs]

EK: How many?

GY: I'd like to know what I'm doing [unintelligible].

EK: [unintelligible]. You can erase it if you don't want to leave it. I'd just like to have the information if I ever try to put it together.

GY: I got four brothers and one sister living and one sister dead.

EK: Did you ever attend college?

GY: No.

EK: What did you do before you met Cy?

GY: Worked at Minneapolis.

EK: Bookkeeping?

GY: [pauses] Bookkeeping and [unintelligible]. [laughs]

CY: Do you have to think what you was doing?

GY: I did all kinds of things. I had insurance papers to take and savings from the men's salaries and all that stuff. I did different things. I didn't just do bookkeeping.

EK: You worked for a company?

GY: Minneapolis Street Railway.

EK: Railway. When did you first come to this country? Or how did you ever come to meet Cy? Let's put it that way.

GY: Oh, come on a vacation in 1932, I think.

EK: To meet someone here you knew?

GY: No, I **drove out with** another girl from St. Paul that had been in this country and taught school here.

EK: Where did you happen to meet **Cy**?

GY: At the little [laughs] [unintelligible] station across on Ravalli. He was there. This girl I was with had met him the summer before. She was a friend of—

EK: The Casanova is starting to show up. [laughs]

GY: [laughs] Oh, ho, ho, now the tales come out.

EK: [laughs] At Ravalli then?

GY: Yes, the little [unintelligible] station.

EK: How long did you know before you were married?

GY: A little over two years.

EK: You came back out here and were married out here?

GY: No, he come back there, and we were married in Minneapolis.

EK: Then you moved out here to the little honeymoon shack over on Ravalli hill?

GY: No, that's what Joann thought. I never lived it.

Joann: [unintelligible]

EK: I thought that's what I heard.

GY: No, we lived in the bunkhouse. You know where the office is now? It was the bunkhouse. That's what I was telling Joann at supper table when you were talking—

Joann: You weren't listening.

GY: And [unintelligible] and Joyce were living in this house, and we had to live in that bunkhouse, until they moved out the next May. Then we moved in this house, and we lived here ever since. I never lived on that place.

EK: When do first work here at the Range?

GY: When Bob Bruce got to go to the Army.

EK: Was that in about '40—

GY: Well, Ronney was in the 3rd grade.

CY: '43.

EK: '43?

CY: [unintelligible] '43 and '44 then '45. Then Bob come back about the end of '45.

GY: I worked here for two-and-a-half years, and then Bob came back. Then I worked down at the agency for a year after that. Then pretty soon Bob left again, and the first thing I knew I was back up here. But I don't remember how long Bob stayed when he come back. But it must have been...No, he was here longer than a year.

EK: You've had some other government service then?

GY: No. Well, except the year down at the Indian service.

EK: Well, somebody said the other day you had 13 years in. Is that right now?

GY: It was more than that.

EK: Or whatever it is.

Joann: [unintelligible].

GY: About 18.

CY: Been working here steady since '46. One, two, three-and-a-half on top of that. Did you say you worked a year-and-a-half at the agency?

GY: Worked a year.

GY: A year, and then you worked two-and-a-half here? In the war?

EK: Sixteen—

CY: Would be three-and-a-half?

EK: You're almost 20 years.

GY: I'm between 17 and 18.

EK: Is it?

GY: Yes. I think I'm close to 18 years.

EK: Well, you worked under Mushbach [George E. Mushbach] first?

GY: Yes, he was the one that was here during the war. I went to work for him first, and then I worked for Schwartz [John Schwartz] and then Henry.

[End of Interview]